

## United Republic of Tanzania

### Update on the context and situation of children

Tanzania became a lower-middle income country in July 2020, achieving one of the key milestones of the Tanzania Development Vision 2025. According to the 2020 Human Development Report,[1] Tanzania's Human Development Index value for 2019 was 0.529, positioning Tanzania at 163 out of 189 countries and territories. According to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Index 2020, Tanzania ranked 131 out of 193 countries.[2] Tanzania achieved the target set for climate change in 2019, with significant challenges remaining for reaching the SDG targets for poverty, hunger, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and quality education.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented unprecedented challenges globally and impacted the socio-economic situation in Tanzania. Although Tanzania did not impose a strict lockdown, the pandemic is expected to reduce the real Gross Domestic Product growth rate to 2.5 per cent in 2020 (official figures showed a rate of 6.9 per cent for the first three quarters of 2019) and increase the fiscal deficit, putting more pressure on resources for basic social services.[3] Simulations using the 2018 Household Budget Survey suggest an additional 500,000 Tanzanians could fall below the poverty line increasing the number of vulnerable people in need of support.[4]

General elections took place in Mainland and Zanzibar in October, re-electing Tanzania's incumbent President for a second five-year term. The Government commenced development of the Five-Year Development Plan III for Mainland and the Fourth Zanzibar Development Plan with a focus on fostering the country's export potential. The Government continued to prioritize infrastructure investments (especially railways and hydropower), with relative budget shares for education and health continuing to show a downward trend.

Tanzania's submission of the Sixth State Party Report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (due on 9 January 2020) was delayed. The Committee's concluding observations for Tanzania's combined Third and Fifth report highlighted issues such as discrimination against pregnant girls and teenage mothers, protection of children with albinism, corporal punishment, child marriage and child-focused statistics disaggregated by age, sex and geographical location. The Legal and Human Rights Centre and Centre for Reproductive Rights submitted a report to the African Committee on Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in 2019 describing the conditions for girls in the school system, including forced pregnancy testing and expulsion of girls if pregnant. The complaint was admitted by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in September 2020.[5]

Tanzania faced multiple emergencies in 2020, including COVID-19, localized floods in different parts of the country and the protracted refugee situation in Kigoma region. More than 20,000 people displaced by floods in 16 regions were provided with non-food items and WASH supplies with UNICEF support. Emergency coordination and communication capacities in the Disaster Management Department in the Prime Minister's Office were enhanced through provision of equipment and software, supporting the department to fulfil their coordination role.

Tanzania registered its first case of COVID-19 on 16 March 2020. The last official information on COVID-19 cases in Tanzania was released in April for Mainland (375 total cases) and May for Zanzibar (134 total cases).[6] Lack of official data on COVID-19 between May and December 2020 impacted the planning and implementation of an evidence-based response. Restrictions on schools, sport and community activities introduced in March were lifted in June. The negative impact of COVID 19 on education has been much more limited as schools gradually reopened from June. In June

2020, the President officially declared Tanzania free of COVID-19.

Despite these constraints, UNICEF, together with partners, supported the Government to develop and implement the National COVID-19 Response Plan, which transitioned into the National Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Plan. Through the response plan pillars, UNICEF co-led the Risk Communication and Communication Engagement (RCCE) pillar with the Health Promotion Unit in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC) and supported IPC efforts as well as efforts to provide essential health, nutrition and HIV/AIDS services. The number of refugees from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo reduced from 278,275 in 2019 to 227,896 (including 56 per cent children) in November 2020 due to ongoing voluntary repatriations, which started in 2017.[7] UNICEF continued to focus on the protection of refugee children, including provision of critical lifesaving services such as treatment of severe malnutrition, water and sanitation services, maternal child and nutrition health, psychosocial support to separated and unaccompanied children, and provision of learning and teaching materials for refugee school children.

In a positive development, there were no official reports of outbreaks of cholera in 2020. The World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and other partners have been supporting the Government to prepare a National Cholera Control Plan, similar to the Zanzibar plan, which is awaiting government validation. Between April and September 2020, 331 cases of measles were reported in the Nduta refugee camp in Kigoma region, mostly among children under nine years. UNICEF, in collaboration with Government and other partners, vaccinated 1,811 children aged 6-11 months (95 per cent of the target group) in Nduta camp through an integrated Measles-Rubella, Vitamin A supplementation, deworming and Rapid Mid-Upper Arm Circumference screening campaign conducted in July 2020.

[1] United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2020. The next frontier: Human development and the Anthropocene*, New York, 2020. See also the Tanzania country profile: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/TZA>

[2] Sachs, Jeffrey, et al., *The Sustainable Development Goals and COVID-19. Sustainable Development Report 2020*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2020. The SDG index is an indicator of the achievement in realizing the 17 SDGs.

[3] World Bank Group, *Tanzania Economic Update: Addressing the Impact of COVID-19*, World Bank, Washington, DC., 2020.

[4] Ibid.

[5] The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 'Admissibility Ruling, Communication no: 0012/Com/001/2019, Legal and Human Rights Center and Center for Reproductive Rights (on behalf of Tanzanian girls) v United Republic of Tanzania', 2020.

[6] Reports released by the Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, 2020.

[7] Refugee population updates, Ministry of Home Affairs and UNHCR, November 2020.

## Major contributions and drivers of results

UNICEF Tanzania worked with partners to deliver its planned activities for 2020, while at the same time preparing for and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 posed a challenge for the implementation of regular activities, with approximately 27 per cent of planned results for 2020 showing constrained progress.

UNICEF continued to use three key strategies to achieve results for children and their families which were implemented through a variety of partnerships and innovative approaches:

**(a) Strengthening systems to ensure continuity of essential health, nutrition, HIV, WASH,**

## **education, child protection and social protection services, especially for the most vulnerable children and their families**

**Health:** Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF and partners focused on the continuation of essential health services for children and their families. With support from UNICEF, the Government's immunization programme sustained its coverage of 98 per cent for the third dose of Pentavalent vaccine, reaching approximately 2 million infants with protection against five major diseases (diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis B and Haemophilus influenzae type B) in 2020. Coverage of at least 4 Antenatal Care visits increased from 80.5 to 83.4 per cent and coverage of lifelong Antiretroviral Treatment for pregnant mothers living with HIV increased from 94.8 to 96.3 per cent. At the same time, a worrying drop in the proportion of mothers delivering in health facilities was observed, from 82.7 per cent in 2019 to 77.4 per cent in 2020.

IPC in health facilities was strengthened through the procurement of 309,840 sets of personal protective equipment, and in partnership with the Government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), IPC training of 8,860 health workers in 297 health facilities was conducted covering half of all regions nationwide. A total of 350 oxygen concentrators were procured and a nationwide assessment of oxygen availability was completed together with WHO, leading to a US\$14 million investment from the World Bank and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to establish oxygen plants in the country.

Nearly 8,000 Community Health Workers/Volunteers (CHW/V), representing 10 per cent of the estimated number needed for implementation of the national Community Health Services Guidelines, were recruited and trained, with support from UNICEF. Of these, 1,825 CHW/V were trained on community-based surveillance and RCCE in the context of COVID-19 and deployed to high-risk regions, including major cities. Through a partnership with a national NGO, the Benjamin Mkapa Foundation, CHW reached an estimated 3 million people (50 per cent of the population) in Dar es Salaam with COVID-19 and other health promotion messages between June and September 2020.

**Nutrition:** The disruption of essential nutrition services due to COVID-19 was minimal except for the bi-annual campaign for Vitamin A supplementation and deworming and Village Health and Nutrition events which were cancelled. The number of children reached by September 2020 with Vitamin A supplementation significantly declined from over 9.1 million in 2019 for Mainland and Zanzibar to 155,183 in 2020 in Zanzibar alone. This resulted from the suspension of Child Health and Nutrition Months in Mainland in the first half of the year due to COVID-19. UNICEF advocated for resumption of Child Health and Nutrition Months in the second half of 2020, which are now being implemented across all regions in Mainland, allowing for a catch up of children who missed the first dose of Vitamin A supplementation. In Zanzibar, nutrition commodities were integrated into the Government's logistic supply chain systems, which facilitated improved timely processing, distribution and reporting of nutrition commodities allowing for the treatment of 1,377 Zanzibari children with severe acute malnutrition. The proportion of children with SAM who were admitted for care increased in UNICEF supported regions of Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe, Songwe and Zanzibar from 42 per cent in 2018/19 to 61 per cent in 2019/2020 resulting in the treatment of 6583 children 6-59 months (3411 boys and 3172 girls) in Mainland and Zanzibar.

In the UNICEF focus regions of Mbeya, Njombe, Iringa, Songwe and Zanzibar, 522,084 (85 per cent) of caregivers of children under two years (out of 614,217 targeted in 2020) were reached with regular nutrition counselling services, a 20 per cent increase from 2019. UNICEF, through the Development Partners' Group for Nutrition and the National Infant and Young Child Nutrition Working Group, advocated and influenced the scale-up of community-based nutrition counselling services, which contributed to an increase in the nationwide coverage of mothers receiving counselling services from CHW from 54 per cent (2.1 million) in 2018/19 to 65 per cent (2.5 million) in 2019/20.

**HIV:** Under the leadership of the Government and in close partnership with NGOs, UNICEF reinforced continuity of HIV services in 35 districts in Mbeya, Songwe, Iringa, Njombe, Dar Es Salaam and all of Zanzibar, reaching at least 12 per cent of all children and adults living with HIV with antiretroviral treatment adherence support. UNICEF supported the Government to scale up HIV prevention interventions for adolescent boys and girls and young women from 24 districts in 2019 to 33 districts in Mbeya, Songwe, Iringa, Njombe and Kigoma regions and all of Zanzibar in 2020, now reaching 19.5 per cent of all districts in the country, surpassing the 2020 target.

Through advocacy, close coordination and leveraging of the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and Global Fund investments, HIV services were uninterrupted during the COVID-19 pandemic. The proportion of pregnant women living with HIV who had lifelong access to antiretroviral treatment for prevention of mother-to-child transmission, reached 98 per cent in 2020. The quality of paediatric and adolescent HIV treatment services was supported in nine of the higher HIV prevalence councils in Njombe, Mbeya and Iringa regions and in all 11 districts of Zanzibar, contributing to increasing the national antiretroviral treatment coverage for children from 66 per cent in 2019 to 79 per cent in 2020.

**WASH:** UNICEF, in collaboration with Government, NGOs and other partners, provided technical and financial support to enhance the WASH readiness of isolation centres identified by the MoHCDGEC as part of the COVID-19 response. UNICEF assessed and upgraded WASH infrastructure in 24 healthcare facilities in Mbeya, Iringa, Songwe, Njombe and Kigoma regions serving a catchment of over 1.5 million people (including 801,508 females). Though aligned to the COVID-19 response, this intervention also contributed significantly to the continuity of essential health services in the supported regions and laid a foundation for sharper focus on WASH in health facilities for 2021.

UNICEF in collaboration with WHO and the MoHCDGEC also strengthened the capacity of health workers in these regions to consistently practise WASH IPC measures reaching health workers in 15 of 26 regions on the Mainland. In follow up, a low-cost mentorship-based training scheme will be implemented in all healthcare facilities to ensure all health workers and ancillary staff are consistently practicing WASH IPC. This builds on the earlier technical assistance from WHO and UNICEF to the MoHCDGEC to develop the national WASH IPC protocols.

**Education:** In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, all schools in Tanzania were closed for over three months, a much shorter period than in the rest of the region. To ensure continuity of learning for all children, UNICEF, the Government of Canada, the Global Partnership for Education, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Standard Chartered Bank supported the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology through the Tanzania Institute of Education, to develop online home learning lessons delivered through radio and television for all school levels reaching over 2.5 million children, including those in refugee camps and Zanzibar. In addition, 359,757 children (50 per cent girls) from pre-primary and grades 1 and 2 in Mbeya, Njombe, Songwe and Zanzibar benefited from home-learning packages developed and distributed through UNICEF support. All 14 million school children nationally received key COVID-19 prevention messages developed and disseminated with the support of UNICEF.

Within the context of early learning, the School-Based Continuous Professional Development Programme provided 386 pre-primary resource teachers (243 female) with mentorship training, including the use of In-Service Teacher Education and Training modules, self-study and group learning sessions. These resource teachers are critical to providing support to the UNICEF-supported Pre-Primary Satellite programme, which aims to increase access to early grade education for children in remote areas. Implementation research of the satellite programme is underway with the University of Dar es Salaam to identify innovations and support the development of a national scale-up plan for pre-

primary education in 2021. Additionally, UNICEF exceeded the target of training 400 pre-primary teachers to transform their classrooms into stimulating learning environments, reaching a total of 1,514 individuals (63 per cent female).

**Child protection:** In response to COVID-19, UNICEF supported the Government to establish and train mental health and psychosocial support teams to provide psychosocial support services to children and families affected by the pandemic. These services reached 66 out of 184 Local Government Authorities in 10 regions on Mainland, benefiting at least 7,656 children and adults, including 5,055 adolescents in Kigoma's refugee camps. The mental health and psychosocial support teams are a critical resource to strengthen capacity to support victims of violence within the overall child protection system, while making it more resilient to future emergencies/disasters.

In 2020, more than 859,000 children under five were registered and issued with a birth certificate across 18 regions in Mainland Tanzania, exceeding the target of 650,000. UNICEF, with support from Global Affairs Canada and the telecommunications company TIGO, supported the Government to expand the Simplified Birth Registration System to three additional regions (Ruvuma, Kilimanjaro and Tanga), covering 18 of the 26 regions. Over 5.2 million children under five (49.9 per cent girls) have been registered through this system since 2013, raising the overall birth certification rate in Tanzania Mainland from 12.7 per cent in 2012 to 58 per cent in 2020 (86 per cent in regions implementing the new system). Encouraged by the success of this system, Tanzania has been declared a champion birth registration country by the African Union with an extended mandate to guide other African countries to improve their civil registration and vital statistics systems.

**Social protection:** Working in collaboration with the Tanzania Social Action Fund and two urban municipalities in Dar es Salaam, UNICEF provided technical and financial support to design and roll-out a programme to provide soap and water treatment chemicals, alongside cash transfers, for the most vulnerable families. As a result, 2,922 vulnerable families (with 6,140 males and 7,459 females) were reached.

UNICEF continued to diversify its support to improve public finance for children, including advocacy, budget analysis and capacity development. A high-level political dialogue was conducted with Members of Parliament to present key findings of the 2019/2020 Sectoral Budget Briefs, which generated discussions about critical budgeting challenges and how to address them during the budget scrutinization process. This increased awareness among Members of Parliament about the shortage of health workers and teachers in hard-to-reach areas, contributing to Government commitment to hire 2,000 additional health workers to address human resource gaps in the health sector in 2020/2021.

## **(b) Evidence generation and resource leveraging**

Health financing to enable primary health care service delivery to mothers, newborns, children and adolescents was supported through the Health Basket Fund, benefiting more than 7,000 (out of 7,200) health facilities countrywide. Advocacy for the launch of an integrated frontline community cadre, including for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health had been underway for years. COVID-19 offered an opportunity for UNICEF and partners to support the Government to launch the Community-Based Health Guidelines in March 2020.

UNICEF supported Tanzania to secure US\$370.6 million for HIV programmes through the Global Fund, including US\$20 million for HIV prevention among young women. The National AIDS Control Programme was supported to further strengthen routine disaggregated government data for children, adolescents and pregnant women, enabling the country to have a more focused approach to HIV prevention, treatment and care.

Through UNICEF support, the capacity of all 184 Local Government Authorities was enhanced to

conduct nutrition planning and budgeting, using information generated by the Multisectoral Nutrition Information Platform. In Mainland, domestic financing for nutrition has increased from US\$3.9 million in 2019/20 to US\$5.2 million in 2020/21. Advocacy for domestic financing of nutrition commodities by UNICEF and other nutrition partners has resulted in the Government's procurement of iron and folic acid supplements and removed the bottleneck of stock-outs during antenatal care.

UNICEF, together with the University of Buffalo and the UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti, completed an impact evaluation of the Cash Plus programme, which combines livelihood support and sexual and reproductive health and HIV training for adolescent girls and boys from poor households. The assessment indicates that the training and mentoring has had multiple positive impacts, including improving equitable gender attitudes, delaying sexual debut and improving healthy behaviours. Evidence from this evaluation informed the development of the Productive Social Safety Net II programme and is now being scaled up across the country with further coverage of around 1 million households.

### **(c) Promoting social and behaviour change and increasing demand for child-centred services**

UNICEF, together with the MoHCDGEC, jointly led the national RCCE coordination pillar as part of the COVID-19 response, creating a regular multi-partner platform (with more than 70 partners) for public health emergencies. With UNICEF support, and in close collaboration with multiple government, NGO and development partners, up to 40 million people (approximately 70 per cent of Tanzania's population) were reached with COVID-19 and other general health prevention messages through mass media channels and community outreach activities. In partnership with the Tanzania Red Cross Society, 2,790 volunteers (49 per cent female) were mobilized in communities across the country, delivering COVID-19 prevention messages in 10,414 high-risk locations. UNICEF social media channels reached over 7 million people on Facebook and an average of 10 million people a month on Twitter with COVID-related messaging between March and June 2020. UNICEF, in collaboration with the Norwegian Refugee Council, reached over 200,000 refugees with COVID-19 safety messages through community engagement and tailored information, education and communication materials.

UNICEF continued to support the roll out of a national multi-sectoral parenting and family care agenda: *Familia Bora, Taifa Imara* (Better Families, Strong Nation). Together with BBC Media Action, UNICEF and government partners initiated a nationwide multi-media programme, *Safari ya Malezi* (Journey of Parenting) reaching 2.4 million adults (8.4 per cent of the adult population) in 2020. The audience survey showed that 67 per cent of parents and caregivers had increased their ability to engage in good parenting practices, benefiting an estimated 3.2 million children.

### **(d) Management results**

UNICEF Tanzania continued to strengthen management excellence in the country office and implemented a range of measures to further enhance capacity of staff to speak up, using respectful communication and to enhance overall staff mental health and wellbeing. A mentorship programme was initiated, and a series of ethics dialogue sessions were conducted focusing on the UNICEF values of care, integrity and accountability. The Dar es Salaam office completed the solar energy project resulting in a significant reduction in electricity costs. Water consumption was also reduced by more than 10 per cent, use of plastic material eliminated and paper printing reduced by over 30 per cent.

## UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships

The United Nations Development Assistance Plan II was extended by one year until June 2022 to align it with the Government's National Development Plans for Mainland and Zanzibar, which are currently under development. In line with this decision, the United Nations began preparations for the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, which will start in July 2022.

Working closely with multiple United Nations agencies and other government and development partners, UNICEF supported COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts, with a particular focus on supporting the continuation of essential health services. This led to the achievement of a long-term programme and advocacy objective, in particular the scale-up of the Community Health Worker scheme. Building strong partnerships around this scheme, including with government and development partners, the scheme was funded, resourced and rolled out in cooperation with the Benjamin Mkapa Foundation. Together with UNAIDS and WHO, UNICEF supported the MoHCDGEC to issue rapid national guidance on HIV and COVID-19, as well as related job aids and tools and standard communication materials for children and adults living with HIV.

Leveraging UNICEF's partnership with key strategic influencers such as faith leaders, media, parliament, celebrity influencers and the private sector, messaging on COVID-19 prevention and advocacy on the child rights agenda was amplified. For example, faith leaders established and adopted COVID-19 safety guidelines and protocols in places of worship, produced customized advocacy packages to advance the WASH and parenting agendas and adopted a Fatwa against child marriage in Zanzibar. UNICEF and the CEO Roundtable Tanzania, which comprises over 100 national and multinational companies, agreed to launch activities to combat the spread of WASH-related communicable diseases by fast-tracking the supply and distribution of critical hygiene products and protective equipment. To date, five private sector companies have committed to the initiative, which is expected to be scaled up in 2021. UNICEF leveraged 17 celebrity influencers to share messaging on COVID-19 and held numerous sessions on COVID-19 through its digital partner, Elimika, reaching over 2 million people in each session.

The UNICEF-UNFPA joint programme entitled 'Girls Reproductive Health, Rights and Empowerment Accelerated in Tanzania', financed by Global Affairs Canada, continued under the coordination of UNICEF. Government officials were sensitized on adolescent reproductive health and HIV prevention and the first set of health workers were trained, laying the foundation to reach a planned 90,000 adolescent girls with knowledge, skills and services.

UNICEF, in partnership with the Government and other implementing partners, developed the country's first National Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Programme (2021/2022-2025/2026), which aims to accelerate early childhood development gains through a multi-sectoral approach.

Tanzania's graduation to lower middle-income status in 2020 has begun to reshape the partnership context. Reduced reliance on official development assistance and an increased focus on Tanzanian and African solutions and partnerships will continue to guide this change.

## Lessons Learned and Innovations

The COVID-19 pandemic has opened the space for a renewed focus on innovative solutions to scale up handwashing with soap. UNICEF provided technical support to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to develop a WASH protocol for the safe reopening of schools, which was implemented in schools nationwide. UNICEF also partnered with entrepreneurs in Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe, Songwe, Kigoma and Dar es Salaam regions and in Zanzibar to fabricate home-grown contactless handwashing

stations, which were then distributed to 441 schools and in refugee camps. These were of varying designs and revealed latent technological capacity which, with appropriate support, can spawn local manufacturing of cheap but effective WASH hardware. UNICEF will leverage a new partnership with the private sector to test models for bringing to market locally-designed and manufactured handwashing stations at a cost affordable to schools. At the national level, UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to develop a national costed plan and investment case for school WASH to attract additional funding for school WASH facilities. Work on these key documents was disrupted due to COVID-19 travel restrictions but is set to resume in January 2021.

UNICEF Tanzania continued to utilize the U-Report platform – a social messaging tool and data collection system – to generate real time data on adolescents’ and young people, while promoting access to vital information about COVID-19, with more than 65,000 U-Reporters participating in the weekly COVID-19 polls. One example of how U-Report data was used for action was observed in a poll that focused on U-Reporters knowledge on HIV and COVID-19 prevention. Data from the poll showed that only 24.6 per cent of respondents had correct information about HIV and COVID-19 prevention. As a follow-up, UNICEF worked with the Government and NGO partners to address inaccurate rumours and facilitated access to correct information, reaching 11,000 children, adolescents and pregnant mothers living with HIV and 201,922 adults in 35 districts, including all districts in Zanzibar. An important lesson learned was that returning results to users and delivering them as part of the poll increased the number of respondents. U-Report results are now included at the end of each poll and a set menu with results is shared with users.

The Tanzania country office piloted distance learning innovation solutions to train frontline workers to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. One solution successfully tested made use of a combination of the Internet of Good Things (IoGT) and RapidPro for an internet-based system supported by SMS or WhatsApp. The IoGT is a mobile-ready digital platform designed to enable people in remote settings to access educational and lifesaving information without data charge, a facility that became more critical in the context of COVID-19, especially given restrictions to movement. In total, 200 frontline workers from eight districts were trained using the IoGT and RapidPro system, enabling them to provide psychosocial support to children and families in need. The prototype has since been adopted by other UNICEF offices such as UNICEF Pacific and UNICEF Mexico.

UNICEF Tanzania participated in two global digital challenges focusing on skills building, initiated by UNICEF’s East and Southern Africa Regional Office. Through the COVID-19 and *#ReImagineYourFuture* challenges, over 500 participants were exposed to human-centred design methodologies that fostered creativity and self-reflection skills. In 2021, these digital challenges will be coordinated through the UNICEF Tanzania Adolescent Taskforce. The taskforce will implement a partner mapping exercise so that successful participants of the challenges receive additional support and resources from partners to enable their ideas to move into prototyping or product stages.

UNICEF supported the Tanzania Innovation Week 2020, which showcased the most recent locally-built innovations. A total of 5,694 participants attended multiple events during the week. UNICEF, in close collaboration with the Youth 4 Children Innovation Hub of the University of Dar es Salaam and the private sector company Launchpad, hosted a panel discussion on the role of education technology in Tanzania and a follow-up event showcasing education technology innovations. Through these panels and discussions, UNICEF started mapping potential partners in the education technology space and defined a trial collaboration area to deliver educational content through SMS. During school closures due to COVID-19, UNICEF initiated the use of U-Report to deliver SMS-based education content. Though this first step was not sustained, it generated lessons in partnership. UNICEF is continuing to work with the Tanzania Institute of Education to improve and expand the use of digital systems in education.

UNICEF Tanzania engaged with mothers through its *Mama na Mwana* service, an SMS system

designed to collect information about quality of maternal, neonatal and postnatal care. Following the outbreak of COVID-19, UNICEF also provided information about COVID-19 and collected data on disruption of essential health services. Findings highlighted that immunization services had not been disrupted by COVID-19, with 89.6 per cent of those who sought services able to access them. Through *Mama na Mwana*, 12,002 mothers accessed UNICEF's COVID-19 content or provided responses to polls. *Mama na Mwana* was also evaluated as part of the broader endline evaluation of the project 'Saving mother's and children's lives through innovative, sustainable and comprehensive reproductive, mother, child and adolescent health services'. Lessons learned were highlighted, including the need to further institutionalize the programme with the Mobile Health section of the MoHCDGEC and to synergize and integrate it with the ongoing *Wazazi Nipendeni* programme managed by USAID/Cardno. These lessons will be taken forward in 2021.

### **Acronyms**

AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
CHW/V	Community Health Workers/Volunteers
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
IoGT	Internet of Good Things
IPC	Infection prevention and control
MoHCDGEC	Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children
NGO	Non-governmental organization
RCCE	Risk communication and community engagement
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SMS	Short Message Service (part of rapid technology systems)
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNPFA	United Nations Population Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
<b>WASH</b>	<b>Water, sanitation and hygiene</b>
<b>WHO</b>	<b>World Health Organization</b>