

# UNDERSTANDING CHILD POVERTY

## IN TANZANIA

### Why measure

### MULTIDIMENSIONAL CHILD POVERTY?

Ending child poverty is both crucial for fulfilling the rights of every child and for the future of Tanzania. If not comprehensively addressed, poverty keeps children from reaching their full potential and undermines the nation's growth, including progress towards Tanzania's 'Vision 2025'.

To measure childhood poverty effectively, other needs key to child wellbeing, besides monetary income in the home, must be included. Tanzania has therefore developed a

comprehensive way to measure child poverty specifically for the country. The measure considers a child's access to nutrition, health, protection, education, information, sanitation, water and housing.

Accurate measurement of child poverty is particularly important in Tanzania as the child population is expected to rapidly increase by 2030. Therefore, with the right investment in its children, Tanzania could reap a demographic dividend.

### How is MULTIDIMENSIONAL CHILD POVERTY defined in Tanzania?

A child in Tanzania is defined as living in poverty if he or she suffers deprivation in three or more key dimensions of poverty: access to nutrition, health, protection, education, information, sanitation, water and housing. These dimensions are measured across four age groups (0–23 months; 24–59 months; 5–13 years and 14–17 years).

**Incidence in Tanzania:** 74 per cent of the country's children experience multidimensional poverty, while 29 per cent are affected by monetary poverty, according to 'Child Poverty in Tanzania', a report developed by the National Bureau of Statistics in collaboration with UNICEF.

These findings are based on the National Panel Survey conducted in 2012–2013 and calculated using a multidimensional child poverty measurement specific to Tanzania. Importantly, this national measure corresponds to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target on child multidimensional poverty set out in Goal 1.2.

Children affected by **MONETARY POVERTY**

*live in households below the national poverty line*

Children affected by **MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY**

*are deprived in other dimensions such as health, nutrition, education and protection*

MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY IS ASSESSED IN THE FOLLOWING DIMENSIONS DEFINED BY NATIONAL INDICATORS



health



nutrition



water



sanitation



housing



protection



education



access to information

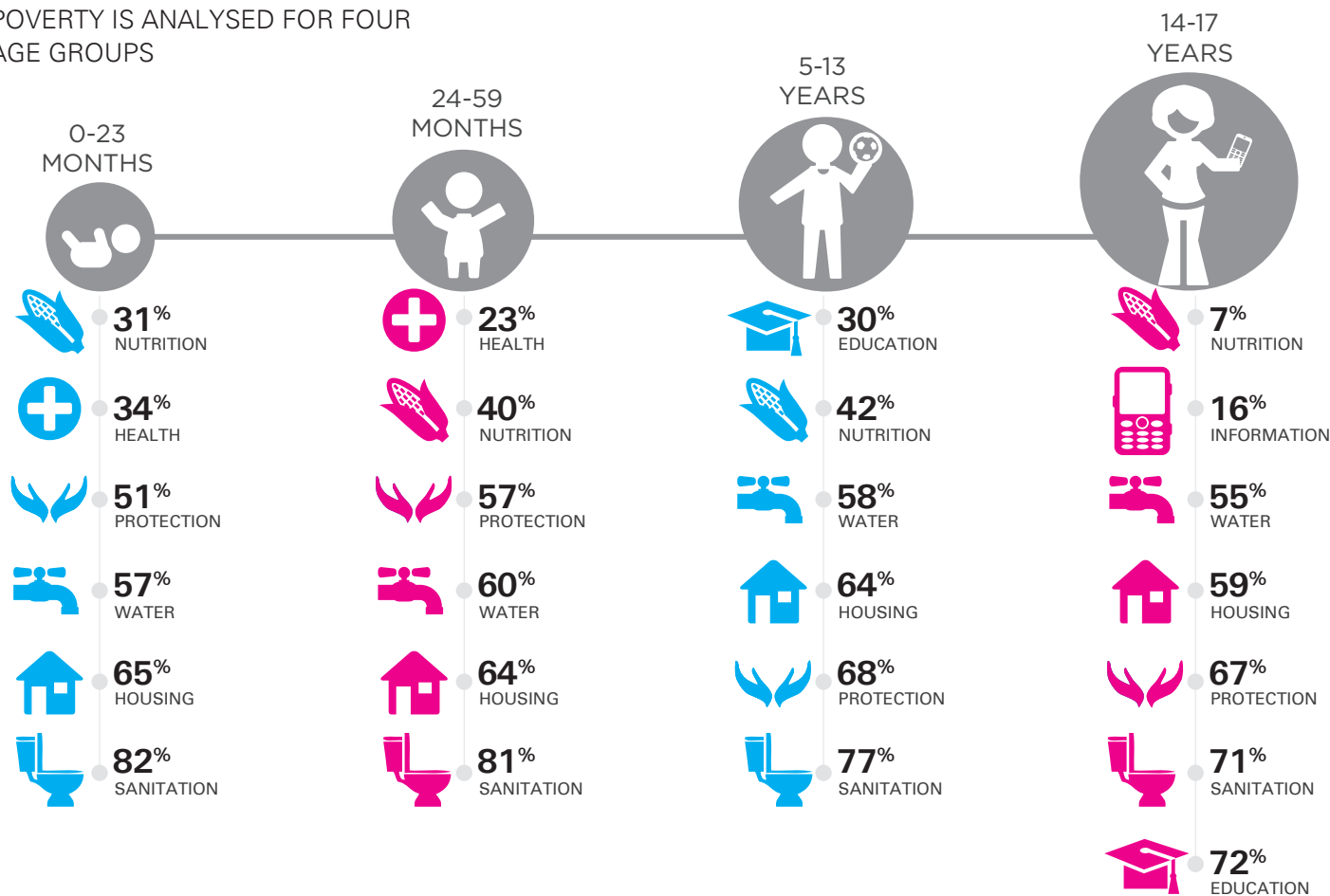
### Leaving no one behind...

Tanzania subscribes to the Sustainable Development Goals which, by 2030, aims to: **"reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions."**

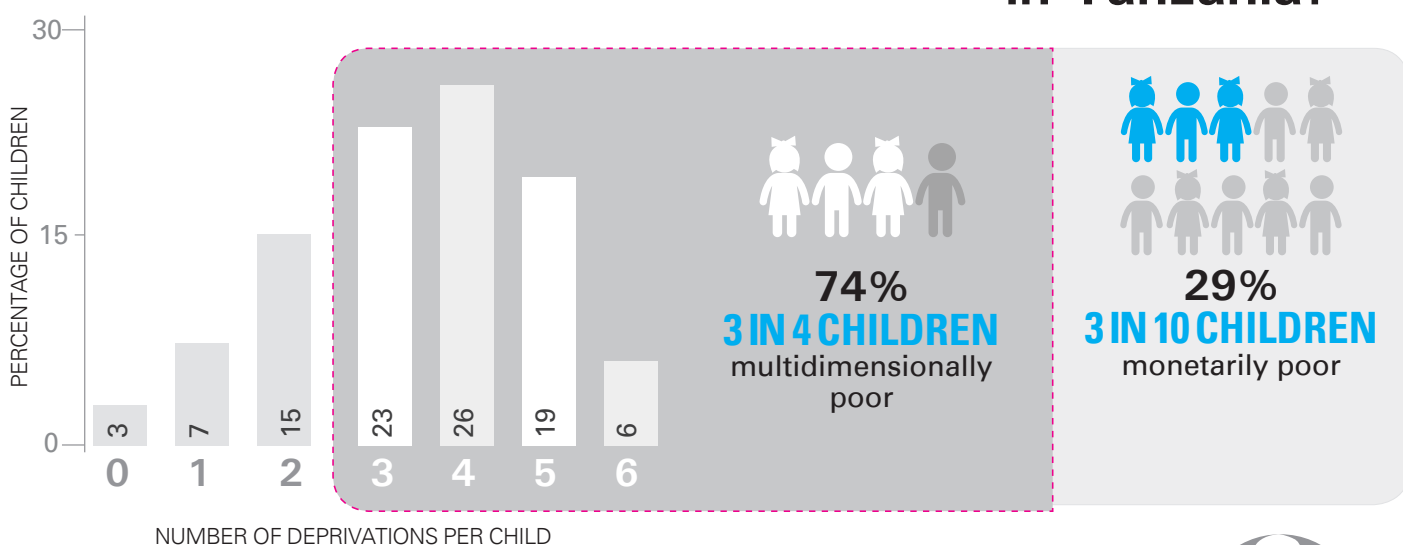
SDG Target  
**1.2**

# LEVELS OF MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY for children in Tanzania

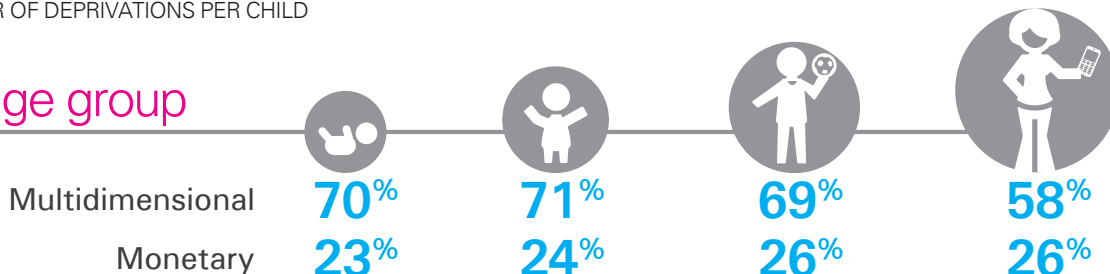
MULTIDIMENSIONAL CHILD POVERTY IS ANALYSED FOR FOUR AGE GROUPS



## How acute is MULTIDIMENSIONAL & MONETARY POVERTY in Tanzania?



### Levels by age group



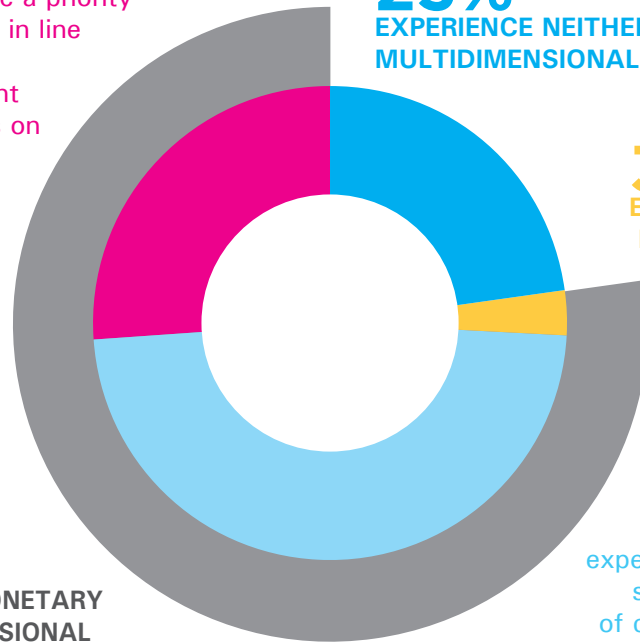
## OF ALL TANZANIAN CHILDREN:

**26%** EXPERIENCE BOTH MONETARY AND MULTIDIMENSIONAL

**POVERTY.** These are the most vulnerable and should be a priority for social programming, in line with the agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals and the emphasis on leaving no one behind.

**23%** EXPERIENCE NEITHER MONETARY NOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY.

**3%** EXPERIENCE MONETARY POVERTY ONLY.



**77%** EXPERIENCE EITHER MONETARY POVERTY, MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY, OR BOTH.

**48%** EXPERIENCE MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY without living in households experiencing monetary poverty. This suggests that a significant group of children will be entirely missed if targeting of social programmes is based wholly on monetary poverty status.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN EXPERIENCING

### multidimensional & monetary poverty

SOME SPECIFIC FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS ARE STRONGLY RELATED TO MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY.

#### Parental education

Parental education is the single most important contributing factor determining multidimensional child poverty. For example, if a child's father has attended school, the child is less likely to be engaged in child labour. For younger children, a mother's level of education strongly protects the child against nutritional deprivation.

#### Gender differences

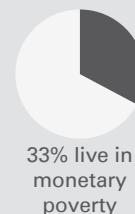
No significant gender differences in the levels of multidimensional poverty occur in Tanzania, although some exceptions exist among the older age groups, where boys are more likely to be deprived of schooling and to engage in child labour than girls.

#### Children in urban & rural areas

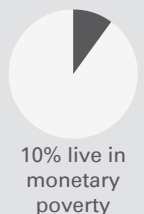
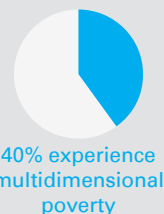
Children in rural areas experience higher rates of both monetary and multidimensional poverty than children in urban areas.

They also tend to live with household heads who have low levels of education. In urban areas, however, more children are affected by poor housing conditions than in rural areas.

#### RURAL CHILDREN



#### URBAN CHILDREN



**'For children, poverty can last a life time'**

# POLICY IMPLICATIONS

## suggested priority actions

### Current levels of poverty predict future levels of poverty.

Investing early in children, particularly those who are most disadvantaged, is needed in order to develop a skilled and healthy workforce in Tanzania.

**Child poverty is about more than money.** If child poverty is understood only as a lack of family income, many children whose basic rights are not fulfilled will be missed by interventions.

**Poverty dimensions overlap and therefore require an integrated approach.** Households below the poverty line, who are eligible for a cash transfer, need to be linked to basic services, as well as livelihood opportunities.

**Income-support programmes can play a key role.** TASAF III/Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) has the potential to reduce multidimensional child poverty amongst the poorest households.

**Many children experience multidimensional poverty without being affected by monetary poverty.** In such cases, social sector interventions – health, education, water and protection – are needed to reduce multidimensional poverty on a larger scale.

**Investing in education is one of the most important ways to reduce multi-dimensional poverty.** Low levels of education of the mother and/or the head of the household contributes significantly to high levels of multidimensional poverty. Therefore, investing in early child education and programmes to keep children in school is paramount. This includes removing barriers to education, like child labour and early marriage.

**Current levels of poverty predict future levels of poverty, and children experiencing poverty in childhood will often be disadvantaged and unable to reach their full potential later in life. It is therefore important to invest early in children and with equity to develop a skilled and healthy workforce in Tanzania. This is the key for Tanzania to achieve its vision.**

## TO SUMMARISE

Child poverty is complex. Multidimensional poverty is not about simply counting the number of children living in poor households. It is about analysing specific dimensions of poverty and their causes to piece together a fuller picture of a child's quality of life. This provides the basis for designing policies and programmes that can effectively address child poverty and promote the development of the country.

## RECOMMENDATION

In light of the high level of both monetary and multidimensional poverty, and the inclusion of child poverty in the SDGs, **child multidimensional poverty counts, based on nationally available data, must be routinely calculated and reported along with the number of children living in monetarily poor households.** This will inform Tanzania's future reporting on Goal 1.2 of the SDGs. These counts will also serve to monitor efforts to address child poverty within the Five-Year Development Plan II in mainland Tanzania and MKUZA II's Successor Strategy in Zanzibar.

