

Final Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC)

on 6th February 2026

The 4th Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) meeting of the Project for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases in Tamil Nadu “TNNCD (Oncology) Project” was held on 6th February 2026. It was chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, and participated by the officials from Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project (TNHSP), National Health Mission (NHM), and multiple directorates, JICA representative and the Project team members, during which the project team presented four years of achievements and discussed key recommendations to ensure sustainability beyond the project period.

During the review of Output 1 activities; organised cancer screening initiatives, the committee recognized the development of a comprehensive set of tools and performance indicators that have enabled more structured and data-driven screening in Ariyalur district. Participants also highlighted the importance of strengthening social and behavior change communication to improve public understanding of routine cancer screening, noting positive experiences with Women Health Volunteers and Anganwadi workers. The committee underscored the need for improved data quality and welcomed NHM’s ongoing development of a mobile application to update eligibility lists and reduce manual data entry burdens. Service innovations such as women’s health check-up days and on-demand VIA camps were noted for their efficiency, alongside recommendations to prioritize HPV-DNA testing for post-menopausal women.

The JCC also reviewed the successful implementation of the Output 2 activities; strengthening the colorectal cancer (CRC) early diagnosis. The feasible CRC early diagnosis model was developed through the pilot intervention in Coimabtoe District. The initiative has demonstrated increased referral cases among the symptomatic patients, 100 percent coverage of targeted medical staff training, and improved clinical practices in primary care settings. Given the high detection rate of CRC among colonoscopies performed, the committee discussed the potential need to increase access to colonoscopy.. The need to raise public awareness was also strongly suggested. It was agreed to convene another meeting to further discuss how to strengthen the program in Coimbatore and the possibility of expansion under Tamil Nadu Cancer Care Mission (CCM).

Progress in Output 3 activities; strengthening advanced clinical skills for cancer diagnosis and treatment was also presented, with Standard Operating Procedures now established in all the four training areas; gynecologic oncology, pathology, gastrointestinal oncology, and radiation oncology. The committee discussed proposals to enhance the state’s specialized cancer care capacity, including establishing a center of excellence for ovarian cancer cytoreductive surgery, enabling clinical use of FISH equipment, expanding molecular diagnostic capabilities, and introducing robotic surgical systems for gastrointestinal cancers. Several of these items will be examined further within CCM and CMCHIS policy revisions.

Looking ahead, the JCC approved the project's Overall Goal indicators for the post-project period, namely the proportion of late-stage cervical cancer diagnoses in Ariyalur and the number of CRC patients registered at Coimbatore Government Medical College Hospital. The JCC confirmed that the Government collect the necessary baseline data and expressed the expectation to advance the work needed to achieve these targets.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Tomohiro Arima, Senior Representative of JICA India Office, expressed gratitude for the Government of Tamil Nadu's leadership and efforts throughout the project. He highlighted the state's strong progress in organized cancer screening and early diagnosis interventions, and reaffirmed JICA's continued commitment to supporting Tamil Nadu's efforts to strengthen its cancer care response. The Additional Chief Secretary extended appreciation to all participating directorates and project team for their sustained contributions.



What's JICA TNNCD (Oncology) Project?

The Project for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases in Tamil Nadu (TNNCD (Oncology) Project) is a technical cooperation funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency and implemented by the Health and Family Welfare Department, Tamil Nadu. The project aims to enhance the managerial capacity of cancer prevention and control from administrative and clinical perspectives through three major components/outputs. See this [website](#) for further details.