



What Children & Young People are Saying about Poverty in Tanzania

An Overview Report on issues in Tanzania

June 2004

Secretariat

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Acknowledgement

This Report is a result of consultations done by various actors in Tanzania who are making a difference in children and young people's lives. The consultations were carried out during the first round of the review of the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

The TMC Secretariat would like to thank all its partners who sent their reports to be included and provide an overview on children's views in Tanzania about poverty. The TMC Secretariat appreciate reports from Mkombozi Street Children Centre, Plan Tanzania, kuleana-Centre for Children's Rights, Save the Children(UK), Tanzania Youth Coalition(TYC), Child-in-the-Sun, World Vision Tanzania, TVT – Tochi ya Vijana, and Kipengele 12 – Clouds FM.

Many thanks to all the children who participated in making their voices heard in 10 regions in Tanzania.

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Joram Wilson Massesa
TMC - Secretariat Coordinator



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Abbreviations

ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
MCDGC	Ministry of Community Development Gender and Children
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MoEC	Ministry of Education and Culture
MVCs	Most Vulnerable Children
OOS	Out of School Students
P&HDR	Poverty and Human Development Report
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
SC(UK)	Save the Children (UK)
TMC	Tanzania Movement for and with Children
TVT	Television ya Taifa (National Television)
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VPO	Vice President's Office
WVT	World Vision Tanzania
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics Tanzania



Part One



The Process

Children and Young People's Consultation



Why this Joint Report?

The inclusion of each group in the PRS review process gave children an opportunity for the first time to be involved in the process. Listening to children's own experiences of poverty underlines specific issues that generate a holistic approach in the second Poverty Reduction Strategy in Tanzania.

This report is based on various reports on what children and young people want the PRS II to consider. It also includes views recorded on a video done by children themselves. It is an attempt to highlight the issues that were mentioned by children and young people themselves in the consultation reports submitted to the Vice President's Office.

Breaking the cycle of poverty needs a multi-sectoral approach particularly when targeting the poverty of children and young people. The effects of poverty to children and young people have distinctive manifestations, patterns and causes. Reducing poverty and providing the best start of life for children and young people's needs the participation of children and young people, their views have to be considered, their voices listened to. It's still a challenge that children & young people's role in development is not seen as a priority and this is one of the reasons why the cycle of poverty is not broken.

Understanding that children and young people are the future hope, prosperity and an engine of growth, the report has been put together simply because it can enable you to:

1. Have an overview of the issues raised by children and young people about poverty in Tanzania
2. Use this report as a tool to share and advocate for and with children and young people in breaking the cycle of poverty
3. Provide a check-list to see if the issues of children and young people have been addressed in the PRS II
4. Share experiences of what is happening, lessons learned and challenges in involving children & young people in the PRS process

This report has been compiled primarily for staff working for NGOs and their partners, United Nations organisations, donors, government and interested parties who want to make a difference in the lives of children. The report outlines a variety of issues that the stake holders can consider in addressing children and poverty.

We hope that this report will be useful to you and that you will take action in the areas mentioned by children and young people and invest more in the process of building Tanzania Fit for children and young people.

This report does not provide an analysis of the issues, but gives you an overview of the issues raised, inviting you to make your own analysis of what should be done to reduce the poverty of children and young people in Tanzania.



Summary of the Report

This report is a collection of children and young people's consultations done by NGOs and children/youth groups in Tanzania during the review process of the PRS. The report has been compiled by the TMC¹ Secretariat putting together the views and opinions of children and young people including those who are marginalized.

The consultations were mainly carried out by organizations working on the implementation, monitoring of and advocacy for children's rights in Tanzania.

The report is divided into three parts.

Part One: *Outlines the Process* – Why this report, the scope of the consultations, who did what, where and when. It also expresses the challenges faced during the exercise

Part Two: *What Children and Young People are Saying* - This part shows the outcome of the consultations with children. It stipulates issues that children see need to be incorporated in the PRS II. The section puts in place what Tanzanian children and young people say on the assessment of what has been done in the PRS over the past three years; determine what were the successes or what worked well and the challenges; and finally provides suggestions from children on the way they see it fit for making their lives better.

Part Three: *Investing in Children* – This section describes briefly the need to invest more in children as a primary approach to break the cycle of poverty and build Tanzania that is Fit for children and young people.

The report is underpinned by the CRC² & ACRWC³, as well as the MDGs⁴ and is about building "A World Fit for Children".

¹ Launched by the President of the United Republic of Tanzania in April 2001, The Tanzania Movement for and with Children (TMC) is an independent force for change aiming to inspire and influence committed individuals, organizations and actors to make a difference in children's lives. The Movement asks each and every one of us what we can do to make a better world for children. "What About You?" / "Na Wewe Je?" is the key slogan used by the TMC partners to play their role. The TMC is not an organization or simply another NGO coalition but rather an alliance of actors/partners/protagonists who share a common aim in building Tanzania that is Fit for Children and making Children's Rights a reality. Partners includes the Government of Tanzania, UNICEF, Plan Tanzania, SC(UK), World Vision Tanzania, kuleana, KIWOHEDE, Dogodogo Centre, NNOC, YCIC, Baraza la Watoto wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania, and many others. There are more than 130 partners within the Movement.

² United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

³ African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

⁴ Millennium Development Goals

Scope of the Consultations

Coverage:

The report covers opinions and views of children and young people from ten (10) regions in Tanzania. An estimated 3,342 children and young people took part in various consultations, providing input to the PRS II. 601 of them were above 18yrs while 2,741 were under 18.

Representing 20 districts and 45 villages in Kilimanjaro, Pwani, Morogoro, Mwanza, Mtwara, Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Kagera, Shinyanga, and Tanga regions the report explicitly expresses the voices of children, reporting what was said by them without analysis.

The report includes voices from 54 Primary Schools in Tanzania, 12 secondary schools, 9 higher learning institutions, and 117 out of school children and young people.

Desegregated data:

Region	District	Under 18				MVCs				Above 18			
		IS ⁵		OOS ⁶		IS		OOS		IS		OOS	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Dar es Salaam	Kinondoni	122	239	3	1					24	23		
	Ilala	138	142							234	205		
	Temeke	236	262							65	50		
Kilimanjaro	Moshi							43		3			
Mwanza	Mwanza	35	30										
	Geita	90	75										
Mtwara		96	99										
Morogoro	Ifakara	22	23	4*	3*								
Pwani	Kibaha	243											
Arusha	Arumeru	1	2		1								
	Simanjiro	2	24		1								
Tanga	Handeni	48	52	24	30								
	Korogwe	8	8	48	58								
Shinyanga		30	14	6									
Kagera		16	9	3	8	7	5		2				

Who Facilitated, where and when?

No.	Organizer	Facilitator	When?	Where?
1.	Plan Tanzania	Community Development Workers	April 04	Dar Urban - Ilala
			April 04	Mwanza
			March 04	Ifakara - Morogoro
			April 04	Kibaha - Pwani
2.	Mkombozi Center for Street Children	Social Worker	5 th – 9 th March 04	Moshi - Kilimanjaro
3.	Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC)	Young People	17 th – 27 th March 04	Ilala, Temeke & Kinondoni – Dar es Salaam
4.	TVT – Tochi ya Vijana	Young People	26 th March 04	Dar es Salaam
5.	Kipengele 12 (Radio Program)	Children	28 th March 04	Dar es Salaam
6.	Kuleana	Social Worker	2 nd April 04	Mwanza
	Kuleana – (Sauti ya Watoto Radio Program)	Children	3 rd April 04	Mwanza

⁵ IS – In School Children and Young People

⁶ OOS – Out of School Children and Young People

* - Including Orphans and Mental disabled

7.	Save the Children (UK)	Social Worker	14 th April 04	Temeke – Dar es Salaam
		District Inspectors and a Social Worker	5 th – 10 th 04	Rural district – Mtwara
8.	Child-in-the-Sun	Child Rights Expert	10 th April 04	Kinondoni – Dar es Salaam
9.	World Vision Tanzania (WVT)	Community Development Workers	April 2004	Tanga, Arusha, Kagera & Shinyanga

Sessions were facilitated by adults, children and youth. The facilitators were staff from NGOs working for and with children and youth, district officials and children and young people themselves, mostly students.

How were the consultations done?

Various organizations, children and young people’s groups used different methodologies and approaches to make sure that children and young people took part in the consultations.

Approaches used by those who submitted their reports are;

1. Group discussions as well as plenary discussion through a workshop.
2. Drawings by younger children (*Mkombozi Centre for Street Children*)
3. Interviews in TV recorded program (Tochi ya Vijana-TVT)
4. Live radio programs by telephone calling and short messages (Kipengele 12-Clouds FM 88.4 & Sauti ya Watoto-RFA: kuleana)
5. Filling the PRS Brochures (Save the Children(UK)-Mtwara; Kuleana-Mwanza; World Vision Tanzania-Tanga, Arusha, Kagera & Shinyanga) and Plan – Ifakara & Mwanza
6. Interviews – Video documentary (Plan Tanzania – Geita District, Mwanza)

Challenges & Lessons Learned

The Process: Working with children and young people means fulfilling their right to be active members of the society. Children and young people made it clear that the process was not friendly to them, it was in a rush, as they needed more time to discuss, the role of the PRS was not clear to some of them and some said they were not well informed about the PRS, or the consultation process and just heard about it during the consultation. “To what level are we going to be involved?... we have no control when the government has our views and usually they will screen them until they are none or until they fit their ideas”. said a young person calling in to the Kipengele 12 radio show.

The participation: Signaling that it was a great opportunity for them to participate in such a high and important strategy for Tanzanians, children & young people underlined concerns about their participation as listed below;

- **Knowledge:** Most of them had no clue what the PRS is and how it is linked to the improvement of their lives. But they linked it very well when they discussed poverty of children and young people. Knowledge of facilitators was another challenge that NGOs and CBOs faced when facilitated the PRS review. Lack of awareness on the PRS contents was obvious to many were interested to participate in the exercise if more preparations were done
- **Representations:** The meaningful representation for some groups in terms of number and the ability to participate was limited. Organizations that had the ability and capacity to carry out the consultations involved children in limited areas and particularly urban areas. The involvement of children and young people during the

government consultations that was commissioned to ALAT had limited number of children as participants. How many children and young people in remote areas (rural areas) had an opportunity to participate in this process?

- **Time** More time was needed for the consultations process as well as time for children to understand the PRS and its context. “A one day consultation is not enough, we needed a week on this and to also understand the first PRS⁷” for our meaningful participation.

Taking the issues seriously: “Well, since we don’t have the mandate to decide how to make sure that our issues are part of the PRS II, then how sure can we be with the Government?” [A caller in Kipengele 12]. Our issues have always been neglected or not given a priority at all. The process is controlled by the government, which is the powerful institution in Tanzania. What are the opportunities for children and young people to influence the government to take our issues seriously in this PRS II? “A caller from Kipengele 12”

Another challenge in the process was explaining the information to children and youth, which was *difficult*. The way in which information is conveyed will impact how much is absorbed, the level of participation etc. Trying to find a “child friendly” way to consult children was difficult especially since the content of the PRS is quite complex. It is possible that the facilitation skills or methodologies used were inappropriate.⁸



⁷ Children from Child-in-the Sun

⁸ Experience from Mkombozi Centre for Street Children

Part Two



What the Children and Young People are Saying



How children & young people define Poverty

To children poverty has different appearances and changes from place to place. Sharing what they know, children and young people's definition of poverty highlighted the following.

Being poor means;

- ✎ Any person with no money to buy basic things
- ✎ No food, shelter, clothes, medical care
- ✎ Not to be able to go to school
- ✎ To get poor education
- ✎ Being sick and not being able to see a doctor
- ✎ The insecurity in which such a person lives
- ✎ People who beg, eat and picking things from the garbage
- ✎ People who are homeless, live in streets
- ✎ People who cannot afford to get a TV, radio, house or a car.
- ✎ Poor health as well as poor health services
- ✎ Living in hunger or eating one meal a day
- ✎ Living today without knowing what will happen tomorrow
- ✎ A person without a job
- ✎ Be vulnerable to the powerful

“Education is a significant tool to fight poverty. If addressed properly it provides opportunities, open up minds of children and young people to actively involve themselves in the development process. But if it is seen as a sidelineit restricts options and thought and eventually make them relies on authority and submissiveness

[Kerry McNamara - Youth and Poverty 2003]

Young people also recognized that there are many types of poverty and mentioned a few as stipulated below.

1. **“Poverty of development”**⁹ where cultural practices or attitudes may hinder progress. Issues related to social support, family ties and friends
2. **Improper use of resources** and/or **unequal distribution**¹⁰ of resources and emphasized rural development especially in terms of roads, water, health and education.
3. Degradation of the environment
4. Survival:¹¹ Street children, Child Labour, exploitation, and sickness
5. Self Esteem:¹² Issues related exclusion, opportunities to be part of community activities

“Poverty of not having medical care is poverty of the government....what is government there for if not to give us hospitals?”
(A child in Kilimanjaro)

Young people put it very clear that **alcoholism** is a perpetuating factor for poverty and said that many fathers do not support their children and wives but instead spend their money on alcohol.

¹³



⁹ Mkombozi report

¹⁰ Mkombozi report

¹¹ Child in the Sun

¹² Child in the Sun

¹³ Mkombozi report

How Youngest Children defined Poverty (under 9 years olds)

The majority of children drew houses to express life with and without poverty.

Portrays of Pictures as drawn by youngest children [9 years]	
Life with Poverty	Life without Poverty
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A House which hardly had trees or flowers and he explicitly said that there is desertification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> large houses with an antenna for TV and beautiful surroundings such as flowers, trees, flowing water
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A husband and wife that are not together with a happy life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Husband and wife are together and happy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People in rags, with no house, or people living in mud huts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A House with a mountain, water flowing from it, flowers and trees.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A drawing of a person riding a bicycle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A drawing of a person driving a nice car
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importance of environment was brought out in their drawings as a life without poverty meant living in clean, beautiful and healthy surroundings

Are people still poor? (Poverty Indicators from Children and Young People)

Children and young people felt that people in Tanzania are still poor because of the following indicators or signs:

- ☞ Many people are still ignorant
- ☞ Many people do not have food especially nutritional food
- ☞ Drought and famine
- ☞ People lack access to good quality education and health care
- ☞ People still have disabilities that are not addressed
- ☞ Younger children are dying due to malaria and other diseases
- ☞ Lack of care and services for the vulnerable such as elderly, orphans, disabled, people living with HIV/AIDS, street children etc
- ☞ Unemployment is still very high
- ☞ Environmental degradation and poor use of resources
- ☞ Abuse and conflict in families and poor government social services to assist families and communities
- ☞ Lack of safe water, electricity, proper roads especially in rural areas
- ☞ Infection rate of diseases such as HIV/AIDS.

To us poverty has and still can result in the following

1. **Discrimination**
2. **Fear and insecurity that is caused by poverty**
3. **Substance use**
4. **Street children**
5. **HIV/AIDS and**
6. **Abuse and neglect in families**

[Street Children from Kilimanjaro]



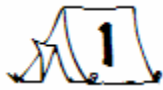
[Source: Situation Analysis of Children in Tanzania - UNICEF 2001]

What the Role Plays Revealed

The play began with two children being sent home from school because they could not pay for the school costs and did not have their uniform and shoes. On their way home, the children come across some street children sniffing glue and smoking marijuana. They stop and talk to them to explain that they have been sent home from school. The children get high together. The two children then go home and find their father there. He is not working. They explain what happened to their father and he says to them that they are a burden and that he has no money. He adds that he does not want them because their mother died from HIV/AIDS. The children insist that they want to go to school and that he should talk to their teacher. He hesitates and they continue to insist. Eventually the children become quite forceful and pull the father by his arm to take him to school. This is where the role-play ends.

One can see vulnerability and non-income poverty played out much more in the above play. Children not having access to education are at risk of coming to the streets and engaging in substance abuse. Additionally, the issue of HIV/AIDS is brought out and the stigma and rejection associated with it. And lastly, conflict and abuse in the home is exhibited by the father's tone of voice while speaking to the children and in the children's forcefulness towards the father.

[Mkombozi Centre for Street Children]



What Children & Young People Observed for the Most Significant Improvement in the past three years

Most significant improvement observed in the last three years

Education Sector

- Abolishment of school fees in Primary Schools
- Primary education has been improved, through the Primary Education Development Plan (PEDP)
- Increased number of teachers employed
- Increased number of Secondary schools and High Learning Institutions
- Upgrading of primary schools teachers
- More classes have been built, more books and desks are available. Some schools have build houses for their teachers
- Two years ago we didn't have any library but now we have a library in our school
- More children have been enrolled each year in Primary Schools

Great awareness on Family Planning amongst community members

Increase of HIV/AIDS campaign at the local level

Agriculture:

- Cotton Farming: Villagers increased the volume of their cotton farming due to the fact that last year there was a better price in the cotton market.

Water Sector:

- Availability and access of clean and safe water from bore holes and wells instead of getting water from ponds for domestic use

Roads:

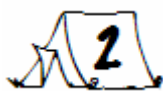
- Improvement in infrastructure such as construction of roads in different regions and towns such as Dar es Salaam and Mwanza, construction of bridges (River Rufiji)
- Some roads have been expanded for better road safety

Increase in Government revenue through TRA that led to the eradication of other unnecessary taxes such as development tax, food crops tax

Health Sector:

- More dispensaries have been built in our village and others have been built by community contribution with support from development partners making health services to be near the community members particularly children
- Mother and Child Health services are now available in the village
- Availability of medicines in Health Centres
- Building of better school latrines in progress
- More clinics and hospitals making it a little easier to access these facilities.





What Children & Young People Experienced in getting social services

Most significant problems experienced in getting social services

Health Sector:

- There is no safe and clean water near schools and that makes us vulnerable for typhoid and other abdominal diseases.
- Increase of costs in health services
- Some sources of water are not preserved. People wash gold with mercury¹⁴ and this mix up with water that flows to the community and this resulting into severe health problems
- Younger children dying of malaria
- Diseases such as cholera, HIV/AIDS and other Sexual Transmitted Diseases
- We don't have enough toilets in our schools

Education Sector:

- Lack of equipments in the science laboratory for practices
- Continuation of corporal punishment in schools making us miss classes and precipitate child-unfriendly school environment¹⁵
- Some schools don't have enough desks and making us to wash our uniforms daily
- Some schools do not have libraries
- Some classes are in a very poor condition and dusty resulting to allergies and long-standing cough¹⁶
- Increase in fees to higher learning institutions
- Where does the computer programme for primary schools aim? Is it going to be in our schools as well?
- Buildings and books are not enough, ten students per book. We don't have enough teachers and in some schools there is a ratio of one teacher teaching five subjects.

Child labour is also a problem in Geita

Road safety is very poor and there are no road signs in the roads

Corruption has been growing very fast especially in Government institutions such as Police, Hospitals & courts

Very limited employment opportunity for youth. This resulted into increases in criminal offences such as drug dealing, robberies, etc

Social exclusion and stigma to children and young people with disabilities

Increase of price in agricultural facilities

Child headed house holds¹⁷

Divorce and separation of parents during school years

Increase number of orphans in particular children orphaned through HIV/AIDS

Not getting enough time to rest due to farming activities

Increased number of street children

Increased use and availability of drugs to children and youth

Lack of playing grounds in our communities



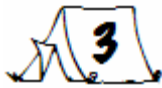
¹⁴ In Geita where local Gold digging are being done

¹⁵ Mkombozi Report & Plan Tanzania Video

¹⁶ Watoto Wasemavyo Kuhusu Umaskini – Video by Plan Tanzania

¹⁷ World Vision Tanzania – Kagera respondents

- ✎ Increase of number of alcohol selling posts (*famously known as Groceries*) near schools and residential areas
- ✎ Early pregnancies especially to students
- ✎ Privatisation of companies leading to our parents being laid-off work
- ✎ Children's issues not being taken seriously by adults and the government
- ✎ National policies do not consider priorities of children and young people
- ✎ Parents not to listen to children and young people
- ✎ Lack of meals and nutritious food in schools



Children & Young People's Views and Opinions in most important outcomes to be in the PRS II if quality of life and Human Rights of Children are to be realised and improved

Most important outcomes that must be in the new PRS if the quality of life is to improve and human rights of children realized?

- ✎ Electricity should be brought to our villages so that we study at night as well
- ✎ **Education Sector:**
 - Secondary School fees to be highly reduced
 - Teachers to be given loans to improve their living standards
 - Walimu wapewe/wakopeshwe zana za kilimo bure au kwa bei nafuu
 - Improve the quality of education to all primary schools particular those in the rural areas
 - Education support (grants) for orphans and children with disabilities
 - Houses for teachers
 - Increase secondary schools at least 1 per village
 - Employ more qualified teachers
 - More building of classes
 - More secondary schools and vocational training centres should be build in villages
 - Youth vocational training centres in villages
 - More books and other school facilities to schools
- ✎ **Agriculture:**
 - Loans to farmers for better equipments and facilities
 - Control of prices for farmers
 - More education on better farming methodologies
- ✎ Police stations/posts should be build
- ✎ **Good Governance:**
 - Improve good governance by providing better information sharing from government to the public and vice-versa. e.g. Policy awareness and distribution
 - Prevention of Corruption Bureau (PCB) should be free and independent in order to work effectively.
- ✎ **Health:**
 - More Health Centres in villages and hospitals in districts
- ✎ The provision of credit for small-scale entrepreneurs who most of them are young people should not involve hard condition, especially the acts that require fixed assets.



Roads:

- Road should be expanded and build in good standards.
- Industries and Business/trade should be intensifying to allow young people to get involved peacefully. Regional and Local government Administration should find a better way of dealing with small traders (Machinga) instead of using violence.
- The community should stop being lazy and work in a volunteerism spirit to develop our country
- All worst forms of child labour should be stopped and working conditions of child domestic workers improved
- Leaders should fulfil their promises about improving the living standard of children
- More and better campaigns focusing on behaviour change on drugs and HIV/AIDS
- More and better houses and improve housing strategy in districts and villages
- All Human Rights of Children should be fulfilled and integrated accordingly

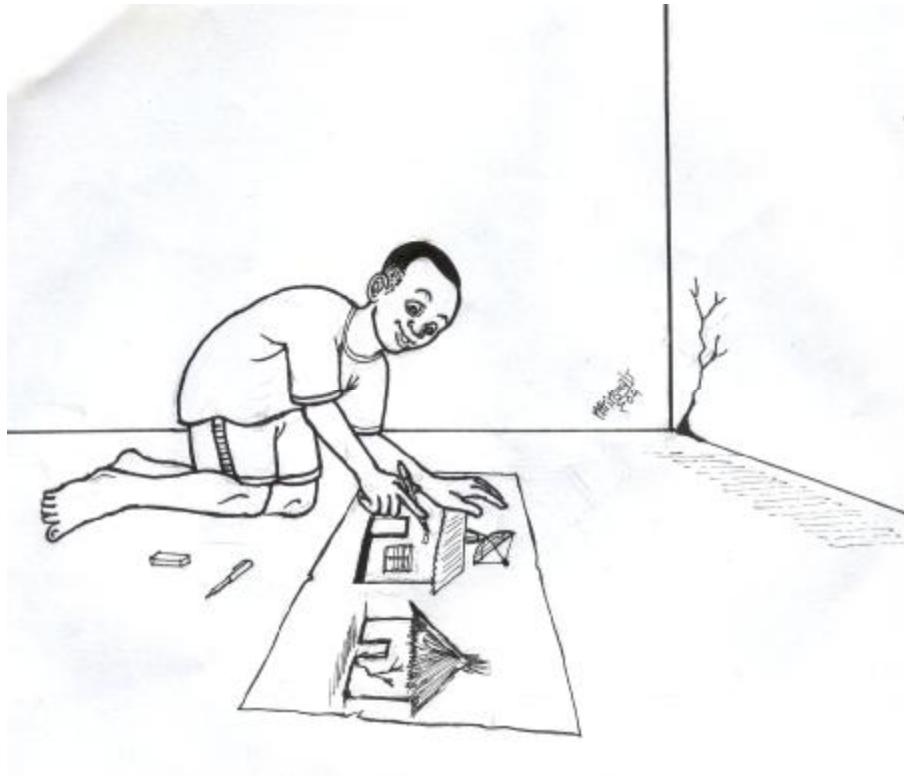


Younger Children gave the following responses:

1. Education in terms of having enough schools, resources, fairer assessment systems and improved teaching methodologies. Teachers to listen to children and stop corporal punishment
2. Health facilities should be of a high quality and accessible for all even if people cannot afford to pay.
3. Provision of basic services and needs (shelter, food, clothing, education and health) by the government especially for vulnerable and marginalized people (esp. children with disabilities, street children and orphaned children).
4. Children's rights should be upheld nationally and in families. Stop of abuse, violence at home and on the streets, and disintegration of families
5. Focus on families – teach parents how to raise children, children should be protected from abuse in families, parents should provide appropriate guidance and counseling, parents should love children.
6. Skills training, appropriate education and subsequent employment for youth.



Part Three



Investing in Children and Young People

Securing the Future!



Making a Case for Investing in Children

"If we are to meet the Goals of the World Fit for Children' and attain the Millennium Development Goals...we will only do so with the full participation of children and young people."

Carol Bellamy - UNI CEF Executive Director

Children (*who often bear the heaviest burden of poverty*), have been seen as if their issues are just a part of the process but not a priority. Reports shows that the cost of poverty are often passed to children through poor education, malnutrition, U5MR¹⁸, abuse effects, children missing their childhood, child labour and many more.

In Tanzania children make up to 50.6% (17,442,419¹⁹) of the population which in itself justifies a very keen attention to this group in the nation. Most of them live in rural areas where they are the most vulnerable in being hit hardest by poverty. The challenge that we have is how best we can ensure the best start of life in Early Childhood. These earliest years of children face more than average developmental obstacles and still very little is being done to increase resources invested in them.

In 2002 when world's nations sat down to review the implementation of the commitments made during the World Summit for Children in 1990, they realised that for the past ten years, most of the actions taken did not bear fruits as it was planned. The We the Children Report²⁰ pointed out that there is a limited achievement, for the world's children have been suffering, facing many developmental obstacles and particular the children of Africa.

The meeting recommitted itself to improving the lives of children worldwide, in the outcome document, 'A World Fit for Children'. Most of the MDGs are also incorporated into this Outcome Document.

Millennium Development Goals	A World Fit for Children
Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	Fight Poverty: Invest in Children
Achieve universal primary education	Educate every child
Promote gender equality and empower women	Leave no child out
Reduce child mortality	Care for every child
Improve maternal health	Care for every child / educate every child
Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	Fight HIV/AIDS /
Ensure environmental sustainability	Protect the earth for children
Develop a global partnership for development	

Why Investing in Children?

Six of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can best be met if the rights of children to health, education, protection and equality are protected. They will only be sustained if the rights of every child are realized. These same six match the goals set out in 'A World Fit for Children'.²¹

Securing a better future has to begin with better plans drawing experiences of the past and current situation. Children are the backbone of present as well as roots of the future. One can give several important reasons for investing in children and particular the early years but to summarise it we can categorise the reasons as follows.

- **Better Health:** Early childhood health is critical for better human development.



¹⁸ Under-Five Mortality Rate

¹⁹ National Census of 2002

²⁰ We the Children – *Meeting the Promises of the World Summit for Children*, Koffi A. Annan- 2001 is the End-Decade Review process that detailing governments achievements and failures over the last ten years.

²¹ The Millennium Development Goals, They are About Children – UNICEF – May 2003

- **A Well Educated and Learning Society²²:** Developing is a process that one has to experience and build his/her capacity. The vision 2025 is a commitment that we should strive in promoting the development of mindset and competitiveness.
- **Equity:** The exclusion of marginalised groups which includes children, youth, disables and the aged from policy making leads to an imbalanced perspective on development priorities, and to exclusion from the benefits of development for significant sectors of the population. The biggest group among these are Children and Young People
- **Orphans:** It is estimated that 12% of all the children in Tanzania are orphans²³ the system in place to combat the situation of orphans are in need of more investment and have proven little achievement. In Mwanza region 40% had become orphans between the age of 0-5 and 32% between the age of 6-10²⁴.
- **Street Children:** Most of them are missing out in the education. Some run away from home due to a combination of several factors but research²⁵ has shown that most of these children are in the street to try to find a better life due to poverty.
- **Children in Conflict with the Law:** In Arusha 75.2% of 141 cases reported at the central police station were caused by children whose families had disintegrated or poverty of their parents²⁶ while in Mwanza 52.8% of 123 cases reported in primary court in 2000/01 had a family related poverty. Research has also shown that children being used in robbery (called Vipanya)²⁷ where by 7-13 years children who live in poverty are the main victims. About 30% of 108 cases reported at primary court in Mwanza town in 2000/02 used children “Vipanya” in criminal acts.
- **Child Labour:** Speaking with children, they say straight that working at their age is a situation forced by the poverty. This is also evidently shown in the Household Budget Survey 2000/01 where 62% of children aged 5-14 years undertake some form of work²⁸.

“If it wasn't for poverty our relatives could have taken care of us, but now we are suffering because most of them are poor and they can not afford to support us”

[A Child in Kagera]

Call for Action

Recognizing the importance of children and young people as a vital group in the developmental processes, it is clear that more needs to be done and taken seriously regarding children's issues. They should not just be part of the process but their issues should be given priority in various sectors and initiatives.

Children are human beings just like adults and are rights holders just like adults. They are not a separate group but have other very specific rights to be fulfilled in the process of becoming better adults. In accelerating social development, equity and inclusion must be a priority to all the groups in the society.

In building a Tanzania Fit for Children and Young People and providing equity and inclusion of children who are the biggest group in population the following should be considered.

- Improve quality of education especially primary education
- Improve coverage and access of information gaps to children and young people
- More attention for preventing early childhood diseases, which would also include malaria

²² Development Vision 2025 for Tanzania

²³ Africa's Orphaned Generations – UNICEF/ November 2003

²⁴ A Situation Analysis of Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Mwanza/2002 – Catholic Relief Services(CRS) and Kivulini Women's Rights Organization, Mwanza

²⁵ Situational Analysis of Children in Tanzania 2001 – UNICEF & Government of the United Republic of Tanzania

²⁶ Hali ya Haki za Watoto Tanzania – Legal and Human Rights Center/2004

²⁷ More details in the research done by LHRC “Hali ya Haki za Watoto Tanzania”

²⁸ Key Findings – Household Budget Survey 2000/01; NBS

- Review government policies in the private sectors which under-invest to subsidise social and economic sectors regarding children in Tanzania
- More well designed early childhood intervention programmes to improve their livelihood
- More attention and better programmes for women of child bearing age, expecting mothers as well as after-birth support
- Increase programmes on decreasing Malaria fatality rate for the under-five
- Improve and increase access of safe drinking water in rural areas
- More programmes on low birth weight
- Reviewing how other sector plans features the best interest of a child
- Scaling up basic sanitation facilities in rural areas
- Make a reality the dignity of people by promoting Human Rights and in particular the Human Rights of Children
- Expand electricity coverage in rural areas

Conclusion

Behind poor investment in children there is a cost that progressively accumulates and creates a time bomb. This costs that everyone of us is trying to prevent it as much as we can should trigger change in the way we work with children and young people and the way we prioritise issues of development.

Facing all these challenges in making the transition from childhood to adulthood be more effective is a backbone to reduce poverty. To be an effective member of the society who is confident and active, one has to undergo a process since childhood. But a great step will be to start now, where we are and reflect what is being done to make the best possible life to a child.

Change should start now and not wait for the next plans, or policy initiatives at the national level. Whatever we can do in the continuation of making a better place for children in our own organizations, Ministries and government departments, institutions, families and as individuals can and will make a difference and build Tanzania that is Fit for Children.



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