

2ND TANZANIA MONITORING, EVALUATION & LEARNING CONFERENCE



12 – 15 September, 2023



Arusha

THEME

Strengthening monitoring, evaluation and
learning for improved government performance



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
POLICY, PARLIAMENT AND COORDINATION

 **Tanzania**
MEL Week 2023

ABOUT THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

The Office of the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania dates back to the year 1961 when the first Prime Minister of Tanganyika, the Father of the Nation, Mwalimu J.K. Nyerere, was appointed. According to Government Notice Number 415 of 1st December 1961 the function of the office then was to advise the Governor-General on all matters relating to the Government of Tanganyika.

The Office of the Prime Minister was retained as the head of government business when Tanganyika became a republic on 9th December 1962 with the President as Head of State.

The Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar on 26th April 1964 brought into existence the United Republic of Tanzania. One of the major changes brought about by the Union was the establishment of the Office of the Second Vice President, which also took over the functional roles of the Office of the Prime Minister. The Office of the Prime Minister was re-established in 1972 and since that time it has continued to exist. The 1977 Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania gave the office its current legal status by establishing the post of the Prime Minister.

Between mid 1980s to date, the Prime Minister's Office has undergone several changes, with various ministerial functions being added and removed from the Prime Minister's responsibilities, according to the prerogatives of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania. The major constitutional changes of 1984 added the role of Vice Presidency to the Prime Minister. From November 1985 to October 1995, the office was known as Office of the Prime Minister and First Vice President.

With the constitutional amendments of 1992 that brought in multiparty democracy in the country, a separate office of the Vice President was established, hiving off that role from the Prime Minister.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BRELA	Business Registrations and Licensing Agency
DAC	OECD's Development Assistance Committee
e-GA	e-Government Authority
ESRF	Economic and Social Research Foundation
EWURA	Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority
IRDP	Institute of Rural Development and Planning
LGAs	Local government authorities
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MEL 2023	2nd Tanzania Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Conference
NAOT	National Audit Office
NBC	National Bank of Commerce
OECD	The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PCCB	Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau
PMO–PPC	Prime Minister's Office – Policy, Parliament and Coordination
TAWA	Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority
TCRA	Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority
TFRA	Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority
TFS	Tanzania Forest Service Agency
T-MELA	Tanzania Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Adaptation
TanEA	Tanzania Evaluation Association
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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1. From L-R: Deputy Prime Minister Dotto Mashaka Biteko, Arusha Regional Commissioner John Mongella, Minister Jenista Joackim Mhagama, and Permanent Secretary Jim James Yonazi.
2. Participants during the conference.
3. The USAID Tanzania Mission Director Craig Hart as he receives an award during the event.

FOREWORD

MEL 2023 AT A GLANCE

Guest of honour

**Hon. Dr. Dotto
Mashaka Biteko,
Deputy Prime
Minister of the
United Republic
of Tanzania,
representing the
Prime Minister**

Participants

>600

Countries

**Tanzania, Angola,
Cote D'Ivoire,
Ethiopia, Kenya,
Namibia, Uganda,
South Africa,
Zambia,
Zimbabwe, and the
United States of
America**

The Prime Minister's Office - Policy, Parliament and Coordination in collaboration with Tanzania Evaluation Association (TanEA) successfully organised and effectively conducted the 2nd Tanzania Monitoring, Evaluation Learning Conference (MEL 2023) at the Arusha International Conference Centre from 12 – 15 September 2023. This year's theme was "Strengthening Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning for improving government performance". The delegates of the conference included stakeholders from public, private and third sectors in Tanzania and other parts of the world. Specifically, it aimed to promote monitoring and evaluation (M&E) practices among the participating professional communities; foster an M&E "culture" across public institutions; as well as promote the sharing of information and best practices from national and international experts.

The participants, in addition to considering the main theme, had the opportunity to explore the conferences seven sub-themes:

1

Monitoring, evaluation and learning for governance and improving service delivery;

2

Incentives for M&E sustainability of strategic projects and programmes;

3

The role of information and communication technology in improving evaluation demand, capacity, and delivery;

4

The role of M&E experts in tourism for social economic development

5

Citizen science and community-led monitoring;

6

Early career evaluators; and

7

The role of parliamentary oversight in monitoring and evaluation.

The participatory approach was used in the preparation of the programme, involving an organising committee with members from different partner organisations and wider stakeholders.

The event also benefited from the support of the following actors: United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Tanzania Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Adaptation (T-MELA), Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS), Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), Institute of Rural Development and Planning (IRDP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), National Bank of Commerce (NBC), National Audit Office (NAOT), UONGOZI Institute, e-Government Authority (e-GA), Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB), Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA), Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA), Zanzibar Planning Commission and Presidential Delivery Bureau, and the South African Center for Learning on Evaluation and Results.

Dr. Jim James Yonazi

Permanent Secretary
Prime Minister's Office – Policy, Parliament
and Coordination (PMO–PPC)



1. INTRODUCTION

The Government of Tanzania, in its effort to improve M&E within public bodies, initiated the first MEL Conference in 2022. This was held in Dodoma under the President's Office, Public service Management and Good Governance. One of the recommendations was that the initiative should be held annually.

The MEL 2023 was officiated by Hon. Dr. Dotto Mashaka Biteko, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy. It had three main sessions: Opening and keynote addresses; panel discussion; and professional training workshops. It also featured exhibition and tourism promotion activities.

This report provides an overview of the conference planning, programme management, paper presentations, discussions, recommendations, and conclusions. The first part provides an overview of the conference including the objective and rationale, stakeholder participation, and overall arrangement. The second part outlines the summative report of the conference. The third part offers an overview of the training workshops and paper presentations. The last part covers the recommendations by participants and resolutions.

Rationale

The Government of Tanzania is striving to improve the performance of the public sector by investing in result-based monitoring and evaluation systems.

This is a systematic approach for monitoring performance and evaluating the long-term results of policies and projects instead of just considering short-term outputs. M&E systems are one of the most important public management tools. They assist governments around the world to plan, implement and manage policies and development plans thereby helping to ensure resources and processes achieve clear aims (results-based management). The conference is one of several responses by the government to increasing calls for M&E to help create greater accountability; evidence-based decision making; policy and programme improvement through learning; and the effective use of resources in the public sector.

The Government of Tanzania, in its effort to improve M&E within public bodies, initiated the first MEL Conference in 2022. This was held in Dodoma under the President's Office, Public service Management and Good Governance. One of the recommendations was that the initiative should be held annually.

Objective

The MEL 2023 aimed at improving government and wider public sector performance through strengthening M&E capacities, including the creation of an enabling environment for the advancement of best practices in the country, and applying these to programmes ranging from development projects through to the overall national development agenda.

The MEL 2023 aimed at improving government and wider public sector performance through strengthening M&E capacities.



2. CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS

The Prime Minister's Office organised the first preparatory meeting for the MEL 2023 on 31 January 2023. The meeting agreed to form a national committee to oversee the preparations of the event. Furthermore, the meeting agreed to hold the MEL 2023 in Arusha from 12 – 15 September and also, to embed tourism promotion as part of the activities.

The Prime Minister's Office organised the first preparatory meeting for the MEL 2023 on 31 January 2023. The meeting comprised of members from the President's Office – State House, President's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government, President's Office – Public Service Management and Good Governance, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Tourism and Natural Resource, Ministry of Water, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, National Bureau of Statistics, e-Government Authority, Judicial Commission and Parliamentary Office, UONGOZI Institute, Institute of Rural Development and Planning, Tanzania Forest Service Agency, and Tanzania Tourism Board. The meeting agreed to form a national committee to oversee the preparations of the event. Furthermore, the meeting agreed to hold the MEL 2023 in Arusha from 12 – 15 September and also, to embed tourism promotion as part of the activities. Following its formation, the committee created six sub-committees to go in-depth into specific matters: Venue and catering; resource mobilisation; health and emergency; protocol and security; registration; plus media, communications and publication.

2.1 Resource mobilisation

Resources were mobilised from a range of range of partners working at national, regional, and international levels and also, registration fees from participants. Institutions that provided in-kind and financial contributions included USAID, T-MELA, TCRA, TFS, ESRF, TAWA, IRDP, UNDP, EWURA, NBC, NAOT, UONGOZI Institute, e-GA, PCCB, BRELA, TFRA, Zanzibar Planning Commission and Presidential Delivery Bureau, and the South African Center for Learning on Evaluation and Results.

2.2 Call for papers and review

The call for conference papers required interested candidates to first submit an abstract in reference to the sub-themes and focus area provided. The review committee received 46 abstracts, reviewed them and informed those selected to submit full papers to be presented. The reviewed and accepted abstracts and full manuscripts were incorporated into the programme structure and the final conference programme was then developed. A total of 55 presenters from inside and outside the country successfully presented their papers (see Section 5).

2.3 Delegates

Conference participants were divided into the following categories: special guests and invitees (permanent secretaries, regional administrative secretaries, ambassadors, other diplomats), keynote speakers, moderators, paper presenters, panellists, and other M&E experts and practitioners from the government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), local government authorities (LGAs), universities, private sector organisations, civil society organisations, and voluntary organisations of professional evaluation (TanEA, and Zanzibar Monitoring and Evaluation Association). The conference successfully brought together a total of 628 participants, surpassing the expected number of 350. The non-Tanzanian delegates were from Angola, Cote D'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, Uganda, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and the United States of America.

2.4 Exhibitions

The MEL 2023 featured 20 exhibition booths outside the conference hall. Government Institutions as well as private companies showcased their products and services to participants. Exhibitors included: the Disaster and Risk Management Department from the PMO-PCC, TFS, National Institute of Transport, TAWA, Tanzania Tourist Board, Tanzania National Parks Authority, NBC, TanEA, Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology, Open University of Tanzania, Dar es Salaam University College of Education, and Mrembo Safaris.

2.5 Excursions

The fourth day of the MEL 2023 involved trips to some of tourist attractions in Arusha and Kilimanjaro; the aim being to promote the role of M&E experts in tourism promotion. The delegates enjoyed visiting the Tarangire National Park, Ngorongoro National Park, Materuni Waterfall and Coffee factory, Arusha National Park, Kilimanjaro National Park, and Serval Wildlife haven.

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**ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION**



**UONGOZI
Institute**





Some exhibition activities.

3. SUMMATIVE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

This section summarises the content of the various sessions of the conference.

3.1 Welcoming remarks

Ms. Sakina Mwinyimkuu, Director of Government Performance Monitoring and Evaluation in the Prime Minister's Office, welcomed delegates to the second MEL Conference. She urged them to use the conference as a platform to exchange views and ideas on the implementation of M&E to enhance government performance and improve service delivery in the country. She further provided a valuable overview of government M&E from the perspective of her role in assessing the performance of MDAs and LGAs. She concluded her remarks by inviting participants, particularly those coming from outside of Tanzania, to explore the beautiful tourism attractions nearby.



Ms. Mwinyimkuu delivers her remarks.

3.2 Remarks by partners

Dr. Kapongola Nganyanyuka, Chairperson of TanEA, firstly acknowledged the valuable collaboration between PMO, TanEA, USAID, IRDP, UONGOZI Institute and other stakeholders. He also recognised TanEA's distinctive role at the forefront in strengthening MEL in Tanzania. Participants were encouraged to become members of the TanEA, which belong to the African Evaluation Association, and especially offers opportunities to early career evaluators. He concluded by advocating for partnerships to advance innovations for strengthening monitoring, evaluation and learning.

Prof. Hozen Mayaya, Rector at IRDP, started his remarks by quoting the IRDP motto “Kupanga ni Kuchagua” which means “Planning is Prioritising” and related this to the Government's commitment to improving service delivery by strengthening M&E. Highlighting the importance of M&E, Prof. Mayaya considered this in relation to the Coca-Cola Company, which recorded significant losses after taking arguably the biggest risk in consumer goods history by changing the formula of their iconic soft drink and triggering a global consumer protest.

In closing, he pledged his continued commitment to government's efforts to enhance M&E tools and systems, and to extend IRDP's collaboration and support that is offered through its rural development programmes.

3.3 Keynote addresses

The six keynote speakers from within Tanzania and abroad represented national, regional, and global evaluations in relation to M&E in government and wider public sector policy and project planning.

3.4 Panel discussion

The panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Josephine Kimaro, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Presidential Delivery Bureau – Zanzibar and involved the following panellists: Dr. Steven Masvaure, Ms. Sakina Mwinyimkuu (PMO), Dr. Kapongola Nganyanyuka (TanEA), Mr. Omary Kebbeh (USAID–Tanzania), Dr. Noel Komba (Mara Regional Secretariat), and Dr. Benson Kiarie (Vantage Kenya). The panel discussed the status and development of M&E within the public sector and key topics or comments included:

1

The journey towards strengthening MEL in Africa is “optimistic”;

2

M&E still focuses on administrative data in most African countries;

3

The value of M&E is not always appreciated, and this impacts funding;

4

M&E skills in the public sector need to be increased;

5

The Government of Tanzania has made significant steps to embed M&E within institutions and reforms are ongoing;

6

The implementation of M&E report recommendations remains a major challenge in many Africa nations;

7

The aspect of learning and results dissemination often requires greater attention;

8

The “democratisation” of M&E, not making it just the concern of the respective unit, can be a challenge;

9

M&E can be promoted in its role of helping build trust and dialogue with the who can in turn better understand government policies and projects; and

10

The aspect of learning and results dissemination often requires greater attention;



Speakers during the panel discussion.

4. OFFICIAL OPENING BY THE GUEST OF HONOUR

“The main theme, strengthening Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning for Improving Government Performance, reflects the President's vision to enhance government's performance and improve service delivery in the country.”

Dr. Jim James Yonazi

4.1 Opening remarks

Dr. Jim James Yonazi, Permanent Secretary (PMO–PCC) officially and warmly welcomed Hon. Dr. Dotto Mashaka Biteko (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Engery) to the MEL 2023. He highlighted that the main theme “Strengthening Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning for Improving Government Performance” reflects the President's vision to enhance government's performance and improve service delivery in the country. Dr. Yonazi was gratified to have leaders as well as experts dealing with M&E from Tanzania and across the world.



Dr. Yonazi gives his remarks.

Mr. Craig Hart, Mission Director for USAID Tanzania, commended the government for establishing the M&E Directorate in the PMO–PPC, plus M&E Units across ministries that will work to enhance government performance and service delivery in the country. He also highlighted the contribution of USAID to advancing M&E practices in the country.

Hon. Jenista Joackim Mhagama MP, Minister of State (PMO–PCC), began by congratulating the organisers of the conference whilst observing that the MEL 2023 reflects the government’s readiness to strengthen M&E to improve public sector performance and service delivery. She also highlighted implementation of directives and outcomes arising from the first MEL Conference in 2022. These directives included the establishment of the Directorate for M&E of government performance under the PMO–PPC; establishment of the stand-alone M&E units in ministries which are reporting direct to the Permanent Secretary; participation of Accounting Officers in subsequent MEL Conference initiatives; and making MEL Conference an annual event.

On his part, Hon. John Mongella, Arusha Regional Commissioner, extended his special appreciation to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her efforts to promote the country as the best tourism and investment destination. He said this has made Arusha a good tourist and business address to both locals and foreigners. He thanked the organisers for the opportunity to host the event in Arusha, and encouraged the delegates explore the beauty of the region.



Mr. Craig Hart.



Hon. Jenista Joackim Mhagama.



Hon. John Mongella.

4.2 Address by the guest of honour

On behalf of the guest of honour (Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania), Hon. Dr. Dotto Mashaka Biteko extended greetings from the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, the Vice President, and the Prime Minister. He also expressed his appreciation to the organisers of the conference and acknowledged the presence of all stakeholders. Hon. Biteko acknowledged the initiatives taken by the government to strengthen M&E in the country. In addition to the M&E initiatives mentioned by previous speakers, he also referenced the appointment of the Deputy Prime Minister to oversee coordination of government performance, the establishment of the Planning Commission and the ongoing preparation of an integrated government-wide M&E electronic system.

“The government has taken various initiatives to strengthen M&E in the country. The aim is to build an integrated government that fosters accountability and effective relationships among its ministries, departments and agencies.”

Hon. Dr. Dotto Mashaka Biteko



Hon. Dr. Biteko during his address.



Some captured moments of the awarding ceremony.