

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
OCEAN ROAD CANCER INSTITUTE (ORCI)

CONCEPT NOTE

**30TH ANNIVERSARY OCEAN ROAD CANCER INSTITUTE AND 1ST ORCI INTERNATIONAL
ONCOLOGY CONFERENCE.**

**THEME: 30 Years journey of Transforming Cancer Care in Tanzania:
“Innovations, Integrations and Impact – Experience learned from the Ocean Road
Cancer Institute”**

1. Background

Established in 1996 the Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI) has served as Tanzania’s national referral center for cancer care. Over the past three decades, ORCI has played a pivotal role in delivering comprehensive oncology services, including radiotherapy, chemotherapy, surgical oncology, nuclear medicine, cancer screening, research, training, and palliative care.

As ORCI celebrates its 30th anniversary, the institute will host a high-level international Oncology Conference to reflect on its journey, highlighting achievements, and chart a way forward for cancer control in Tanzania and the region.

The anniversary event and the international oncology conference is scheduled to take place on 4th to 6th February, 2026 at Julius Nyerere convention Centre (JINCC), Dar es salaam, Tanzania

The event will bring together key stakeholders, including clinicians, researchers, policymakers, development partners, cancer survivors, and civil society, to foster dialogue and promote evidence-based cancer care.

Over 600 participants from more than 20 countries are expected to attend, including representatives from international cancer institutes, public health experts, NGOs, academic institutions, and the private sector.

2. Objectives

The primary objectives of the event are:

- i. **Honor and Recognize Contributors:** Celebrate and recognize staff, cancer survivors, donors, and strategic partners who have contributed to ORCI’s mission and progress.

- ii. **Raise Awareness and Educate:** Raise public awareness about cancer prevention, early detection, and available treatment services.
- iii. **Mobilize Funding:** Attract funding and investment for cancer infrastructure development, particularly for the acquisition of advanced radiotherapy equipment.
- iv. **Engage Stakeholders:** Foster multi-sectoral collaboration among government, private sector, academia, and civil society to address cancer care challenges.
- v. **Strategic Launch:** Officially unveil ORCI's Strategic Plan 2026–2030, which aims to reduce cancer mortality in Tanzania by 30% by the year 2030.

3. Proposed Topics for Discussion

- i. Emerging Trends in Cancer Epidemiology
- ii. Innovations in Oncology Diagnostics and Treatment
- iii. Prevention and Early Detection Strategies
- iv. Advancing Cancer Research and Clinical Trials in Africa
- v. Bridging Gaps in Access to Cancer Care
- vi. Strengthening Palliative and Supportive Care Services
- vii. Building Human Resource Capacity in Oncology
- viii. Community Engagement (Women, Youth, and Grassroots Approaches)

4. Target Audience

The conference will convene a diverse group of participants, including:

- i. Oncologists, radiologists, surgeons, Medical Physicists, Radiotherapists, nurses, and allied health professionals
- ii. Researchers and academic institutions
- iii. Government officials and health policy makers
- iv. International cancer and public health organizations
- v. Non-governmental organizations and civil society networks
- vi. Private health providers and pharmaceutical/biotech companies
- vii. Cancer survivors and patient advocacy groups

5. Expected Outcomes

- i. A national roadmap for advancing cancer control and care delivery
- ii. Strengthened research networks and regional collaborations
- iii. Practical policy recommendations to improve equity in cancer services
- iv. A commemorative publication highlighting ORCI's 30-year legacy and strategic vision
- v. A renewed commitment to patient-centered oncology care

6. Community Outreach Program: Pre-Event Activity

As part of the pre-conference build-up to the 30th Anniversary of Ocean Road Cancer Institute, a **Community Outreach Program** will be conducted across all districts in Dar es Salaam. This initiative is designed to foster meaningful community engagement and gather local perspectives on cancer treatment and care.

The outreach program will serve both as a **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** effort and as an extension of ORCI's commitment to inclusive healthcare. It aims to enhance public understanding of cancer, improve health-seeking behaviors, and reinforce ORCI's position as a patient-centered institution.

Each district will host a two-day outreach event featuring:

- **Free Cancer Screening Services** – including clinical breast exams, cervical cancer screening, and patient referrals.
- **Public Education and Awareness Sessions** – to increase understanding of cancer prevention, early detection, and available treatment options.
- **Community Dialogues** – gathering views from residents to assess their perceptions, challenges, and recommendations on improving cancer care delivery.
- **Partnership Engagement** – involvement of local government leaders, health facilities, and civil society to co-host and amplify the initiative.

This outreach initiative will ensure that ORCI's anniversary is not only a celebration of past achievements but also a platform for grassroots empowerment and inclusive feedback that will shape the institute's future direction.

7. Conclusion

The 30th Anniversary and the 1st International Oncology Conference marks a critical moment for ORCI and the oncology community in Tanzania. Through inclusive dialogue, knowledge sharing, and innovations, the event seeks to inspire collective action toward achieving equitable, quality cancer care for all.

ORCI warmly welcomes partners, stakeholders, and friends to join this milestone celebration and contribute to shaping the future of oncology in Tanzania and the East African region.