CONTRIBUTION TO THE
VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW
2026

TANZANIA
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
PLATFORM

TANZANIA CIVIL SOCIETY REPORT ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Cover Photo: UN Tanzania Country Results Report (2023-2024)

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform (TSDP)
Third Voluntary National Review · 2026

CIVIL SOCIETY SHADOW REPORT

ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

A Citizens' Assessment of Tanzania's Progress Toward the 2030 Agenda

SDG 1 No Poverty	**SDG 2** Zero Hunger	**SDG 3** Good Health	**SDG 4** Education	**SDG 5** Gender	**SDG 6** Clean Water
SDG 7 Clean Energy	**SDG 8** Decent Work	**SDG 9** Industry	**SDG 10** Inequality	**SDG 11** Sustainable Cities	**SDG 12** Consumption
SDG 13 Climate Action	**SDG 14** Life Below Water	**SDG 15** Life on Land	**SDG 16** Peace & Justice	**SDG 17** Partnerships	

HLPF 2026 · New York · 7–15 July | **United Republic of Tanzania** | **1,000+ Organizations Engaged**

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Annex to the 2026 Tanzania National VNR Report | High-Level Political Forum, New York, July 2026

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Foreword

From the Co-Conveners of the Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform

Since the inception of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015, the Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform (TSDP) established in April 2015 has played a central role in coordinating and strengthening the involvement of civil society organizations in Tanzania's national SDG process. Through providing platforms for coordination, multi-stakeholder engagements, and experience sharing, TSDP has ensured meaningful and impactful engagement and contributions of civil society organizations in the implementation, monitoring, and reporting of SDGs in Tanzania in line with regional and national priorities.

The 2026 Tanzania VNR is the third Voluntary National Review undertaken by the country, following previous reviews in 2019 and 2023. Despite significant financial resource constraints during this reporting period, TSDP through its members successfully conducted 20 consultation sessions in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar, reaching over 1,000 organizations and representatives of vulnerable and marginalized groups.

This report presents a citizens' assessment of SDG implementation in Tanzania. It documents civil society contributions to the implementation, follow-up, and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals; highlights existing gaps and challenges; and draws recommendations for fast-tracking progress toward 2030. The preparation of this report involved community-based organisations, national NGOs, international NGOs, regional and district networks, while ensuring that marginalized groups, the furthest, and the poorest of the poor were fully engaged.

We are grateful to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for creating space for non-state actors and for the continuing collaboration in the VNR process. We extend gratitude and appreciation to our platform members, the broader civil society in Tanzania, and our partners for their invaluable contributions.

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TSDP STEERING COMMITTEE AND TASKFORCE MEMBERS — 2026 VNR

1. UNA Tanzania
2. Africa Philanthropic Foundation
3. ActionAid Tanzania
4. ANSAF
5. PELUM
6. Marie Stopes International
7. HakiElimu
8. TGNP
9. TAWASANET
10. HAKIRASILIMALI
11. Restless Development
12. Sahara Ventures
13. HAKIARDHI
14. FADEV
15. Forum CC
16. THRDC
17. WAJIBU – Institute of Public Accountability
18. LHRC
19. Policy Forum
20. Sightsavers
21. Save the Children
22. Bridge for Change
23. GreenTech Hub
24. BRAC Maendeleo Tanzania

About the Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform

The Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform was founded in April 2015 as a result of a multi-stakeholder workshop on the transition from Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), convened by the United Nations Association (UNA) of Tanzania in partnership with Africa Philanthropic Foundation (APF). One of the key outcomes of the workshop was the recommendation to establish a civil society platform to facilitate the coordination of civil society organizations in Tanzania on sustainable development issues, and offer a platform for engagement with the government, United Nations (UN), and other development partners and stakeholders.

The platform is a voluntary and open platform for civil society organizations in Tanzania to come together, self-organize and self-coordinate to ensure a meaningful participation and documentation of contributions towards the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of Sustainable Development in Tanzania. This is in line with national development frameworks such as Tanzania Development Vision 2050 (Dira 2050), the Zanzibar Development Vision 2050, the Fourth Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP IV, 2026/27–2030/31), the UN 2030 Agenda, African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, and East Africa Community (EAC) Vision 2050.

What TSDP Does

- Facilitates sharing of knowledge, experiences, best practices and innovations from civil society organizations
- Leverages available resources — both financial and non-financial — within civil society
- Facilitates partnerships to minimize unnecessary duplications across SDG programming
- Ensures marginalized groups, the furthest and the poorest of the poor, are fully engaged in SDG implementation and review
- Coordinates civil society input into national VNR processes and international forums
- Serves as a member of the National SDG Coordination Taskforce
- Part of the Africa Civil Society Working Group (AWG) on Sustainable Development

Strategic Alignments

- UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- African Union Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want
- East Africa Community (EAC) Vision 2050
- Tanzania Development Vision 2050 (Dira 2050)
- Zanzibar Development Vision 2050
- Tanzania Fourth Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP IV, 2026/27–2030/31)

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ASDP II	Agriculture Sector Development Programme Phase II
AU	African Union
BoT	Bank of Tanzania
BRELA	Business Registrations and Licensing Agency
CBWSOs	Community-Based Water Supply Organizations
CCROs	Certificates of Customary Right of Occupancy
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
COSTECH	Commission for Science and Technology
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DRE	Decentralized Renewable Energy
DRM	Domestic Resource Mobilization
EAC	East Africa Community
ESDP	Education Sector Development Plan
EWURA	Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FYDP IV	Fourth Five-Year Development Plan (2026/27–2030/31)
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFFs	Illicit Financial Flows
ILO	International Labour Organization
ILFS	Integrated Labour Force Survey
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
JFM	Joint Forest Management
LGAs	Local Government Authorities
LHRC	Legal and Human Rights Centre
LNOB	Leaving No One Behind
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
MJUMITA	Mtandao wa Jamii wa Usimamizi wa Misitu Tanzania
MKUZA III	Zanzibar Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty III
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
MoFP	Ministry of Finance and Planning
NAP	National Adaptation Plan

NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCCRS	National Climate Change Response Strategy
NCDs	Non-Communicable Diseases
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NEMC	National Environment Management Council
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NPA-VAWC	National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OPDs	Organizations of Persons with Disabilities
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Authority
PCCB	Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau
PFM	Participatory Forest Management
PO-RALG	President's Office Regional and Local Government
PRRP	Participatory Reflection and Review Process
PSSN	Productive Social Safety Net
REA	Rural Energy Agency
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus
RUWASA	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGR	Standard Gauge Railway
SHIVYAWATA	Federation of Disabled People's Organizations in Tanzania
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
TANESCO	Tanzania Electric Supply Company
TAREA	Tanzania Renewable Energy Association
TASAF	Tanzania Social Action Fund
TAWASANET	Tanzania Water and Sanitation Network
TCRA	Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority
TDV 2050	Tanzania Development Vision 2050
TGNP	Tanzania Gender Networking Programme
THRDC	Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition
TRA	Tanzania Revenue Authority
TSDP	Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform
TUCTA	Trade Union Congress of Tanzania
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UNCRPD	UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
ZADEP I	Zanzibar Development Plan I

Executive Summary

Tanzania's Third Voluntary National Review · Civil Society Perspective · 2026

3rd	17	5.9%	47.2%	85.5%
VNR for Tanzania (2019, 2023, 2026)	SDGs Reviewed	GDP Growth 2025	Multi-dimensional Poverty Rate (MPI 2024)	Electricity Access (2025)

The Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform (TSDP) coordinated the preparation of the 2026 CSO Voluntary National Review Report. Mandated by the National Coordination Framework for the implementation, monitoring, and reporting of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Platform self-organizes and self-coordinates to ensure the meaningful participation and contribution of civil society organizations in the implementation, follow-up, and monitoring of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 in Tanzania.

Tanzania is reporting on SDG progress at the High-Level Political Forum for the third time, following its previous reviews in 2019 and 2023. The 2026 CSO VNR Report covers all 17 Sustainable Development Goals and dedicates a dedicated chapter on "Leave No One Behind," covering children, youth, and persons with disabilities. The report takes stock of the status of SDG implementation since the 2023 VNR cycle.

Key Findings

PROGRESS RECORDED Maternal mortality fell from 556 to ~104 per 100,000 live births. Immunization coverage reached 97%. National food production hit 23.78 million tonnes in 2024/25. Electricity access rose to 85.5% by 2025. Internet penetration reached 85.3%.	**CRITICAL GAPS PERSIST** Tanzania's Gini coefficient rose from 37.6 to 40.5 (2023–2025). 94.6% of workers remain informally employed. Only 5.8% of forests are under participatory management. Child marriage remains legally sanctioned. 4.2 million children remain in child labour.
CSO VALUE-ADD CSOs invested TZS 43.4 billion in WASH interventions reaching 902,000+ people (SDG 6). Supported 2,687 children out of child labour (SDG 8). Facilitated land rights for 387 women farmers with 94% income increases (SDG 10).	**2026 HLPF PRIORITY GOALS** SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, and 17 are under in-depth review at HLPF 2026. Tanzania has made strong policy advances on all five but faces consistent implementation gaps in financing, enforcement, and reaching the most marginalized.

National Development Architecture

SDG implementation for this reporting period was anchored in the Third Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP III, 2021/22–2025/26) and the First Zanzibar Development Plan (ZADEP I). A landmark transition is underway: the Tanzania Development Vision 2050 (TDV 2050 / Dira 2050), launched in July 2025, sets a 25-year roadmap toward a USD 1 trillion economy and zero extreme poverty, while the Fourth Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP IV, 2026/27–2030/31) provides the next medium-term implementation vehicle.

The HLPF 2026 Theme and Focus Goals

The 2026 HLPF, scheduled for 7–15 July 2026 in New York, convenes under the theme: "Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for a sustainable future for all." In-depth reviews cover SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, and 17 — all of which receive expanded treatment in this report.

SDG Progress at a Glance — All 17 Goals

SDG	Goal Name	Progress Status	Key Indicator
SDG 1	No Poverty	Moderate Progress	Poverty rate 26.4% (2018); MPI 47.2% (2024)
SDG 2	Zero Hunger	Moderate Progress	Food production 23.78M tonnes (2024/25)
SDG 3	Good Health	On Track	MMR ~104; U5MR 37; Immunization 97%
SDG 4	Quality Education	Moderate Progress	Budget TZS 7.39T; 268,902 teacher shortfall
SDG 5	Gender Equality	Moderate Progress	Women in Parliament 39%; FGM <8% (15–19)
SDG 6	Clean Water	Priority 2026	Rural water access 85.2%; CSOs: 902K+ reached
SDG 7	Clean Energy	Priority 2026	Electricity access 85.5%; RE mix 64.79%
SDG 8	Decent Work	At Risk	GDP growth 5.9%; informal work 94.6%
SDG 9	Industry & Innovation	Priority 2026	58.9M internet users; 85.3% penetration
SDG 10	Reduced Inequalities	At Risk	Gini rose from 37.6 to 40.5 (2023–2025)
SDG 11	Sustainable Cities	Priority 2026	Urban pop. 39.1%; housing deficit 3.8M units
SDG 12	Responsible Consumption	Moderate Progress	469K ha forest lost annually
SDG 13	Climate Action	Moderate Progress	RE 64% of mix; 0.56 budget execution rate
SDG 14	Life Below Water	Moderate Progress	Fish harvest 522K tonnes (2024)
SDG 15	Life on Land	Moderate Progress	Elephant pop. 60K; tree survival 54.36%
SDG 16	Peace & Justice	Moderate Progress	Crime down 8.4%; court backlog clearance 62%
SDG 17	Partnerships	Priority 2026	Tax-to-GDP 13.7%; grant execution 69.6%

" Tanzania enters the final stretch of the 2030 Agenda with a record that is both encouraging and sobering. Progress has been real but the evidence is equally clear that significant gaps remain, and the pace of implementation must accelerate if commitments made in 2015 are to mean anything by 2030.

— TSDP 2026 CSO VNR Shadow Report — Conclusion

CHAPTER ONE:

Background & Country Context

Setting the scene for Tanzania's 2026 Voluntary National Review — the national development landscape, VNR process, civil society involvement, and data availability.

3rd VNR for Tanzania | 20 CSO Consultations | 6 Regions Covered | 17 SDGs Assessed

1.1 Background and the 2030 Agenda

In September 2015, during the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), World Leaders unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a shared blueprint to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure global prosperity by 2030 through the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) whose implementation commenced in January 2016. The 17 global goals contain 169 targets to guide development policy and funding until 2030. SDGs build on the progress of MDGs and close their gaps, with emphasis on economic inequality, industrialization, innovation, climate change, sustainable consumption, and peace and justice. Their unique feature is their holistic universality — bringing on board people, prosperity, planet, peace, and partnership (the 5Ps).

The 2026 High-Level Political Forum is scheduled for 7–15 July 2026 at UN Headquarters in New York under the theme: "Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs for a sustainable future for all." The HLPF will conduct in-depth reviews of SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, and 17.

1.2 SDG Implementation in Tanzania

Tanzania's Dira 2050 (successor to Tanzania Development Vision 2025), launched in July 2025, and the Zanzibar Development Vision 2050 are the main blueprints for Tanzania's transformation into an inclusive, globally competitive upper-middle-income country with a USD 1 trillion economy and per capita income of USD 7,000 by 2050. For the 2026 VNR reporting period, the Third Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP III, 2021/22–2025/26) and the First Zanzibar Development Plan (ZADEP I) were the main implementation vehicles. The Fourth Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP IV, 2026/27–2030/31) represents the next medium-term roadmap aligned with TDV 2050, SDGs, AU Agenda 2063, and EAC Vision 2050.

1.3 The 2026 VNR Process

The process for the 2026 VNR officially started in October 2025, following official confirmation of Tanzania's intention to present at the 2026 HLPF. The National Sustainable Development Coordination Framework coordinated multi-stakeholder and whole-of-society engagements. Civil society consultations were led by TSDP, while private sector consultations were led by the United Nations Global Compact Tanzania (UNGCTZ). Consultation meetings were held in Zanzibar, Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, Dodoma, Arusha, and Mwanza, followed by a national civil society validation meeting.

The government, through the Ministry of Finance, ran consultations with Members of Parliament in collaboration with the Parliamentary Group on Sustainable Development, and with Local Government Authorities (LGAs). Inputs from all consultations were consolidated into one national VNR report, with this CSO Shadow Report annexed therein.

1.4 Civil Society Involvement

One of the founding principles of the 2030 Agenda is for all implementation and follow-up processes to be participatory and inclusive. TSDP self-organized parallel consultations for all 17 SDGs and for marginalized groups (Youth, Children, Persons with Disabilities). Lead organizations from the platform volunteered to coordinate specific goals and marginalized groups, convening CSOs, synthesizing inputs, and submitting findings to the national VNR Taskforce. Civil society consultations were financed primarily by leveraging resources from TSDP member organizations, with support from UNGCTZ and UNDESA.

1.5 Data Availability and Gaps

Data availability remains one of the main stumbling blocks in the implementation, follow-up, and review of SDGs in Tanzania. The Sustainable Development Goals based on data availability stands at 76.9 percent by 2025. Serious challenges relate to: level of data disaggregation; frequency of data production; incomplete data sets; data quality in administrative data; unreliable routine collection systems; and most data aggregated at national and regional levels, not reflecting local realities.

NBS Coverage Gap NBS produces only 39% of required SDG monitoring data. Remaining 61% from MDAs with quality and frequency concerns.	**Disaggregation Deficit** Disability, gender, age, and sub-district disaggregation largely absent. Local realities invisible in planning.
Goals Most Data-Deficient SDGs 8, 13, and 16 face the most severe gaps. Most CSO evidence documented as case studies, not indicator statistics.	**TSMP II Development** Tanzanian Statistical Master Plan II is being developed to strengthen the National Statistical System by 2028.

The IHBS 2024/25 — Tanzania's first comprehensive poverty update in 8 years — is underway. Results expected late 2026. CSO PRRP data remains the most current community-level poverty evidence in the interim.

CHAPTER TWO:

SDG Progress Review

An assessment of Tanzania's progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, featuring national context, CSO contributions, key challenges, and targeted recommendations for each goal.

17 Goals Reviewed | 5 Priority Goals Expanded | 1,000+ CSOs Consulted

SDG 1

No Poverty

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

26.4%	47.2%	94.6%	1.3M
Poverty rate (HBS 2018 national line)	Multi-dim. poverty (MPI 2024)	Informal employment (ILFS 2024)	PSSN households (TASAF)

Key Messages

KM1 | POVERTY DEEPENING IN ABSOLUTE TERMS Between 2007 and 2018, Tanzania's poverty rate fell from 34.4% to 26.4% (NBS HBS 2018) — but the absolute number of poor rose from 12.3 million to over 26 million as population growth outpaced progress. COVID-19 pushed a further 3 million into poverty (World Bank, 2024). By 2024, nearly half the population (47.2%) remain multidimensionally deprived (Oxford/UNDP MPI, 2024).	**KM2 | CLIMATE CHANGE IS REVERSING PROGRESS** In 2023, floods hit 17 of 25 mainland regions; over 1.1 million people faced severe food insecurity (IFRC, 2024). Cyclone Hidaya (May 2024) displaced ~7,000 households. The IMF ranks Tanzania among the world's least climate-ready countries — a serious risk where 54.2% of livelihoods depend on rain-fed agriculture.
KM3 | SOCIAL PROTECTION LEAVES MILLIONS BEHIND TASAF PSSN reaches 1.3 million poor households. Yet 94.6% of workers are in the informal economy (NBS ILFS 2024). Pastoralists, climate-displaced households, and undocumented households remain largely excluded from protection systems.	**KM4 | BOLD VISION REQUIRES BOLD ACTION** TDV 2050 targets zero extreme poverty by 2050. But only 9% of women hold sole land titles (UN Women, 2023); youth joblessness estimated at 26% (TICGL, 2025). Urgent structural reform is required to make the vision achievable.

National Context

National Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP III, 2021/22–2025/26), which targeted 8% GDP growth and 8 million new jobs (Ministry of Finance, 2021) by 2025/26. TDV 2050, launched in July 2025, sets a 25-year roadmap to a USD 1 trillion GDP and zero extreme poverty, aligned with the SDGs, AU Agenda 2063, and EAC Vision 2050. In Zanzibar, the Zanzibar Vision 2050 mirrors these poverty elimination goals. Sector frameworks include the National Social Protection Framework (NSPF), the revised National Women and Gender Development Policy (2023), and Tanzania's commitments under CEDAW and the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

Poverty declined from 34.4% (2007) to 26.4% (2018) under the national line (NBS HBS 2018) but stagnated across 2011–2018 while the absolute poor rose from 12.3 million to over 26 million due to population growth. Under the USD 2.15/day international line, poverty hovered near 45% (2011–2018). Extreme poverty fell from 36% in 2000 to 26% in 2022 (TDV 2050 Summary, 2024) slowly improving but at risk of reversal. Rural areas hold 81% of poor households (NBS HBS 2018); GDP grew 5.1% in 2023, below target, partly due to climate shocks (World Bank, 2024). The NBS Integrated Labour Force Survey (ILFS) 2024 shows workforce informality at 94.6% up from 92.5% with youth joblessness estimated at up to 26% under broader metrics (TICGL, 2025).

CSO Contributions

ActionAid Tanzania — Mafia Island (Seaweed Economic Empowerment)

Mafia District, Coast Region | March–December 2024

ActionAid Tanzania implemented the "Unlocking Seaweed Potentials for Women in Mafia Island" project in partnership with SAWAMA, supporting 612 women seaweed farmers through sustainable seaweed farming and value addition (soap and body oil products). Women collectively harvested 10,000 tonnes of seaweed in 2024.

612 women farmers | 10,000 tonnes harvested | 5% income increase through value addition

ActionAid Tanzania — Kasulu District (Agroecology and Livelihoods)

Kigoma Region | 2022–2025 | 5 Villages

Supported agroecological farming, beekeeping, organic fertilizer production, and climate-smart agriculture across 5 villages (Kisongo, Njerero, Kisangi Shamba, Mandawa, Namakongoro). The programme reached 1,723 households and youth, of whom 517 recorded measurable improvements in agricultural productivity. Directly targeted refugee-hosting communities.

1,723 households reached | 517 with improved productivity | 4.4 ha agroecological farming

BRAC Maendeleo Tanzania — Disability-Inclusive Graduation Programme

Chamwino, Manyoni, Singida Rural | Dodoma and Singida Regions

Consortium of BRAC, SHIVYAWATA, and Human Inclusion implements the Disability-Inclusive Graduation (DIG) Program, funded by Cartier Philanthropy, UBS Optimus Foundation, and Whole Planet Foundation. Builds sustainable and accessible livelihoods for ultra-poor households and persons with disabilities, strengthens financial inclusion, and fosters social empowerment.

Ultra-poor graduation model | 3 districts | Disability-inclusive | PWD livelihoods strengthened

BRAC Maendeleo Tanzania- Accelerating Impact for Young Women (AIM) program

Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Iringa, Mwanza, Morogoro, Pwani, Singida, Tabora, Tanga, Mbeya, and Songwe |

Brack Maendeleo Tanzania is equipping Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) with age-appropriate entrepreneurship, employability, and life skills training, as well as tools to start and scale their own businesses. The program was implemented across 11 regions and 57 branches and has reached 91,122 AGYW with social empowerment curriculum delivery in AIM clubs; 29,498 AGYW with livelihood training and assets support; and 66,372 with Financial Literacy Training in Microfinance Groups.

ActionAid Tanzania — Mafia Mangrove Restoration (Disaster Risk Reduction)

Mafia District | 8 Communities

ActionAid Tanzania's Mafia Local Rights Programme supported 70 youth participants in mangrove restoration across 8 communities (Banja, Kilindoni, Kiegeani, Kifinge, Kungwi, Mlongo, Chunguruma, Jojo). Restored forests provide coastal protection against storm surge, erosion, and flooding — directly reducing climate-related poverty risks for women, fisherfolk, and smallholder farmers.

20 hectares restored | 8 communities | 70 youth engaged | Coastal DRR impact

Key Challenges

Climate Vulnerability 54.2% of workforce in rain-fed agriculture. April 2023 floods hit 17/25 regions; 1.1M+ faced IPC Phase 3+ food insecurity. Women, pastoralists, and coastal communities bear disproportionate impacts with no climate safety net.	**Structural Gender & Youth Inequalities** Only 9% of women hold sole land titles vs. 30% of men. Only 15% hold bank accounts vs. 23% of men. Youth aged 15–24 number ~17.8 million; up to 26% face broader joblessness.
Social Protection Exclusions PSSN excludes informal workers, mobile pastoralists, undocumented households, and climate-displaced families — confirmed across CSO programme reports from AAT, DRST, TAYOTA, and FORUMCC.	**Data Deficits** Most recent national poverty data (NBS HBS) is from 2017/18 — 8 years old. No disaggregated sub-district poverty data by gender, disability, or livelihood type. IHBS 2024/25 results not expected until late 2026.

Recommendations

To the Government of Tanzania

- Climate-responsive PSSN III: Introduce automatic emergency transfer triggers post-disaster; simplify NIDA requirements to include pastoralists and climate-displaced households (Sendai Framework Priority 4; SDG 1.3).
- Publish IHBS 2024/25 results promptly; mandate disaggregation by gender, age, disability, and sub-district; integrate CSO PRRP data into national SDG 1 monitoring under TDV 2050.
- Scale up CCRO land certification nationally; set a binding target of 40% of title deeds held by women by 2030 (SDG 5.a.1; National Land Policy 2023).
- Establish a dedicated contingency fund for systemic shocks activatable within 30 days of a declared national emergency.

To Parliament

- Enact Social Protection Floor legislation: universal minimum entitlements for all Tanzanians regardless of employment status or NIDA documentation (ILO Recommendation 202; SDG 1.3).
- Formally include CSOs in PSSN III Technical Working Groups and TDV 2050 planning; formalize CSO PRRP data in HLPF reporting.

To Development Partners

- Provide multi-year, flexible financing of at least 5 years to Tanzanian CSOs working on poverty reduction, climate resilience, and women's empowerment.
- Honor the internationally agreed commitment of 0.7% of GNI to ODA through grants and highly concessional loans.

SDG 2

Zero Hunger

End hunger, achieve food security, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture

23.78M	26.3%	30%	23.8%
Tonnes food produced (2024/25)	Agriculture share of GDP (2024)	Child stunting rate Mainland (2022)	Prevalence of undernourishment (2022)

Key Messages

KM1 | STRONG FOOD PRODUCTION PROGRESS	KM2 | LOCAL SOLUTIONS DRIVING CHANGE
Food production reached 23.78 million tonnes in 2024/25. National food self-sufficiency reached ~130%, with surplus production of staple foods. Agriculture's GDP contribution rose from 24.1% to 26.3% (2023–2024). Sector budget increased from TZS 1.2T (2022/23) to TZS 1.9T (2025/26).	CSO initiatives promoting agroecology, indigenous seed systems, livestock breed conservation, climate-smart agriculture, and integrated farming demonstrate the importance of locally driven solutions. TABIO mapped 144 community seed banks; SHIWAKUTA mobilized 32 farmer associations (270,000+ farmers).
KM3 | STRUCTURAL BOTTLENECKS PERSIST	**KM4 | INVESTMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION MUST BE THE PRIORITY**
Agriculture investment remains below the AU target of 10% of annual public expenditure. Limited irrigation coverage (5–7% of arable land), high post-harvest losses (20–40%), and the Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Bill delayed 18 years continue to hinder transformation.	Accelerating food system transformation requires stronger policy implementation, increased investment, climate-resilient infrastructure (especially irrigation), and improved conservation of plant and animal genetic resources.

National Context

Agriculture remains a central pillar of national economic growth as it employs 65.37% of Tanzanians national workforce, and 80% of the rural population (majority being women). Its contribution to GDP increased from 24.1% in 2023 to 26.3% in 2024, reflecting improved sectoral performance, strengthened rural livelihoods, food production, and enhanced national economic stability . Food production reached 23.78 million tonnes in the 2024/25 agricultural season (MoA, 2026), reflecting continued improvement in domestic food supply. As a result, the country achieved a national food self-sufficiency level of approximately 130% in 2025,indicating surplus production of staple foods such as maize and rice. The sector has experienced increased budget allocation from 1.2 trillion TZS in 2022/23 to 1.9 trillion TZS in 2025/26. Tanzania has made notable progress in conserving plant genetic resources through community seed banks, farmer-managed seed systems, and the promotion of agrobiodiversity.

Different agricultural programmes and frameworks are being implemented to support food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture. These include the Agriculture Sector Development Programme Phase II (ASDP II), Climate-Smart Agriculture initiatives, Agenda 10/30, the Roadmap and Action Plan for Sustainable Food Systems Transformation, and Tanzania Development Vision 2050, Zanzibar Development Vision 2050. Collectively, these frameworks aim to enhance agricultural productivity, strengthen resilience to climate change, and promote sustainable transformation of the agrifood system in line with national development priorities and Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger).

In the 2025/26 financial year, the agriculture budget accounted for 3.4% of the total government budget (TZS 56.49 trillion), marking a 65% increase (TZS 660 billion) from the previous year. This continues a steady upward trend, from 2.9% of the total budget in 2022/23 to 3.3% in 2023/24 and 3.9% in 2025/26, with prioritisation of key areas including irrigation, agricultural inputs, extension services, and cooperative development.

CSO Contributions

ANSAF / Café Africa / BRAC / Vi-Agroforestry Crop Diversification

Mbeya, Songwe and Ruvuma | Coffee Farming Value Chains

Supported crop diversification in coffee farms, significantly raising households consuming at least 4 diverse food groups. ANSAF also empowered 3 farmer associations (600+ members) through collective cashew processing and marketing in Lindi and Mtwara. 8 AMCOS supported to achieve Voluntary Sustainable Standards (VSS) certification for coffee.

Enhanced dietary diversity | 600+ organized members | 8 AMCOS certified | Market access improved

TABIO — Community Seed Banks and Neglected Crops

Nationwide | Plant Genetic Resources Conservation

Promotes neglected and underutilized crops (finger millet, bambara groundnut, bullrush millet, sesame, sunflower, multicoloured maize). Supports farmers' seed systems, mapped 144 community seed banks, and strengthened seed conservation through the National Seed Bank Managers Forum.

144 community seed banks mapped | Indigenous variety preservation | National Seed Bank Forum

SHIWAKUTA — Farmer Mobilization and Agroecology

Nationwide | 270,000+ Farmers

Mobilized 32 farmer associations (270,000+ farmers), promoting agroecology practices, integrating nutrition sensitization in farming communities, building capacity of farmer groups on sustainable production and livelihoods, and advancing food sovereignty and local food systems.

32 associations | 270,000+ farmers | Agroecology promoted | Food sovereignty approach

SUGECO — Youth Agribusiness and Sustainable Farming

Nationwide | Kizimba Business Model | 2021–Ongoing

Trains 2,000+ youth and smallholder farmers on greenhouse farming, irrigation technologies, post-harvest handling, and agribusiness management. Supports improved seed adoption and climate-smart practices. Provides entrepreneurship training and contract-farming models.

2,000+ youth trained | Contract-farming models | Improved seed adoption | Green technologies

SNV Tanzania in partnership with Farm Africa and Mbozi, Ileje, and Isangati Consortium (MIICO) strengthens climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive agriculture, through the NOURISH (Empowering Smallholder Farmers for Food Security and Climate Resilience) programme in Iringa, Njombe, Mbeya, Songwe, Rukwa, Katavi.

Life Change Rukwa Development Organization (LCRDO) contributes to improving food availability through training of 452 smallholder farmers on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) in 2025, promotion of drought-resistant crops such as sorghum, millet, and cassava, and support to 16 women and youth farmer groups in 2026 to enhance food production and household food security.

ANSAF has been addressing food insecurity among farming communities through several interventions that significantly boosted their capacity and profitability, hence ensuring food access. These include empowerment of 3 farmers associations with over 600 members through collective cashew processing and marketing in Lindi and Mtwara, sustainable agricultural land management practices and high-quality seedling adoption among coffee farmers in Mbeya, Songwe and Ruvuma to improve livelihoods and ensure household food security.

UN World Food Programme (WFP) and BRAC Maendeleo Tanzania: Vijana Kilimo Biashara (VKB) Project

Simiyu Region: Maswa and Meatu District Councils

BRAC Maendeleo Tanzania implements the Vijana Kilimo Biashara (VKB) Project in Simiyu Region, funded by the UN World Food Programme (WFP). The project aimed to strengthen the value chain of sorghum and sunflower by addressing key challenges faced by smallholder farmers. The project targets 15,000 smallholder farmers through training on good Agronomic practices for sunflower and sorghum; establishes demonstration plots for sorghum and sunflower; distributes tools such as hand- push planters, sprayer pumps, and ox ploughs and cascades agricultural Post-Harvest Handling and Storage (PHHS) training to farmers.

Key Challenges

Budget Disbursement Gaps Agriculture budget orientation index declining; far below the AU's 10% benchmark. Delayed disbursements limit service delivery and smallholder productivity. Funding often does not reach smallholder farmers in remote areas.	**Plant Genetic Resources Policy Delay** The Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Bill has remained unfinished for nearly 18 years, constraining ITPGRFA implementation and limiting policy support for farmers' seed systems.
Limited Irrigation Coverage Only 5–7% of arable land is irrigated. Seasonal production constraints and climate variability make rain-fed agriculture increasingly unreliable, reducing productivity and food supply stability.	**Inadequate Sex-Disaggregated Data** Limited evidence on inequalities affecting women farmers weakens the ability to design targeted agricultural interventions. Women generally earn less than men, yet comprehensive disaggregated data remains unavailable.

Recommendations

To Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Finance

- Strengthen timely and adequate disbursement of agricultural budgets and ensure progress toward the AU 10% allocation target.
- Fast-track enactment of the Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Bill; increase investment in community seed banks.
- Increase irrigation coverage from 5–7% to 15–20% of arable land to reduce rainfall dependence and enhance climate resilience.

To Government and CSOs

- Ensure all food system and agricultural performance reports are systematically disaggregated by gender to enable targeted, equitable policy interventions.
- Establish and strengthen formal coordination platforms between government institutions and CSOs at national and local levels.

SDG 3

Good Health and Well-Being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

~104	37	97%	5.5%
Maternal deaths per 100,000 live births	Under-five deaths per 1,000 live births (2024)	National immunization coverage	Malaria prevalence under-5s (2025)

Key Messages

KM1 | SIGNIFICANT HEALTH GAINS Maternal mortality declined dramatically from 556 to ~104 deaths per 100,000 live births. Under-five mortality fell from 43 to 37 per 1,000 live births (2022–2024). TB incidence declined ~40% (2015–2023), with treatment success at 96%. Immunization coverage reached 97%. Malaria prevalence in under-5s fell from 8.1% to 5.5% (2022–2025).	**KM2 | SRHR AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH GAPS** High adolescent birth rates (~77 per 1,000 women aged 15–19), unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and HIV infections among young people undermine progress. Adolescent-friendly services remain inadequate in coverage and quality, particularly in rural areas.
KM3 | DOUBLE BURDEN — COMMUNICABLE & NCDs While communicable disease progress is notable, the growing burden of cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and mental health conditions requires stronger prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment. Geographic and socio-economic inequalities remain a major challenge.	**KM4 | UHC REQUIRES SUSTAINED INVESTMENT** Achieving Universal Health Coverage requires sustained investment in primary healthcare, frontline health workers, health financing, and quality health data. Strong government-CSO-development partner partnerships remain critical to achieving SDG 3 by 2030.

National Context

Tanzania's health sector interventions have been guided by the Health Sector Strategic Plan V (2021–2026), the National Health Policy (2007, as revised), the Public Health Act, Cap. 242, the National Health Insurance Fund Act, the Universal Health Insurance Act, 2023, and disease-specific policies and guidelines covering reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, mental health, nutrition, and non-communicable diseases. The adoption of the Tanzania Development Vision (TDV) 2050 in 2025 further reinforces the country's long-term commitment to building a healthy, productive, and resilient population by prioritizing universal access to quality health services, strengthened health systems, local pharmaceutical production, digital health transformation, health security, and investment in human capital.

The Ministry of Health's budget increased from approximately TZS 1.6 trillion in FY 2025/26 to TZS 1.8 trillion in FY 2026/27, representing an increase of about TZS 200 billion (approximately 12.5%). The 2026/27 allocation prioritizes implementation of the Universal Health Insurance Act (2023), expansion of specialized and tertiary healthcare services, construction of the new Muhimbili National Hospital, strengthening local pharmaceutical and medical products manufacturing, digital health systems, and improvements in primary healthcare infrastructure and the health workforce.

Tanzania has made considerable progress towards achieving SDG 3 through sustained investments in primary healthcare, disease prevention, health system strengthening, and community-based health interventions. Maternal mortality has declined from 556 to approximately 104 deaths per 100,000 live births, while under-five mortality declined from 43 to 37 deaths per 1,000 live births between 2022 and 2024. Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) facilities expanded from 525 to 577. Skilled birth attendance reached 94.6%. Immunization coverage has reached approximately 97%, and malaria prevalence among children under five has declined from 8.1% in 2022 to 5.5% in 2025.

CSO Contributions

Indicators 3.2.1 and 3.2.2: Under-Five and Neonatal Mortality

Civil society organizations have contributed significantly to improving maternal, newborn, and child health outcomes across Tanzania.

MSI Tanzania delivers Sexual and Reproductive Health services through outreach programmes covering all regions of Tanzania, ensuring women and families in underserved communities have access to quality services that contribute to reducing maternal, neonatal, and child mortality. MSI also supports 316 public health facilities through its Public Sector Strengthening model and implements youth-focused interventions through Higher Learning Institution initiatives, Human-Centred Design activities, and youth events to reduce unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortions.

MSI Tanzania has supported local governments in Geita, Shinyanga, and Tanga Regions to integrate SRHR priorities into Comprehensive Council Health Plans (CCHPs), strengthening sustainability of reproductive health investments.

Tiba Salama Digital Health Foundation introduced the E-Health Mom system in Korogwe and Lushoto districts, improving maternal and child health monitoring and referral systems. Sikika promoted adolescent SRHR integration into local health planning through participation in Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) processes and supported domestic resource mobilization for adolescent health interventions.

BHASSA Tanzania strengthened domestic financing for SRHR at facility level through participatory planning processes in Morogoro, Dodoma, and Mtwara. Sightsavers International collaborated with government stakeholders to develop disability-inclusive healthcare standards, while Aga Khan Health Services Tanzania increased exclusive breastfeeding rates from 45% in 2021 to 80% in 2024 through targeted lactation support programmes.

Indicator 3.3.1: Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations

Civil society organizations continue to support HIV prevention, testing, treatment, and awareness initiatives, particularly among adolescents and young people.

MSI Tanzania integrates HIV screening and referral services within outreach programmes and youth-focused interventions. AAPH partnered with IBS-TZ and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to strengthen routine HIV data use for evidence-based decision-making.

Sikika and partner organizations implemented community outreach, school programmes, and radio campaigns to increase awareness of HIV prevention, testing, and treatment. Binti Salha Foundation established safe spaces and outreach programmes promoting HIV prevention, HIV testing, and treatment access while strengthening referral pathways for HIV and family planning services.

The 2025 Conference on Adolescent Health in Sub-Saharan Africa (CAH-SSA) launched Special Thematic Working Groups focused on addressing adolescent HIV incidence and strengthening SRHR programming.

Indicator 3.3.3: Malaria incidence per 1,000 population

Civil society organizations have contributed to malaria prevention, surveillance, and research.

AAPH established infectious diseases as a strategic thematic pillar supporting malaria elimination and outbreak preparedness. In collaboration with Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and MUHAS, AAPH conducted research on prenatal supplementation and placental malaria prevention, generating evidence on the protective role of micronutrients in reducing malaria risks among pregnant women.

The organization also strengthened infectious disease surveillance through demographic surveillance systems and community-level data collection initiatives.

Indicator 3.4.1: Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease

Efforts to address non-communicable diseases have focused on prevention, diagnosis, treatment, research, and public awareness.

Aga Khan Health Services Tanzania implemented the Tanzania Comprehensive Cancer Project, contributing to increased national radiotherapy capacity, training of healthcare workers, and screening of more than 673,000 individuals for breast, cervical, and prostate cancers. The project also expanded access to cancer treatment and strengthened research and service decentralization.

AAPH implemented adolescent-focused NCD prevention programmes promoting nutrition, physical activity, urban farming, and healthy lifestyles. Digital tools were used to monitor nutrition and NCD risk factors among adolescents.

Indicator 3.4.2: Suicide mortality rate

Civil society organizations have elevated mental health as an important public health priority.

AAPH supported national mental health summits and, through the MAISHA Project, collaborated with academic institutions to develop a youth-centred digital mental health platform supporting emotional wellbeing and psychosocial care. Peer leaders were trained to provide counselling and support services within schools, while advocacy efforts contributed to the integration of adolescent mental health priorities into national health standards.

Indicators 3.7.1 and 3.7.2: Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods & Adolescent birth rate (aged 10–14 years; aged 15–19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group, respectively

MSI Tanzania has played a leading role in expanding access to family planning and adolescent-friendly SRHR services through Youth Weekend Clinics in Morogoro, Tanga, Shinyanga, Geita, and Simiyu Regions. The organization also supported the Ministry of Health to review and strengthen policies and guidelines promoting access to adolescent and youth SRHR services, including services within higher learning institutions.

CSOs including BHASSA Tanzania, Young and Alive Initiative, Women's Promotion Centre, Tree of Hope, and Binti Salha Foundation implemented SRHR awareness campaigns, community dialogues, and advocacy initiatives reaching thousands of adolescents and young people with Comprehensive Sexuality Education and reproductive health information.

These efforts contributed to increased budget allocations for adolescent SRHR, family planning, disability inclusion, and comprehensive post-abortion care. Community radio programmes, youth-led campaigns, and safe spaces have expanded access to information and services while strengthening community engagement and accountability.

Key Challenges

Maternal and Neonatal Gaps Delayed care-seeking behaviour, inadequate postnatal care, weak emergency obstetric and neonatal care systems, and health worker shortages contribute to preventable deaths, particularly in rural areas.	**SRHR Access Inequalities** Many adolescents and young women face barriers to information and services, increasing vulnerability to unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions, HIV infection, and poor health outcomes.
Growing NCD Burden Increasing pressure from non-communicable diseases, mental health conditions, and malnutrition on a constrained health system. Fragmented information systems weaken evidence-based planning.	**Financing Gap** Health financing remains below the Abuja Declaration target of 15% of the national budget. Sexual and reproductive health receives inadequate dedicated domestic allocations.

Recommendations

To the Government of Tanzania

- Strengthen MPDSR systems and improve use of routine health data for decision-making and accountability.
- Expand postnatal care coverage and strengthen emergency obstetric and neonatal care services, particularly in underserved areas.
- Scale up UHC; expand adolescent-friendly SRHR services; institutionalize comprehensive sexuality education.
- Increase investment in mental health, HIV prevention, and NCD prevention and management.
- Ensure availability of family planning commodities for service provision sustainability.

To Parliament

- Increase domestic financing for health toward the Abuja Declaration target of 15% of the national budget.
- Push for Sexual and Reproductive Health-specific budget allocations; strengthen legislative oversight of health sector commitments.

SDG 4

Quality Education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

TZS 7.39T	268,902	0.7%	78%
Education budget FY 2025/26	National teacher shortfall (BEST 2024)	Children with disabilities at primary level	Girls who left school due to pregnancy and returned

Key Messages

KM1 | ACCESS EXPANDED — EQUITY REMAINS THE TEST Fee-free education and public investment have increased participation. Yet late entry, dropout, transition bottlenecks, teacher shortages (268,902 shortfall), and poor school infrastructure still prevent many learners from completing quality basic education.	**KM2 | QUALITY REFORM MOVING BUT UNEVEN** The 2023 Education and Training Policy reforms emphasize skills, vocational pathways, digital literacy, and competence-based learning. Fewer than 300 of 4,500+ secondary schools had begun new curriculum implementation by 2026 — implementation is constrained by teacher preparation, materials, and financing.
KM3 | INCLUSION REQUIRES MORE THAN ENROLLMENT CSO evidence shows girls, children with disabilities, and remote learners stay in school when multiple barriers are addressed together: WASH, ramps, re-entry support, bicycles, child protection, counselling, and community accountability.	**KM4 | CSO AS IMPLEMENTATION ACCELERATOR** Between 2023 and 2026, CSOs supported school infrastructure, re-entry for adolescent mothers, digital learning, teacher training, disability inclusion, child protection, budget advocacy, and community mobilisation — creating replicable evidence for scaling by government systems.

National Context

SDG 4 implementation is guided by the Education and Training Policy (2023 Edition), the Education Sector Development Plan (ESDP 2025/26–2029/30) , and the National Strategy for Inclusive Education (2021/22–2025/26). The education budget has increased from TZS 5.68 trillion (FY 2022/23) to TZS 7.39 trillion (FY 2025/26), contributing to significant gains: primary gross enrolment reached 97% by 2022, and the Standard VII to Form I transition rate rose to 70%. However, capitation grants remain at TZS 10,000 per primary student and TZS 25,000 per secondary student, levels that have not kept pace with inflation, disability inclusion requirements, or geographical disparities.

The revised Education and Training Policy (2023 Edition) represents a major shift toward longer compulsory basic education, competency-based curricula, vocational pathways, and labour market relevance. This policy is operationalised through the Education Sector Development Plan (ESDP 2025/26–2029/30) , which serves as the sector's five-year implementation roadmap, translating reforms into actionable programmes aligned with population dynamics and emerging issues.

The National Strategy for Inclusive Education (2021/22–2025/26) remains central to reaching learners with disabilities and other marginalised groups. Re-entry guidelines for learners who dropped out, including adolescent mothers, have created a policy opening to reduce permanent exclusion from schooling. Yet, implementation gaps persist, particularly in translating these commitments into adequate resources, teacher training, and accessible infrastructure.

For Zanzibar, SDG 4 aligns with the Zanzibar Development Vision 2050 and ZADEP 2021–2026 , which prioritise inclusive growth and human capital for social and economic transformation. Ultimately, SDG 4 is directly aligned with TDV 2050 , which positions human capital as a prerequisite for national transformation, yet without increased and equitable financing, these policy commitments risk remaining aspirational.

Area	What improved since 2023	Remaining gap	Primary sources
Policy reform	Education and Training Policy 2023 Edition introduced a stronger reform agenda around free basic education, skills-based learning, vocational pathways and curriculum renewal.	Policy ambition now needs consistent teacher preparation, infrastructure, learning materials and local implementation capacity.	MoEST, Education and Training Policy 2014, 2023 Edition; MoEST, ESDP 2025/26-2029/30
Planning alignment	ESDP 2025/26-2029/30 provides a new sector roadmap and connects reforms to SDG 4 and national development priorities.	The ESDP must be adequately financed and monitored through transparent, disaggregated data.	MoEST, ESDP 2025/26-2029/30
Financing	Education budget allocations have increased, with the draft CSO report citing growth from TZS 5.68 trillion in FY 2022/23 to TZS 7.39 trillion in FY 2025/26.	Education's share and school-level capitation remain insufficient for the full cost of quality, inclusion and inflation.	HakiElimu draft report, 2026; Ministry of Finance Budget Speech 2025/26
Access and enrollment	Fee-free education and school expansion have sustained high primary access and growing secondary participation.	NER remains lower than GER in several levels, showing late entry, repetition or over-age enrollment. Upper secondary remains a major bottleneck.	PO-RALG Basic Education Statistics 2024 and 2025
Inclusion	Re-entry, inclusive education, gender equality and child protection have gained greater policy attention.	Children with disabilities remain severely underrepresented; the draft report cites only 0.7% of primary and 0.4% of pre-primary enrollment.	HakiElimu draft report, 2026; National Strategy for Inclusive Education
Quality and skills	Curriculum reform and digital learning are gaining momentum, with CSOs piloting AI-supported assessment, digital pedagogy and foundational learning tools.	Implementation is uneven; the draft report notes fewer than 300 of more than 4,500 secondary schools had begun implementation of the new curriculum.	HakiElimu draft report, 2026; MoEST ESDP

CSO Contributions

Msichana Initiative — Arudi Shule (Return to School)

Bagamoyo, Dodoma, Nzega, Tabora

The Arudi Shule Project supported 600+ girls (mainly adolescent mothers) to return to school, with 70% successfully transitioning to the next level. Donated 1,125 bicycles to girls in rural areas, reducing travel time by 27 minutes and improving academic performance by 13 percentage points. The Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network caravan reached Mara, Shinyanga, Tabora, and Dodoma.

600+ girls returned | 70% transitioned | 1,125 bicycles | +13% academic performance

Shule Direct — AI Teachers and Digital Pedagogy

National | Foundational Learning and Digital Education

AI Teachers initiative uses AI-powered assessments for Grade 1 and 2 foundational literacy and numeracy. Trained 2,900+ teachers in digital pedagogy, ICT integration, and AI in education (2023–2026). Primary School App and Hadithi Hadithi platform reached 17,413+ users with interactive games and stories supporting early reading and counting.

2,900+ teachers trained | 17,413+ app users | AI-powered assessments | Foundational learning

HakiElimu capacity and community engagement: Reached 100 teachers and 16 Gender Focal Friends group members, and engaged approximately 140,000 community members and 320 LGA officials on gender-based violence prevention and gender equality in education.

ActionAid Tanzania — Disability Inclusion (Chamwino)

Chamwino District | Disability Inclusion and Budget Advocacy

Disability inclusion advocacy and accessibility improvements (ramps, WASH) contributed to a 308% increase in enrollment of children with disabilities in Chamwino — from 80 in 2021 to 326 in 2024. Community budget advocacy led to a TZS 154 million allocation for four rural schools and a 44% increase in the local education budget for FY 2024/25. Constructed 140 toilet drop holes, reducing absenteeism among girls.

308% increase in PWD enrollment | TZS 154M unlocked | 44% local budget increase

WiLDAF Tanzania — Shule Salama (Safe Schools)

Dar es Salaam, Shinyanga, Mara | Child Rights and GBV Prevention

Established Shule Salama clubs in 8 schools reaching 16,000+ children with child rights and violence prevention information. Anti-GBV Caravan (February 2026) reached 11,744 students across 5 regions through dialogues on corporal punishment, bullying, sexual abuse, and access to legal and psychosocial support. Community mobilisation reached 40,000+ on child marriage and FGM prevention.

16,000+ children | 11,744 via Anti-GBV Caravan | 40,000+ community members reached

HakiElimu GET Project 2024-2028: Implemented across 40 schools in eight districts, including 16 primary and 24 secondary schools. The project targets systemic barriers to girls' education and plans gender-sensitive sanitation facilities benefiting 24,000 students, including 12,240 girls and 11,760 boys.

Key Challenges

Teacher Shortages	Inadequate, Inequitable Financing
268,902 national teacher shortfall (BEST 2024). Acute gaps in pre-primary, STEM, and inclusive education. Pre-primary ratios reportedly 1:151 vs. a 1:25 standard. Weakens foundational learning and curriculum rollout.	Capitation grants (TZS 10,000 primary; TZS 25,000 secondary) are outdated and uniform — failing to account for inflation, disability inclusion, remoteness, WASH, or poverty. Uniform financing reproduces inequality.
Exclusion of Marginalized Learners	**Slow Curriculum Rollout**
Children with disabilities critically underrepresented (0.7% at primary). Slow rollout of ESRACs limits early identification. Adolescent mothers, orphans, and pastoralist children face higher dropout risks.	Fewer than 300 of 4,500+ secondary schools began new curriculum implementation by 2026. Without teacher training, materials, and digital tools, reform risks benefiting only better-resourced schools.

Mismatch Between TVET Training and Labour Market Demands:
Outdated/Supply driven curriculum coupled with a slow rollout of the selected few updated curriculum by the government under the VTC system

Lack of updated technological skills by instructors under the VTC system which also creates a skills mismatch among the TVET graduates

Recommendations

To Government (MoEST, PO-RALG and Ministry of Finance)

- Adopt and finance an accelerated teacher recruitment, training, and retention plan, prioritising pre-primary, STEM, rural schools, inclusive education, and female teacher deployment.
- Revise capitation grants to at least TZS 25,000 per primary pupil and TZS 50,000 per secondary student; shift from uniform to needs-based formula accounting for disability, remoteness, poverty, WASH, and inflation.
- Ensure every council has a functional ESRAC with ring-fenced resources for assessment, assistive devices, referral, and teacher support.
- Accelerate equitable rollout of the revised curriculum with funding for teacher preparation, workshops, digital tools, and instructional materials.
- Establish a “Train the Trainer” program in partnership with industry and international institutions that will involve regular industrial attachments for instructors and the creation of a collaborative network for curriculum planning between TVET institutions, regulatory bodies, and industry

To Parliament

- Strengthen oversight of education financing, teacher recruitment, capitation grant reform, inclusive education, and re-entry guidelines implementation.
- Prioritize legal reform to align the Education Act with child protection, positive discipline, re-entry, and inclusive education commitments.

SDG 5

Gender Equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

39%	36%	<8%	78%
Women in Parliament (IPU 2025)	Women in local government (2024)	FGM prevalence girls 15–19 (NPA-VAWC II)	Pregnant girls who left school and returned

Key Messages

KM1 | LEGAL AND POLICY ADVANCES The 2024 National Election Act explicitly recognizes GBV as an electoral offence — 47 complaints filed under this new provision in the 2025 general elections. The National Strategy for Gender Development (2024–2029) prioritizes economic empowerment of women, ending child marriage, and gender-responsive budgeting.	**KM2 | UNRESOLVED LEGAL CONTRADICTIONS** The Marriage Act (1971) still allows girls to marry at 15 with parental consent — unconstitutional under the 2019 Court of Appeal ruling that has not been legislated. No standalone GBV Act exists. Customary and religious laws continue to override statutory protections for inheritance and marriage.
KM3 | CSO IMPACT ON HARMFUL PRACTICES FGM prevalence among girls aged 15–19 has fallen below 8% through sustained CSO-led interventions in high-prevalence regions (Mara, Dodoma, Manyara and Arusha).	**KM4 | POLITICAL REPRESENTATION MIXED** Women in Parliament rose from 37% to 39%; female local government representation reached 36% in 2024. However, Cabinet positions fell from 27% to 24%. 480 women elected in 2024 local government elections (out of 1,200 trained aspirants under CSO programmes).
KM 5| GENDER BUDGET STATEMENT Tanzania has taken a historic step toward fiscal accountability for gender equality with the introduction of the Gender Budget Statement for the 2026/27 financial year—piloted across nine ministries and two local government authorities, marking the first time public spending will be systematically assessed for its impact on women, men, and vulnerable groups.	

National Context

In Tanzania, the government has reaffirmed its commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment by continuing to align domestic frameworks with international and regional agreements, including the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Maputo Protocol, and the Africa We Want Agenda 2063. To align with these international commitments, the government of Tanzania has updated several key policies. The National Strategy for Gender Development (2024–2029) was launched in late 2024, replacing the previous strategy that ended in 2022. The new strategy prioritizes economic empowerment of women, ending child marriage, and strengthening gender-responsive budgeting. Additionally, the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC) was extended through 2026, with a revised focus on online gender-based violence (OGBV) and access to justice for survivors with disabilities.

Since the 2023 VNR, Tanzania has recorded notable progress in several gender equality indicators. The 2024 amendment to the National Election Act now explicitly recognizes gender-based violence as an electoral offence, criminalizing acts such as using sexual violence to intimidate voters or candidates; during the 2025 general elections, 47 complaints were lodged under this new provision, signaling a critical shift in addressing political violence against women. The re-entry policy for pregnant girls has also seen stronger implementation, with 78% of girls who left school due to pregnancy between 2023 and 2025 successfully returning to formal education, up from approximately 55% in 2021, supported by re-entry tracking desks in 1,200 schools and community sensitization campaigns.

CSO Contributions

INDICATOR 5.1.1: Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex

CSOs in Tanzania have continued to propel legal reforms for gender equality. The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) consistently advocated for legal framework improvements, and in 2024, enhanced access to justice for 36,778 clients (68% male, 32% female) through walk-in legal clinics, mobile legal aid services, the Haki Kiganjani mobile application, and a centralized call center. This multi-channel approach ensured that even remote communities could seek redress for discrimination based on sex.

Additionally, the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) worked collaboratively with UN Women and NIRAS to support the Ministry of Finance in integrating Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) and the Gender Budget Statement (GBS) template into the National Budget Guidelines. TGNP also provided technical support on gender tagging within the Central Budget Management System (CBMS) and successfully translated the National Gender and Women Development Policy's 12 objectives into six thematic intervention areas, thereby strengthening institutional mechanisms for tracking gender equality commitments.

INDICATOR 5.2.1: Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age

CSOs have taken lead roles in addressing intimate partner violence through awareness, capacity building, and economic empowerment. The Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) facilitated the implementation of the Sexual Offences Special Provisions Act (SOSPA), published investigative stories on GBV in the ***Sauti ya Siti*** magazine, and trained journalists on ethical reporting of GBV cases, ensuring that media coverage does not re-traumatize survivors. Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) supported community awareness campaigns breaking the silence on IPV and SRHR, reaching 65,626 people across Shinyanga, Singida, Morogoro, Pwani, and Dar es Salaam through structured community dialogues.

Furthermore, TGNP conducted community dialogues, Community Parliaments, and Gender and Development Seminar Series addressing GBV, child marriage, and FGM across more than 60 districts. On economic empowerment, 614 Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) who have graduated from VETA programs since 2022 received financial and digital literacy training in Kishapu, Kahama, Tarime, and Butiama, enabling them to avoid or exit abusive relationships by achieving economic independence. At the local governance level, WiLDAF supported the establishment of GBV prevention by-laws in eight villages (four in Shinyanga, four in Mara) and built the capacity of 101 NPA-VAWC committees at district, ward, and village levels, strengthening grassroots accountability mechanisms.

INDICATOR 5.2.2: Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence

CSOs have intensified prevention and response to sexual violence perpetrated by non-partners. TAMWA organized “Sauti Zetu” educational dialogues in Dar es Salaam, Tanga, and Dodoma, creating safe spaces for community members to discuss and denounce sexual violence. In 2025, TAMWA developed one gender mainstreaming guideline specifically for the media sector and trained over 765 investigative journalists on ethical and trauma-informed reporting of sexual violence cases.

WiLDAF conducted a two-day national training for 87 social welfare and community development officers on integrated disability case management, the PD-MIS user manual, and GBV service provision tailored for persons with disabilities in Singida region. The combined SRHR and anti-sexual violence awareness campaign reached an estimated 1.2 million people through offline community engagements and generated 850,000 online impressions, significantly expanding public consciousness on the unacceptability of sexual violence by strangers, acquaintances, and authority figures.

INDICATOR 5.3.1: Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

The Msichana Initiative has emerged as the lead CSO on combating child marriage, operating across Dar es Salaam, Dodoma (Kongwa and Bahi districts), and Tabora region. Key interventions included the Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network caravan, which traveled across Mara, Shinyanga, Tabora, and Dodoma to raise awareness and mobilize communities against the practice. The Arudi Shule (Return to School) program successfully returned over 600 girls who had dropped out due to marriage or pregnancy to secondary education, with 70% of them transitioning to higher levels of education.

Additionally, the One Girl One Bike initiative has donated over 1,500 bicycles since 2016, significantly improving school retention in remote areas where long walking distances increase girls' vulnerability to child marriage. The Msichana Initiative also maintains 76 active Msichana Cafés across 74 wards, conducting regular dialogues with local leaders, parents, and girls themselves. A Behavior Change Campaign in Tabora and Dodoma using music, theatre, and media has shifted community norms, while ongoing legal case collection and litigation through Police Gender Desks, Social Welfare offices, and Ward Executive Officers has created a deterrent effect against perpetrators.

INDICATOR 5.3.2: Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age

TAMWA continued its frontline role in combating FGM by facilitating the effective implementation of the Sexual Offences Special Provisions Act (SOSPA), which now criminalizes FGM. TAMWA engaged traditional leaders in anti-FGM campaigns, recognizing that community elders and cutters themselves are essential partners in abandoning the practice. Furthermore, TAMWA has used its website and social media platforms to disseminate strong, culturally sensitive messages against FGM and child marriage, reaching younger audiences who are increasingly rejecting these harmful traditional practices.

INDICATOR 5.4.1: Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location

CSOs have advanced efforts to recognize, reduce, and redistribute unpaid care work. Action Aid Tanzania (AATZ) has focused on advocacy for decent work policies and improved access to labor-saving technologies, particularly for women in rural areas. TUSONGE Community Development Organization has promoted clean cooking energy stoves, which have reduced women's time spent on household tasks by over 50%, freeing hours for income generation and rest. TUSONGE has supported over 800 women engaged in Village Community Bank (VICOBA) economic initiatives, enhancing their financial independence. Moreover, TUSONGE has reached over 3,000,000 people through public awareness campaigns on shared household responsibilities via radio and social media, gradually shifting gendered norms around domestic work.

INDICATOR 5.5.1: Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments

TGNP conducted a critical reflection session on women's participation in the 2024 local government elections, bringing together 44 women aspirants and candidates from five political parties (CCM, Chadema, UDP, CUF, and NLD) across four Dar es Salaam councils (Ubungo, Kinondoni, Ilala, and Temeke). This session identified barriers such as high campaign costs and party nomination biases, and produced recommendations that were subsequently shared with political party leadership and the National Electoral Commission.

INDICATOR 5.6.1: Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care

TUSONGE Community Development Organization has linked rural women and girls to accessible sexual and reproductive health services, trained over 1,500 girls on SRHR, and enabled over 200 women to access SRH services with appropriate referrals. By integrating SRHR education into existing community health and economic empowerment platforms, TUSONGE has empowered women to make informed decisions about contraception, family planning, and reproductive health care.

INDICATOR 5.C.1: Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment

TGNP, in partnership with UN Women and NIRAS, has continued to strengthen systems for tracking public allocations for gender equality. TGNP supported the Ministry of Finance to integrate GRB and the Gender Budget Statement template into the National Budget Guidelines. Additionally, TGNP provided technical support on gender tagging within the Central Budget Management System (CBMS) and built capacity at both council and ministry levels. These efforts have resulted in the selection of specific GRB pilot areas, including nine Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), two Regions, and two Councils, demonstrating a concrete government commitment to making public budgeting more gender-responsive.

Key Challenges

Unresolved Legal Contradictions	Implementation and Financing Weaknesses
The Marriage Act (1971) allows girls to marry at 15 with parental consent despite 2019 Court of Appeal ruling. No standalone GBV Act. Customary laws override statutory protections for inheritance and marriage in rural areas.	GBV rising in police regions including Kinondoni, Dodoma, Arusha, and Tanga. Financing heavily donor-dependent. Employer resistance to maternity leave amendments. Informal sector workers entirely excluded from maternity protections.
Capacity and Data Gaps	**Digital Exclusion**
Sex-disaggregated data inadequate across all sectors. Inadequate understanding of gender issues among government officials. Underreporting of GBV due to stigma, fear of retaliation, and lack of trust in the justice system.	Handset affordability is the top barrier to digital inclusion — 42% of women vs. 35% of men. Limits access to mobile banking, market information, health services, and legal aid platforms for rural and low-income women.
Male engagement and allyship in gender programmes remain critically weak, with men largely absent from violence prevention, reproductive health, and caregiving initiatives despite evidence that transforming harmful masculinities is essential for gender equality.	

Recommendations

To the Government of Tanzania

- Enact a standalone, comprehensive Gender-Based Violence law; amend the Penal Code to include cyber violence against women and children.
- Amend the Law of Marriage Act (1971) without further delay to align with the 2019 Court of Appeal ruling, setting minimum marriage age at 18 without exceptions.
- Harmonize statutory and customary laws by reviewing and repealing discriminatory provisions in marriage, inheritance, and customary law.

To Parliament

- Accelerate the legislative process for amending the Marriage Act (1971) — each year of delay exposes thousands of girls to child marriage and its lifelong consequences.
- Hold the government accountable for implementing NPA-VAWC II with dedicated budget lines and quarterly reporting.

To Development Partners

- Support the government to scale GRB capacity-building programmes nationwide down to ward level.
- Provide sustained, predictable financing for gender equality interventions; heavy dependence on external financing derails long-term progress.

SDG 6 HLPF 2026 IN-DEPTH REVIEW PRIORITY GOAL

Clean Water and Sanitation

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

SDG 6 is one of five goals selected for in-depth review at the 2026 High-Level Political Forum, New York (7–15 July 2026). This goal receives expanded coverage in this report.

85.2%	92.5%	72.3%	TZS 43.4B	902K+
Rural safely managed water (2025)	Urban safely managed water (2025)	Institutions meeting wastewater standards (2025)	CSO WASH investment (2024–2025)	People reached with water services (CSOs)

Key Messages

KM1 | PROGRESS BUT NOT FAST ENOUGH Access to safely managed drinking water increased from 83% to 85.2% in rural areas and from 91.6% to 92.5% in urban areas (2024–2025). Open defecation declined from 1.3% to 1.2%. However, current progress remains insufficient to achieve universal access by 2030, particularly in underserved and climate-vulnerable communities.	**KM2 | CSOs ARE DELIVERING RESULTS AT SCALE** TAWASANET member organizations invested over TZS 43.4 billion in WASH interventions (2024–2025), reaching more than 902,000 people with water services across 23+ regions. Water Mission Tanzania alone provided safe water to 766,500 first-time beneficiaries.
KM3 | CLIMATE AND WATER SECURITY RISKS GROWING Despite Tanzania possessing an estimated 125,763 million m³ of renewable freshwater resources annually, climate change, droughts, catchment degradation, population growth, and competing water demands are increasing water stress in several basins. 651 water-use permits issued in 2025.	**KM4 | FROM POLICY TO IMPLEMENTATION** Tanzania has established strong policies — the National Water Policy, Water Resources Management Act (2009), WSDP III — and 9 Basin Water Boards. Achieving SDG 6 by 2030 now requires stronger Government-CSO collaboration, improved monitoring, increased financing, and accelerated climate-resilient WASH investments.

National Context

The Tanzania Government continues to strengthen its commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 6 through implementation of the National Water Policy, the Water Resources Management Act (2009), the Water Sector Development Programme Phase III (WSDP III: 2022/23–2025/26), and related sanitation and environmental management frameworks. These efforts are aligned with the country's broader development agenda and focus on improving access to safe water, sanitation, water resources management, climate resilience, and protection of water ecosystems. Significant investments have been made through the Ministry of Water, RUWASA, Basin Water Boards, Water Supply and Sanitation Authorities (WSSAs), Local Government Authorities, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to accelerate progress toward universal access to water and sanitation services.

Since the previous reporting period, Tanzania has recorded notable progress across several SDG 6 indicators. According to the 2025 Water Sector Status Report, access to safely managed drinking water services increased from 83% to 85.2% in rural areas and from 91.6% to 92.5% in urban areas between 2024 and 2025, demonstrating continued expansion of water infrastructure and improved service delivery. At the same time, the proportion of people practicing open defecation declined from 1.3% to 1.2%, while access to basic handwashing facilities with soap and water improved from 46.2% to 46.8%, reflecting the impact of national sanitation and hygiene campaigns, including the "Mtu ni Afya" initiative.

Progress has also been observed in water quality and wastewater management. In 2025, wastewater compliance assessments conducted in 238 institutions found that 72.3% met national effluent discharge standards, while the proportion of water bodies with good ambient water quality improved from 87.7% in

2024 to 88.8% in 2025. Furthermore, Tanzania continued strengthening water resources governance through its nine Basin Water Boards, enhanced hydrological monitoring systems, expanded water-use permitting, and increased stakeholder engagement under Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) frameworks. During 2025, 651 water-use permits were issued to improve water allocation and sustainable utilization of water resources.

CSO Contributions

Indicator 6.1.1: Proportion of Population Using Safely Managed Drinking Water Services

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have made significant contributions to expanding access to safe drinking water across Tanzania, particularly in rural, peri-urban, school, and climate-vulnerable communities. Collectively, TAWASANET member organizations directly contributed to improved water access and water security for more than 902,000 people.

Water Mission Tanzania provided safe water services to over 766,500 first-time beneficiaries through community water supply interventions. GreenTech Hub (formerly TAEEs) supported water supply projects benefiting 67,358 people in Karagwe and Kyerwa Districts, 40,056 people in Mbeya Region, and 10,750 beneficiaries in Kagera Region, while also implementing interventions in Mtwara, Njombe, and Iringa regions.

World Vision Tanzania, through its Integrated WASH Programme, invested approximately USD 1.47 million and reached more than 160,000 beneficiaries across Tanga, Kigoma, Arusha, Morogoro, Iringa, Dodoma, Manyara, Simiyu, and Tabora regions. The Ileje Environmental Conservation Association (IECA) strengthened Community-Based Water Supply Organizations (CBWSOs), rehabilitated water points, and conducted water access assessments across 245 villages, directly reaching 24,049 people. In total, CSOs invested approximately TZS 33.2 billion in water sector interventions during 2024–2025.

Indicator 6.2.1: Proportion of Population Using Safely Managed Sanitation Services and Handwashing Facilities

CSOs have contributed significantly to sanitation and hygiene improvements through construction of sanitation facilities, handwashing stations, Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), Market-Based Sanitation (MBS), and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) programmes.

Water Mission Tanzania supported more than 432,500 people with hygiene services and over 3,000 people through sanitation interventions. GreenTech Hub (formerly TAEEs) constructed sanitation facilities, handwashing stations, and six Menstrual Hygiene Management rooms, benefiting more than 8,000 students, teachers, and community members, including 1,083 adolescent girls.

IECA implemented CLTS interventions in 40 villages, reaching 4,307 participants, and supported school WASH programmes in 162 schools through provision of hygiene materials. CSOs also strengthened community sanitation governance by training more than 268 health and sanitation committee members and supporting sanitation information systems, including village sanitation registers and NSMIS reporting. Collectively, 16 CSOs implemented 50 sanitation projects across 23 regions, investing approximately TZS 10.2 billion in 2025 alone.

Indicator 6.3.1: Proportion of Domestic and Industrial Wastewater Flows Safely Treated

CSOs contributed to improved wastewater management primarily through environmental sanitation awareness, research, and community-level waste management initiatives.

IECA implemented sanitation and environmental awareness programmes across 245 villages, promoting safe disposal of liquid and solid waste and strengthening environmental protection practices. NTWAM (National Tanzania Water and Environmental Management Association) supported water quality assessments, environmental flow studies, and wastewater impact analyses that contribute to national understanding of pollution trends and wastewater management challenges.

These interventions have strengthened community awareness, informed policy discussions, and enhanced local environmental monitoring systems supporting SDG 6.3 implementation**.**

Indicator 6.3.2: Proportion of Bodies of Water with Good Ambient Water Quality

CSOs have contributed to water quality protection through watershed conservation, ecosystem restoration, pollution prevention, environmental education, and scientific research.

IECA implemented community-based watershed conservation and environmental protection programmes, including community forestry management in 10 villages, conservation activities in Lake Victoria Basin districts, and promotion of alternative livelihoods such as sustainable beekeeping to reduce pressure on water ecosystems.

NTWAM generated scientific evidence through research on groundwater contamination, fluoride and arsenic occurrence, river ecosystem health, environmental flows, and ambient water quality monitoring in key basins including the Mara and Wami-Ruvu basins. These studies have provided technical data supporting evidence-based water quality management and policy development**.**

Indicator 6.4.1: Change in Water-Use Efficiency Over Time

CSOs have supported water-use efficiency through climate adaptation planning, water resource assessments, farmer training, and hydrological monitoring. IECA developed more than 75 Community Adaptation Plans (CAPs) in Simiyu Region and conducted baseline assessments in 245 villages focusing on water use, climate vulnerability, and agricultural water management. The organization also trained farmers on climate-smart agricultural practices that promote efficient use of water resources.

NTWAM strengthened hydrological monitoring systems, water resource modelling, and technical capacity development for Basin Water Boards, supporting improved understanding of water availability, abstraction patterns, and sustainable water-use planning**.**

Indicator 6.4.2: Level of Water Stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources

CSOs contributed to reducing water stress risks through community water resource management, climate resilience planning, hydrological research, and early warning systems.

IECA conducted water access and water-use assessments across 245 villages and facilitated community-level planning processes that support sustainable water allocation and management through Community Adaptation Plans.

NTWAM strengthened evidence-based water management through hydrological research, drought and flood analysis, and development of streamflow forecasting systems in the Ruvu Catchment, providing critical early warning information for water allocation and water security planning in Dar es Salaam and surrounding areas.

Indicator 6.5.1: Degree of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

CSOs have played an important role in advancing Integrated Water Resources Management by strengthening coordination, stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and multi-sector collaboration. Through TAWASANET, CSOs have actively participated in national water sector dialogue platforms, policy engagement processes, and coordination mechanisms linking government institutions, NGOs, Basin Water Boards, and communities. Member organizations have facilitated integrated approaches that combine water resources management, WASH services, environmental conservation, climate adaptation, and community development, thereby strengthening implementation of IWRM principles at local and national levels.

Indicator 6.5.2: Proportion of Transboundary Basin Area with an Operational Arrangement for Water Cooperation

Tanzania participates in regional and transboundary water cooperation frameworks, including the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), and Lake Tanganyika Authority. However, community participation in transboundary governance remains limited. CSOs have contributed through research, community engagement, and knowledge sharing. NTWAM conducted studies on the Nile and Mara River basins, while IECA supported community sensitization and sustainable water management initiatives along the Lake Nyasa shoreline.

Indicator 6.6.1: Change in the Extent of Water-Related Ecosystems Over Time

Water-related ecosystems continue to face threats from deforestation, catchment degradation, climate change, and unsustainable land use practices. CSOs have supported ecosystem conservation through watershed protection, community forestry, environmental education, and climate adaptation initiatives. IECA implemented conservation and watershed management programmes, while NTWAM contributed research on environmental flows, groundwater quality, river ecosystems, and catchment health.

Indicator 6.a.1: Amount of Water- and Sanitation-Related Official Development Assistance (ODA) that is Part of a Government-Coordinated Spending Plan

Official Development Assistance (ODA) remains a major source of financing for Tanzania's water and sanitation sector, supporting infrastructure, capacity building, and institutional strengthening. CSOs complement these efforts by implementing donor-funded programmes, strengthening local capacities, and promoting accountability. NTWAM supported capacity-building initiatives through partnerships with SNV and GWP-Tanzania, while TAWASANET members leveraged donor resources to expand WASH services and strengthen sector governance.

Indicator 6.b.1: Proportion of Local Administrative Units with Established and Operational Policies and Procedures for Participation of Local Communities in Water and Sanitation Management

Tanzania has established frameworks that promote community participation through CBWSOs, Water User Associations, and School WASH Clubs. However, capacity limitations and inconsistent participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups remain challenges. CSOs have strengthened local governance through training, participatory planning, and social accountability initiatives. IECA trained 4,527 community members, strengthened institutions across 245 villages, and supported over 160 School WASH Clubs, while NTWAM promoted policy advocacy, youth engagement, and community-based water governance.

Key Challenges

Policy to Implementation Gap Despite strong legal frameworks, implementation remains uneven. Weak coordination among water, sanitation, agriculture, health, and LGAs limits integrated planning. Enforcement of permits and discharge standards inadequate.	**Funding and Infrastructure Gaps** Insufficient investment in water infrastructure. Aging systems in rural areas, inadequate wastewater treatment, underdeveloped faecal sludge management, and limited O&M capacity all persist.
Water Quality and Climate Threats Agricultural runoff, mining activities, deforestation, and urban wastewater threaten water quality. Climate change increasing drought frequency, declining source reliability, and changing rainfall patterns threaten both drinking water safety and ecosystem health.	**Equity Gaps for Vulnerable Groups** Rural communities, informal settlements, schools, health facilities, women, persons with disabilities, and low-income households face disproportionate barriers. Limited disaggregated SDG 6 data by gender, disability, geography, and poverty hampers targeted interventions.

Recommendations

To the Government of Tanzania

- Increase investment in rural water supply, safely managed sanitation, wastewater treatment, and water storage infrastructure.
- Strengthen water quality monitoring, wastewater compliance enforcement, and catchment protection, particularly in areas affected by mining, agriculture, urban settlements, and industry.
- Establish an integrated SDG 6 data and monitoring system with disaggregated data by geography, gender, disability, poverty status, schools, and health facilities.
- Scale up climate-resilient water resources management — rainwater harvesting, watershed restoration, groundwater protection, and drought preparedness.

To Parliament

- Increase budget allocations and oversight for water, sanitation, hygiene, and water resources management programmes; ensure timely release of funds to implementing institutions.

To CSOs and Development Partners

- Strengthen community engagement, social accountability, and behaviour change on sanitation, hygiene, water conservation, and protection of water sources.
- Increase financing for climate-resilient WASH services, wastewater management, water quality monitoring, and capacity development of local institutions.

SDG 7 HLPF 2026 IN-DEPTH REVIEW PRIORITY GOAL

Affordable and Clean Energy

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

SDG 7 is one of five goals selected for in-depth review at the 2026 HLPF, New York (7–15 July 2026). This goal receives expanded coverage in this report.

85.5%	52.1%	64.79%	28.6%	80%
Electricity access (2025)	Electricity connectivity (national, 2025)	Renewable energy share in installed capacity (2025)	Clean cooking energy adoption (2025)	Households still relying on firewood/charcoal for cooking

Key Messages

KM1 | ELECTRICITY ACCESS INCREASING BUT CONNECTIVITY LAGS National electricity access rose from 78.4% (2020) to 85.5% (2025). However, electricity connectivity stands at only 52.1% nationally, constraining equitable benefits for domestic needs, services, and income-generating activities. The National Energy Compact targets 75% connectivity by 2030.	**KM2 | CLEAN COOKING REMAINS THE CRITICAL CHALLENGE** 80% of Tanzanian households rely on firewood and charcoal for cooking, driving deforestation and indoor air pollution. Clean cooking energy sources increased from 6.9% (2021) to 28.6% (2025) — progress noted but the pace must accelerate significantly to meet 2030 targets.
KM3 | STRONG POLICY FRAMEWORK IN PLACE Tanzania adopted 4 key energy strategies (2024): National Renewable Energy Strategy (2024–2034), National Energy Efficiency Strategy (2024–2034), National Clean Cooking Strategy (2024–2034), and the National Energy Compact — demonstrating strong commitment to sustainable energy transformation.	**KM4 | PRIVATE SECTOR AND DRE INVESTMENT NEEDED** Installed renewable energy generation capacity increased from 32.4% (2023) to 64.79% (2025), driven by hydropower. Development of diversified renewables beyond hydropower remains slow. Private sector investment and decentralized renewable energy (DRE) systems are critical for inclusive energy access.
KM 5|Commitment to the Dar es Salaam Declaration Tanzania's leadership in the Dar es Salaam Declaration commits the nation to the continental goal of connecting 300 million Africans to electricity by 2030, building on progress that has connected all 12,318 villages. However, achieving universal access demands urgent action to close the urban-rural gap, where average access remains at 46%, and to transition 90% of the population from traditional biomass to clean cooking.	

National Context

Tanzania has made significant progress in expanding access to electricity over the past decade. Through the efforts of the Rural Energy Agency (REA), TANESCO, and other stakeholders, both grid and off-grid electrification programs have been expanded across urban and rural areas. According to the Ministry of Energy Budget Speech-2026, the national electricity access has increased from 78.4% in 2020 to 85.5% in 2025.

While access has improved considerably, electricity connectivity remains a key challenge. In 2020, connectivity was 73.2% in urban areas and 24.5% in rural areas, making an overall electricity connectivity rate of 37.7% for Tanzania Mainland. Currently, progress has been noted, with national connectivity rising to 52.1%. This reflects positive momentum toward achieving the National Energy Compact target of 75% connectivity by 2030.

The country has also invested heavily in energy infrastructure. Major projects such as the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project, Kinyerezi gas expansion projects, and decentralized renewable energy systems have strengthened generation capacity and national energy supply. In addition, Tanzania, from 2024, has adopted several strategic policy frameworks, including the National Renewable Energy Strategy (2024–2034), the National Energy Efficiency Strategy (2024–2034), the National Clean Cooking Strategy (2024–2034), and the National Energy Compact. These initiatives demonstrate the government's strong commitment to ensuring reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy for socio-economic development.

Nevertheless, the energy landscape has become increasingly diversified, with a growing contribution from renewable energy sources. The installed renewable energy generation capacity increased from 32.4% in 2023 to 64.79% in 2025, driven largely by investments in hydropower (EWURA, March 2026). As of 2025, the installed generation mix consisted of hydropower (60.30%), natural gas (28.40%), oil (5.80%), solar (1.44%), coal (1.00%), and wind (0.05%). Moreover, despite the majority of households relying on biofuels, primarily charcoal and wood, the progress has also emerged in clean cooking, with the use of clean cooking energy sources increasing from 6.9% in 2021 to 28.6% in 2025 (MoE Budget Speech 2026).

CSO Contributions

INDICATOR 7.1.1: PROPORTION OF POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have been contributing significantly to improving access to electricity through several programmes.

Tanzania Renewable Energy Association (TAREA): As a leading organization promoting renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies in mainland Tanzania, TAREA plays a key role in building capacity for the adoption and use of solar energy technologies. The association supports the deployment of solar solutions, including solar water heaters and solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, to expand access to sustainable and reliable electricity. In March 2026, TAREA, in collaboration with Tanzania Mwangaza, conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme on solar photovoltaic technologies at the Mbeya Moravian Vocational Training Centre. The training equipped six teachers from Moravian vocational schools in Chunya, Kyela, Sumbawanga, Rungwe, and Unitas Fratrum with practical knowledge and skills in solar PV installation and maintenance. The initiative aimed to strengthen technical capacity within vocational institutions, thereby enhancing opportunities for youth skills development, employment, and the advancement of access to electricity across the Southern Highlands of Tanzania.

Clean Energy For All has supported the community members in Arusha on how to install solar panels, which enhanced technical skills for solar system adoption.

Lindi Association of NGOs (LANGO) in 2024 supported and mobilized households in Lindi Municipality to acquire solar torches for domestic use, which enabled students to extend their study hours at night, thereby improving access to learning opportunities beyond regular school hours.

Moreover, policy briefs and article publications have been a central part of organizations like HakiRasilimali and TaTEDO-SESO in contributing to policy dialogue on energy governance and enhancing inclusive access to electricity.

INDICATOR 7.1.2: PROPORTION OF POPULATION WITH PRIMARY RELIANCE ON CLEAN FUELS AND TECHNOLOGY

CSOs have played an important role in the transition away from polluting, traditional biomass (like firewood and charcoal) toward modern energy systems by promoting clean cooking solutions and supporting behavioural change by increasing awareness of modern cooking technologies.

ClimateHub Tanzania: In 2025, the organization supported the Bamboo Innovation Hub and contributed to the design and development of a briquette production machine, specifically a functional bamboo carbonizer (pyrolysis machine). This initiative resulted in the production and distribution of 3,200 briquettes and facilitated capacity-building activities on briquette production using locally available organic waste materials. As part of the project, 11 community members from Kisarawe District (Pwani Region) and 92 women from four women's groups in Kinondoni District received training in briquette production and sustainable energy practices. In addition, a community outreach campaign was conducted in Bagamoyo District, reaching 8,002 community members, the majority of whom were women. The campaign promoted the adoption of briquettes, creating both income-generating opportunities and alternative clean cooking solutions (ClimateHub Tanzania, 2025).

TaTEDO-SESO: In 2025, through its partnership with SESCOM, TaTEDO-SESO continued to promote the adoption of modern and clean cooking solutions in Tanzania, with a particular focus on electric cooking (eCooking). They facilitated the distribution of more than 11,800 SESCOM-brand electric pressure cookers to households across Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Dodoma, Morogoro, Kilimanjaro, and other regions. In addition, over 1,000 improved biomass cookstoves were disseminated to households, helping to reduce fuel consumption and cooking costs while lowering indoor air pollution and improving health outcomes. These efforts contributed to expanding access to cleaner, safer, and more sustainable cooking technologies across the country (TaTEDO-SESO Annual General Meeting 2025).

Clean Energy For All: In March 2026, the organization implemented the Decarbonising Energy Systems (DES) project at Mapambano Primary School and Mbeya Secondary School. The initiative aimed to enhance students' knowledge and practical skills in sustainable energy solutions through hands-on engagement in briquette production. As part of the project, students were trained to produce briquettes using locally available materials, including wastepaper and rice husks. These briquettes provide a cleaner, lower-emission alternative to traditional charcoal, contributing to environmental sustainability while promoting awareness of renewable and sustainable energy practices among young people.

INDICATOR 7.2.1: RENEWABLE ENERGY SHARE IN TOTAL FINAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION

LANGO from the Lindi region has supported and mobilized more than 30 family members from Lindi municipality to adopt solar technologies (solar torch) for domestic use.

HakiRasilimali has engaged in awareness rising and contributed to the shift from traditional biomass to cooking gas in the Mahurunga and Newala Districts of the Mtwara region. Consequently, the Mkunya Ward secondary school reduced its reliance on firewood, and multiple local restaurants (Mama Ntilies) in Mahurunga Ward transitioned from firewood and charcoal to cooking gas.

INDICATOR 7.3.1: ENERGY INTENSITY MEASURED IN TERMS OF PRIMARY ENERGY AND GDP

Tanzania Renewable Energy Association (TAREA): The organization has been at the forefront, supporting the Deem Finance in advocating for access and the use of electric vehicles in transportation, mostly the electric two- and three-wheelers (bodaboda and *bajaj*). The e-mobility advocacy by TAREA directly drives down the amount of primary energy (petrol) required to sustain transportation and pushes the transportation sector toward high-efficiency motors.

TaTEDO-SESO: In 2025, TaTEDO-SESO, in partnership with the World Resources Institute (WRI), published an Investment Prospectus Report under the Productive Use of Renewable Energy (PURE) initiative. The report highlights opportunities for using clean energy to improve livelihoods and support MSMEs in regions including Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Dar es Salaam, and Pwani. It showcases the potential of green investments and renewable energy solutions, such as solar drying, solar-powered irrigation, cooling, water pumping, and lighting, to enhance energy efficiency, strengthen local enterprises, and promote sustainable economic development.

INDICATOR 7.A.1: INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FLOWS IN SUPPORT OF CLEAN ENERGY

CSOs have contributed by advocating for resource mobilization to promote decentralized renewable energy systems.

For instance, TaTEDO- SESO, in partnership with World Resource Institutions, has contributed to developing an Investment Prospectus Report, which presents a range of Renewable Energy Projects to unlock local private capital from East African Local Financial Institutions (LFIs) to finance the expansion of renewable energy for agriculture, livestock, and fisheries, involves incorporating energy-powered solutions across various value chains to boost income and productivity in some regions such as Kilimanjaro, Dar es Salaam, Pwani, and Dodoma.

Other CSOs have also been playing an important role in different National and International Conferences to advocate for investing in Tanzania's Renewable Sector. For instance, HakiRasilimali, a member-based organization in Tanzania, during the Mission 300 Conference held in Tanzania, stressed the need to invest in renewable energy sources as a strategic way to achieve electrification in Tanzania.

INDICATOR 7.B.1: INSTALLED RENEWABLE ENERGY-GENERATING CAPACITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

CSOs like the ClimateHub Tanzania and Green Conservers have supported renewable energy expansion through enhancing local technical skills, such as the innovative, eco-friendly briquette, which promotes clean cooking solutions and reduces reliance on charcoal and firewood. Additionally, the technical enhancement of the solar energy installation to the community has been a core part of the different organizations, like TAREA, TaTEDO-SESO, and CEFA, in promoting solar energy solutions.

Key Challenges

Heavy Biomass Reliance Nearly 80% of households rely on firewood and charcoal for cooking. Transitioning to clean cooking solutions faces barriers of affordability, availability, and behaviour change at scale.	**Electricity Connectivity and Affordability** Despite high access rates, connection costs and ongoing electricity bills remain prohibitive for rural and low-income households. Urban-rural connectivity gap persists at 73.2% urban vs. significantly lower rural.
Rising Electricity Demand Socioeconomic development and adoption of clean cooking, electric mobility, and the SGR are increasing electricity demand, placing pressure on generation and distribution infrastructure.	**Limited DRE Deployment** Diversified renewable energy beyond hydropower remains slow. Limited private sector investment and financing constrain scaling of solar, wind, and geothermal energy for decentralized access.

Recommendations

To Government

- Strengthen investment and promote private sector participation in electricity generation and decentralized renewable energy systems.
- Invest in modernized electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure to reduce technical losses and improve reliability.
- Promote clean cooking through collaboration with stakeholders to address over-reliance on charcoal and wood.

To Civil Society Organizations

- Strengthen advocacy and implementation of decentralized renewable energy to enhance equitable clean energy access in rural communities.
- Expand community awareness and behaviour change on clean cooking, renewable energy adoption, and energy efficiency, targeting rural households and women.

To Private Sector

- Increase investment in renewable energy infrastructure, especially decentralized solar and mini-grid solutions for rural communities.
- Expand public-private partnerships (PPPs) to de-risk investments and expand energy access in rural and peri-urban markets.

SDG 8 HLPF 2026 IN-DEPTH REVIEW PRIORITY GOAL

Decent Work and Economic Growth

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

5.9%	6.2%	94.6%	65-75%
GDP growth rate (2025)	Unemployment rate (2024, down from 8.7%)	Informal employment (ILFS 2024)	Financial inclusion (FSDT 2023)

Key Messages

KM1 | STEADY GROWTH BUT MODEST PER CAPITA GAINS Tanzania's economy grew 5.9% in 2025, projected 6.1% in 2026. However, real GDP per capita growth remains at ~2.5–3.0% annually due to population growth of 2.8–3.0%, limiting improvements in living standards. Over 800,000 youth enter the labour market annually; only 50,000–60,000 formal jobs are created each year.	**KM2 | INFORMALITY — THE STRUCTURAL CORE CHALLENGE** Informal employment accounts for 94.6% of total employment (ILFS 2024) — up from 92.5%. Approximately 82–85% of the workforce is in the informal economy. Women and youth are disproportionately concentrated in the most precarious informal segments. Zanzibar's unemployment rose from 7.7% to 10.9%.
KM3 | FINANCIAL INCLUSION IMPROVING Financial inclusion has improved significantly to 65–75% (FSDT 2023) through banks and mobile money platforms. The Tanzania Instant Payment System (TIPS) was operationalized. BRAC Tanzania reached 402,000 borrowers (70% women), disbursing ~USD 205 million. However, PWDs and rehabilitation graduates remain entirely excluded from formal credit.	**KM4 | CHILD LABOUR REMAINS A CRITICAL CONCERN** 4.2 million children aged 5–17 are still in child labour (national estimate). In Geita Region alone, 96% of school absenteeism is linked to child labour in mining, quarrying, fishing, and domestic work. Plan International Tanzania supported 2,687 children to escape forced labour and return to education.

National Context

Tanzania's SDG 8 implementation is anchored in a comprehensive policy framework, including the National Employment Policy (2008), Employment and Labour Relations Act (2004), National Youth Development Policy (revised 2024), SME Development Policy, and the Third and Fourth Five-Year Development Plans (FYDP III and IV). These frameworks collectively reinforce the centrality of a strong, inclusive, and competitive economy as the foundation for poverty reduction and improved quality of life. The government has also demonstrated commitment to improving the business environment by amending 12 laws and abolishing 383 levies, fees, and fines, while the 2025/26 budget sustains reforms toward a cashless economy and expanded digital financial services.

Progress in labour market participation is evident: the labour force participation rate rose from 72.1% to 73.2% between 2020/21 and 2024, while the employment-to-population ratio increased from 65.8% to 68.7%. Structural transformation is gradually taking place, with agriculture's employment share declining from 60.4% to 54.2%, while services expanded to 35.5% and industry grew to 10.3%. These shifts suggest a gradual movement away from subsistence agriculture toward more diversified economic activities.

However, the quality of work has not kept pace with these structural changes. According to the Integrated Labour Force Survey 2024, informal employment has risen alarmingly from 92.5% to 94.6%, indicating that the vast majority of workers remain outside formal labour protections. Only 7.7% of workers hold paid employment, underscoring that economic transformation has not translated into decent, secure jobs for the majority of Tanzanians. Zanzibar has experienced a particularly concerning trend, with unemployment rising from 7.7% to 10.9% over the same period.

Gender disparities remain deeply entrenched in the labour market. Women's labour force participation stands at just 67.4% compared to 79.6% for men, while women face higher illiteracy rates and unemployment (7.5% vs. 4.9% for men).

CSO Contributions

Restless Development Tanzania — Youth Entrepreneurship and Employability

Multiple Regions | 2024–2026

Implemented 4 entrepreneurship and employability programmes reaching 1,348 young people (965 female, 383 male) with business skills and market access. 202 advanced their businesses. Supported 58 first-time young mothers to complete VETA vocational training, providing tools, equipment, and protective gear for transition into active income generation.

1,348 youth reached | 202 business advanced | 58 young mothers into vocational training

UNA Tanzania - Uchumi Wetu Project

Mtwara | 2024-2025

Empowered 156 vulnerable youth, women, and persons with disabilities in Tandaimba and Nanyumbu Districts with practical vocational skills in tailoring, carpentry, poultry keeping, and hygiene product manufacturing, alongside entrepreneurship and business management training. Established 27 income-generating groups and distributed 161 tailored startup kits enabling immediate business launch. Trained 24 local government officers to strengthen inclusive economic development planning and youth engagement

BHASSA Tanzania — Youth Skills and Financial Inclusion

Morogoro Region | BHASSA Learning Center

Trained 946 youth in practical vocational and entrepreneurial skills through the BHASSA Learning Center. Established 367 Youth Saving and Lending Associations (YSLAs) reaching 6,537 young people with access to capital. Equipped 1,922 youth in entrepreneurship, 8,899 in leadership, and 2,104 in life skills.

946 youth trained | 367 YSLAs established | 6,537 youth with capital access | Morogoro Region

Plan International Tanzania — Escaping Child Labour (Geita)

Geita Region | Mining, Quarrying, Fishing Communities

The Escaping Child Labour Project provided reintegration services and skills for 2,687 children, enabling them to escape forced labour and return to school. Trained 4,728 fishermen and 5,173 small-scale miners in Geita on child protection measures to prevent child employment in dangerous sectors.

2,687 children escaped child labour | 4,728 fishermen trained | 5,173 miners trained | Geita

BRAC Tanzania — Financial Inclusion and Microfinance

National | 184 Branches | 53% Rural Reach

BRAC Tanzania Finance Limited reached approximately 402,000 borrowers (70% women) in 2024, disbursing about USD 205 million in loans through 184 branches. 53% of outreach in rural areas; 98% of clients were savers. Trained 108,000 clients in financial literacy; reached ~392,000 clients with financial services.

402,000 borrowers | 70% women | USD 205M disbursed | 184 branches | 53% rural

HELVETAS Tanzania; Through the Youth Employment through Skills Enhancement (YES) project implemented between January 2022 to December 2025 in Dodoma Urban, Singida Municipal, and Singida Rural districts empowered and improved the living conditions of economically and socially disadvantaged young women and men in Tanzania through enhanced skills, job opportunities, and gainful employment. The Project reached a total of 1,944 youths who completed the training in the Dodoma and Singida region and 250 graduates (127 female, 123 male) who were supported with skills that helped them to start businesses.

Digital Opportunity Trust (dot.) through the Daring to Shift Project (2019-2023) has quipped youth with essential skills on digital literacy, workforce readiness, entrepreneurship, and social innovation. Over 1,000 local youth, with a particular focus on young women as agents of change were empowered. 1044 ambitious young men and women embarked on a path of transformation by enrolling in the Digital Jobs Program and It has reached more than 40,000 community beneficiaries, with 70% of them being women.

Volunteer Spark Others (VSO) Tanzania through Boosting the Blue Economy project (January 2024-December 2025) equipped 3,000 young people with necessary competences and knowledge to excel in the private sector through wage or self-employment in sectors of fisheries, aquaculture and marine conservation.

Okoa New Generation (ONG) through INUKA Project 2026 delivered 24-day structured entrepreneurship training (BEST curriculum) to 216 sober house residents. 57 participants pitched business ideas to a panel; 40 were competitively selected and each received TZS 1,000,000 in seed capital (TZS 40 million total injected into the local economy). Business knowledge assessment across the cohort showed a 6.8 percentage point gain, a measurable change in enterprise readiness. The SOMO Africa project has connected 26 entrepreneurs to a TZS 2-50 million investment window; 11 were approved for capital access.

Youth Partnership Countrywide (YPC); through the Wavuma Entrepreneurship Project implemented in Pwani, Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Lindi, Dodoma trained over 400 young women and approximately 200 young men, a total of over 600 youth, in entrepreneurship and business skills. Gender disaggregation: approximately 67% female.

Key Challenges

High Persistent Informality 94.6% of workers informally employed. Informal workers lack labour protection, social security, and productivity-enhancing credit. Formalization paradox: EFD enforcement and presumptive tax risk pushing marginal enterprises underground.	**Skills Mismatch and NEET** Many vocational graduates enter informal self-employment because training does not align with actual market demand. NEET rate among youth (15–24) remains high, particularly among young women. Only 3.2% of workers hold high-level skills vs. 12% benchmark.
Gender Wage and Participation Gaps Women's unemployment (7.5%) higher than men's (4.9%). Women earn less in comparable occupations due to market access disadvantage, land ownership exclusion, and unpaid care burdens that limit working hours.	**Climate-Labour Linkages** Climate shocks threaten livelihoods, particularly in rural rain-fed agriculture. Income disruption from climate shocks increases child labour risk as households pull children from school to contribute economically.

Recommendations

To the Government of Tanzania

- Pace formalization enforcement (EFD, tax) to the absorptive capacity of micro-enterprises; supplement enforcement with business development support and simplified tax structures based on profit, not turnover.
- Scale the 4:4:2 youth credit scheme with alternative collateral mechanisms; improve LGA-level administration to reach youth in rural and underserved areas.
- Reform vocational training (TVET/VETA) to align with actual market demand; track productivity outcomes (earnings, revenue) 90–180 days post-training — not just completion rates.

To Parliament

- Enact legislation extending collective bargaining rights to informal workers, including boda boda riders, market traders, domestic workers, and agricultural labourers.
- Strengthen legal framework to eliminate worst forms of child labour; allocate dedicated budget for child labour monitoring and enforcement.

SDG 9 HLPF 2026 IN-DEPTH REVIEW PRIORITY GOAL

Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

SDG 9 is one of five goals selected for in-depth review at the 2026 HLPF, New York. This goal receives expanded coverage in this report.

58.9M	85.3%	TZS 222.6B	1,000+	121st
Internet users (Mar 2026) +19.5% YoY	Internet penetration (exceeds FYDP III 80% target)	National ICT budget FY2026/27	Startups supported by Sahara Ventures (decade)	Global Innovation Index ranking (WIPO 2025)

Key Messages

KM1 | DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANDING RAPIDLY Mobile network coverage reached 98.2% (2G), 91% (3G), 88% (4G), and 20% (5G) by December 2024. UCSAF Phase 8 connected 1,407 villages across 713 wards in 85 districts, benefiting 8.5 million people. By December 2025, 5G coverage reached 30.1% of the population. Total mobile subscriptions hit 106.9 million.	**KM2 | INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM AT STRUCTURAL THRESHOLD** Tanzania's innovation ecosystem crossed a structural threshold — over 35 innovation hubs, 1,000+ startups, USD 559M+ technology investments (2024). The Tanzania Ventures Lab (2026–2029) targets 1,000 startups in priority sectors. PesaTech Accelerator has supported 60+ fintech startups across 3 cohorts.
KM3 | SGR TRANSFORMING TRANSPORT By November 2025, the Standard Gauge Railway transported 4.34 million passengers and 40,000+ tonnes of cargo on the Dar es Salaam–Dodoma corridor. SGR commercial freight launched 27 June 2025. TARURA manages 144,430 km of district roads (80% of total network), providing critical rural-urban connectivity.	**KM4 | PERSISTENT GAPS IN FINANCE, SKILLS, AND EQUITY** 74.2% of stakeholders cite limited access to finance as the top SDG 9 barrier (Sahara Consult VNR 2026 survey). Only 28–36% of small-scale industries access formal credit. Rural communities (70%), women/girls (65%), and youth under 35 (60%) face the greatest digital exclusion barriers.

National Context

Tanzania's primary guiding document is TDV 2050, targeting industries contributing more than 40% of GDP by 2050 (from ~8% in 2024). FYDP IV includes national projects: Bagamoyo Eco-Maritime City, Lindi LNG Project, and Liganga-Mchuchuma Iron and Steel Project. Key policies include the National ICT Policy 2023, ICT Commission startup certification, and the Bank of Tanzania FinTech Regulatory Sandbox. Tanzania ranks 121st of 139 in the WIPO Global Innovation Index 2025 (18th in Sub-Saharan Africa). Internet penetration reached 85.3% by December 2025, exceeding the FYDP III target of 80% broadband coverage by 2025. The gender dimension: 47.1 million mobile lines registered to men vs. 44.5 million to women (June 2025), but the gap is narrowing.

CSO Contributions

9.1.1 Rural Population Within 2 km of an All-Season Road

Sahara Consult contributes to rural infrastructure-linked economic development primarily through the AYuTe Africa Challenge Tanzania, implemented in partnership with Heifer International. This programme supports young AgriTech innovators working on agricultural value chain challenges that are directly connected to last-mile rural connectivity.

The 2025 AYuTe Africa Challenge Tanzania (Cohort 2) received over 260 applications from across the country, with outreach in eight regions Dodoma, Tanga, Iringa, Zanzibar, Njombe, Mwanza, Mbeya, and Morogoro via info sessions, radio broadcasts, and SMS campaigns. Three winning startups received a combined USD 22,500 in grants: the overall winner was MIL-Animal Nutrition (USD 10,000), first runner-up Mbeya Oil Cado (USD 7,500, producing cooking oil from avocado rejects), and a third-place award of USD 5,000 to a startup in drone-based soil analysis and post-harvest loss reduction. These innovators directly benefit smallholder farmers in rural communities who account for 80% of Tanzania's agricultural production.

Over 260 national applications (2025); three winners supporting rural smallholder farmers; outreach across 8 regions. Source: Heifer International Tanzania, Guardian/Daily News February 2025.

9.1.2 Passenger and Freight Volumes by Mode of Transport

The SGR represents Tanzania's most consequential transport investment in decades. By November 2025, the railway had transported approximately 4.34 million passengers and over 40,000 tonnes of cargo on the Dar es Salaam–Dodoma corridor. SGR freight services launched commercially on 27 June 2025, with the maiden cargo consisting of over 700 tonnes in 10 wagons. Phase 3 (Makutupora–Tabora, 294 km) reached 7.88% completion by May 2025.

While the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) is transforming long-distance passenger and freight transport, its effectiveness depends on the quality of first-mile and last-mile connectivity provided by the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA). TARURA manages approximately 144,430 kilometres of district, feeder, collector, and urban roads, representing nearly 80% of Tanzania's total road network. These roads provide critical links between villages, wards, district headquarters, agricultural production zones, industrial clusters, markets, health facilities, and transport hubs, including SGR stations and national highways.

The expansion and improvement of TARURA's road network has strengthened connectivity across rural and urban areas, enabling passengers and freight originating from local communities to access major transport corridors. By 2025, Tanzania's district road network had expanded from approximately 109,000 km to over 144,000 km, significantly increasing accessibility and reducing transport bottlenecks in previously underserved areas.

This connectivity is particularly important for the movement of agricultural produce, which accounts for a large share of domestic freight. Improved district and feeder roads allow farmers and traders to transport goods from production areas to collection centres, railway terminals, ports, and urban markets at lower cost and with reduced travel time. Recent TARURA investments under programs such as Roads to Inclusion and Socioeconomic Opportunities (RISE) have demonstrated how improved road links can connect wards and districts to neighbouring economic centres, expanding access to markets, education, healthcare, and employment opportunities.

The contribution of TARURA is therefore essential to increasing passenger and freight volumes across all transport modes. While the SGR enhances long-distance transport efficiency, district roads serve as the feeder network that channels people and goods into the national logistics system. This integrated approach aligns with Tanzania Development Vision 2050, which emphasizes the creation of an interconnected multimodal transport and logistics network capable of supporting inclusive economic growth, regional integration, and improved service delivery nationwide.

9.2.2 Manufacturing Employment as % of Total Employment

The Sahara Ventures 10-Year Impact Report (2025), 'Impact Revisited' documents 1,700+ direct and indirect jobs created through a decade of ecosystem development activities across EdTech, AgriTech, FinTech, and HealthTech startups supported through Sahara Sparks, the Sahara Accelerator, and Sahara Consult's consulting practice. Cumulatively, over 1,000 startups have been empowered through the decade. The Tanzania Ventures Lab (2026–2029) targets 1,000 startups whose scale-up across the six priority sectors will generate employment for youth across Tanzania, with an explicit focus on youth-led enterprises.

1,700+ jobs and 1,000+ startups documented in Sahara Ventures Decade Impact Report 2025 (publication. saharaventures.com). TVL target: 250 startups/year, confirmed by COSTECH DG Dr. Amos Nungu at March 2026 launch.

9.3.1 Proportion of Small-Scale Industries in Total Industry Value Added

Sahara Sparks has served as the premier platform for small-scale innovators to access investors and partnerships since 2015, growing from 139 startups in its 2017 edition to a structured investor marketplace with twelve startups and twelve investors in its 2025 tenth-anniversary edition. The Sahara Accelerator operates without equity extraction, offering virtual mentorship, investor readiness, and strategic support to SMEs across diverse sectors — a model specifically designed to remain accessible to asset-light small enterprises. Cumulatively, over 1,000 startups have been empowered through Sahara Ventures' decade of operations.

9.3.2 Proportion of Small-Scale Industries with Loan or Line of Credit

Tanzania's small-scale industrial sector is the structural foundation of its economy, yet its contribution to total industry value added remains chronically underreported and underutilised relative to its true scale. The country hosts over 3 million SMEs that collectively contribute between 27 and 35 percent of Tanzania's overall GDP and employ more than 5 million people, a workforce share that dwarfs that of large formal industries. The sector, dominated overwhelmingly by micro enterprises, sees roughly 98 percent of its businesses employing fewer than five people, with approximately 66 percent of micro and small enterprises reporting an annual turnover of less than USD 2,000. This concentration at the bottom of the enterprise pyramid underscores the structural fragility of Tanzania's small-scale industrial base: vast in number, constrained in productivity. SDG Indicator 9.3.1 the proportion of small-scale industries in total manufacturing value added, captures precisely this tension.

According to survey data spanning 2006 to 2023, only 16.9 percent of small-scale manufacturing industries in Sub-Saharan Africa received loans or lines of credit, a financing gap that directly suppresses the value-addition potential of small enterprises and limits their weight within national industrial output. In Tanzania, the manufacturing sector accounts for approximately nine percent of GDP, with GDP from manufacturing reaching TZS 3.577 trillion in Q3 2025, a record high, up from TZS 3.104 trillion in Q2 2025 and growing consistently from a base of TZS 373.9 billion in 2005. The industry sector as a whole accounted for approximately 28 percent of Tanzania's GDP in 2023.

However, the bulk of this industrial value addition flows from larger capital-intensive firms and foreign-owned enterprises rather than from the small-scale operators who constitute the overwhelming majority of the country's businesses. SMEs representing 95 percent of all businesses are concentrated in agriculture (40 percent), manufacturing (30 percent), and services, yet their proportional contribution to formal manufacturing value is suppressed by systemic barriers including limited access to credit, inadequate infrastructure, complex licensing requirements, and low digital adoption. The potential for correction is substantial: if Tanzania strengthens support for SMEs through simplified regulatory frameworks, digital infrastructure, and financing options, the SME sector's GDP contribution could rise from 35 to 45 percent by 2030, with employment rising from 50 to 60 percent. Closing this gap is not merely a statistical ambition, it is the economic and social justice imperative at the heart of SDG Target 9.3. TanzaniaInvest + 6.

Against this national backdrop, Sahara Ventures has operated at the precise intersection where small-scale innovation and industrial value creation meet. Sahara Sparks has served as the premier platform for small-scale innovators to access investors and partnerships since 2015, growing from 139 startups in its 2017 edition to a structured investor marketplace with twelve startups and twelve investors in its 2025 tenth-anniversary edition. The Sahara Accelerator operates without equity extraction, offering virtual mentorship, investor readiness, and strategic support to SMEs across diverse sectors, a model specifically designed to remain accessible to asset-light small enterprises.

Cumulatively, over 1,000 startups have been empowered through Sahara Ventures' decade of operations. This non-extractive, access-first approach directly addresses the financing and market-access barriers that suppress small-scale industry's contribution to national value added, building the very pipeline of investor-ready, commercially viable small enterprises that SDG 9.3.1 demands Tanzania grow. At the national policy level, the government's Business Environment Program (2025–2027) has allocated TZS 100 billion specifically to boost SME finance, digital adoption, and regulatory efficiency, creating a favourable environment in which platforms like Sahara Sparks can amplify their reach. The convergence of Sahara Ventures' practitioner-level ecosystem work and the government's structural reforms positions Tanzania's small-scale industrial sector on a credible path toward a higher, more equitable share of total industry value added by 2030.

Sahara Ventures directly addresses SME financing gaps through the PesaTech Accelerator, implemented since May 2022 in partnership with UNCDF Tanzania, Hindsight Ventures, and Enea Advisors with support from the Swedish Embassy and European Union (through the Digital4Tanzania programme). PesaTech has now run three cohorts: Cohort 1 supported 20 fintech startups (Sahara Ventures/iPF Softwares); Cohort 2 (2023–2024) expanded to 40 startups with NMB Bank and Anza Entrepreneurs; Cohort 3 is under implementation.

The first cohort featured startups including Settlo Technologies, COWPESA, Mfuko Pesa, Safari Wallet, and Kikundi App developed digital financial solutions serving SMEs and low-income communities. Participants received bespoke support on go-to-market strategies, regulatory compliance, and fundraising, directly expanding Tanzania's pipeline of investment-ready fintech companies.

9.5.1 Research and Development Expenditure as % of GDP

As a co-implementer of the Tanzania Ventures Lab (2026–2029), Sahara Ventures works with COSTECH, DTBi, and Buni Innovation Hub to commercialise research results from universities, UDSM, Sokoine University of Agriculture, and Muhimbili National Hospital, into viable businesses. The National Ventures Database Platform increases visibility of Tanzanian innovations for local and international investors.

The Mastercard Foundation EdTech Fellowship (Cohorts 1 and 2, implemented by Sahara Consult) accelerated ten EdTech companies per cohort including Smartdarasa (AR/VR/AI learning platforms), Mtabe (AI and SMS-based learning for low-connectivity areas), and Taifa Technovation (STEM kits for rural schools) applied R&D outcomes collectively impacting over 50,000 learners across Tanzania

9.a.1 Official International Support to Infrastructure (ODA + Other Official Flows)

Sahara Ventures has mobilised significant international support for Tanzania's innovation infrastructure through strategic partnerships with development partners and embassies since 2015. Long-term partners include the Embassies of Finland and Switzerland (since 2016), UNDP Tanzania, UNCDF (PesaTech Accelerator, EU/SIDA funded), Mastercard Foundation (EdTech Fellowship), and Heifer International (AYuTe Africa Challenge Tanzania). The Sahara Ventures 10-Year Impact Report (2025) documents USD 1.1 million-plus in pre-seed funding mobilised through Sahara Sparks, Consult, and Accelerator activities over a decade. In 2025, Sahara Sparks investor matchmaking facilitated investment commitments of USD 10,000–500,000 from twelve investors across agriculture, fintech, health, education, and logistics.

9.b.1 Proportion of Medium and High-Tech Industry Value Added in Total Value Added

Sahara Consult and Sahara Ventures are among Tanzania's leading contributors to medium and high-tech industry development. Through the Mastercard Foundation EdTech Fellowship (2024–2025), Sahara Consult accelerated ten technology companies including Smartdarasa (AR/VR/AI STEM platforms), Mtabe (AI and SMS-based learning), and Kilimanjaro Planetarium (space science education tools). Sahara Sparks 2025 featured high-tech startups including Ekima (immersive learning technology), Ghala (AI-powered social commerce), and Eldizer (youth digital banking). Over 1,000 startups have been empowered through Sahara Ventures' decade of operations, many operating in technology-intensive sectors.

9.c.1 Population Covered by Mobile Network by Technology

Sahara Ventures has positioned itself as a demand-side complement to the government's supply-side investment, ensuring that expanded connectivity translates into meaningful access and economic participation, particularly for underserved communities. Through the Mastercard Foundation EdTech Fellowship (Cohorts 1 and 2), Sahara Ventures accelerated ten EdTech companies per cohort reaching 50,000+ learners, including Mtabe, which uses AI and SMS-based offline learning to serve students in low-connectivity areas, and Fiqra Technologies, whose offline-capable content delivery model brings educational resources to remote communities irrespective of network quality.

These innovations are critical because high population coverage statistics obscure the reality that bandwidth, affordability, and device access still determine whether connectivity is educationally and economically useful. Sahara Sparks hosted an EdTech Innovation Sandboxes workshop facilitating dialogue on educational technology for digital inclusion, convening innovators working precisely at the intersection of mobile infrastructure and last-mile delivery. Through a decade of ecosystem work, Sahara Ventures has empowered 1,000+ startups, mobilised USD 1.1 million+ in pre-seed funding, and created 1,700+ jobs. The Tanzania Ventures Lab (2026–2029) takes this further, establishing a National Ventures Database Platform that increases the digital visibility of Tanzanian innovators for international investors, converting expanded connectivity into a searchable, investable national innovation asset.

Key Challenges

Access to Finance 74.2% cite finance as top barrier. SME loan interest rates averaging 18–22%. Women-owned enterprises face loan rejection rates ~30% higher. Only 28–36% of small-scale industries access formal credit despite mobile money reaching 72% of adults.	**Digital Infrastructure Inequalities** Geographic coverage lags behind population coverage. 4G covers only 77.3% of land area vs. 94.2% of population. Rural communities, women, youth under 35, and PWDs face greatest digital exclusion. Affordability and device access remain barriers even where networks exist.
Skills Mismatch and Brain Drain Only 32% of factory workers hold post-secondary technical qualifications. 37–42% of PhD graduates work outside Tanzania. VETA enrolment exceeds 130,000 annually but misalignment with industry limits productivity gains.	**Urban-Rural and Gender Disparities** Dar es Salaam hosts 66.56% of all registered startups. Women constitute less than 30% of STEM researchers. Women-owned enterprises face additional barriers including social restrictions, lower loan approval rates, and fewer mentorship opportunities.

Recommendations

To Government and Parliament

- Increase R&D funding toward the AU target of 1% of GDP; review annually and monitor through Parliament.
- Establish a special financing programme through NMB, CRDB, and TIB Development Bank for small manufacturing businesses and women-owned enterprises, with interest rates below 10%.
- Include innovation organizations (Sahara Consult, Buni Hub, DTBi, ICT Commission) in annual national development plan reviews as data, knowledge, and implementation partners.

To Development Partners

- Provide multi-year funding for innovation programmes — TVL, PesaTech, AYuTe Challenge — to create lasting impact.
- Support gender-responsive financing, rural digital infrastructure, and targeted acceleration programmes to prevent deepening exclusion as Tanzania's innovation economy grows.

SDG 10

Reduced Inequalities

Reduce inequality within and among countries


Osse Greca Sinare

40.5	44.9%	10.7%	94%
Gini coefficient (2025, up from 37.6)	Population below USD 2.15/day (World Bank 2024)	Women holding land in their own name	Income increase for 387 OWSL women farmers

Key Messages

KM1 | INEQUALITY IS STRUCTURAL, NOT CYCLICAL GDP growth of 5.1–6.0% (2023–2025) has not reduced the Gini coefficient — it rose from 37.6 to 40.5. Rural poverty estimated at 83.5% vs. 54.7% urban. Mining grew 11.3% (2023) while employing only 1.3% of workers; agriculture employs 54.9% and grows at only 4.1%. The mismatch between where growth is concentrated and where people work is the defining challenge for SDG 10.	**KM2 | CSO EVIDENCE PROVES TARGETED INTERVENTIONS WORK** OWSL achieved 94.39% income increase rate among 387 targeted women farmers in Mara Region. Small-scale miners' revenue share doubled from TZS 623B (20%) to TZS 1.063T (40%) of total mineral income (2022–2024/25), partly driven by HakiMadini and Himiza Social Justice legal empowerment work.
KM3 | WOMEN'S LAND EXCLUSION DRIVES PERSISTENT INEQUALITY Only 10.7% of women hold land in their own name (NBS 2023). Without secure tenure, income gains are reversible, credit is inaccessible, and long-term investment is irrational. The revised National Land Policy (2025) is necessary but insufficient without companion legislation and dedicated budget.	**KM4 | PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SYSTEMATICALLY EXCLUDED** Only 6–7% of ODA activities explicitly target disability inclusion against a 15% global benchmark (Amman-Berlin Declaration). PWDs face compounding exclusion: social stigma, inaccessible infrastructure, limited education, and near-exclusion from economic participation.

National Context

Between 2023 and 2026, Tanzania maintained creditable macroeconomic performance, but economic growth has not translated into proportionate gains for the poorest. Tanzania's Gini coefficient stands at 40.5, having risen from 37.6, signaling widening income inequality. The World Bank estimates that 44.9% of Tanzania's population lives below the international poverty line of US$2.15 per day, and an extraordinary 92.3% live below US$6.85 per day, among the highest proportions globally. Rural poverty is especially pronounced, estimated at 83.5% compared to 54.7% in urban areas, reflecting systemic underinvestment in rural infrastructure. The absolute number of people living in poverty is rising because population growth at 3% per year outpaces the rate of poverty reduction.

The sectoral composition of growth compounds the inequality problem. Mining, expanding at 11.3% in 2023 and 8.3% in 2024, employs only 1.3% of the workforce, while agriculture, which employs 54.9% of the population, grew at just 4.2% in 2023 and 4.1% in 2024. Construction grew at 4.1% while employing 3.5%. The mismatch between where growth is concentrated and where people actually work is the defining structural challenge for Goal 10 in Tanzania—the sector employing the majority earns the least public investment, meaning national GDP averages routinely obscure the experience of the majority.

Landmark policy instruments enacted between 2023 and 2025 include the Universal Health Insurance Act (2023), the National Land Policy (revised 2023, launched March 2025 with gender-responsive provisions), the National Gender Policy (revised 2023), and the Labour Institutions (Minimum Wage for Private Sector) Order, 2025, effective 1 January 2026. At the anti-GBV level, 420 Police Gender Desks and 14 One Stop Centres are operational nationwide, and Tanzania hosts over 300,000 refugees. These are genuine gains, but the ratio of policy instruments enacted to actual improvements in material conditions remains deeply unequal. Policy without implementation architecture reduces inequality on paper only.

As FYDP III ends in 2025/26, civil society observes that current planning processes do not adequately incorporate communal land tenure for pastoralist communities, disability-disaggregated targets, informal economy formalisation strategies, or binding CSO consultation protocols. Without deliberate course correction in FYDP IV, Tanzania's inequality challenge will not only persist but deepen as population growth and economic concentration continue to outpace inclusive development.

CSO Contributions

HAKIARDHI — Land Rights and Inclusive Governance

Meru (Arusha), Kiteto (Manyara), Kilosa (Morogoro), Mufindi (Iringa)

Facilitated 4 Village Land Use Plans, issuing 254 CCROs in 2025. Supported return of 14,173 ha to villages in Mufindi, Mlimba, and Kilombero from an investor (2023–2024). Trained 400 gender champions, 500 land rights monitors, and 325 village leaders. Raised awareness on land rights for 36,825 individuals through bulk SMS campaigns in 2025. Women's participation in Village Assembly meetings rose to 50–70% in targeted villages.

254 CCROs issued | 14,173 ha returned to communities | 400 gender champions trained

OWSL — Women's Income and KINGA NJAA Model (Mara Region)

Mara, Geita, Mwanza, Kagera, Shinyanga | Women Agro-Enterprises

387 out of 410 targeted women (94.39%) increased personal income by at least 10% through diversified agro-enterprises. 1,874 total beneficiaries reached. KINGA NJAA collective storage model empowered smallholder farmers to avoid distress-selling at harvest-time price lows. 74.2% of leadership positions in project farmer groups now held by women. Reached 106 elderly farmers and 4 persons with disabilities as direct participants.

387 women with 10%+ income increase | 94.39% rate | KINGA NJAA model | 74.2% female leadership

HakiMadini / HIMIZA Social Justice — ASM Rights and Revenue

Mara, Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Arusha, Tanga | Mining Communities

Strengthened artisanal and small-scale miners' capacity to understand mining laws, land rights, compensation frameworks, and community participation mechanisms. Small-scale miners' revenue share doubled from TZS 623 billion (20%) in 2022 to TZS 1.063 trillion (40%) of total mineral income in FY 2024/25 — a landmark result directly linked to legal empowerment work.

ASM revenue share doubled: TZS 623B TZS 1.063T | Legal empowerment | 6 regions

MHOLA / MVIWAMA — Legal Aid and Community Savings

Kagera (Muleba, Bukoba, Karagwe, Ngara) | Rural Women and Youth

220 women supported with agricultural inputs achieved approximately 50% income growth. Legal aid provided to 1,661 people through physical outreach and toll-free phone service. MHOLA's MiaMia Cup tournament reached 9,000 people with human rights education. VICOBA groups generating community-level income data for women and youth in Tanzania's highest-inequality districts.

1,661 legal aid | 9,000 via MiaMia Cup | 220 women with 50% income growth | VICOBA groups

Key Challenges

Growth Architecture Excludes Bottom 40%	Women's Land Exclusion
Mining and construction growth bypasses the 54.9% of workers in agriculture. Without deliberate investment in agro-processing, value addition, and rural industrialisation, GDP averages will continue to obscure the lived reality of the majority.	Only 10.7% of women hold land in their own name (NBS 2023). Customary practices restrict female ownership despite formal law. Without secure tenure, income gains are reversible and credit remains inaccessible.
Pastoralists Structurally Excluded	**National Data Cannot See the Marginalized**
Communal land rights for Maasai, Barabaig, Datoga, and other pastoralist communities are poorly recognized. Investment-driven acquisitions displace communities without consultation or fair compensation. EACOP pipeline compensation failures documented in Kiteto and Kilindi.	SDG Indicator 10.3.1 is completely unmeasurable — no national discrimination survey exists. Poverty data not disaggregated by disability, age, ethnicity, or land tenure. Informal economy income (over 80% of workforce) barely features in official accounts.

Recommendations

To Government

- Remove VAT from agricultural inputs and staple food items — this regressive tax imposes higher proportional burdens on the poorest households and directly contradicts SDG 10.4.2.
- Formally recognize communal land tenure for pastoralist communities; revise Village Land Act demarcations to include grazing corridors and seasonal water points.
- Establish a National Discrimination Survey to make Indicator 10.3.1 measurable; commission NBS to annually capture self-reported discrimination by sex, disability, age, ethnicity, and land tenure status.
- Scale ODA disability inclusion to the 15% Amman-Berlin Declaration benchmark.

To Parliament

- Hold the executive accountable for SDG 10 timelines: require annual reporting on Land Policy, Gender Policy implementation, ODA disability inclusion ratios, and rural poverty outcomes disaggregated by sex and disability.
- Commission a parliamentary review of the NGO regulatory framework aligned with the UNHRC Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

SDG 11 HLPF 2026 IN-DEPTH REVIEW PRIORITY GOAL

Sustainable Cities and Communities

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

SDG 11 is one of five goals selected for in-depth review at the 2026 HLPF. This goal receives expanded coverage in this report.

39.1%	5.2%	3.8M	0.5%	86%
Urban population (2026 estimate)	Annual urbanization rate (national)	National housing deficit (units, 2026)	Mortgage-to-GD ratio (Tanzania)	Urban electricity access (2025)

Key Messages

KM1 | RAPID URBANIZATION OUTSTRIPPING HOUSING SUPPLY Urban population surged from 12.3M (29.6%) in 2012 to 21.1M (37.4%) in 2022, reaching an estimated 24.5M (39.1%) by 2026. Tanzania urbanizes at 5.2% annually vs. 3.2% national population growth, generating a housing deficit of 3.8 million units. ~60% of urban residents live in informal settlements. Secondary cities: Dodoma (7.1%), Mbeya (6.4%), Morogoro (5.9%) growing fastest.	**KM2 | WASH DEFICITS AS A GENDERED TIME-POVERTY CRISIS** Women-headed households in informal settlements spend an average of 3.5 hours daily securing clean water and domestic energy due to lack of decentralized WASH infrastructure (TGES 2025). Climate change and poor basic services act as severe risk multipliers in informal settlements.
KM3 | INNOVATIVE HOUSING FINANCE PATHWAYS The mortgage-to-GDP ratio stands at only 0.5%. HFHT-TMRC-MFI partnerships are proving that housing microfinance can expand access to decent housing for informal economy workers. Land regularization programmes have registered 3,347,275 properties, but only 25,748 formal residential licences issued — the tenure implementation gap.	**KM4 | POLICY REFORMS ADVANCING SLOWLY** High-impact: SGR reduced Dar es Salaam–Dodoma transit from 12 to 3 hours; urban electricity expanded to 86%. Stagnation: cumulative allocated plots reached 3,951,890 but severely supply-constrained. Only 26 municipal towns have up-to-date Master Plans. The National Housing Policy of 1996 remains in force — an 30-year-old framework governing a 21st century urbanization crisis.

National Context

For the 2026 VNR reporting period, Tanzania's urban development agenda was guided by the Third Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP III, 2021/22–2025/26), which prioritized integrated urban planning, affordable housing, transport infrastructure, and sustainable human settlements as drivers of economic transformation. These priorities have been reinforced under the Tanzania Development Vision 2050 (Dira 2050), which recognizes well-planned, resilient, and inclusive cities as essential for achieving a competitive, upper-middle-income economy by 2050. Complementary policy and legal frameworks, including the National Human Settlements Development Policy (2000), the National Land Policy (2023), the Urban Planning Act (2007), and ongoing settlement regularization programmes provide the foundation for promoting orderly urban growth, secure land tenure, and improved access to housing and basic services.

Tanzania is undergoing a profound demographic shift driven by one of the fastest urbanization rates in the region. According to the 2022 Population and Housing Census and the 2026 Migration and Urbanization Monograph by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the urban population increased from 12.3 million (29.6%) in 2012 to 21.1 million (37.4%) in 2022, representing an increase of 9.8 million urban residents within a decade. By 2026, the urban population is estimated to have exceeded 24.5 million (39.1%), placing the country on course to become majority urban by mid-century. While Dar es Salaam remains the country's principal economic hub, secondary cities are expanding even more rapidly, with annual growth rates of 7.1% in Dodoma, 6.4% in Mbeya, and 5.9% in Morogoro. This transformation is largely driven by rural-to-urban migration, administrative expansion, and a youthful population, with people aged 15–35 accounting for more than 42 percent of internal migrants.

Despite the opportunities presented by urbanization, the pace of growth continues to outstrip investment in housing and urban infrastructure. Tanzania faces an estimated annual housing deficit of approximately 390,981 housing units, while about 73.4 percent of urban housing remains informal, reflecting persistent challenges in affordable housing finance, serviced land, infrastructure provision, and integrated urban planning. Informal settlements continue to expand, increasing exposure to flooding, inadequate sanitation, insecure tenure, and other climate-related risks. Although the Government has continued implementing settlement regularization, urban renewal, and infrastructure investments, financing and institutional capacity remain major constraints.

CSO Contributions

INDICATOR 11.1.1: Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements, or inadequate housing

Interventions under this indicator are designed to drive community-scale settlement upgrades, scale inclusive financial platforms, and resolve structural deficits in habitat stability.

Habitat for Humanity Tanzania (HFHT): Leveraging its mandate in this thematic area, HFHT pioneered an integrated housing microfinance and construction-support model to systematically build and secure low-income habitations.

- *Geographic Coverage:* Pwani, Dodoma, Arusha, Manyara, and Dar es Salaam.
- *Programmatic Impact:* In 2023-2025, HFHT directly contributed to improving the housing conditions of 61,774 people through new home construction, renovation, Basic services including Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), advocacy efforts, improved housing markets systems and Inspired action for housing. By forging strategic collaborations with grassroots networks like **MyLEGACY**, **Equality for Growth (EfG)**, **Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI), Tanzania Women Architect for Humanity (TAWAH)** and **Restless Development**, **Makazi Bora Finance LTD**, **World Vision Tanzania (WVT**). HFHT facilitated training in financial literacy, sustainable construction techniques, and property-ownership rights for young people and women-led households.
- *Financing Innovation:* Backed by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT), HFHT acted as a wholesale coordinator with the **Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company (TMRC)** to construct and pilot small-scale housing microfinance mechanisms. This initiative allowed microfinance institutions (MFIs) like **National Bank of Commerce (NBC) and FINCA Microfinance Bank** to disburse targeted, low-interest home-improvement and construction loans to low-income informal sector workers who are locked out of traditional commercial mortgage channels (where the national mortgage-to-GDP ratio sits at an inaccessible 0.5%.

Just City Platform (JCP) Tanzania: Coordinated by the **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Tanzania Office** since its formal launch in 2020/21, JCP represents an independent, multidisciplinary coalition of urban practitioners, civil society actors, and academic experts from **Ardhi University's Institute of Human Settlements Studies (IHSS)**.

- *Interventions:* Designed to address the core political economy of housing, JCP spearheaded the national campaign *"Nyumba ni Sisi"* ("We are the House") to shift public and political discourse toward democratic urban financing and inclusive housing as a fundamental social right. JCP partnered with HFHT, **Tanzania Women Architects for Humanity (TAWAH)**, and youth-led initiatives like **HousingLAB** to co-design socially just solutions for marginalized urban groups.

- *Outcomes:* Organized national housing hackathons at Ardhi University to develop low-cost, decentralized construction models, and conducted extensive policy analyses that successfully lobbied political parties to incorporate urban public goods and affordable housing targets into their national campaign manifestos in 2025.

- HFHT recommendations through Just City Platform, were featured as a stand-alone section on Affordable housing in the National Development Vision (2050) which accommodate the needs of low-income families to enhance access and affordability of inclusive housing.

Centre for Community Initiative (CCI) & Tanzania Urban Poor Federation (TUPF): Acting as core partners in informal settlement upgrading, CCI and TUPF mobilized organized savings groups of urban poor to drive self-led structural improvements.

- *Interventions:* Utilized participatory GIS mapping and community-led census counts to register unplanned households in highly marginalized areas of Dar es Salaam (e.g., Vingunguti, Temeke) and Mwanza.

- *Outcomes:* Supported over 12,000 households to map and regularise their plots, build decentralized wastewater treatment systems (DEWATS), and install elevated sanitation facilities in highly flood-prone zones.

WAT-Human Settlements Trust (WAT): Advanced localized, member-owned cooperative housing schemes.

Interventions: Assisted low-income women's cooperatives in Dar es Salaam and Coast Region to secure collective land titles, manufactured low-cost Interlocking Stabilized Soil Blocks (ISSBs) on-site, and successfully built safe, structurally resilient, and climate-adapted housing units.

INDICATOR 11.3.1: Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate

CSOs prioritize the balance between rapid spatial urbanization and land-use security, directly fighting illegal land-grabbing, haphazard sprawl, and the systematic displacement of marginalized urban populations.

> **Stand for Her Land (S4HL) Tanzania Coalition:** Coordinated nationally by **TAWLA** in partnership with **LANDESA**, **Women's Legal Aid Centre (WLAC)**, **Habitat for Humanity Tanzania** and various grassroots non-state actors.
>
> *Interventions:* Operating under the unified mission to bridge the gap between progressive statutory land laws (such as the Land Act Cap 113) and restrictive customary realities, the S4HL coalition targeted peri-urban regions where urbanization places customary land at risk of speculative grabbing. The platform focused heavily on legal literacy, community mediation, and dismantling patriarchal inheritance blockades.

Systemic Impact: Empowered more than 8,500 women across informal and peri-urban settlements with legal aid, secure property documentation, and the leadership capacity to assert equal rights to land control and inheritance, thereby preventing gender-based land dispossession and arbitrary evictions during municipal administrative expansions. Through innovative tools such as the Swahili-language mobile-based *"Mwanamke na Ardhi"* (Women and Land) application segment and simplified legal 'Know Your Rights' guides, community paralegals provided direct assistance on land rights, successfully resolving tenure disputes in expanding municipal peripheries.

National Land Forum (NALAF) / Jukwaa la Ardhi la Kitaifa: A premier coalition of land-focused CSOs led by **HAKIARDHI** alongside partners like the **Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), S4H,** and **Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF)**.

Interventions: Monitored and analyzed the National Land Policy Review process initiated by the Ministry of Lands, advocating for participatory community consultations rather than closed ministerial reviews.

Impact: Safeguarded local communal lands along expanding rural-urban interfaces by training over 15,000 residents across Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, and Pwani on the transition from village land status under the Village Land Act Cap 114 to municipal general land. NALAF's coordination prevented thousands of smallholders from facing uncompensated land transfers, ensuring local communities remained central to municipal spatial planning.

Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA): Lead advocate for securing land rights and inheritance security for vulnerable women and widows facing eviction due to rapid urbanization.

Interventions: Developed and distributed simplified, bilingual (Swahili/English) reference kits on land-use legislation, trained localized networks of paralegals across multiple municipal districts, and established regular community dialogue forums on equal property ownership.

Systemic Impact: Piloted community-led participatory sketch mapping and village land-use planning (VLUP) methodologies across the Kisarawe district. This successfully integrated women's zoning needs into the municipal land registries and ensured that rapid urban boundary expansion did not bypass women's customary and formal property titles.

HAKIARDHI (Land Rights Research and Resources Institute): Conducted extensive land-tenure security sensitization along expanding rural-urban fringes.

Interventions: Trained 15,000 residents across peri-urban Dar es Salaam, Pwani, and Dodoma on the legal mechanisms outlined in the Land Act Cap 113 and the Village Land Act Cap 114.

Impact: Safeguarded local smallholder landholders from unfair, uncompensated land transfers, and assisted communities in executing self-demarcated regularisation plans in collaboration with local land registries.

Participatory Municipal Partnerships: Highlighting civil society collaboration, regional CSOs worked with **Kibaha Town Council** to pilot Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR). This allowed citizens to directly inform local government authorities (LGAs) about zoning and density preferences, bridging the gap between municipal zoning rules and rapid population expansion.

INDICATOR 11.5.1: Number of deaths, missing persons, and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population

With low-lying coastal and lake-margin settlements facing extreme climate-induced flooding, CSOs have scaled community-led disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation models.

Forum CC (Tanzania Civil Society Forum on Climate Change) & CAN Tanzania (Climate Action Network): Core coordinators for climate change adaptation.

- *Interventions:* Carried out localized hydrological vulnerability mapping across coastal Dar es Salaam, Tanga, and Mwanza, and established over 45 community-based DRR committees.
- *Outcomes:* Provided localized, SMS-based Early Warning Systems (EWS) that deliver real-time precipitation alerts to 60,000 vulnerable residents, facilitating timely, organized, and gender-sensitive evacuations during catastrophic weather events.

SHIVYAWATA (Tanzania Federation of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities): Championed the integration of universal design and disability inclusion in urban disaster response.

- *Interventions:* Audited municipal emergency shelter infrastructure and successfully lobbied municipal DRR planning boards to ensure that disaster evacuation routes, early warning alarms, and emergency aid distribution frameworks are fully accessible to individuals with visual, physical, and cognitive impairments.

INDICATOR 11.6.1: Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities

Municipal solid waste remains a massive challenge, particularly in informal settlements with zero vehicle accessibility. CSOs have stepped in with waste-to-wealth social enterprises.

- **Nipe Fagio:** Leading circular economy advocate and waste management innovator.
- *Interventions:* Promoted and implemented source-segregated waste collection methodologies across targeted municipal areas on the mainland and Zanzibar, successfully diverting up to 70-85% of collected organic and recyclable waste away from over-capacitated public dumpsites.
- *Outcomes:* Coordinated zero-waste neighborhood initiatives that serve over 2,500 households, establishing neighborhood composting operations and recycling cooperatives that create green, circular livelihoods for local women and youth groups.
- **Zaidi Recyclers:** Operates waste recovery hubs in Dar es Salaam's unplanned settlements, training informal collectors to retrieve, sort, and process paper and plastic waste.
- *Impact:* Diverts and processes over 1,200 tonnes of solid waste annually, keeping critical water drainage channels clear of debris and reducing vector-borne disease outbreaks and localized street flooding.
- **Arena Recycling Industry:** Converts non-recyclable plastic waste into highly durable, affordable eco-bricks and paving blocks.
- *Impact:* Recycled over 150 tonnes of plastic waste in Babati and Dar es Salaam, converting municipal environmental waste into physical building blocks used to construct public sanitation facilities and municipal drainage channels.

INDICATOR 11.6.2: Access to safe water and sanitation services in informal settlements

TAWASANET (Tanzania Water and Sanitation Network): The leading national umbrella organization coordinating WASH civil society actors.

- *Interventions:* Monitored municipal and rural WASH budget allocations, executed data collection campaigns on water accessibility in peri-urban areas, and developed community-managed water kiosk models.
- *Impact:* Facilitated clean water connections and constructed modern, disability-inclusive public sanitation facilities in unplanned urban settlements across 5 regions, significantly driving down cholera transmission rates in vulnerable coastal wards.

Key Challenges

Outdated Policy Frameworks The National Housing Policy of 1996 remains unchanged. Delays in enacting the updated National Housing and National Urban policies impede coordinated spatial planning and municipal resource allocation.	**Housing Finance Gaps** High-interest commercial lending (15–22%) and stringent collateral exclude 90%+ of the population from formal housing finance. The mortgage-to-GDP ratio stagnant at 0.5%.
Tenure Implementation Bottleneck 3.35M properties registered but only 25,748 formal residential licences issued. High cadastral survey costs and administrative bureaucracy leave 99% of regularized households without bankable land titles.	**Inequitable Municipal Budgets** Municipal capital budgets disproportionately favour high-income central business districts, leaving informal peripheries under-resourced. Critical shortage of localized, disaggregated, gender-responsive urban data.

Recommendations

To Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements (MLHHSD) and LGAs

- Fast-track enactment of the National Urban Policy and update the National Housing Policy of 1996 to reflect rapid urban dynamics under Dira 2050.
- Establish a national framework for in-situ informal settlement upgrading, regularization, and simplified joint land titling — targeting low-income and women-headed households.
- Partner with CSOs to digitize land regularization registries, reducing the cost of residential licensing by at least 50%.

To Ministry of Finance and Bank of Tanzania

Expand financial allocations to TAHF and provide low-interest wholesale capital to TMRC to enable MFIs to disburse long-term housing microfinance loans.

Introduce tax incentives and concessional loans for developers using locally manufactured, climate-resilient, and low-carbon building materials.

To Parliament

- Amend customary land practices; strengthen District Land and Housing Tribunals to proactively protect women's and widows' property and housing inheritance rights.
- Enact budget appropriations allocating a minimum of 30% of urban municipal development funds to decentralized WASH, drainage, and waste management in unplanned settlements.

SDG 12

Responsible Consumption and Production

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

469K	82%	70M+	30.8%
Hectares of forest lost annually	Total primary energy from biofuels (2022)	Population driving increased waste (2025)	NBS SDG 12 indicator coverage (Mainland)

Key Messages

KM1 | POLICIES ADVANCING, IMPLEMENTATION LAGGING Tanzania has made notable progress in strengthening environmental policies — the Environmental Management (Amendment) Act 2025, the National Waste Management Strategy 2025–2030, and ESG disclosure frameworks (NBAA Technical Pronouncement No. 1, 2024; BoT sustainability guidelines 2025). But without adequate financing, institutional capacity, and monitoring, commitments risk remaining on paper.	**KM2 | CIRCULAR ECONOMY OPPORTUNITY MUST BE SEIZED** Dira 2050 envisions a circular economy where waste's economic potential is fully exploited. Nipe Fagio diverts 70–85% of organic/recyclable waste from landfills; Arena Recycling Industry recycled 150+ tonnes of plastic into eco-bricks and paving blocks. These models need scaling urgently.
KM3 | BIOMASS DEPENDENCY INTENSIFYING PRESSURE ON FORESTS Tanzania loses 469,000 ha of forest annually. Biofuels account for 82% of total primary energy supply; 55.7% of households use firewood and 25.9% use charcoal for cooking. Regional disparities: firewood use ranges from 4.5% (Dar es Salaam) to 77.4% (Simiyu) of households.	**KM4 | DATA AND MONITORING GAPS REMAIN CRITICAL** NBS SDG 12 indicator coverage is only 30.8% (Mainland) and 0.0% (Zanzibar). Significant gaps in food loss/waste data, recycling rates, material footprint accounting, and hazardous waste management constrain evidence-based planning and international environmental reporting.

National Context

Sustainable consumption and production (SCP) remains an under-prioritized area in Tanzania, reflected in the limited SDG indicator coverage reported by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), 30.8% in Mainland Tanzania and 0.0% in Zanzibar. Nevertheless, recent years have seen important progress in strengthening the policy, legal, and institutional foundations necessary to advance SCP. SCP principles are increasingly being mainstreamed into national development frameworks, including Dira 2050, Tanzania Development Vision 2025 (TDV 2025), and the Fourth Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP IV). Tanzania has also enhanced alignment with international environmental agreements, notably the Minamata Convention on Mercury through the National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM), and the Basel and Stockholm Conventions through supporting policies and regulations. Implementation and compliance efforts are led by key institutions, including the Vice President's Office (VPO), the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA), and the National Environment Management Council (NEMC).

Environmental governance was further strengthened through the enactment of the Environmental Management (Amendment) Act, 2025, the updated Electronic and Postal Communications (E-Waste Management) Regulations, 2024, the Hazardous Waste Control and Management Regulations, 2021, and the Control and Management of Electrical and Electronic Equipment Waste Regulations. Progress was also made in integrating SDG 12 principles into public procurement systems through the promotion of Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices, including the Sustainability and ESG Policy and the issuance of the General Guidelines for Sustainable Public Procurement, 2025. These measures promote lifecycle costing, environmental sustainability, and responsible sourcing beyond lowest-price considerations.

With an estimated population exceeding 70 million people in 2025, Tanzania's economy continues to depend heavily on natural resources. The country has also experienced rapid urban growth, with urbanization rates estimated at about 5% annually, contributing to increased solid waste generation estimated between 12 million to 17 million tons, while collection and recycling systems remain insufficient in many municipalities. Tanzania has launched The National Waste Management Strategy 2025-2030 to promote circular economy approaches targeting large-scale collection through improved waste recovery and recycling systems.

Promotion of agroecology, regenerative agriculture, climate-smart agriculture, agroforestry and sustainable land management practices helps improve food security while reducing environmental degradation, post-harvest losses and food waste. National initiatives such as the Food and Nutrition Policy for Tanzania, The National Post-Harvest Management Strategy (2019-2029), and the Agricultural Sector Development Programme Phase II (ASDP II) recognize post-harvest losses as a major challenge, with estimated losses for some crops ranging between 20% and 40%, affecting food security, nutrition, agricultural productivity, and resource efficiency.

CSO Contributions

Nipe Fagio — Zero Waste and Circular Economy

Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar | Source-Segregated Waste Collection

Promoted and implemented source-segregated waste collection, diverting 70–85% of collected organic and recyclable waste from over-capacitated dumpsites. Zero-waste neighbourhood initiatives serve 2,500+ households; established composting operations and recycling cooperatives creating green livelihoods for women and youth. Through the Zanzibar Zero Waste Initiative converted ~7 tonnes of organic waste into 3.5 tonnes of compost.

70-85% waste diversion | 2,500+ households | Composting and recycling cooperatives | Zanzibar

TaTEDO-SESO — Heat-Retention Cooking Technologies and Sustainable Charcoal Value Chain

TaTEDO-SESO promoted heat-retention cooking technologies to reduce charcoal and firewood demand while advancing sustainable energy transitions. In Pwani Region, the organization supported a sustainable charcoal value chain project across five districts, focusing on sustainable forest management, formalization of charcoal businesses, and alternative livelihood development. In Kilimanjaro Rural, covering Hai, Moshi, Siha, and Rombo districts, that reached over 4,000 households with Electric Pressure Cookers, supported by more than 50 women and community groups, significantly reducing dependence on biomass fuels while improving resource efficiency and household energy security.

TFCG and MJUMITA — Sustainable Charcoal and Community Forest Management

Kilindi, Handeni, Mkinga, Pangani (Tanga Region)

IFBEST project promoted sustainable charcoal production, improved kiln technologies, and CBFM. By 2024, 123 individuals engaged in sustainable charcoal systems. TFCG's broader charcoal initiatives generated ~TZS 1.4 billion in community income and financed 274 community development projects through revenues from sustainably managed forests.

123 in sustainable charcoal | TZS 1.4B community income | 274 community projects funded

FADev / HakiRasilimali — Responsible Mining and Mercury Reduction

Geita, Shinyanga | ASGM Communities

FADev distributed PPE to 500 people (280 women), supported 7 model mines to develop Environmental Protection Plans, and promoted mercury-free technologies (Borax Method, direct smelting). HakiRasilimali trained 30 ASM miners at Ntabalele Gold Mine on mercury use risks and conducted 50-participant tailings management training using the TSM Protocol.

500 PPE beneficiaries | 7 mines with EPPs | Mercury-free technologies | 50 tailings management trained

ENVIROCARE / LEAT — Environmental Governance and Education

Tanga, Rukwa | Eco-Schools and Forest Law Enforcement

ENVIROCARE trained 44 farmers on composting, crop rotation, pest and water management, and biodiversity conservation. LEAT trained 76 government officials (MNRT, TFS, LGAs, magistrates, prosecutors) on forest law enforcement and prepared simplified forest crime prosecution guides. TFCG supported 165 eco-schools, training 1,260 teachers, with 48 achieving Green Flag status.

76 officials trained | 165 eco-schools | 1,260 teachers trained | 48 Green Flag schools

Key Challenges

Deforestation and Biomass Dependence 469,000 ha lost annually; 82% of primary energy from biofuels. Limited financing, affordability, and access to alternative energy technologies slow the transition, particularly for low-income households, women, and rural communities.	**Waste Infrastructure Inadequate** Inadequate waste collection, recycling, composting, and hazardous waste management systems. Weak implementation of waste management policies and underdeveloped markets for recycled materials constrain circular economy transition.
Data and Monitoring Gaps Significant gaps in food loss/waste data, recycling rates, material footprint accounting, and hazardous waste management constrain evidence-based planning, SDG monitoring, and reporting on international environmental commitments.	**Limited Financing for Sustainable Production** Limited access to finance and technology restricts investments in renewable energy, clean cooking, sustainable production, and waste management infrastructure, particularly for SMEs.

Recommendations

To the Vice President's Office (Environment), Sector Ministries, LGAs

- Institutionalize regular SDG 12 coordination and learning platforms at national and sub-national levels.
- Strengthen environmental compliance monitoring and enforcement of forestry, mining, energy, and waste management regulations; scale up CBFM and sustainable charcoal production initiatives.
- Accelerate implementation of the National Post-Harvest Management Strategy with targeted support for smallholder farmers, women, and youth.

To Development Partners

- Expand access to finance and incentives for circular economy enterprises, sustainable charcoal, recycling businesses, and mercury-free mining technologies.

SDG 13

Climate Action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

177 Deaths from climate hazards (2023–2024)	234K+ People affected by climate hazards (2023–24)	64% Renewable energy share in national energy mix	USD 868M Climate finance mobilized through international negotiations

Key Messages

KM1 | STRONG POLICIES, UNEVEN IMPLEMENTATION Tanzania has strengthened its climate governance framework through NDCs, NAP (2025–2035), NCCRS (2021–2026), and sectoral climate interventions. However, only 56% of the approved development budget under Vote 31 was released by March 2024. Climate adaptation progress: 43% in water, 44% in agriculture, 52% in energy.	**KM2 | IMPACTS INTENSIFYING — VULNERABLE GROUPS HARDEST HIT** Climate-related disasters (2023-2024) caused 177 deaths and affected 234,000+ people. Disaster-affected persons increased from 21.0 to 97.5 per 100,000 (2019-2024). Rainfall variability reached ±30% in some areas; 2024 among Tanzania's warmest years on record (+0.5°C to +1.0°C anomaly).
KM3 | CLIMATE FINANCE INCREASING BUT ACCOUNTABILITY GAPS PERSIST USD 868.42 million and EUR 500,000 mobilized through international climate finance. 99 carbon market projects registered by March 2026. CRDB's Kijani Bond raised TZS 171.8B (Tanzania's first Green Bond). However, 84% of 56 registered carbon projects are foreign-led; only 16% locally led.	**KM4 | INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ACTION REQUIRES ACCELERATED INVESTMENT** Annual climate financing needs: USD 500M for immediate vulnerability reduction plus USD 100–150M for long-term resilience. Achieving climate resilience requires stronger local implementation, inclusive public participation, climate education, and transparent finance accountability.

National Context

Climate change remains a major development challenge in Tanzania, affecting livelihoods, food security, water resources, public health, infrastructure, and ecosystems. The country is increasingly experiencing floods, droughts, erratic rainfall, rising temperatures, coastal erosion, sea-level rise, landslides, and disease outbreaks, with disproportionate impacts on women, children, persons with disabilities, smallholder farmers, pastoralists, fishing communities, and low-income households. During 2023–2024, climate-related hazards caused 177 deaths, affected more than 234,000 people, and impacted over 60,000 households. Rainfall variability has reached up to ±30% in some areas, while temperature anomalies of +0.5°C to +1.0°C have been recorded, making 2024 among the warmest years on record.

Tanzania's climate response is guided by the UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS 2021–2026), the National Adaptation Plan (NAP 2025–2035), the National Environment Policy (2021), the Environmental Management Act (2004), and the National Disaster Management Strategy (2022–2027). Implementation is coordinated through the Vice President's Office (VPO), Prime Minister's Office—Disaster Management Department (PMO-DMD), Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA), National Environment Management Council (NEMC), sector ministries, and Local Government Authorities (LGAs). These efforts are aligned with FYDP III and Tanzania Development Vision 2050, both of which recognize climate resilience, sustainable natural resource management, renewable energy, and disaster risk reduction as critical to long-term socio-economic transformation.

Since 2023, progress has been recorded in disaster preparedness, climate-resilient agriculture, and clean energy transition. Disaster-related mortality declined from 0.3149 per 100,000 population in 2019 to 0.1629 in 2024, irrigation development reached 983,466 hectares (82% of the national target), clean cooking adoption increased from 6.9% in 2021 to 28% in 2026, and renewable energy now contributes approximately 64% of the national energy mix. Recent investments further demonstrate growing commitment to climate action, including approval of five climate adaptation and ecosystem restoration projects worth TZS 102.3 billion and mobilization of US$868.42 million in climate finance commitments through international climate negotiations. Progress is also reflected in emerging climate finance opportunities, with 99 carbon market projects registered nationwide by March 2026 and approximately US$12.63 million (TZS 32 billion) already disbursed to Local Government Authorities through carbon credit transactions.

However, climate vulnerability remains high, with disaster-affected persons increasing from 21.0 per 100,000 population in 2019 to 97.5 in 2024. Adaptation implementation remains below expected levels, with progress estimated at 43% in water, 44% in agriculture, and 52% in energy. Financing gaps, weak climate expenditure tracking, limited local implementation capacity, fragmented data systems, inadequate last-mile dissemination of climate information, and low climate literacy continue to constrain effective climate action and the translation of national climate commitments into measurable resilience outcomes.

CSO Contributions

FORUMCC — Flood Preparedness and Local Adaptation Planning

Chamwino, Mpwapwa, Lindi, Katavi, Morogoro, Pwani

Flood preparedness initiative reached 30,000 people directly and 7,438 through digital platforms. Developed Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPAs) in Chamwino and Mpwapwa; integrated 20 adaptation measures into district budgets for FY 2023/24 and 2024/25, contributing TZS 500M+ for 25 adaptation actions. By 2025, 1,825 people across 4 villages benefited. Participated in NDC Implementation and Tracking Tool for 12 African countries.

30,000 directly reached | TZS 500M adaptation actions | LAPAs in 2 districts | 12-country NDC tracking

ActionAid Tanzania — Climate Champions and Resilience Building

Mafia, Pemba, Dodoma, Singida, Kigoma

Strengthened community participation through Climate Change Champions and gender-inclusive community committees. Supported disaster-resilient infrastructure planning in Mafia and Pemba. Resilience-building training for farmers in Dodoma, Singida, and Kigoma. Implemented complementary climate hazard mapping and community contingency planning through TCECCI and RAPID Tanzania partnerships.

Climate Change Champions | Resilient infrastructure | 5 regions | Gender-inclusive committees

FORUMCC / Save the Children — Child-Led Climate Participation

National | HNAP Review | Tanzania Institute of Education Collaboration

Collaborated with TIE to develop the Climate Change Learning Module for Primary School Teachers (Grades III–VI). Facilitated child-led participation in the review of the Health National Adaptation Plan (HNAP), helping strengthen inclusion of children, persons with disabilities, older persons, and other vulnerable groups — consistent with principles of UN General Comment No. 26 (GC26) on Children's Rights and the Environment.

Primary school climate module | Child HNAP participation | Vulnerable groups included | GC26 alignment

HakiRasilimali — Community DRR and Climate Finance Advocacy

Mahurunga, Mkunya, Shangani (Mtwara Region) | Daraja la Amani Project

Through Daraja la Amani project, strengthened disaster preparedness in 3 wards in Mtwara Region. Enhanced preparedness and response capacity of Tanzania Red Cross. Produced documentary on DRR. Conducted online session "Hoja Yako Mezani" on mercury use, climate risks, and artisanal mining for 300+ live audience bringing together ASM miners, NEMC, and Ministry of Minerals.

3 wards strengthened | Red Cross capacity enhanced | Mercury-climate nexus addressed

Key Challenges

Policy to Implementation Gap Despite comprehensive frameworks (NDCs, NCCRS, NAP), only 56% of approved Vote 31 development budget released by March 2024. Limited technical expertise, inadequate operational resources, and weak local institutional capacity constrain translation into measurable resilience outcomes.	**Climate Finance Accountability** Weak climate expenditure tracking. Limited implementation of the Objective X budget classification. 84% of 56 registered carbon projects are foreign-led, limiting domestic participation in an emerging sector with significant economic and climate benefits.
Vulnerable Groups Disproportionately Affected Women, children, PWDs, pastoralists, smallholder farmers, coastal communities, and low-income households face disproportionate climate risks while having limited access to adaptation services, climate finance, and resilience investments.	**Data Gaps in Climate Monitoring** Limited data on adaptation outcomes, climate finance utilization, emissions reductions, and resilience impacts. Uneven access to climate information and early warning services weakens preparedness and response.

Recommendations

To the Government and VPO, PMO-DMD, Sector Ministries

- Strengthen accountability and coordination mechanisms to ensure NDC, NAP, and NCCRS priorities are systematically translated into local plans, budgets, and measurable results.
- Strengthen implementation of the Objective X climate budget tagging to improve expenditure tracking and accountability from allocation to actual spending.
- Ensure that climate-tagged resources are used for intended purposes and deliver measurable resilience outcomes.

To Development Partners

- Expand grants and concessional loans to support climate action while minimizing additional debt burdens on Tanzania.
- Build local capacity and community benefit-sharing models for carbon markets to increase domestic participation from current 16% toward 50%.

SDG 14

Life Below Water

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

522K	35,986	8,637	54%
Total fish harvest (tonnes) Mainland (2024)	Aquafarmers (up from 34,057 in 2023)	Seaweed production (tonnes) (up from 4,379 in 2023)	Marine Key Biodiversity Areas under protection (2024)

Key Messages

KM1 | STRONG POLICY PROGRESS	KM2 | AQUACULTURE AND SEAWEED GROWTH
Since 2023, Tanzania developed the National Blue Economy Policy 2024, Fisheries and Aquaculture Blue Economy Action Plan 2025–2035, NBSAP 2025–2030, Zanzibar Fisheries Master Plan 2023–2038, and Zanzibar Aquaculture Development Strategy 2025–2038. SDG 14 has moved from environmental conservation to national economic transformation.	Aquafarmers increased from 34,057 to 35,986 (2023–2024). Fish cages from 993 to 1,215. Fingerlings from 35.97M to 66.68M. Seaweed production nearly doubled from 4,379 to 8,637 tonnes. However, saltwater fish harvest slightly declined — attributed to climate change and limited modern vessels.
KM3 | ENFORCEMENT STRENGTHENING BUT IUU PERSISTS	**KM4 | WOMEN AND COMMUNITIES NOT YET EQUITABLY BENEFITING**
In 2024, authorities arrested 990 suspects for illegal fishing and environmental destruction. This shows stronger enforcement, but IUU fishing remains persistent. Vessel monitoring, traceability, port-state controls, and Mainland-Zanzibar coordination need strengthening.	Community income, women's economic benefits from the blue economy, and value addition for smallholder fishers remain limited. Small-scale fishers face barriers to finance, cold storage, modern vessels, market information, insurance, and safety equipment.

National Context

Tanzania has approximately 1,424 km of coastline, ~64,000 km² of territorial sea, and ~223,000 km² of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The country participates in regional frameworks including the Nile Basin Initiative, Lake Victoria Basin Commission, and Lake Tanganyika Authority. Marine protected areas stand at approximately 2.3% of territorial waters, with Tanzania targeting at least 20% by 2030. At least 70% of estimated annual plastic leakage into the ocean in 2018 was associated with Dar es Salaam and connected river systems, according to World Bank PROBLUE analysis. Tanzania currently lacks a harmonized national marine litter monitoring system for SDG indicator 14.1.1 reporting.

Tanzania has made clear policy progress on SDG 14 since the 2023 CSO Shadow Report, especially through the Mainland National Blue Economy Policy 2024, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Blue Economy Action Plan 2025–2035, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2025–2030, Zanzibar's Blue Economy Policy 2022, Fisheries Master Plan 2023–2038, and Aquaculture Development Strategy 2025–2038.

Implementation is progressing, but unevenly. In Mainland Tanzania, total fish harvest rose from 479,977.6 tonnes in 2023 to 522,788.3 tonnes in 2024, but saltwater fish harvest slightly declined from 64,097.0 tonnes to 63,988.8 tonnes, with government attributing this to limited modern vessels and climate change impacts. Aquaculture is expanding rapidly: aquafarmers increased from 34,057 in 2023 to 35,986 in 2024, fish cages from 993 to 1,215, and fingerlings from 35.97 million to 66.68 million. Seaweed production almost doubled from 4,379.1 tonnes in 2023 to 8,637.75 tonnes in 2024. Marine protection and blue economy financing are improving, but enforcement, data systems, pollution control, and community benefit-sharing remain weak.

CSO Contributions

Mwambao Coastal Community Network — Community Fisheries and Marine Conservation

Tanzania Coastline and Zanzibar | BMUs and Community Governance

Supported communities to develop local fisheries management plans, establish temporary fish breeding closures (particularly octopus closures in Zanzibar), restore degraded coral reefs, improve compliance with fisheries regulations, and strengthen local governance systems. Implements seaweed farming support including training women and youth on improved techniques, introducing climate-resilient varieties, and facilitating market access.

BMUs strengthened | Octopus closures | Reef restoration | Women seaweed support | Community governance

Sea Sense — Sea Turtle Conservation and Marine Research

Tanzania Coastline | Sea Turtle Nesting Sites

Supports sea turtle conservation through nesting-site protection, community awareness, and marine resource governance across Tanzania's coastline. Generates scientific evidence on species populations through reef monitoring, fish stock assessments, and turtle monitoring. Community-based citizen science initiatives complement government marine monitoring.

Turtle nesting protection | Citizen science | Marine data generation | Coastal community awareness

WWF Tanzania — Mangrove Restoration and Digital Monitoring

Multiple Coastal Regions | Bengo and Norad Projects

Supporting digital data collection (ODK tools) for mangrove restoration. Targeted restoration of ~150 ha under the Bengo project and ~60 ha under the Norad project, improving monitoring and accountability. Contributes to wildlife monitoring, coral reef conservation, and habitat protection in key biodiversity areas across Tanzania's coastline.

150 ha + 60 ha mangrove restoration targets | ODK digital monitoring | Reef and habitat conservation

Nipe Fagio — Marine Plastic Pollution Reduction

Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar | Beach Clean-Ups and Zero Waste

Led beach clean-up campaigns, plastic waste audits, zero-waste advocacy, community awareness, and circular economy initiatives to address marine plastic pollution from land-based sources. Coordinates with community recycling cooperatives to reduce plastic leakage into coastal waterways. Advocates for stronger waste management systems aligned with SDG 14.1.

Beach clean-ups | Plastic audits | Zero-waste advocacy | Recycling cooperatives | Marine litter reduction

Key Challenges

Weak Marine Data Systems Routine national reporting for SDG 14.1.1 (coastal eutrophication and plastic debris density) absent across Mainland and Zanzibar. Ocean acidification (14.3.1) not routinely monitored. A significant data gap limiting evidence-based marine governance.	**Marine Plastic Pollution** At least 70% of Tanzania's estimated annual plastic leakage into the ocean originates from Dar es Salaam. Rising plastic consumption, weak solid waste management, and poor waste collection systems are primary drivers.
IUU Fishing and Enforcement Despite stronger enforcement (990 arrests, 2024), IUU fishing and destructive fishing persist. Need stronger vessel monitoring, traceability, port-state controls, and Mainland-Zanzibar coordination.	**Mainland-Zanzibar Coordination** Despite improved policies on both sides, institutional mandates, fisheries data, marine spatial planning, and pollution regulation need stronger union-level coordination to achieve coherent SDG 14 implementation.

Recommendations

To Government

- Strengthen Mainland-Zanzibar coordination through a joint SDG 14/Blue Economy implementation mechanism covering fisheries data, marine spatial planning, pollution control, MPAs, and aquaculture standards.
- Develop a national SDG 14 data platform integrating TAFIRI, MPRU, NEMC, TFS, universities, BMUs, and CSO citizen-science data.
- Prioritize marine pollution control by enforcing producer responsibility and improving solid waste management in coastal cities.

To Development Partners

- Increase direct financing to CSOs, BMUs, women seaweed farmers, community rangers, and locally led marine restoration initiatives.
- Finance community-benefit models in MPAs that generate visible livelihood returns through ecotourism, aquaculture, and blue carbon.

SDG 15

Life on Land

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt land degradation and biodiversity loss

376K ha	113.2M	60,000	5.8%
Forest lost annually (Tanzania Mainland)	Seedlings produced/planted since 27 ya Kijani (2023)	Elephant population (up from 43,330)	Forest area under formal participatory management

Key Messages

KM1 | PROGRESS IN RESTORATION, CONTINUED FOREST LOSS	KM2 | STRONG POLICY FRAMEWORK, MONITORING GAPS
Tanzania is making measurable progress in ecosystem restoration and wildlife conservation since 2023: 113.2 million seedlings planted, elephant populations rose from 43,330 to 60,000, and black rhino populations exceeded 200 by 2024. However, forest loss continues at 376,970 ha annually — suggesting restoration gains remain insufficient to reverse ecosystem degradation.	Tanzania has comprehensive strategies for biodiversity conservation, forest management, anti-poaching (National Anti-Poaching Strategy 2023–2033), and land restoration. NBSAP 2025–2030 sets targets to reduce invasive species impacts by 50% by 2030. Yet the CAG 2025 found updated land degradation data was unavailable for 2023/24.
KM3 | COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND FINANCING CRITICAL	**KM4 | TREE PLANTING SURVIVAL REMAINS A CONCERN**
Only 5.8% of forest area is under formal Participatory Forest Management (CBFM 4.4%, JFM 1.6%) — leaving 94.2% without formal PFM arrangements. Carbon trade revenues reached only TZS 36 billion against an estimated annual potential of TZS 1.26 trillion. 84% of registered carbon projects are foreign-led.	Although 113.2M seedlings planted since 2023 under the 27 ya Kijani Campaign, the CAG 2025 audit found tree survival fell to 23.4% (2023/24) before recovering to 54.36% (2024/25). Tanzania is planting many trees, but restoration success is weakened by poor post-planting care, weak monitoring, fire, and encroachment.

National Context

Tanzania's SDG 15 implementation is guided by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the UNCCD, and the Paris Agreement. At the national level, these commitments are reflected in Dira 2050, FYDP III, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2025–2030), the National Environmental Master Plan (2022–2032), the National Climate Change Response Strategy (2021–2026), and the National Anti-Poaching Strategy (2023–2033).

Tourism earnings increased from USD 3.9 billion to USD 4.4 billion (2024–2025), driven by 5.94 million tourists (up from 5.36 million). However, forest loss remains critical, with Tanzania Mainland losing an estimated 376,970 hectares annually. The 2025 CAG audit notes forest cover loss for 2021–2025 was not assessed, despite the MNRT Strategic Plan requiring assessment every three years—meaning restoration efforts lack updated post-2021 measurement to prove whether loss is slowing or worsening. During 2025/2026, 32.8 million seedlings were produced against a target of 35.2 million. Since the 2023 launch of the 27 ya Kijani Campaign, approximately 113.2 million seedlings have been planted. Tree planting increased from 239.5 million trees in 2023/24 to 241 million in 2024/25, but survival was weak: falling to 23.4% in 2023/24 before recovering to 54.36% in 2024/25, indicating restoration success is undermined by poor post-planting care, weak monitoring, fire, encroachment, and climate stress.

Forest management planning remains weak. Of 31 national forest reserves reviewed in sampled LGAs, only 6 had management plans; all 9 local government forest reserves lacked plans, meaning many forests are managed without structured guidance for restoration, harvesting control, and protection. Sustainable forest management linked to livelihood improvement registered an additional 912 beekeepers and 65 groups, increasing total registered beekeepers from 9,323 to 10,235; 4,934 beekeepers from 236 groups received training and 9,215 modern beehives were distributed. Carbon trade shows both progress and underperformance. Between January 2023 and July 2024, Tanzania had 56 registered carbon trade projects, but only 4 had reached implementation; 52 remained in planning. By July 2024, carbon trade generated TZS 36 billion, only 3% of the projected TZS 1.26 trillion annual potential.

Tanzania has strengthened wildlife protection through the National Anti-Poaching Strategy (2023–2033), contributing to notable species recovery. Elephant populations increased from approximately 43,330 to 60,000 individuals, while black rhinoceros populations exceeded 200 individuals by 2024. The Government allocated TZS 2.586 billion for anti-poaching interventions in 2025/26, with TZS 1.324 billion (51.2%) released by April 2026. The NBSAP 2025–2030 identifies invasive alien species as a major driver of biodiversity loss and sets a 50% reduction target by 2030, but challenges persist in monitoring, early detection, and long-term control. During 2025/2026, TAFORI conducted 20 research studies, including on invasive plant species control.

CSO Contributions

TFCG — Community-Based Forest Management

70 Villages, 11 Districts | CBFM Since 2018

In 2023, supported 8 new CBFM areas protecting 18,918 ha of forest and woodland. Since 2018, TFCG-supported CBFM covers 221,143 ha across 70 villages and 11 districts. Restored 28 ha in Magamba Nature Forest Reserve (46,000 seedlings transplanted; 30 ha bracken fern cleared). Supported 165 eco-schools across Morogoro, Iringa, and Tanga, engaging ~27,000 students and training 1,260 teachers.

221,143 ha CBFM | 8 new areas (2023) | 28 ha Magamba restoration | 165 eco-schools

MJUMITA — Community Forest Governance and REDD+

504 Villages, National | 1.8M+ Ha Community-Managed Forest

MJUMITA's 2025 strategy reports support to 1.8 million ha of community-managed natural forest in 504 villages. Advocates for gazettement of 51 Village Land Forest Reserves. 2025–2029 target: help communities secure legal rights over 2.5 million ha of unreserved forests. Contributes through community forest governance, advocacy, and REDD+ support.

1.8M ha managed | 504 villages | 51 VLFRs advocated | REDD+ support | 2.5M ha target

Tanzania People and Wildlife — Human-Wildlife Coexistence

35 Villages | Living Walls Programme

Constructed more than 1,300 Living Walls across 35 villages to reduce human-wildlife conflict, protecting farms and reducing retaliatory killing of wildlife. Strengthens human-wildlife coexistence through community engagement, spatial solutions, and income diversification in wildlife-adjacent communities.

1,300+ Living Walls | 35 villages | Human-wildlife coexistence | Retaliatory killing reduced

LEAT — Sustainable Land Management (Rukwa Region)

Nkasi and Sumbawanga Districts | 2024

Supported improved management of 97,982 ha of land (32,190 ha showing improved biophysical condition), planted 23,500 trees, and sensitized 25,086 people on sustainable natural resource management and biodiversity conservation. Influenced 3,845 people to adopt climate-smart agriculture practices in Nkasi and Sumbawanga reducing environmental degradation.

97,982 ha managed | 32,190 ha improved | 23,500 trees planted | 25,086 sensitized

Key Challenges

Continued Forest Loss and Weak Restoration Tanzania loses ~376,970 ha annually. Tree survival rates recovered to 54.36% (2024/25) from 23.4% (2023/24) but remain concerning. Poor post-planting care, fire, and encroachment undermine restoration outcomes.	**Inadequate Monitoring Systems** Updated national land degradation data unavailable during 2023/24 audit period. Forest cover loss for 2021–2025 not assessed by MNRT despite a requirement for 3-year assessments. Undermines evidence-based restoration and accountability.
Limited Community Participation Financing Only 5.8% of forest under PFM. Carbon trade generated only TZS 36B of estimated TZS 1.26T annual potential. 84% of projects foreign-led, limiting domestic benefit and community ownership.	**Invasive Species Threats** National target to reduce invasive species impacts by 50% by 2030 (NBSAP) requires stronger monitoring, early detection, and control programmes. Limited data and funding constrain effective response.

Recommendations

To MNRT, TFS, VPO, and LGAs

- Strengthen forest, biodiversity, and land degradation monitoring through regular national assessments and publicly accessible databases, in collaboration with research institutions and CSOs.
- Expand PFM and community-based conservation; increase investment in CBFM technical support, benefit-sharing, and legal recognition of community forest rights.
- Strengthen governance, transparency, and accountability in carbon markets; ensure that carbon revenues deliver measurable benefits for biodiversity and local communities.

SDG 16

Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

-8.4%	1,977	62%	39.3%
Decline in major criminal offenses (2024-2025)	Intentional homicides (2025, down from 2,286 in 2020)	Court case backlog clearance rate	Women in Parliament (IPU 2025)

Key Messages

KM1 | CRIME RATE SHOWS REDUCTION	KM2 | ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORT LIMITED BY ACCESS TO INFORMATION
NBS Crime and Traffic Incidents Statistics (2025) reveals an 8.4% decrease in total major criminal offenses — from 50,574 to 46,334. Intentional homicides declined from 2,286 (2020) to 1,977 (2025). Road traffic fatalities fell from 1,715 (2024) to 1,530 (2025). Birth registration under-5s rose to 68% (Zanzibar: 94.2%). National identification coverage reached 89.3%.	The PCCB annual performance report remains undisclosed after being provided to the President on 31st March annually, leaving non-state actors with limited and unconsolidated information. Tanzania's CPI score rose from 38 (2022) to 40 (2023), ranked 87th of 180 globally. WAJIBU contributed to Tanzania's removal from FATF grey list through the BSAAT program.
KM3 | ELECTION VIOLENCE DEMANDS STRUCTURAL REFORM	**KM4 | GBV LAW GAP LEAVES VICTIMS UNPROTECTED**
A Presidential Commission of Inquiry found election-related killings of ~500 people (mostly youth) in the October 2025 elections. President Samia's 5-point response (April 2026) includes criminal investigations, national reconciliation commission, a new constitution, and a reform roadmap with civic polls in 2029 and general elections in 2030.	Tanzania does not have a standalone comprehensive GBV Act. Different types of violence are handled across scattered laws with large enforcement loopholes. The Marriage Act (1971) still permits child marriage despite 2019 Court of Appeal ruling. Marital rape is not criminalized under current Penal Code.

National Context

Tanzania recorded measurable and progressive gains across the core dimensions of SDG 16 - There is a stabilized reporting culture for physical assaults among adults, suggesting a growing public confidence in formal law enforcement over informal reconciliation. Intentional homicides declined from 2,286 in 2020 to 1,977 in 2025, while road traffic fatalities fell from 1,715 (2024) to 1,530 (2025), reflecting continued investment in road safety infrastructure and enforcement. National identification coverage reached 89.3% of the population, and birth registration among children under five rose to 68% by 2024, with Zanzibar achieving 94.2% - among the highest rates in the region. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Crime and Traffic Incidents Statistics (2025) reveals a 8.4% decrease in total major criminal offenses, dropping from 50,574 in 2024 to 46,334 in 2025. Court case backlog clearance reached 62%, with 45,000 individuals benefiting from legal aid during the review period. The share of unsentenced detainees in the prison population declined significantly from 69% in 2020. Women in Parliament stood at 39.3% (IPU, 2025) - among the highest in sub-Saharan Africa and consistent with constitutional gender representation requirements.

Fiscal governance strengthened but with records of slow implementation of the oversight institutions audit recommendations (CAG, The Parliament, PPRA etc): the budget execution rate reached 92.3% in 2024/25. However, the Implementation of public audit recommendations remained less than 40% from 2020/23 to 2024/25. Citizen accountability mechanisms expanded through the SEMA NA RAIS (SNR) mobile application, which received 3,796 reported cases and resolved 2,500 (66%). However, the Open Budget Survey 2025 report which is the World's only independent, comparative and fact based research that uses internationally accepted criteria to assess public access to budget information - shows on transparency assessment Tanzania scored

42/100 which is a lower score (less than 62%) of the performance in publishing budget information by the government. On public participation in the budget process Tanzania scored 13/100 and on oversight during the budget process the country scored 41/100. The desire to improve disclosure of budget information is highly recommended.

Reporting trends specifically for children and youth demonstrate an accelerated progress; according to the 2024 NBS Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VAC Survey), there is an increasing inclination toward formal help seeking, with 15% to 20% of sexual violence victims now reporting to competent authorities. This is corroborated by Crime and Traffic Incidents Statistics data showing a 13.2% reduction in child victimization cases, falling from 15,474 to 13,430. As highlighted by the Minister for Community Development, Dr. Dorothy Gwajima, in June 2025 during launching of the 2024 National Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), findings represent a substantial long-term decline in violence against the 13–24 age demographic compared to the 2009 baseline. These reporting trends are further validated by the LHRC 2025 Human Rights Report, which attributes these successes to enhanced national awareness, the expansion of Police Gender and Children's Desks, and the strengthening of formal reporting channels nationwide. Reported rates of sodomy cases declined from 20.5% (2022) to 14.8% (2025), and interference against nature cases fell from 18.5% (2022) to 6.7% (2024).

On corruption and accountability progress, the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) of 2023, shows Tanzania scored 40 in 2023 from 38 scored in 2022. This made the country to be ranked 87th out of 180 global countries. Anti-corruption efforts advanced in Zanzibar, where ZAECA investigated 234 cases in 2024, and the Zanzibar Legal Services Center extended legal aid to 8,500 beneficiaries. Non-state actors - including LHRC (monitoring across 31 regions), TI Tanzania (corruption surveys in 8 sectors), WAJIBU- Institute of public Accountability engaged 10,000 youths on Anti-corruption issues through accountability clubs and the GCNT Anti-Corruption Working Group (45 companies signed the Responsible Business Code of Ethics) - contributed substantively to accountability and transparency. However, the PCCB annual performance report is undisclosed once given to the President every year on 31st March, leaving the non-state actors with limited and unconsolidated information on their support in anti- anti-corruption efforts in the country.

On election justice, President Samia Suluhu Hassan announced on 14 November 2025, the formation of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate election-related breaches of peace and casualties. Established on 18 November 2025 and chaired by former Chief Justice Mohamed Chande Othman, the nine-member Commission conducted a 153-day nationwide inquiry spanning 11 regions and 21 districts, gathering evidence from 63,603 Tanzanians, including 1,323 in-person testimonies and 553 sworn affidavits. The Commission's report publicly showed the election-related killings of about 500 people, (mostly youths) in the October 2025 elections which still demand clear answers from the state.

On 24 April 2026, President Samia received the Commission's report and outlined a five-point government response: (i) criminal investigations into perpetrators of violence; (ii) medical support for the injured; (iii) formation of a national reconciliation commission bringing together political parties, religious leaders, civil society, and parliamentarians; (iv) a new constitution addressing structural electoral grievances; and (v) a reform roadmap with civic polls in 2029 and general elections in 2030 as key milestones. These commitments will be central to Tanzania's SDG 16 performance through 2030.

CSO Contributions

LHRC — Legal Aid, Violence Monitoring, and Strategic Litigation

31 Regions | Walk-In Clinics, Haki Kiganjani App, Call Centre

Enhanced access to justice for 36,778 clients in 2024. Challenged normalization of physical violence in schools — the landmark case Samwel Maduhu Mangu v. Attorney General (Constitutional Petition No. 32373 of 2025) challenges corporal punishment constitutionality. Through ACERWC secured a landmark decision ruling that expulsion of pregnant and married girls violated the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

36,778 clients | Landmark corporal punishment case | ACERWC pregnant-girl expulsion ruling

WAJIBU — Youth Anti-Corruption and Accountability Clubs

11 Higher Learning Institutions | National | 10,000 Youth Engaged

Through accountability clubs with ~2,000 active members, fostered anti-corruption and ethical leadership. In 2024, Mzumbe University accountability club identified suspected misuse of TZS 44,710,471.33 in student government funds; referred to Students' Arbitration Board. Minister of Education ordered all universities to establish accountability clubs. Contributed to Tanzania's removal from the FATF grey list through the BSAAT program.

10,000 youth | 2,000 accountability club members | FATF grey list exit | University accountability

THRDC — Human Rights Defenders Protection

National | Legal Aid, Relocation, Emergency Interventions

215 HRDs received protection and support services in 2024, including legal aid, relocation, medical support, psychosocial support, strategic litigation, and emergency interventions. 65 HRDs at risk accessed direct legal representation through formal court mechanisms. Over 1,300 individuals received legal representation through formal mechanisms; 1,000+ arrested in election violence-related cases released through informal mechanisms (2025).

215 HRDs supported | 65 legal representations | 1,000+ released from election violence detention

HakiElimu and Safe Schools Alliance — Child Protection Advocacy

National | Legal Reform, Positive Discipline, Child Rights

Coordinated Safe School Alliance promoting violence-free learning environments through advocacy, awareness campaigns, and school safeguarding. Save the Children chaired the Technical Working Group on Ending Corporal Punishment; WiLDAF served as Secretariat. C-SEMA, ZCRF, TAMWA, and ZAFELA strengthened child protection systems through community awareness, psychosocial support, legal aid, and teacher training.

Safe Schools Alliance coordinated | Corporal punishment TWG | Child protection systems | 8+ CSOs

Indicator 16.2.1: Proportion of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month

HakiElimu coordinated Safe School Alliance promoted safe and violence-free learning environments through advocacy, awareness campaigns, and school safeguarding initiatives.

Save the Children chaired the Technical Working Group on Ending Corporal Punishment, and the Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) serving as Secretariat, strengthened coordinated advocacy for legal reforms, policy dialogue, and promotion of positive discipline approaches to eliminate corporal punishment in schools, homes and childcare settings.

Children's Education Society (C-SEMA), Zanzibar Child Rights Forum (ZCRF), Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA), and Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA) strengthened child protection systems through community awareness, psychosocial support, legal aid, referral systems, and training for teachers, police, social welfare officers and community actors on child protection and positive discipline approaches

Indicator 16.3.1: Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms-

LHRC has challenged the normalization of physical violence in schools. The urgency of this reform was underscored by the landmark case of Samwel Maduhu Mangu v. The Attorney General, Constitutional Petition No. 32373 of 2025 This petition, filed on behalf of the guardian of Mhoja Maduhu, a student who died following severe corporal punishment, challenges the constitutionality of laws permitting physical violence against students, exposing the fatal risks of inadequate legal safeguards.

Through the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) :Legal and Human Rights Centre and Centre for Reproductive Rights (on behalf of Tanzanian girls) against the United Republic of Tanzania (in Communication No. 0012/Com/001/2019)LHRC secure a landmark decision ruling that the policy of expelling pregnant and married girls violated the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC).

Indicator 16.3.3: Proportion of the population who have experienced a dispute in the past two years and who accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism, by type of mechanism -

The 2024 Situation Report on Human Rights Defenders and Civic Space in Tanzania indicates that a total of 215 HRDs received protection and support services, including legal aid, relocation, medical support, psychosocial support, strategic litigation, and emergency interventions. Among them, 65 HRDs at risk accessed direct legal representation and formal court mechanisms.

THRDC contributed to over 1,300 individuals receiving legal representation through formal mechanisms such as Police and through court processes while over 1,000 individuals arrested in relation to election violence in Tanzania were released through informal mechanisms in 2025.

Indicator 16.5.1: Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months

WAJIBU - Institute of Public Accountability targeted 10,000 youths at 11 higher learning institutions in Tanzania fostering anti-corruption and ethical leadership. Through accountability clubs comprising approximately 2,000 active members and champions of anti-corruption. WAJIBU has established accountability youth clubs promoting dialogue, awareness and action on public financial accountability issues. For instance, in 2024, WAJIBU's Accountability Club at Mzumbe University identified a suspected misuse of student government funds amounting to TZS 44,710,471.33. Recognizing the gravity of the matter, the university's accountability club formally referred the case to the Students' Arbitration Board for further review and clarification. During WAJIBU's annual Youth Accountability Initiative Conference in 2025, the chief guest - Minister for Education, Science and Technology Hon. Prof. Adolf Mkenda was impressed how the Mzumbe University case unfolded and ordered all universities in Tanzania to follow suit by ensuring Accountability Clubs are established and track closely the management of students' government funds with officials being held accountable.

The Prevention, Combating Corruption Bureau (PCCB) also ensures that CSOs like WAJIBU continue to collaborate with the government to implement the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan (NACSAP IV 2023 -2030), this led WAJIBU's contributing to Tanzania being removed from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list through the BSAAT program. FATF is a global watchdog against money laundering and terrorist financing founded by G7 countries in 1989. FATF puts countries in two lists - black (high risk) and grey (improving). Tanzania got off the grey list which made it safe from laundered money and terrorism financing.

Key Challenges

Limited Anti-Corruption Information PCCB annual performance report remains classified after submission to the President. Non-state actors have limited and unconsolidated information, hampering accountability partnerships in anti-corruption efforts.	**Absence of Comprehensive GBV Act** Tanzania lacks a standalone GBV Act. Scattered laws have large enforcement loopholes. Marital rape is not criminalized. Women face virtually no legal protection from domestic economic and emotional abuse.
Child Marriage Still Legally Sanctioned The Marriage Act (1971) allows girls to marry at 15 with parental consent and at 14 with court permission — declared unconstitutional (2016 High Court; 2019 Court of Appeal) but Parliament has not enacted legislative reform despite 7+ years since the final ruling.	**Budget Transparency Gaps** Tanzania scored 42/100 on fiscal transparency (OBS 2025); 13/100 on public participation in budget process. Budget information often technical, fragmented, and difficult for citizens and CSOs to interpret and use for accountability.

Recommendations

To the Government of Tanzania

- Amend the PCCB Act to allow for publishing its annual performance report to support stakeholders in anti-corruption efforts.
- Enact a standalone, comprehensive Gender-Based Violence Act defining and criminalizing all forms of GBV abuse with standardized reporting procedures.
- Criminalize marital rape: amend the Penal Code to explicitly reject the outdated common law doctrine of automatic spousal consent.
- Establish formal mechanisms for the public to contribute to audit investigations; improve disclosure of steps taken to address audit recommendations.

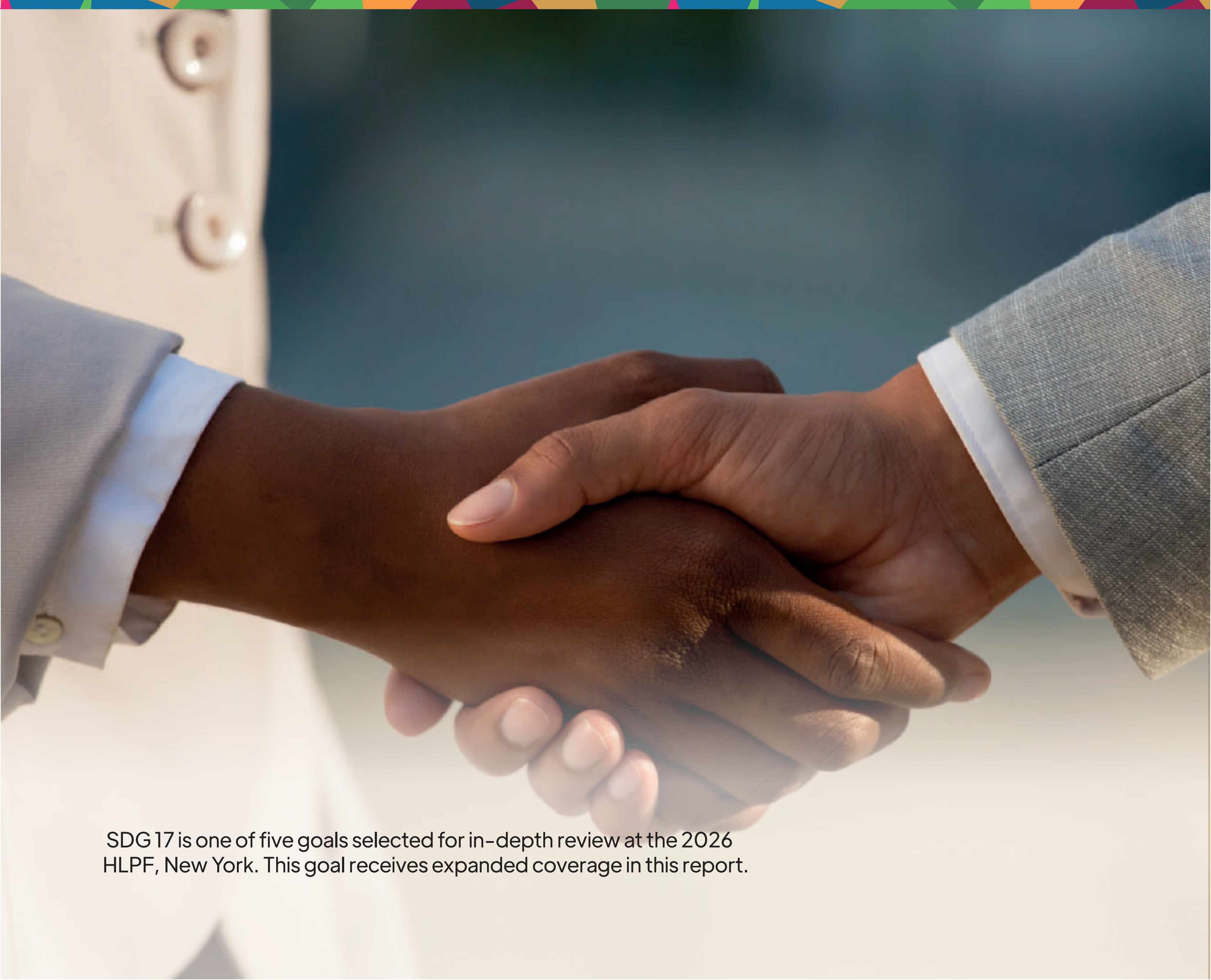
To Parliament

- Immediately implement the Court of Appeal ruling in Rebeca Z. Gyumi v. Attorney General: amend the Law of Marriage Act (Cap. 29) sections 13 and 17 to raise the minimum marriage age to 18 without exceptions.
- Enact laws strengthening child protection, institutionalizing positive discipline, and eliminating corporal punishment in all settings.

SDG 17 HLPF 2026 IN-DEPTH REVIEW PRIORITY GOAL

Partnerships for the Goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



SDG 17 is one of five goals selected for in-depth review at the 2026 HLPF, New York. This goal receives expanded coverage in this report.

13.7%	23.4%	68.8%	69.6%	TZS 109.4T
Tax-to-GDP ratio (FY 2024/25	National budget consumed by debt servicing	Budget financed by domestic resources (2024/25)	Grant execution rate (FY 2024/25)	National debt stock (December 2025)

Key Messages

KM1 | BUDGET SIZE ≠ BUDGET CREDIBILITY Tanzania's national budget has grown year after year, yet growth alone does not translate into stronger SDG financing. The measure of fiscal success must shift from how much is allocated to how reliably, inclusively, transparently, and accountably it is delivered. Revenue targets must be grounded in realistic execution-based projections.	**KM2 | DEBT SERVICING SILENTLY DRAINS SOCIAL SERVICES** Debt servicing consumes 23.4% of the national budget — more than health (5.2% vs. Abuja target of 15%), education (12.3% vs. UNESCO target of 20%), and agriculture (3.9% vs. AU Malabo target of 10%) combined. National debt stands at TZS 109.4 trillion (December 2025) — 47.6% of GDP (trending toward 55% threshold).
KM3 | TAX-TO-GDP BELOW MINIMUM THRESHOLD Tanzania's tax-to-GDP ratio of 13.7% (FY 2024/25) remains below the internationally recognized 15% minimum threshold. IFFs, tax evasion, exemptions, and weak enforcement limit domestic resource mobilization. TRA collections have improved but the structural revenue gap persists.	**KM4 | CSOs ARE INDISPENSABLE FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACTORS** CSOs translate complex technical budget documents into public understanding, amplify voices of citizens bearing real costs of poor fiscal decisions, and hold the government accountable for commitments made in approved budgets but not delivered in execution. Policy Forum, TCDD, WAJIBU, and PELUM are demonstrating this role at scale.

National Context

Tanzania has recorded notable improvements in domestic revenue collection, largely attributed to improvements in tax administration, digitalization of revenue systems, and TRA reforms. DRM financed 68.8% of the national budget in FY 2024/25. Tax revenues were 12.9% of GDP (2023/24) and 13.7% (2024/25) — below the 15% minimum threshold and far below the 17% target by 2030. Public debt to GDP: 44.9% (2023), 45.6% (2024), 47.6% (2025). Grant disbursements: 56.8% of approved in FY 2023/24; 69.6% in FY 2024/25. Open Budget Survey 2025: Tanzania scored 42/100 on transparency (lower than 62%), 13/100 on public participation, 41/100 on oversight. Internet penetration reached 85.3% (exceeding FYDP III target); 58.9 million internet users; 81 million mobile money users; TZS 742.7 billion monthly mobile money transactions.

CSO Contributions

Indicator 17:1:1 . Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source.

CSO INTERVENTIONS

Policy Forum and its network members have focused extensively on opening inclusive spaces for non governmental organizations and reinforcing citizen voices in policy making. Over more than a decade of engaging with the government, the network has advocated for fiscal transparency and budget accountability to drive sustainable development.

Policy Forum's Budget Working Group and Tax Justice Working Group (TJWG) have conducted multiple sectoral budget analyses, culminating in crucial tax and budget position statements. Notable contributions include the *2023/24 to 2025/26 Pre-Budget Position Statement*, the *Tanzania Gender Responsive Budget Analysis* produced with UNDP and policy brief on child protection financing alongside World Vision Tanzania. These interventions consistently highlight domestic resource mobilization (DRM) and gender-responsive budgeting, backed by active public debates on national budget financing initiated during the 2023/2024 to 2025/2026 fiscal year to maximize public awareness.

Indicator 17.1.2: Proportion of domestic budgetary expenditure funded by domestic taxes.

CSOs INTERVENTIONS

CSOs have intentionally collaborated with state institutions to scale up DRM and diminish reliance on external borrowing. TJWG has directly engaged the Ministry of Finance on tax expenditure advocacy, the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) on expanding equitable revenue streams, TISEZA on investment-led DRM contributions and the Planning Commission. Capitalizing on civil society's policy shaping role, TJWG presented institutional, systemic and capacity building recommendations to the Presidential Commission on Tax Reforms in early 2025 to optimize revenue streams.

This period also saw the publication of pivotal studies, such as a 2025 Tax Equity Project analysis on the taxation of high-net-worth individuals, which detailed how proportional income taxation can optimize national revenues while preserving equitable wealth distribution. Concurrently, a cost-benefit analysis of tax expenditures investigated the specific impacts of state incentives on marginalized groups, including youth, small-scale farmers and people living with disabilities.

To combat the revenue leakages caused by illicit financial flows (IFFs), Policy Forum facilitated specialized capacity building and media engagements from 2023 to 2025 and championing on the APNIFT role and Tanzania engagement in UN Tax convention , significantly elevating public coverage and expanding the advocacy power of ten media houses and CSOs. Restless Development through Youth Advocacy and Accountability Network (YAAN) championed youth integration into the tax system, while PELUM Tanzania championed equity taxation to small scale farmers and women in informal sector economy.

Indicator 17.4.1: Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods, services, and primary income

CSOs INTERVENTIONS

Tanzania Civil Society Consortium on Debt and Development (TCDD) has remained consistently active, managing targeted research, tracking and advocacy surrounding national debt portfolios. From 2023 to 2025 , TCDD , AFRODAD, FES and TYVA managed to hold the National debt conferences annually bringing together stakeholders from government, CSOs development partners , academicians and the public in general. The coalition managed to conduct capacity building to journalists and editors while conducting media tours to around 5 regions on advocating about national debt issues. Policy Forum and REPOA have developed policy briefs disseminating of the country's status to national debt

Indicator 17.18.1 : Statistical Capacity Indicator, Budget Data Availability and Usability

CSOs INTERVENTIONS

Policy Forum Budget Working Group through the COAB project to lobby government institutions for superior data quality and access. Responding to the 2023 Open Budget Survey (OBS) results where Tanzania registered a fiscal transparency score of 41 out of 100 based on the availability of eight key budget documents, BWG engaged with the government institutions' to address these informational deficits.

These long term advocacy engagements yielded impressive turnarounds by the end of 2025, the Ministry of Finance, TRA, NAOT and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) now actively publish readable, machine-downloadable Excel budget datasets directly on their websites. A landmark achievement of this civic advocacy was the formal revival of the Ministry of Finance's Public Expenditure Review (PER) reports in 2025. Despite these significant milestones, challenges persist regarding data comprehensiveness, timely publications, sector performance report availability and the foundational capacity of citizens and civil societies to effectively interpret these data. To help bridge these gaps, the International Budget Partnership (IBP) hosted an intensive budget accountability training session in December 2024, strengthening the advocacy frameworks of major Tanzanian CSOs, including Policy Forum, HakiElimu, TGNP, ANSAF, TAMWA, MIICO, LANGO, MOSAPORG, Restless Development, Open Mind Tanzania, and SIKIKA.

Key Challenges

Debt Dependence and Fiscal Space Tanzania continues to rely heavily on borrowing. Debt servicing at 23.4% of budget crowds out health, education, agriculture, and water investment. Debt-to-GDP at 47.6% and trending upward requires prudent management and monitoring.	**Narrow Tax Base and Revenue Leakages** Tax-to-GDP at 13.7% — below the 15% minimum. Large informal sector, extensive exemptions, IFFs, and limited compliance among corporate and VAT taxpayers undermine revenue collection capacity.
Unpredictable and Declining Aid Grant disbursements below approved levels; only 69.6% executed in FY 2024/25. Unpredictability creates implementation challenges, postponed activities, and financing gaps in priority sectors. Traditional aid declining with geopolitical shifts.	**Budget Information Inaccessible to Citizens** Most budget data remains highly technical, fragmented, and difficult for citizens and CSOs to interpret and use for accountability. Despite recent improvements, public participation in the budget process scored just 13/100 (OBS 2025).

Recommendations

To the Ministry of Finance

- Strengthen execution-based revenue target setting: assess revenue targets against recent execution performance before approving annual budgets.
- Broaden domestic revenue base through fairer compliance, improved digital revenue systems, and review of tax exemptions; publish clearer information on non-tax and property income.
- Publish monthly cash flow statements and quarterly budget execution reports disaggregated by sector and programme; implement Objective X climate budget tagging system.

To Parliament

- Require stronger justification before approving major new borrowing; mandate each significant loan to be accompanied by purpose, terms, interest rate, repayment, expected development return, and implications for future budgets.
- Strengthen oversight of development financing execution; compare loan amounts approved with actual disbursements and implementation progress.

To Development Partners

- Improve grant execution by jointly addressing the gap between approved and actual disbursements; implement project readiness tests before inclusion in budgets.
- Publish multi-year aid plans aligned with Tanzania's national development priorities and FYDP IV to reduce unpredictability and planning uncertainty.

To Civil Society Organizations

- Systematize budget credibility analysis at sector level — track whether fiscal gaps translate into service-delivery risks in health, education, water, agriculture, and social protection.
- Formalize CSO-generated data collection and submission to NBS as part of national SDG monitoring; resource community-level surveys disaggregated by gender, disability, and geography.

CHAPTER THREE:

Leave No One Behind

An examination of the LNOB principle in Tanzania, with a particular focus on children, youth, and persons with disabilities.

LNOB 2030 Agenda Core Principle | 3 Priority Groups | ~11.3% Population with Disability

Children

Advancing children's rights and well-being through legal reform, investment in health, education, and child protection

30%	37	94.6%	4.2M	2,687
Child stunting rate Mainland (2022)	Under-five mortality per 1,000 live births	Skilled birth attendance	Children in child labour	Children escaped forced labour (Plan)

Key Messages

- Tanzania has made significant progress in advancing children's rights through legal reforms, expanded investment in health, nutrition, education, and child protection. Child stunting declined to 30% in Mainland Tanzania and 18% in Zanzibar. Under-five mortality fell to 37 per 1,000 live births. Skilled birth attendance reached 94.6%.
- Persistent inequalities undermine children's well-being — particularly in nutrition, rural health access, education quality, and child protection. Children with disabilities are enrolled at only 0.7% of primary level. Child marriage remains legally sanctioned under the Marriage Act 1971, despite two court orders requiring reform.
- 4.2 million children are still subjected to the worst forms of child labor. In Geita Region alone, 96% of school absenteeism is linked to child labor in mining, quarrying, fishing, and domestic work.
- The 2024 Violence Against Children and Youth Survey recorded a 26.5% decline in lifetime violence against children, driven by expanded Police Gender and Children's Desks (4,082) and One Stop Centers (420).

Situation of Children in Tanzania

Tanzania has continued to advance children's rights through a strengthening legal and policy architecture. The Education and Training Policy (2023 Edition), the National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan II (2021/22–2025/26), the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children II (2024/25–2028/29), and the Child Protection Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2024 collectively represent a strengthened framework for child rights protection.

Key achievements include: Vitamin A supplementation reaching 9.46 million children at 99.8% of national target; CEmONC facilities expanding from 525 to 577; primary enrolment reaching approximately 1.4 million pre-primary pupils and 1.68 million Standard One pupils in 2025/26; a 26.5% decline in lifetime violence against children (2024 VACS); and FGM prevalence falling below 8%. These outcomes reflect years of sustained government investment and civil society advocacy.

However, child stunting at 30% (Mainland) and 18% (Zanzibar) remains a serious concern. Children with disabilities are enrolled at only 0.7% of primary level. Child marriage is still legally permitted under the Marriage Act 1971 despite High Court (2016) and Court of Appeal (2019) rulings requiring amendment. 4.2 million children remain in child labor.

1. Nutrition and Health

Tanzania has sustained positive momentum in child nutrition. Vitamin A supplementation reached 99.8% of targets. Early breastfeeding initiation was achieved for over 1.15 million newborns. Food fortification programs expanded nationwide. Yet child stunting at 30% on Mainland Tanzania signals that chronic undernutrition requires transformation of food systems, water access, caregiver knowledge, and household poverty reduction — not supplementation programs alone.

Under-five mortality declined from 43 to 37 deaths per 1,000 live births (2022–2024). Immunization coverage reached approximately 97%. Skilled birth attendance at 94.6% represents a significant achievement. The challenge is maintaining quality of care alongside quantity, particularly in rural areas where health worker shortages persist.

2. Education

Fee-free basic education and infrastructure investment have expanded access significantly. However, children with disabilities are enrolled at only 0.7% of primary level. Capitation grants of TZS 10,000 per primary pupil are inadequate against inflation and fail to account for inclusion, remoteness, and vulnerability costs. Teacher shortages of approximately 268,902 nationwide acute in pre-primary, STEM, and special needs education constrain quality for all children.

The 2023 Education and Training Policy introduced competency-based learning, but fewer than 300 of 4,500+ secondary schools had begun curriculum implementation by 2026. The implementation of re-entry guidelines resulted in 78% of girls who left school due to pregnancy successfully returning a genuine gain requiring systematic scaling beyond project delivery.

3. Child Protection

Tanzania has strengthened child protection through expansion of Police Gender and Children's Desks (now 4,082), One Stop Centers (now 420), and implementation of NPA-VAWC II. The Child Protection Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2024 strengthened protection against online child sexual exploitation and institutionalized Children's Councils from village to national level. The 2024 VACS recorded a 26.5% decline in lifetime violence against children.

However, child marriage remains legally permitted under the Marriage Act 1971. Despite High Court (2016) and Court of Appeal (2019) rulings requiring amendment, no legislative reform has been enacted. FGM protection under the current Penal Code is limited to girls under 18, leaving women entirely unprotected. These are legislative failures with direct consequences for girls' lives.

4.2 million children remain in child labor, concentrated in mining, agriculture, fishing, and domestic work. In Geita Region, 96% of school absenteeism is attributed to child labor -evidence that poverty and inadequate social protection for households are the structural drivers that child protection systems alone cannot address.

4. Child Participation and Voice

The institutionalization of Children's Councils from village to national level under the Child Protection Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2024 is a meaningful advance for child participation. TSDP's consultations engaged children through Save the Children's Baraza la Watoto Tanzania and child-centered social accountability mechanisms. Evidence from these consultations confirms that children understand development issues, identify barriers to their well-being, and have specific and actionable recommendations that must be systematically integrated into national planning.

CSO Contributions Towards Children

PANITA — Nutrition Governance

Shinyanga, Geita, Kigoma, Kagera | 12 Ministries | 48 MPs

Strengthened nutrition governance by establishing a network of nutrition champions across 12 ministries and 48 Members of Parliament. Trained 200 CSOs on MIYCAN, ECD, and WASH programming with disability inclusion embedded throughout.

Nutrition champions in 12 ministries | 48 MPs engaged | 200 CSOs trained | Disability inclusion

- Save the Children reached 1,128 children (806 girls, 322 boys) in Pemba and Unguja on child protection and reporting mechanisms; supported 7,454 children to transition to the next education level in ECCD and AEP centers.
- WiLDAF established Shule Salama clubs in eight schools reaching over 16,000 children with child rights information; the Anti-GBV Caravan reached 11,744 students across five regions.
- Msichana Initiative returned over 600 girls — mainly adolescent mothers — to school through the Arudi Shule Project, with 70% transitioning to the next education level; donated 1,125 bicycles improving academic performance by 13 percentage points.

Plan International Tanzania — Escaping Child Labour

Geita Region | Mining, Fishing, Quarrying Communities

The Escaping Child Labour Project supported 2,687 children to escape forced labour and return to education. Trained 4,728 fishermen and 5,173 small-scale miners in Geita on child protection measures to prevent employment of children in dangerous sectors.

2,687 children out of child labour | 4,728 fishermen trained | 5,173 miners trained

ActionAid Tanzania — Disability Inclusion in Schools

Chamwino District | 308% Enrollment Increase

Disability inclusion advocacy and accessibility improvements (ramps, WASH, accessible facilities) contributed to a 308% increase in enrollment of children with disabilities in Chamwino — from 80 in 2021 to 326 in 2024. Community advocacy also unlocked TZS 154M for four rural schools.

308% PWD enrollment increase | 80 ⇢ 326 children | TZS 154M unlocked | WASH and ramps

TECDEN — Early Childhood Development

National | 30 Daycare Centres | 15 Regions | 26 Regions Strengthened

Established 30 daycare centres in 15 regions, strengthened ECD services in 184 councils across 26 regions, and trained 384 government officials and 271 National ECD Master Trainers. Engaged the Planning Commission to promote Early Childhood Development as a core agenda in National Development Vision 2050.

30 daycare centres | 184 councils strengthened | 384 officials trained | 271 ECD Master Trainers

Recommendations — Children

To the Government of Tanzania and Parliament

- Amend the Marriage Act 1971 without further delay to set the minimum marriage age at 18 years, implementing Court of Appeal orders from 2016 and 2019.
- Establish stronger data systems for missing children, street-connected children, children with disabilities, and children affected by internal migration.
- Allocate at least 20% of the national budget to education; revise capitation grants to reflect inflation, disability inclusion, WASH, and remoteness.
- Expand TASAF coverage to climate-displaced and pastoralist households.
- Ensure full operationalization of Children's Councils at all levels as mandated by the Child Protection Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2024.

To Development Partners

- Fund multi-year, flexible programmes in child nutrition, child protection, inclusive education, and early childhood development.
- Invest in inclusive child data systems disaggregated by disability, gender, and geography.

Youth

Investing in Tanzania's greatest development asset — 34.4% of the population aged 15–35

34.4%	13.4%	22.3%	94.6%	800K+
Youth share of total population (aged 15–35)	Youth unemployment rate (2024)	Youth unemployment urban areas	Employed youth in informal economy	Youth entering labour market annually

Key Messages

- Tanzania's youth population, approximately 34.4% of the total population aged 15–35 is simultaneously its greatest development asset and one of its greatest structural challenges. While young people contribute 55% of the national labor force, they remain disproportionately concentrated in informal, low-productivity, and precarious work.
- Youth unemployment stands at 13.4%, rising to 22.3% in urban areas and disproportionately affecting young women. Over 800,000-1,000,000 youth enter the labor market annually, yet the economy generates only 50,000–60,000 formal jobs each year, a structural gap no policy can bridge without deliberate investment.
- Education access has expanded, but quality, relevance, and digital inclusion lag behind. Skills mismatches, a growing digital divide, and inadequate TVET investment mean that many young people graduate without pathways into decent work.
- Civic participation remains structurally constrained. The National Youth Council, provided for under the National Youth Council Act of 2015, has yet to become fully operational, weakening youth voice, accountability, and coordination.
- Climate change is not a future risk for Tanzania's youth, it is a present emergency reshaping livelihoods, displacement, and health. Youth bear the heaviest burden while receiving the least targeted climate finance.

Situation of Youth in Tanzania

Tanzania's youth population is approximately 34.4% of the total population aged 15–35, it is simultaneously its greatest development asset and one of its greatest structural challenges. While young people contribute 55% of the national labour force, they remain disproportionately concentrated in informal, low-productivity, and precarious work. Youth unemployment stands at 13.4%, rising to 22.3% in urban areas and disproportionately affecting young women (16.1%). Over 800,000–1,000,000 youth enter the labour market annually, yet the economy generates only 50,000–60,000 formal jobs per year.

A dedicated Ministry of Youth was established in November 2025 — a positive political signal. However, the National Youth Council, provided for under the National Youth Council Act of 2015, has yet to become fully operational, weakening youth voice, accountability, and coordination. HIV prevalence among adolescent girls and young women (15–24) stands at 4.4%, compared to 1.0% among young men. Mental health is an emerging crisis that remains under-addressed and underfunded. The October 2025 elections saw approximately 500 election-related deaths, predominantly among youth, leading to a Presidential Commission of Inquiry.

The Situation of Youth

In Tanzania, youth are defined as individuals aged 15–35 under the National Youth Development Policy (2007, revised 2024), constituting 34.5% of the total population and over half of the national labor force. With a median national age of 18 years, how young people are educated, employed, healthy, and civically engaged will largely determine Tanzania's ability to meet its Vision 2050 aspirations and deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

Tanzania has strengthened its policy commitment to youth development through the establishment of a dedicated Ministry of Youth in November 2025 and the revision of the National Youth Development Policy. However, implementation remains uneven. The National Youth Council has yet to be operationalized, youth-specific budget allocations are difficult to track, and the most marginalized young people, young women, rural youth, youth with disabilities, and climate-vulnerable youth continue to experience compounding exclusion.

1. Economic Exclusion, Unemployment, and Vulnerable Livelihoods

Despite an overall decline in the national unemployment rate from 8.7% in 2020/21 to 6.2% in 2024, youth unemployment stands at 13.4%, rising to 16.1% among young women and 22.3% among urban youth. Approximately 94.6% of employed youth are in the informal economy, where average monthly earnings for casual youth workers stood at just TZS 184,067 compared to TZS 684,518 for regular employees.

Over 800,000-1,000,000 young people enter the labor market each year, but the economy generates only 50,000–60,000 formal jobs annually. This structural gap means the majority of youth are in precarious, low-income, and unprotected work. The gradual structural shift from agriculture (54.2% employment share) toward services and industry has not generated sufficient decent employment for youth, particularly outside Dar es Salaam, which alone accounts for 33.7% of formal employment.

Access to youth-targeted financing remains limited. The government's 4:4:2 credit scheme and Niwezeshe Portal exist but are constrained by complex application processes, weak LGA-level administration, and exclusion of youth with disabilities, in rehabilitation settings, or in remote areas.

2. Education, Skills Mismatch, and Digital Exclusion

Primary gross enrolment reached 97% by 2022 and the Standard VII to Form I transition rate rose to 70%. However, the TDV 2025 evaluation found that learning outcomes remain critically low — many children completing primary school lack basic literacy and numeracy.

The skills mismatch between training supply and labor market demand is acute. Only 3.2% of the workforce holds high-level skills against a 12% benchmark for middle-income countries. TVET remains underfunded and misaligned with industry needs. Most newly recruited workers enter service and sales roles or elementary occupations, while technical and professional roles rely on non-citizen workers because qualified Tanzanian youth are unavailable.

While internet penetration reached 85.3% nationally by 2025, geographic coverage for 4G is only 77.3% of land area. Rural youth, young women, and youth with disabilities face the steepest barriers through unaffordable devices, weak last-mile connectivity, and limited digital skills training outside urban centers.

3. Health and Well-Being

HIV prevalence among adolescent girls and young women aged 15–24 stands at 4.4%, compared to 1.0% among young men. The adolescent fertility rate is approximately 77 per 1,000 women aged 15–19, rising to 95 in rural areas. Only 43% of young women and 44% of young men aged 15–24 have comprehensive knowledge of HIV prevention.

Mental health is an emerging crisis that is under addressed and underfunded. The 2024 Violence Against Children and Youth Survey documented severe psychological consequences of violence among young people. Youth-friendly mental health services are not consistently available across regions, with most concentrated in urban centers. Substance use, psychosocial distress, and the mental health impact of climate shocks and economic insecurity are growing concerns.

4. Gender Equality and Young Women's Empowerment

Only 11% of females own land alone compared to 18% of males. Time use data from the 2022 Population and Housing Census shows females spend 15% of their time on unpaid care work versus less than 5% for males, a burden that limits young women's education, employment, entrepreneurship, and civic participation.

Despite the 2024 revision of the National Gender and Women Development Policy and the criminalization of gender-based violence as an electoral offence, young women particularly those in rural areas and those with disabilities remain disproportionately excluded from the labor market, land ownership, finance, and decision-making.

5. Civic Participation and Youth Governance

Youth participation in local government elections has consistently remained below 35%. The dedicated Ministry of Youth, established in November 2025, signals political commitment, but budget allocations for youth programming remain limited. The National Youth Council has not yet become operational, a gap the 2015 National Youth Council Act envisioned would be filled over a decade ago.

The October 2025 elections saw approximately 500 election-related deaths, predominantly among youth, leading to a Presidential Commission of Inquiry. Its recommendations, a new constitution, a national reconciliation process, and reformed electoral timelines, represent a pivotal opening for structural reform that civil society must monitor closely.

6. Climate Change and Intersectional Vulnerabilities

Recurrent floods in Dar es Salaam and Morogoro, prolonged droughts in Dodoma and Singida, coastal erosion in Bagamoyo and Tanga, and glacial retreat on Kilimanjaro are lived realities for young Tanzanians. Youth in agriculture, fisheries, pastoralism, and coastal communities bear the greatest climate burden while receiving the fewest targeted resources.

National climate budgeting does not disaggregate youth-specific allocations. Adaptation programs rarely target youth-led initiatives. Climate finance flows through multilateral channels that require institutional partnerships most young people cannot access. Tanzania's Youth Manifesto demands that 20% of national climate adaptation funding be reserved for youth-led green enterprises and climate justice campaigns.

CSO Contributions Towards Youth

Restless Development Tanzania — Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment

Multiple Regions | 2024–2026 | VETA Graduate Support

Reached 1,348 young people (965 female, 383 male) through entrepreneurship and employability programmes; 202 advanced their businesses. Supported 58 first-time young mothers to complete VETA vocational training; provided tools, equipment, and protective gear for transition to active income generation. Mobilized 10 savings groups collectively saving TZS 6,401,000; provided startup kits to 150 youth.

1,348 youth | 202 businesses advanced | 58 young mothers | Savings groups | Startup kits

Ajenda ya Vijana Consortium / BFC, TYVA, YPC, ZAFAYCO,TBI, YOWDO,Restress Development,TYC

National | 1,557 Youth Consulted (2024)

Consulted 1,557 youth in 2024 to write the Tanzania Youth Manifesto 2025–2030, a youth-led policy and advocacy document that captures priorities, demands, and recommendations of young people across 26 mainland regions and Zanzibar. Calls on government, political leaders, and stakeholders to address youth development, participation, and well-being.

1,557 youth consulted | Tanzania Youth Manifesto 2025-2030 | 26 regions | Policy document

UNA Tanzania - Jijenge Livelihood Accelerator and Tanzania Youth Expo

BHASSA Tanzania — YSLA and Life Skills

Morogoro Region | 6,537 Youth with Capital Access

Established 367 Youth Saving and Lending Associations (YSLAs) reaching 6,537 young people with access to capital, business start-ups, and expansion. Equipped 1,922 youth in entrepreneurship, 8,899 in leadership, and 2,104 in life skills. 946 youth acquired practical vocational and entrepreneurial skills through the BHASSA Learning Center aligned with local market demand.

367 YSLAs | 6,537 youth with capital | 1,922 in entrepreneurship | 8,899 in leadership

- Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT) equipped over 1,000 youth with digital literacy, entrepreneurship, and social innovation skills, reaching 40,000 community beneficiaries through the Daring to Shift Project, with 70% women.
- VSO Tanzania, through the Boosting the Blue Economy project (2024–2025), equipped 3,000 young people with competences for employment in fisheries, aquaculture, and marine conservation.
- Youth Partnership Countrywide (YPC) trained over 600 youth (67% female) in entrepreneurship and business skills across five regions.
- Okoa New Generation (ONG), through the INUKA Project 2026, delivered 24-day entrepreneurship training to 216 sober house residents; 40 received TZS 1,000,000 seed capital each , TZS 40 million injected into the local economy.

WAJIBU — Youth Anti-Corruption Leadership

11 Higher Learning Institutions | National

Engaged 10,000 youth at 11 higher learning institutions on anti-corruption and ethical leadership through accountability clubs (~2,000 active members). Contributed to Tanzania's removal from the FATF grey list. Annual Youth Accountability Initiative Conference led to the Minister of Education ordering all universities to establish accountability clubs nationwide.

10,000 youth | 11 universities | FATF grey list exit | Ministerial accountability club order

Recommendations — Youth

To the Government of Tanzania

- Operationalize the National Youth Council by 2028 with a dedicated budget, independent secretariat, and democratic elections from local to national levels.
- Reform the 4:4:2 credit scheme and Niwezeshe Portal with alternative collateral mechanisms and LGA-level technical support.
- Expand demand-driven TVET, apprenticeships, and internship programmes aligned with labour market needs and digital/green sectors.
- Institutionalize youth-responsive budgeting: require all MDAs and LGAs to track and report youth-targeted expenditures.
- Allocate at least 20% of national climate adaptation funding to youth-led green enterprises and climate justice initiatives.

To Parliament

- Strengthen legislative oversight on the National Youth Development Policy, National Youth Council Act, and youth financing schemes.
- Monitor implementation of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry recommendations, the new constitution, reconciliation, and electoral reform timelines.

Persons with Disabilities

Achieving genuine inclusion of Tanzania's 11.3% population living with disability

11.3%	0.5%	0.7%	6-7%
Population with disability (2022 Census)	Formal sector employees who are PWDs	Children with disabilities enrolled at primary level	ODA explicitly targeting disability (vs. 15% benchmark)

Key Messages

- Tanzania has established a comprehensive policy and legal framework for disability inclusion, including the Persons with Disabilities Act No. 9 of 2010, the Zanzibar Persons with Disabilities Act (2022), the National Assistive Technology Strategy (2024–2027), and the UNCRPD, but implementation remains deeply uneven across sectors and geography.
- Persons with disabilities constitute approximately 11.3% of Tanzania's population (2022 Census), yet they remain disproportionately poor, unemployed, excluded from education, and underrepresented in decision-making at every level.
- Only 0.5% of regular formal sector employees are PWDs (19,541 of 3.57 million), and only 6–7% of ODA activities explicitly target disability inclusion, against a 15% benchmark under the Amman-Berlin Declaration.
- Progress is real but insufficient: expansion of social protection, the PD-MIS system, assistive device distribution, and inclusive education investment represent genuine advances. The gap between policy and reality requires accelerated action before 2030.

Situation of Persons with Disabilities in Tanzania

Tanzania has established a strong normative framework for disability inclusion. The Persons with Disabilities Act No. 9 of 2010 and the Zanzibar Persons with Disabilities Act of 2022, complemented by sector-specific strategies and Tanzania's ratification of the UNCRPD, provide a legal basis for equal participation, accessibility, social protection, and economic empowerment.

According to the 2022 Population and Housing Census, approximately 11.3% of Tanzania's population lives with some form of disability. Since the 2023 VNR, progress has been recorded in social protection expansion, TASAF reaching over 1.3 million households , assistive technology distribution (TZS 6.2 billion to 948 educational institutions), establishment of the PD-MIS system, and strengthened OPD engagement in policy processes. Zanzibar distributed 1,381 assistive devices valued at approximately TZS 349.13 million in 2025/26 alone.

Despite these gains, significant gaps persist. Disability-disaggregated data remains insufficient across most sectors. Employment quotas (3% reservation in public institutions) are weakly enforced. Accessibility barriers in schools, health facilities, transport systems, and public infrastructure remain the norm. Persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, and those in rural areas, are furthest behind.

1. **Economic Exclusion and Employment**

Only 0.5% of regular formal sector employees are PWDs. Financial institutions continue to treat them as high-risk borrowers entirely excluded from credit, insurance, and savings products. The 3% employment quota in public institutions exists in law but is not systematically enforced. Many PWDs, particularly those with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, remain outside both formal and informal labor data systems.

2. **Education and Skills Development**

Children with disabilities are enrolled at only 0.7% of primary and 0.4% of pre-primary level (HakiElimu, 2026). The rollout of Education Support, Resource and Assessment Centres (ESRACs) remains slow and under-resourced. Teacher shortages in special needs education are acute. Schools lack sign language interpreters, accessible learning materials, and assistive technologies in most cases.

3. **Health and Social Protection**

The Universal Health Insurance Act (2023) is a positive step, but rollout must explicitly account for PWDs who cannot readily afford contributions without organized support. Specialized health services, mental health, rehabilitation, and disability-specific care, remain concentrated in urban centers. Rural PWDs face compounding barriers of distance, cost, stigma, and inaccessible facilities.

4. **Governance and Civic Participation**

Persons with disabilities are systematically underrepresented in decision-making bodies at all levels. Meaningful participation remains constrained by inaccessible infrastructure, inadequate sign language support, limited representation in leadership, and institutional barriers within electoral systems. While OPDs have increased their policy engagement, progress remains uneven across regions.

5. **Data Gaps and Monitoring**

Despite improvements through the PD-MIS system, comprehensive disability-disaggregated data remain limited across most sectors. Inconsistent disability disaggregation methodologies and weak monitoring frameworks mean that many interventions are implemented without sufficient evidence on impact. The Global Disability Summit (2025) analysis found that only 6–7% of ODA activities in Tanzania explicitly targeted disability inclusion, against the 15% Amman-Berlin benchmark

CSO Contributions — Persons with Disabilities

Sightsavers — Inclusive Eye Health and Political Participation

Morogoro, Dodoma, Singida (17 Districts) | Tanga, Morogoro, Singida (12 Districts)

Macho Yangu Inclusive Eye Health Project trained 400+ health workers across 17 districts, expanding access to eye care and disability-inclusive health infrastructure. The citizenship and political participation programme across 12 districts strengthened OPD capacity and improved polling station accessibility.

400+ health workers trained | Political participation improved | Young women with disabilities | 12 districts

- **Sightsavers' citizenship and political participation program across 12 districts in Tanga, Morogoro, and Singida strengthened OPD capacity and improved polling station accessibility in the 2025 general elections.**

WiLDAF — Disability Case Management and GBV Services

Singida Region | National Training

Conducted a national training for 87 social welfare and community development officers on integrated disability case management, the PD-MIS user manual, and GBV service provision tailored for persons with disabilities in Singida region. Reached 65,626 people across 5 regions through structured community dialogues on IPV awareness.

87 officers trained | PD-MIS training | GBV for PWDs | 65,626 community dialogue reach

RAFIKI SDO — Disability-Inclusive Education (Shinyanga)

Shinyanga Region | Children with Disabilities

Engaged 75 children with disabilities and 15 government leaders, contributing to the deployment of 34 teachers trained in special needs education and renovation of 17 classrooms and 4 toilet blocks in Shinyanga, ensuring accessible, safe, and inclusive learning environments for children with disabilities.

75 children engaged | 34 teachers deployed | 17 classrooms renovated | 4 toilet blocks accessible

SHIVYAWATA / OPD Coalition — Rights Advocacy and DRR

National | OPD Engagement | Universal Design Advocacy

SHIVYAWATA, SHIJUWAZA, DOLASED, YOWDO, and PLPF strengthened advocacy for disability rights and supported participation of PWDs in public decision-making. SHIVYAWATA audited municipal emergency shelter infrastructure and lobbied DRR planning boards to ensure disability-inclusive evacuation routes, early warning alarms, and emergency aid distribution.

OPD coalitions | Universal design advocacy | Disability-inclusive DRR | Emergency preparedness

- **PANITA trained 200 CSOs on MIYCAN, ECD, WASH, and food fortification with disability inclusion embedded throughout program design.**

Recommendations Towards Persons with Disabilities

To the Government of Tanzania

- Enforce the 3% employment quota in public institutions and establish inclusive hiring incentives for the private sector.
- Scale ODA disability inclusion to the 15% Amman-Berlin Declaration benchmark; issue a directive requiring disability-disaggregated results reporting across all ODA-funded programmes.
- Strengthen PD-MIS and integrate Washington Group Questions into all national surveys, censuses, and administrative systems.
- Increase dedicated financing for assistive technology procurement, maintenance, and rural distribution.
- Ensure all public infrastructure meets universal design and accessibility standards with LGA-level enforcement.
- Expand social protection access for PWDs including direct cash transfers, alternative documentation pathways, and disability-responsive Universal Health Insurance provisions.

To Development Partners

- Raise disability-inclusive ODA to at least 15% immediately, with mandatory OPD consultation at programme design stage.
- Fund independent disability-disaggregated research and integrate community-generated PWD data into national SDG monitoring.

General Recommendations and Conclusion

As Tanzania enters the final four years of the 2030 Agenda, the evidence in this report tells a dual story of genuine, hard-won progress and of persistent, structural gaps that risk deepening rather than closing before 2030. Civil society organizations, through TSDP's 2026 consultation process, have documented what is working, named what is not, and produced this collective assessment as both an accountability tool and a call to action.

Cross-Cutting Recommendation 1: Close the Policy-Implementation Gap

Across every SDG reviewed, the most consistent finding is not the absence of policy — Tanzania has strong legal frameworks, well-designed strategies, and ambitious national plans. The gap is between what is written and what is happening on the ground. Strategies go uncosted, timelines slip without consequence, and accountability mechanisms at the local government level remain weak or entirely absent.

Priority Actions

- Establish binding implementation plans with costed timelines for all major national strategies, including TDV 2050 and FYDP IV.
- Resource Local Government Authorities to actually implement national priorities — with ring-fenced budget transfers, not unfunded mandates.
- Create transparent public tracking systems for national development commitments visible to citizens, Parliament, and CSOs.

Cross-Cutting Recommendation 2: Close Data Gaps on Marginalized Populations

One of the most consistent limitations in this report is the absence of reliable, disaggregated data for the populations that need the most attention. Persons with disabilities, pastoralists, investment-displaced communities, informal economy workers, rural youth, and children in remote areas are systematically invisible in the data systems that shape planning and resource allocation.

Priority Actions

- Resource NBS to expand disaggregated data collection; integrate Washington Group Questions on disability into all national surveys as a standard requirement.
- Establish formal protocols for integrating CSO-generated community data into NBS monitoring frameworks — with institutional funding, not just consultative access.
- Require all government sector reports and programme evaluations to disaggregate by gender, disability, land tenure, and geography as standard practice.

Cross-Cutting Recommendation 3: Build a Resilient, Diversified SDG Financing Strategy

The global financing environment has become significantly more difficult. Aid flows are less predictable, donor priorities have shifted, and fiscal space has tightened. Against this backdrop, Tanzania needs a fundamentally more diversified and resilient financing strategy for the remaining four years.

Priority Actions

- Prioritize domestic resource mobilization: improve tax administration, progressively broaden the tax base, and take serious, sustained action on illicit financial flows.
- Develop a clear public financing matrix linking TDV 2050 priorities to annual budgets — making commitments costed, traceable, and publicly reported.
- Engage development partners for multi-year, flexible, grant-based financing that complements domestic resources and aligns with national priorities.

Cross-Cutting Recommendation 4: Strengthen Systems for Resilience and Shock Response

COVID-19, climate shocks, global inflation, and rising debt levels have demonstrated that development gains can unravel quickly when systems are not built for disruption. Vulnerable groups — children, PWDs, women in informal work, and pastoralists — bear the heaviest costs and recover the slowest.

Priority Actions

- Strengthen social protection to function as a genuine shock absorber — reaching the poorest not only in stable times but precisely when stability breaks down.
- Establish a national contingency financing mechanism activatable within 30 days of a declared emergency.
- Integrate climate resilience into all sector planning: agriculture, WASH, education infrastructure, health systems, and urban settlements.

Cross-Cutting Recommendation 5: Strategic Focus for 2030

With four years remaining, Tanzania must be strategic about where transformative effort is concentrated:

Agriculture transformation — investing in smallholder productivity, climate-smart practices, market access, and land security — remains the highest-leverage intervention available, simultaneously advancing SDGs 1, 2, 5, 10, and 13.

Education quality must receive the same urgency as education access — funded curriculum rollout, teacher deployment, and genuine inclusion for children with disabilities and girls at risk of dropout.

Universal health coverage must reach the poorest and most remote, including through disability-responsive Universal Health Insurance provisions.

Gender equality must be treated as a structural prerequisite across all sectors — not contained within a single ministry or programme. Amending the Marriage Act and enacting a GBV Act are legislative prerequisites.

The HLPF 2026 priority goals (SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, 17) represent the agreed global focus — and the evidence in this report confirms they are exactly where Tanzania's most significant structural investments are still needed.

A Note on Civil Society's Own Accountability

The recommendations in this report are not only for others. Civil society must hold itself to the same standards of evidence, accountability, and inclusion it asks of government and development partners. TSDP's 2026 consultation process engaged over a thousand organizations — but the quality and consistency of evidence varied, and many marginalized groups were still harder to reach than they should have been. Investment in internal data systems, evidence generation, and consistent reporting of disaggregated outcomes must become a core institutional function — not a grant deliverable.

Conclusion

Tanzania enters the final stretch of the 2030 Agenda with a record that is both encouraging and sobering. Progress has been real — in health outcomes, education access, social protection expansion, renewable energy, digital connectivity, and the breadth of civil society engagement in national development processes. But the evidence in this report is equally clear: significant gaps remain, the most marginalised are still not being reached consistently, and the pace of implementation must accelerate.

> "Tanzania's civil society — through TSDP's 2026 consultation process — has demonstrated what coordinated, evidence-based engagement can produce. Over a thousand organisations, more than twenty consultations, and the voices of communities from Mainland Tanzania to Zanzibar are reflected in this report. That is not a small thing. It is a foundation to build on. The question now is whether the collective ambition that produced this report will translate into the collective action that 2030 demands."
>
> *— TSDP, 2026 CSO VNR Shadow Report — Conclusion*

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