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GENDER AND YOUTH TANZANIA

By 2025, Tanzania's population will increase by 10 million, with youth comprising 75% of the population (defined in East Africa as 0-35 years). Today, half of Tanzania's population is female. Despite these numbers, women and youth are among the most marginalized and underutilized Tanzanian citizens. As a result, the Tanzanian government has created policies and strategies that seek to advance female empowerment, gender equality and youth inclusion. The Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children is working to ensure that the gender perspective is mainstreamed into all policies, programs, and strategies. USAID Youth focused activities contribute to youth inclusion and empowerment by supporting entrepreneurship, sexual and reproductive health, as well as youth development opportunities in all regions across Tanzania.

Despite these efforts, gender inequities and lack of youth inclusion persists in Tanzania. USAID works to enable gender equality and empower women and youth, as the two groups play a key role in the progress and growth of Tanzania. With greater access to and control over resources, opportunities, and decision-making power, Tanzanian women and youth can sustainably reduce extreme poverty, build healthy communities, and promote inclusive growth. USAID Tanzania's gender and youth efforts serve the critical unifying role of integrating gender

equality, women’s empowerment, and youth inclusion across a broad range of activities. Such efforts focus on strengthening conditions that facilitate inclusion and contributions of women and youth on a national level. Our activities also promote women’s equality and youth inclusion at the local government and community levels, and ensure Tanzanian women and youth are healthier, better educated, and more productive.

GENDER AND YOUTH OVERVIEW

MAJOR PARTNERS

- Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children
- Ministry of Education and Vocational Training
- Tanzania Commission for AIDS
- Tanzania Social Action Fund
- National Medical Research Institute – Mwanza
- Women in Law and Development Africa
- Tanzania Women’s Media Association (TAMWA)
- Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA)
- UN Women
- UNAIDS
- UNICEF
- Africare
- DAI
- fhi360
- World Education/Bantwana Initiative
- PACT, Inc.
- EngenderHealth
- Jhpiego

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Nationwide

CONTACT

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CHALLENGES

The Government of Tanzania has adopted policies that advance gender equality and youth inclusion. However, the legal and regulatory framework and sector-specific policies of government ministries and independent departments have yet to be aligned. Furthermore, amending the Marriage Act, to increase the minimum age for females to marry at 18 years, remains a critical point of action. There is also a need for well-trained parliamentarians, policy analysts, researchers, and civil society organizations to ensure successful male, female and youth-positive legal reforms and policies.

IMPACT

USAID integrates gender equality, women’s empowerment, and youth inclusion across all activities. Our approach enables public policy dialogue and advocacy in support of gender and youth positive policies and services in the following ways:

- Our Democracy and rights based Mwanamke Imara is designed to effectively engage and empower women and young people to be resilient to violence and discrimination. Statistics indicate that, almost four in ten Tanzanian women have experienced physical violence, and one in five women report to experience sexual violence in their lifetime (from the age of 15). The key factors contributing to violence against women and girls in Tanzania lies with ineffective systems of accessing justice,

and limited access to resources. The activity addresses violence and discrimination against women and young people as a stumbling block towards their empowerment and progression in social, economic as well as political life.

- Mboga na Matunda (Vegetables and Fruits) makes the horticulture sector more competitive and inclusive while improving the nutritional status of Tanzanians. Farmers often have limited access to financial services and information, are not aware of market demands for specific crops or price trends, and subsequently plant low value crops that yield minimal profits. Interventions to encourage the adoption of innovations at the farm level and efficient business models at the market level, to create a more broad-based distribution of benefits for stallholder farmers, particularly women.
- On the health front, activities like ACHIEVE are designed to reach and sustain HIV and epidemic control among pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescents, infants, and 10 children. USAID -Tanzania, implements activities through field support to strengthen capacity of the national and community-level.

social services workforce, systems, and structures to ensure quality services for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), at-risk Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW), and People Living with HIV (PLHIV). Concurrently, ACHIEVE works to strengthen management and organizations capacity of civil society organizations to be able to apply direct funding from USAID and other donors; and to manage and implement OVC and DREAMS interventions for AGYW 9-14 years.

- Engaging men and boys as key partners and agents of change in mission programming is critical. The Tohara Salama activity seeks to expand access to a high-quality biomedical intervention with lifelong effect, which averts new HIV infections among young boys and men. VMMC is a highly effective HIV prevention intervention that has the potential to reduce the risk of female to male transmission by at least 60%. Male circumcision also reduces sexually transmitted infections, particularly ulcerative STIs, including herpes, syphilis, and penile cancer. The activity provides technical support for service delivery, in-service training, quality management, policy and guideline revision, domestic resource mobilization, communications, and monitoring and evaluation for sustainable and accelerated expansion of VMMC, combined with other HIV prevention interventions.
- The Feed the Future Tanzania Private Sector Strengthening Activity (PSSA) collaborates with private sector associations, youth-led and focused institutions, and national and local government authorities to enhance the overall entrepreneurial ecosystem in Tanzania. The project has two main objectives: to strengthen the capacity of private sector associations to advocate for implementation and enforcement of policies that support youth entrepreneurs, startups, and businesses and strengthen the capacity of private sector associations to increase member awareness of access to, and use of business and financial services and of opportunities that match to the needs, abilities, and aspirations of youth entrepreneurs, startups, and businesses.