



Tanzania
MEL Week 2026

5TH TANZANIA MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING (MEL) WEEK 2026

**Theme: From Evidence to Action: Strengthening
Human Centered Evaluation for Sustainable
Development**



22nd – 26th September 2026



Ngurdoto Mountain Lodge, Arusha - Tanzania



CALL FOR ABSTRACT

Co - Organized by



Prime Minister's Office

Policy, Parliament, Coordination and
Persons with Disability (PMO-PPCPD)



1.INTRODUCTION

The 5th Tanzania Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Week 2026 Conference provides a premier national platform for professionals, policymakers, researchers, practitioners, private sector actors, youth, and development partners to engage in evidence-informed dialogue, knowledge exchange, and learning. The conference is convened by the Prime Minister’s Office – Policy, Parliament, Coordination and Persons with Disability (PMO-PPCPD) in collaboration with the Tanzania Evaluation Association (TanEA).

Building on the successes of previous MEL Week conferences; held in Dodoma (2022), Arusha (2023), Zanzibar (2024), and Mwanza (2025), this conference will advance Tanzania’s evidence agenda by supporting the implementation of Dira 2050, FYDP IV, the national results-based MEL system, and stronger partnerships for sustainable development, while aligning national efforts with the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

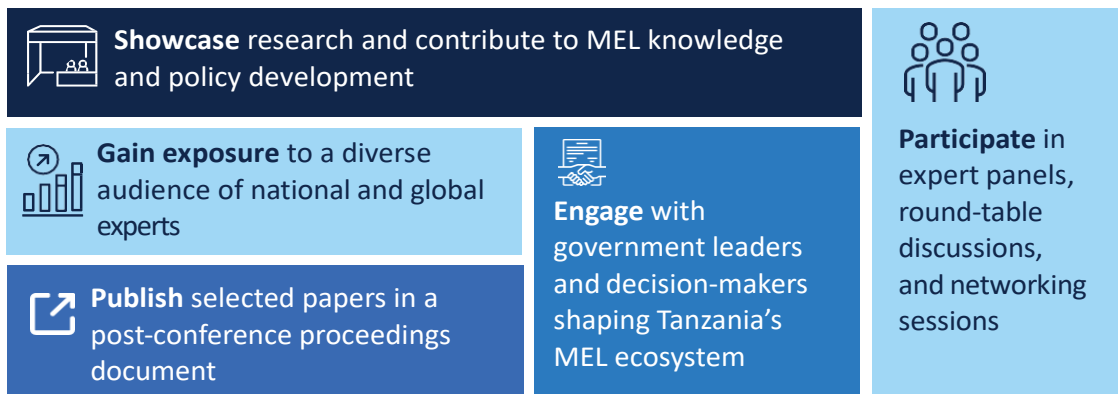
2.WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

The conference invites participation from:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">Government representatives: Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Regional Secretariats (RSs), Local Government Authorities (LGAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Private sector representatives involved in MEL systems, ESG, PPPs, technology, and innovation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Development partners, Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), and donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and community-based organizations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) practitioners and experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Young and Emerging Evaluators (YEEs), Students, and Youth in Evaluation Lab participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Academics and researchers from universities and policy think tanks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Technology and innovation experts in MEL, including AI, GIS, data visualisation, and data systems specialists

3.WHY SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT?

Accepted presenters will have the opportunity to showcase research, engage with decision-makers, contribute to MEL knowledge and policy development, participate in expert panels and networking sessions, and have selected papers considered for inclusion in the post-conference proceedings. The diagram below highlights the main benefits of submitting an abstract.



4.CONFERENCE THEMES

4.1. Main theme: “From Evidence to Action: Strengthening Human Centered Evaluation for Sustainable Development”

The 5th Tanzania Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Week 2026 will focus on strengthening governance systems that turn evidence into practical decisions, institutional learning, improved service delivery, and sustainable development outcomes. The theme positions MEL as a core governance function for implementing Dira 2050, FYDP IV, the SDGs, and Agenda 2063.

The rationale for this theme is grounded in the need to position MEL as a governance function that moves evidence beyond reporting to inform planning, budgeting, implementation, accountability, learning, and sustainable development results. It is organized around five priority areas:

evidence use, institutional coordination, accountability, inclusion, and results-based development management.

a) Strengthening governance, policy, and institutionalization of MEL

Dira 2050 and FYDP IV require a strong results management architecture that embeds MEL in planning, budgeting, coordination, implementation, reporting, and accountability across MDAs, RSs, LGAs, the private sector, civil society, development finance institutions, and development partners.

b) Aligning MEL with Dira 2050, FYDP IV, SDGs, and Agenda 2063

The conference will provide a national platform for aligning evidence systems with the Long-Term Perspective Plan, the Fourth Five-Year Development Plan, Sustainable Development Goals, and Agenda 2063 priorities.

c) Promoting technology, data, and innovation in MEL

The conference will emphasize digital public infrastructure for MEL, artificial intelligence, big data, GIS, dashboards, citizen feedback platforms, and responsible data governance to support real-time decision-making and evidence use.

d) Advancing inclusion, youth, gender, climate resilience, and African-led evaluation

The conference will strengthen inclusive evaluation approaches that recognize youth, gender, marginalized groups, climate-sensitive evidence, indigenous knowledge systems, and African solutions to MEL.

e) Driving accountability, service delivery excellence, and sustainable partnerships

The conference will promote MEL as a mechanism for public sector accountability, private sector contribution to Dira 2050 financing, blended

finance oversight, value-for-money, and evidence-based service delivery improvements.

4.2. Sub-Themes and Key Topics

The conference will be structured around seven key sub-themes, each focusing on a critical area of MEL governance, systems strengthening, innovation, inclusion, accountability, African evaluation practice, and sectoral results.

Sub Theme: 1. Governance, Policy & Institutionalization of MEL for Dira 2050

Topics:

- i. Integrating MEL into national, regional, and local governance frameworks and planning cycles
- ii. Monitoring FYDP IV, Dira 2050, SDGs, and Agenda 2063 commitments
- iii. Operationalizing the national results-based MEL system and PMO-MDA-LGA coordination mechanisms
- iv. Advancing MEL policy and legal frameworks, institutional mandates, and evaluation independence
- v. Strengthening intergovernmental MEL coordination and the role of the Planning Commission

Sub Theme: 2. Technology, Data & Innovation in MEL

Topics:

- i. Digital public infrastructure for MEL: dashboards, real-time data systems, and open data platforms
- ii. Artificial intelligence, big data analytics, and GIS applications in evaluation
- iii. Mobile data collection tools and low-connectivity solutions for sub-national MEL
- iv. Combating misinformation and disinformation through evidence-based digital communication systems
- v. Citizen engagement platforms, digital feedback loops, and participatory data governance

Sub Theme: 3. Youth, Gender, Climate & Inclusive Development in Evaluation

Topics:

- i. Youth participation and leadership in evaluation as evaluators, commissioners, data contributors, and evidence users
- ii. Gender-responsive and inclusive evaluation design, methods, and quality standards
- iii. Climate resilience monitoring, environmental sustainability evidence, and loss-and-damage assessment
- iv. Integrating indigenous knowledge systems and community-held evidence into evaluation practice
- v. Evaluation approaches for identifying, measuring, and addressing structural inequalities

Sub Theme: 4. Strengthening MEL Systems & Leadership

Topics:

- i. Institutional capacity strengthening for MEL across MDAs, RSs, and LGAs
- ii. MEL competency frameworks, professional standards, and certification pathways
- iii. Leadership development for senior evaluation managers and Chief M&E Officers
- iv. Mentorship, peer learning, and communities of practice for MEL professionals
- v. Knowledge management systems for institutional learning and evidence use

Sub Theme: 5. Driving MEL for Accountability & Service Delivery Excellence

Topics:

- i. Results-oriented MEL approaches for strengthening public sector accountability
- ii. Tracking FYDP IV implementation efficiency, expenditure quality, and value-for-money

- iii. MEL frameworks for public-private partnerships and blended finance accountability
- iv. Social accountability tools, including citizen report cards and community scorecards
- v. Feedback mechanisms linking citizen experience to government service delivery performance

Sub Theme: 6. African Solutions to MEL: Made in Africa, Driven by Evidence

Topics:

- i. Locally developed MEL methodologies, tools, and innovations
- ii. African evaluation theories, frameworks, and standards
- iii. South-South learning across African evaluation communities
- iv. Role of AfrEA, national evaluation associations, and Pan-African networks in advancing Agenda 2063
- v. African knowledge systems, oral traditions, and community validation in evaluation

Sub Theme: 7. Sectoral Deep Dives: MEL in Action Across Tanzania's Development Priorities

Topics:

- i. MEL for agriculture, food security, food systems resilience, productivity, and agri-value chains
- ii. MEL evidence for education, health, energy, infrastructure, youth employment, and social protection
- iii. Environmental sustainability and blue economy monitoring for marine, coastal, and climate priorities
- iv. Sector-specific evidence gaps, measurement challenges, and innovation opportunities
- v. Sector-based evidence products for policy implementation, performance reviews, and Dira 2050 milestone tracking

5. ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Round-table discussions at the conference will provide interactive spaces

for participants to examine practical MEL experiences, share case studies, reflect on policy and financing issues, and identify evidence-based actions that support the implementation of Dira 2050, FYDP IV, and the national results-based MEL system.

Participants are encouraged to submit abstracts that present real-world MEL applications, governance reforms, policy integration, institutional learning, accountability mechanisms, sectoral evidence, financing insights, and practical recommendations.

The round-table discussions are intended to address persistent gaps between evidence generation and evidence use. In many cases, studies, evaluations, and reports produce useful findings, but these findings do not always influence policy decisions, budget choices, institutional learning, service delivery improvements, financing accountability, or implementation reforms.

By creating a structured platform for dialogue, the conference will help translate MEL findings, sector experiences, financing lessons, and policy insights into actionable recommendations for national development planning, implementation, accountability, and learning.

Specifically, the discussions will address gaps in evidence-to-action, policy integration, institutional learning, accountability, sector evidence use, financing oversight, and the translation of field-level practice into policy recommendations.

6.KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

The conference will feature keynote speakers drawn from leading national, regional, and international experts in monitoring, evaluation, and learning; human-centered evaluation; policy formulation; governance; accountability; digital transformation; inclusive development; and African evaluation practice.

The keynote addresses will provide strategic insights on how evidence can be translated into practical action, strengthen human-centered and inclusive evaluation approaches, support governance for sustainable development, and advance the implementation of Dira 2050, FYDP IV, the SDGs, and Agenda 2063.

7.POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Poster presentations will showcase research, evaluations, innovative methodologies, digital MEL solutions, policy recommendations, youth-led innovations, and sectoral evidence aligned with the conference sub-themes.

The poster sessions will provide a visual platform for presenting findings, sharing practical lessons, and promoting direct engagement among researchers, practitioners, policymakers, development partners, and other stakeholders.

Selected poster presentations may be featured in the conference proceedings and recognized for their contribution to MEL knowledge, evidence-informed decision-making, and practical action.

8.EXHIBITIONS

The conference exhibition space will provide a platform for stakeholders, institutions, businesses, innovators, technology companies, universities, civil society organizations, and development partners to showcase products, services, research, digital tools, dashboards, and innovations related to monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

Exhibitions will enable participants to explore practical solutions that support evidence use, human-centered evaluation, data systems, institutional learning, accountability, and sustainable development results.

9. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

The conference will feature specialized masterclasses and professional development workshops designed to strengthen practical skills in evaluation, performance measurement, data management, AI and machine learning for MEL, ESG evaluation frameworks, participatory methods, results-based management for FYDP IV, and policy application.

The workshops will be relevant to public institutions, state-owned enterprises, private sector companies, development organizations, researchers, youth evaluators, and MEL practitioners seeking to improve decision-making, productivity, service delivery, operational efficiency, and accountability.

Special attention will be given to practical approaches for using performance measurement to track results, improve institutional and business performance, identify productivity gaps, strengthen value-for-money, and support evidence-based management.

The workshops will support the conference theme by equipping participants with tools to translate evidence into action, strengthen human-centered evaluation practice, improve institutional learning, and contribute to sustainable development results.

10. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES AND KEY DEADLINES

Authors are requested to follow the submission requirements and timelines below to ensure their abstracts are reviewed and considered for presentation at the conference.

- a. Abstracts should be submitted electronically by 5 July 2026, 18:00 East Africa Time.

- b. Notification of accepted abstracts will be issued by 20 July 2026.
- c. Full papers and PowerPoint presentations should be submitted by 20 August 2026.
- d. Presentations should balance theoretical and practical perspectives and demonstrate clear links to the conference theme and sub-themes.
- e. All presentations should contribute to strengthening monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems for managing development programs, improving performance, strengthening governance, and enhancing accountability under Dira 2050 and FYDP IV.
- f. Abstracts should not exceed 400 words and should clearly indicate the thematic area and sub-theme. Each abstract should include the title, author name(s), institutional affiliation, and the following structured sections: Background (maximum 100 words), Objective (maximum 50 words), Methodology (maximum 100 words), Findings or Key Messages (maximum 100 words), and Conclusion (maximum 50 words).
- g. Authors should also indicate their professional background and relevant experience.
- h. Abstracts should be submitted using the official Abstracts submission Menu available through conference website <https://tsms.gov.go.tz> or by email to melconference@pmo.go.tz or tzmelweek@pmo.gov.tz.

11. REGISTRATION FEES

All participants are required to pay a registration fee to support conference materials, meals, venue arrangements, technical sessions, and related logistics. Registration provides access to keynote addresses, technical sessions, round-table discussions, poster and paper presentations, exhibitions, professional development workshops, networking opportunities, and engagement with institutions shaping Tanzania’s MEL ecosystem.

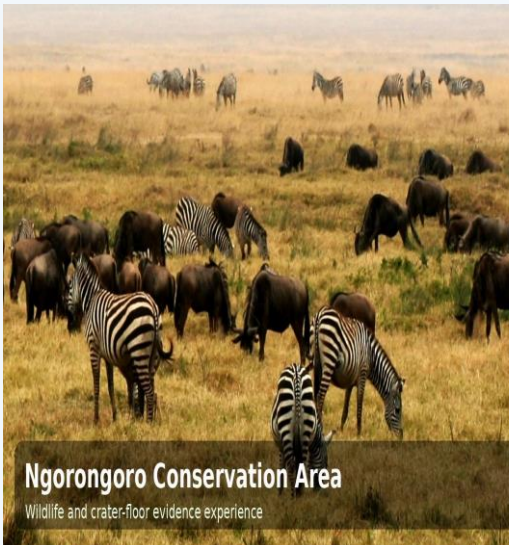
For presenters, the conference offers a platform to share work, receive peer feedback, strengthen visibility, and contribute to national evidence and policy dialogue linked to Dira 2050, FYDP IV, the SDGs, and Agenda 2063.

The fee also covers scheduled excursions and field visits on **26 September 2026**, including selected options such as Ngorongoro Crater, Tarangire National Park, Mount Kilimanjaro, Arusha cultural and heritage tours, or local MEL field visits. Participants are encouraged to register early to secure participation and benefit fully from the conference opportunities.

No.	Category	Early Registration (By 15 th August 2026)	Late Registration (After 10 th September 2026)
1	TanEA Members	TZS 900,000	TZS 1,000,000
2	Non-TanEA Members	TZS 1,100,000	TZS 1,200,000
3	International Participants	USD 500	USD 600
4	East African Countries Members	USD 450	USD 500
5	Young Evaluators or Students (Local)	TZS 500,000	TZS 550,000
6	Young Evaluators or Students (Foreign)	USD 300	USD 350

ARUSHA ATTRACTIONS AND EXCURSION BRANDING

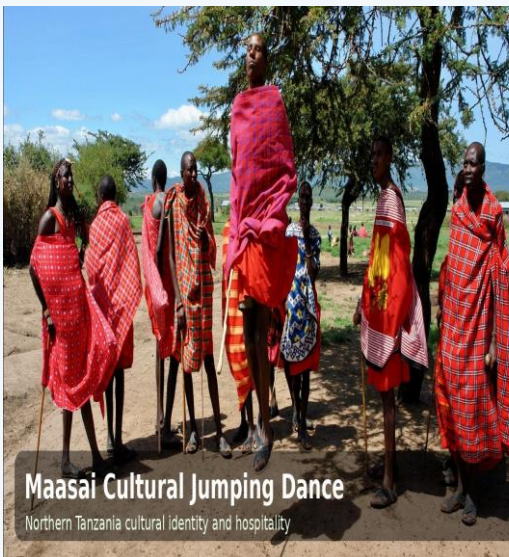
Visual highlights for the 5th Tanzania MEL Week 2026 host region



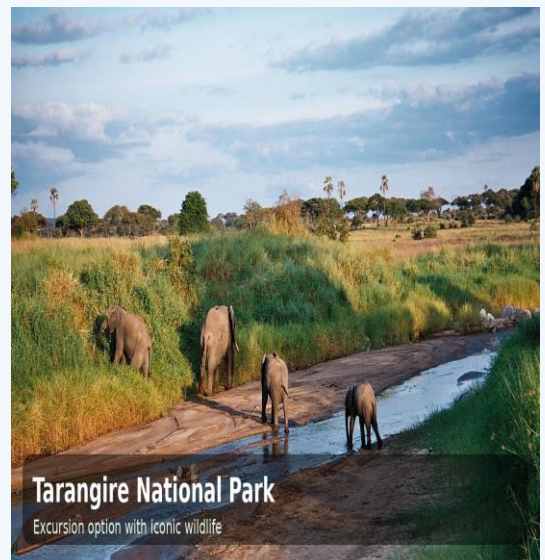
Ngorongoro Crater Experience



Arusha City & Mount Meru



Maasai Cultural Jumping Dance



**Tarangire Wildlife & Baobab
Landscapes**

Abstract Submission Support
Assistance for Submission & Guidelines

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Please Note: Kindly reach out through WhatsApp on the numbers listed above. Our support team will respond to assist you with abstract submission and any related guidelines.



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