

United Republic of Tanzania

Update on the context and situation of children

The overall (governance) context continued to be favorable for children and women in 2023. With 29 million of Tanzania's (62 million) population under the age of 18, Government and partners prioritized maximizing this demographic youth dividend and the related potential of women's critical socio-economic role to benefit the country's overall growth and move Tanzania towards the SDG targets. Beyond moving the domestic agenda forward, Tanzania championed children, youth and women's issues on the international stage by hosting (i) the Africa Human Capital Heads of State Summit; (ii) the Africa Food Systems Forum 2023 Summit; (iii) the African Union Ending Female Genital Mutilation International Conference, (iv) the High Level Generation Equality Africa Regional Workshop on Financing for Gender Equality, (v) the Global Partnership for Education Board meeting, (vi) and the Africa launch for the Global Alliance to End AIDS in Children (among others), thereby reaffirming the United Republic of Tanzania's commitment to sustainable development and inclusive economic growth through investment in its people, particularly children, youth and women.

On the economic front, Tanzania's economy has been steadily recovering from the pandemic. While the real GDP growth rate is predicted to increase to 5.1% in 2023, up from 4.7% (growth rate) in 2022, economic growth is considered below potential over the long run with higher food and energy prices (due to the combined impact of global dynamics and localised drought). It is anticipated that the 27% poverty rate, projected in 2022, will reduce by only 1% by 2025[1][2]. While favorable macroeconomic growth has increased revenue capacity, there has been no visible change in the share of the national budget allocated to the social sectors. Compared to fiscal year (FY) 2022/23, the health and education sectors experienced nominal budget increases in FY 2023/2024 in allocations by 13.3% and 4.7%, respectively. The government maintains its commitment to reform the public financial management system with a particular focus on tackling obstacles that impede accessibility and quality of social services, poor linkages between plans and budgets, and low execution rates.

Tanzania made positive progress in protecting, promoting, and realizing children's rights, including children with disabilities:

- Under-5 mortality rate [3] decreased from 147 in 1999 to 43 deaths per 1,000 live births and the maternal mortality ratio significantly dropped to 104 per 100,000 live births in 2022.
- The proportion of children under five whose births have been registered with a civil authority has significantly increased from 26% in 2015/16 to 68% in 2022.
- 47% of children aged 24–59 months living with their biological mother are developmentally on-track in health, learning, and psychosocial well-being.
- Access to basic drinking water and sanitation services has improved, with 64% of household population having access to basic drinking water, up from 49% in 2015/16. A notable proportion of the population still practices open defecation, with only a slight decrease from 16% in 2010, to 10% in 2022.

Notwithstanding progress, challenges persist, hindering children in Tanzania from fully realizing their rights.

- Despite tremendous efforts in the education sector, 3.2 million children (7-17 years) remain out-of-school of which 1.2 million have never attended school.
- Noting stunting among children under age five has decreased from 34% in 2015/16 to 30% in 2022, the stunting prevalence not only jeopardizes the concerned child's potential but is a long-term economic development inhibitor for the country. Of concern, wasting, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity prevalence are on the increase.
- A slight decrease in the prevalence of female genital mutilation among women and adolescent girls is

observed, with 8% of women aged 15-49 and 4% of adolescent girls aged 15-19 having undergone female genital mutilation, a slight decrease from 10% and 5% respectively in 2015/16.

·8% of adolescent girls aged 15-19 have experienced physical violence since age 15, a decrease from 22% in 2015/16 while sexual violence decreased from 11% in 2015/16 to 9% in 2022.

·The percentage of adolescents who had a child or were pregnant has not changed significantly from 26% in 2004-2005 to its current estimate of 22% in 2022.

Implementation of social sector national action plans and notable progressive policy and system reforms for children and young people undertaken by Government with support from UNICEF and other partners included:

·Tanzania became a member of the Community Health Roadmap network leading on an ambitious community health reform agenda

·Substantial progress toward achieving Universal Health Coverage with the issuance of the Zanzibar Health Services Fund and the mainland passage of the Universal Health Insurance Bill

·Government approval of a new Education Policy and ambitious curriculum reforms focusing on quality, inclusion, and safe education

·Government approval of the National Social Protection Policy

·Roll-out of the revised Birth Registration system across all regions in mainland was completed facilitating the access to a birth certificate and social services for children.

·The Nutrition Compact, a President-led regional government accountability mechanism, contributed to increasing regional government nutrition budgets;

·Drafting of new Water Policies in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar are currently in final stages of approval.

Various public health emergencies put children at risk in 2023: The Marburg virus disease outbreak affected one district in Kagera region putting neighboring regions at high risk before it was contained. Nine cases (including 6 deaths) were reported during the outbreak. Following the previous year's polio outbreaks, additional cases were reported in Rukwa and Mwanza regions. The measles outbreak continued, with 92 councils (47.2%) having reported a cumulative total of 3,392 suspected cases by end September. Cholera was reported in 11 regions affecting 710 people (22 deaths) by November.

The El Nino phenomenon led to above-average rains, causing localized floods and landslides. Fourteen regions in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar were declared high risk. By mid-December over 40,000 people were impacted (89 deaths). Almost 14,000 asylum seekers arrived this year from the Democratic Republic of Congo adding to the existing caseload of 200,000 refugees (including over 100,000 children).

Major contributions and drivers of results

2023 marked the second year of the UNICEF Tanzania country programme with sectoral health, nutrition, WASH, education, child protection, social protection and cross-sectoral gender, disaster risk reduction and climate change results for children from early childhood to adolescence being catalyzed through evidence generation, capacity building, policy support, system strengthening, and social and behavior change.

Every child survives and thrives. UNICEF supported government efforts to expand and maintain access to and use of quality health, HIV/AIDS and nutrition services, and enhance community engagement to ensure the well-being of children, adolescents and women.

Accelerated efforts led to the immunization of 759,083 children, marking a 75% reduction in the

backlog of zero-dose children between January and August 2023. The number of zero-dose children (12-59 months), representing children and families not accessing health services, had steadily increased since 2015 and doubled between 2019 and 2021 to reach over 1 million in 2022. This was attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic which had negatively impacted the provision and use of essential health services. The rapid reduction resulted from strengthening routine Primary Health Care (PHC) services, identifying the zero-dose children through equity analyses, intensifying immunization activities, and enhancing community engagement. The prioritization of zero-dose children by the Ministry of Health (MoH) paved the way for unlocking performance-based and COVID-19 funding.

UNICEF supported the timely procurement and distribution of preventive high-dose vitamin A capsules, targeting 100% of children aged 6-59 months. As a result, over 8 million (80%) children aged 6-59 months received vitamin A supplements during the first semester in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar, contributing to their survival, growth, and development. In addition, over 2.5 million pregnant women (95%) received iron and folic acid supplementation nationally. In Mbeya region and Zanzibar, 17,447 (72%) pregnant women received multiple micronutrient supplements as part of an implementation research intervention for improved nutritional status and birth outcomes.

Capacity and system strengthening strategies led to strategic changes in 2023. UNICEF strengthened community systems and mechanisms to improve children's, adolescents, and women's health and wellbeing in the Kigoma region: Over 256,000 people (166,000 children under five, 4,200 adolescents, 4,800 pregnant women, 5,300 males/spouses and 76,000 caregivers of young children) benefitted from integrated services delivered through village health and nutrition days in 317 villages. UNICEF supported evidence-based planning and budgeting for over 3,600 multisectoral nutrition committee members from all (184) Local Government Authorities (LGAs) in Tanzania mainland. This contributed to improved capacity and enhanced domestic resource allocation for nutrition with 86% of LGAs allocating the minimum budget of TZS 1,000 (about US\$ 0.4) per child under the age of five years. UNICEF's support to build a robust digital client feedback system achieved remarkable results, registering almost 100,000 participants, a five-fold increase from 2022. This initiative, driven by data and effective communication among health workers, aimed to ensure that healthcare services are accessible and responsive to the unique needs of women. UNICEF further contributed to an enabling environment for improved access and utilisation of health care, nutrition, and HIV/AIDS services.

- As part of the Community Health Roadmap network, the MoH instituted a robust coordination structure to technically deliberate and address urgent community health investment priorities, including expanding community health worker scope of service, professionalizing them with remuneration and career path opportunities, and identifying sustainable financing options.

- UNICEF's contribution to the Health Basket Fund leveraged US\$ 54.1 million from seven development partners with 77% of funding directly benefiting all public PHC facilities (7,153), enabling outreach, supervision, and essential medicine procurement.

- UNICEF supported the MoH in evaluating the 1992 Food and Nutrition Policy, a pivotal step ahead of redefining a new policy in 2024. UNICEF continued its support for the Nutrition Compact, a President-led accountability mechanism that contributed to regions increasing their budgets for nutrition. UNICEF collaborated with the Prime Minister's Office, which hosted the UN Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Global Coordinator's first-ever visit to Tanzania. The SUN engagement focused on strategies to enhance opportunities for public and private sector funding for nutrition.

- In partnership with WHO, UNAIDS, and other stakeholders, UNICEF supported the development of an action plan to domesticate the Global Alliance to end AIDS in children – an initiative established to accelerate efforts towards HIV epidemic control among children, including the survival and development of children living with HIV. Based on this plan UNICEF leveraged investments by the Global Fund worth US\$600 million through the government with results for children prioritised, including elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and reducing the HIV treatment gap in children. This will increase access to essential HIV services for children and adolescents towards achieving 95 per cent treatment coverage.

Every child Learns. In line with the Government's Development Vision 2025 on enhancing human capital, UNICEF continued to play a strategic role in supporting education, learning and skills development. UNICEF supported governments in Mainland and Zanzibar, through a comprehensive policy and curriculum reform within the education sector. The reform places strong emphasis on improving access to education for out-of-school children and enhancing the quality of education, with a focus on life skills, employability, and vocational education. One of the key aspects of the reform is to ensure that adolescent mothers and pregnant girls can access quality education and training, giving them an opportunity to improve their lives.

UNICEF worked with the Government to secure additional funding of US\$ 3.9 million from the Global Partnership for Education which will strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology and the PORALG. This will include building capacity on equity and efficiency of domestic financing, gender-responsive planning, budgeting, policy and monitoring, data and evidence, and sectoral coordination. Through policy and curriculum reform, increased funding, and a focus on inclusive and quality education, equal opportunities for all children and young people in the country are being facilitated.

UNICEF continued to support and strengthen government systems to reduce the number of out-of-school children through sub-national engagement. As a result, 51,481 out-of-school children and adolescents (24,453 girls) were able to continue their education in three focus regions in mainland Tanzania (13,292) and Zanzibar (31,639), or via skills development through the Integrated Programme for Out-of-School Adolescents in 8 regions in mainland Tanzania (6,298) and Zanzibar (252). UNICEF further supported the government in training 1,872 teachers to cater to the integration of out-of-school children in schools. The training addressed teacher skills in providing guidance and counseling services, offering psychosocial support, and establishing non-formal education centres. Additionally, UNICEF assisted the government in developing and establishing climate clubs in 400 schools and supported the government in creating national guidelines for the implementation of climate change education in schools.

Every child is protected from violence and exploitation. With UNICEF support, 13,330 children (7,245 girls) affected by violence accessed essential child protection services through the government's social welfare system on the mainland and in Zanzibar. The quality of child protection services increased through monitoring of case management, social welfare officer refresher training and increased prioritization of mental health and psychosocial support services, which were extended to eight more LGAs in Kagera region (total 121 LGAs), reaching 114,109 adults and children (65,120 female). Child protection services in the refugee camps reached 1,232 unaccompanied and separated children (579 girls).

Support continued towards strengthening the policy and legislative environment to protect children from all forms of violence. With UNICEF, UN and partner support, the first National Plans of Action on Violence Against Women and Children on mainland and in Zanzibar were evaluated and used to inform development of successor plans. Stakeholder consultations to amend the Cybercrimes Act and the Law of the Child Act were held with UNICEF support, and a national standard guide for monitoring and provision of legal aid for children in conflict and in contact with the law was developed. UNICEF successfully advocated with Government to implement a reform of the national alternative care system and supported the development of a five-year alternative care strategy. Support to improve data and information management systems in child protection have resulted in the roll out of the District Case Management Monitoring System to all 184 LGAs, up from 77% in 2022. With UNICEF support, the government finalized the national social service workforce assessment and roadmap to inform social welfare systems strengthening initiatives.

In partnership with Global Affairs Canada, UNICEF supported the Government in the continued roll-out of the Simplified Birth Registration System to three remaining regions, reaching all 26 regions on

the mainland with birth registration services. More than 1.1 million children were registered and issued with birth certificates in 2023, bringing the total of over 9 million children having benefitted from the system since 2013. The proportion of under-fives whose births have been registered in mainland increased to 68%, from 13% in 2012. UNICEF support will continue to sustain these birth registration gains, with a focus on registration among children under one, roll out of the integrated digital civil registration and vital statistics system, to all regions of the country, and enhancing integration with other health information systems to improve interoperability, data quality and on-time reporting.

Every child lives in a safe and clean environment. Tanzania's water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector made good progress in 2023, though sanitation lags behind water, with access to basic sanitation nationally at 31% compared with 61% for water. Despite this low coverage, and with UNICEF support, the Iringa Region was able to achieve universal basic sanitation through an at-scale service delivery model with the government and communities in the lead. This model has been implemented since 2020, and in December 2023, all 598 villages (with a population of 1,192,276 people) in the Iringa Region were certified by the MOH as having attained the standard for universal basic sanitation in households. Data from the region shows that cases of dysentery have consistently declined, from a high of 3,859 cases in 2019/20, to 1,673 in 2022/23.

Though the Iringa example demonstrates an ability to achieve rapid scale, sustainability is a factor that slows-down or reverses gains made in the WASH sector. It is important, therefore, to understand the factors that contribute to the non-functionality of WASH systems. To do this, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Water (MOW) to initiate a national sustainability check, which is being implemented by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The check will document the status of WASH services in healthcare facilities (HCFs), schools, and households, and crucially, the factors that lead to breakdowns. It will also identify the budgetary provisions required for WASH operations and maintenance and planning of WASH services to consider lifecycle costs, systemic constraints, and operational arrangements between decentralized and national authorities. Concurrent with this initiative, the MOW on the mainland and Zanzibar have drafted new water policies to replace the 2002 and 2004 policies, respectively which are at the final stages of approval.

At the national level, UNICEF supported the MOH in developing national Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH) guidelines incorporating social and behaviour change (SBC), supply chain, monitoring and evaluation, and specific toolkits. UNICEF facilitated a high-level multisectoral workshop to develop tax reform advocacy briefs for the Ministry of Finance, PORALG, and the MOH, suggesting ways to improve access to MHH materials for schoolgirls and vulnerable populations nationally. In Zanzibar, UNICEF supported the development of a costed action plan and investment case on WASH in schools, which provides valuable information on the economic benefits of investing in WASH services and estimates on financing requirements. The plan can also be used to inform high-level advocacy for resource mobilization.

UNICEF supported the government in attending international meetings in 2023: UNICEF worked with the MOW to prepare and finalize national commitments for the UN 2023 Water Conference, and the ministerial delegation participated in two UNICEF-sponsored events at the conference. UNICEF also supported delegates from the MOH and MOW to attend CoP28 in December. At the sub-national level, UNICEF strengthened systems, improved WASH services, and enhanced infection, prevention and control (IPC) capacities by reinforcing the knowledge of IPC standards and adopting best practices. This was achieved by training 72 people at national, and 225 at sub-national level. They were drawn from 44 districts in 11 regions from Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar. The trained sub-national teams have cascaded the training to HCF level staff and offer close support on the rollout of the tool to accelerate implementation, focusing on progressive improvement and sustaining of services.

The environment that children live in continues to be threatened in Tanzania by the impacts of climate change, seasonal and extreme weather events, environmental degradation, and increasing energy

consumption. UNICEF has fully transitioned to implementing only climate-sensitive water supply systems and undertook two critical studies. The first was a renewable energy needs assessment in healthcare facilities to fully cost options to transition off-grid facilities to renewable energy. The second stage will be to model renewable energy grids in a few healthcare facilities to demonstrate proof of concept and the resultant improvements in quality of care. The second study was to gather recommendations for the safe and environmentally sound management of HCF clinical and non-clinical waste, which will be implemented alongside the modelling of renewable energy options. Finally, UNICEF conducted a children's and youth's consultation to understand their perceptions of how climate change is impacting their lives resulting in an advocacy paper presented to the government in lead-up to CoP28. UNICEF supported three youths to join Tanzania's official national delegation to CoP28 during an event on Youth Day on 9 December 2023.

Every child has an equitable chance in life. UNICEF's support contributed to ensure an equitable opportunity for all children in all sectors. In health, UNICEF's support to immunization efforts achieved a significant milestone, with 75% of zero-dose children vaccinated by August 2023. This success was attributed to a data-driven advocacy approach, ministerial commitment, and community health platforms, contributing to the broader goal of ensuring that every child has equal access to essential healthcare services. A robust digital client feedback system achieved remarkable results, registering almost 100,000 participants, a five-fold increase from 2022. This initiative, driven by data and effective communication among health workers, aimed to ensure that healthcare services are accessible and responsive to the unique needs of women.

UNICEF contributed to Government-led gender equality efforts through adolescent empowerment. Investments in adolescent girls programming were catalyzed through the modelling of an integrated program in the Songwe region to empower adolescent girls and end child marriage. This comprehensive approach, encompassing knowledge and skills building, economic empowerment, and community engagement, sought to break down barriers and ensure that every girl has an equal opportunity to fulfil her potential. Through gender mainstreaming and targeted interventions, UNICEF addressed adolescent girls' priorities with a focus on results and equity. The implementation of the Furaha Teens program and MHH policies demonstrated a commitment to a more equitable future for girls.

Through public financial management system support UNICEF contributed to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of budgeting in key children's sectors. This led to the establishment of the Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit in the President's Office of Finance and Planning (POFP) in Zanzibar. This unit, dedicated to assessing budget performance, played a pivotal role in achieving unprecedented results – a substantial increase from 2bn TZS in FY 2022/23 to 7bn TZS in FY 2023/24 in the national school feeding program budget allocation, thereby ensuring that children from all backgrounds have access to nutritious meals as part of their educational journey.

Social behaviour change continued to be a critical strategy to address social norms and practices that prevent children to access basic social services. UNICEF's leadership in the Social and Behaviour Change-Community Engagement (SBC-RCCE) pillar, as part of multi-sectoral coordination efforts, aimed at promoting disease prevention and essential care nationwide, and were anchored in achieving measurable impact, ensuring that the most vulnerable communities, including children, received the necessary support. Community engagement, social listening, and feedback mechanisms reached millions of people with integrated life-saving messages. Validated by surveys and tracking mechanisms, these initiatives showcased a commitment to ensuring that every child, regardless of their background, has an equal chance to thrive and succeed in life.

UNICEF also supported Government to deliver critical services using universal approach to leave no one behind in almost all sectors:

- The operationalization of the Simplified Birth Registration across all 26 regions of Tanzania Mainland

resulted in a substantial increase in birth registration rates for children under 5 years, reflecting a commitment to recognizing and acknowledging every child's identity and rights.

·Zanzibar witnessed a notable increase in the social pension for the elderly, reaching US\$20, complemented by the approval of a universal health bill. This strategic initiative aimed at delivering tangible results by extending coverage to the most vulnerable and marginalized populations.

·UNICEF's advocacy for a child-sensitive social protection system led to the enrolment of over 18,000 out-of-school children in 2023, contributing to a cumulative total of 54,631. The emphasis on alternative pathways and vocational training underscored UNICEF's commitment to equipping children with skills for future employment and entrepreneurship, fostering an environment where every child has an equal chance to succeed.

·UNICEF played a decisive role in coordinating emergency response and disaster risk reduction in Tanzania, placing heightened focus on delivering impactful and inclusive results. In response to the Marburg Virus Disease (MVD) outbreak UNICEF provided financial assistance, enhanced risk communication, community engagement, and intensified WASH and IPC measures. Critical supplies were provided to address health challenges, including polio and cholera outbreaks, ensuring that vulnerable communities, especially children, were not left behind. UNICEF extended critical lifesaving services to over 200,000 refugees, including essential health services and support for separated and unaccompanied children. Refugee schools received focused attention, ensuring the provision of learning materials to promote education and future opportunities for every child.

UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships

UNICEF played a leading role in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, co-chairing the People Outcome Pillar - the largest operational pillar, with funding of US\$123 million and implemented by 15 of the 17 UN agencies and. Under the People pillar, through the 'delivery as one' principle, UNICEF actively engaged in the implementation of the Kigoma Joint Programme II and contributed 43% of the programme budget for FY 2022-2023. Learning from the implementation and results of the Kigoma Joint Programmes, UNICEF led the design of the Mtwara Joint Programme inclusive of protection, health, education, nutrition and WASH services delivered to children and families.

Other key UN partnerships included:

- Joining forces with WHO in updating the National Essential Healthcare Intervention Package, generating evidence on health financing, providing technical assistance for immunization, and public health emergencies responses.

- Collaboration with UNFPA to support implementation of the Girls Reproductive Health Rights and Empowerment Accelerated in Tanzania (GRREAT) initiative that has, among others, contributed to increased empowerment as measured by the empowerment index, and enhanced access to SRHR and nutrition services reaching more than 90,000 adolescents.

- Development of a Joint Action Plan 2023-2024 with WFP to accelerate delivery of nutrition services and strengthen EPR capacity. This resulted in joint advocacy with donors on investment in nutrition and support to the Prime Minister's Office and the PORALG in undertaking stakeholder and intervention mapping to strengthen the coordination and programmatic synergies between nutrition stakeholders nationally and regionally.

- Close collaboration with UNFPA and UN Women, to support Government efforts to address violence against women and children on the evaluation of the first National Plans of Action on Violence Against Women and Children in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar which informed development of successor plans, currently underway; pocketbooks for religious leaders on prevention

of violence against women and children were developed and disseminated in mainland Tanzania in partnership with the Tanzania Interfaith Partnership; and joint support on the Law of Marriage Act amendment process to protect girls from child marriage, including public consultations and drafting of the Bill for submission to Parliament.

- UN Women jointly with UNICEF co-chaired the UN Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) network and supported the Resident Coordinators Office to implement PSEA workplan activities (including capacity building) and coordinate network meetings which includes UN agencies and NGOs which provides a platform for information sharing, tools coordination.

To effectively support Government in responding to emergencies, UNICEF continued its collaboration with UN agencies, other development partners and non-government organizations:

- UNICEF participated in the UN Emergency Coordination Group led by WFP and IOM, to strengthen the coordination and centrality of child rights in EPR. UNICEF co-led RCCE, WASH and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support pillars at national level in close collaboration with government and UN sister agencies.

- UNICEF leveraged and expanded existing partnerships with 55 diverse entities, including civil society organizations, faith-based organizations, academic institutions, local and international NGOs, and government ministries to advance SBC results for communities.

- Jointly with UNHCR, WHO, USAID, CDC and IOM, UNICEF co-led the design and implementation of SBC during emergencies and cross border collaboration. In collaboration with UNHCR and implementing partners (Tanzania Red Cross Society, Médecins Sans Frontiers, Danish Refugee Council, Jesuit Refugee Services) provided lifesaving health, nutrition, WASH, protection and education services to over 200,000 refugees (100,000 children).

To support government policy and decision makers with evidence, UNICEF developed strategic partnerships which led to the successful completion and launch of the following:

- For the Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey, UNICEF partnered with Global Affairs Canada; the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO); the Hilton Foundation; Irish AID; the Royal Norwegian Embassy, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support the government in the finalisation and launch of the TDHS. The survey provides an update of core demographic and health indicators.

- UNICEF supported a Child Work and Child Labour study in close collaboration with ILO.

- UNICEF partnered with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and Tanzania Health Promotion Services to support government planning for a second national Violence Against Children Survey. The survey will provide evidence on the prevalence and circumstances surrounding physical, emotional and sexual violence in childhood and young adulthood, and will allow to measure progress in addressing violence against children since the first survey in 2009.

- UNICEF partnered with local universities to enhance behavioral science and understand the underlying causes of practices, behaviors, and social norms as part of the SBC strategy. A three-tier knowledge management system was implemented in collaboration with Kilimajaro Christian Medical College, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, and the University of Dar es Salaam to assess data quality, evaluate applications used, and analyze end-users' experiences and feedback. This research informed a tailored response to MVD by integrating cultural insights and behavioral patterns into intervention strategies.

UNICEF continued strategic partnerships with key development partners to advance child rights:

- as part of the Development Partners Groups, in many groups, serving as chair or co-chair, to advocate for the rights of children in Tanzania and leverage resources to address key issues affecting children.
- expansion of the collaboration with World Bank on pre-primary, primary and secondary education and in the provision of technical assistance to the Government of Zanzibar for digital health.
- partnership with USAID on the Community Health Roadmap both in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar, the establishment of a community health task force, expansion of the digital client feedback mechanism, *Mama na Mwana*, to include all PHC services and its expansion to ten regions in 2023.

UNICEF continued its partnership with private sector to achieve children rights. Collaboration with Tigo resulted in over 360,680 birth registrations. In partnership with Airtel websites of Tanzania Institute of Education and Shule Direct, were made available free of charge, reaching almost 55,000 students and increasing access to digital education content.

Lessons Learned and Innovations

In 2023, UNICEF prioritised digitization of programmes and systems. Aligning these with the four-stages of innovation, UNICEF Tanzania had one programme in proof-of-concept stage, two at scaling up stage and another programme moving to product lifecycle.

In the proof-of-concept stage, the office utilized cutting edge technology to support efforts in water supply in Uvinza district, Kigoma region. In partnership with the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) and LGAs, UNICEF supported borehole drilling for safe water supply. Despite a geophysical and hydrological survey, out of five drilled sites, only two presented conditions for water supply to communities. To minimize costs with additional drilling and thus minimize risks associated with resource utilization, UNICEF opted to experiment with t-TEM technology for more reliable surveying of aquifers. t-TEM is a cutting-edge technological system which enables more precise identification of groundwater bearing aquifers. After the t-TEM system was received, a new survey was completed, confirming that there are no viable aquifers in the target area. In response, UNICEF supported the government to establish a surface water reservoir system to supply safe water to communities. As the proof-of-concept of t-TEM technology was completed, UNICEF will now donate the equipment to Tanzanian academia for research use and practical training on groundwater exploration techniques by students in collaboration with RUWASA.

UNICEF provided support to scale-up several innovative programmes:

- The Oky Application, is a MHH application designed to support adolescents to better manage their periods alongside reliable information about sexual reproductive health and rights. The application was contextualized to Tanzania through direct engagement with 350 girls, including those with disabilities. The application went through an approval process by the MoH in mainland Tanzania and was certified and released in May 2023. Oky has an innovative franchising model that transitions application ownership to local partners allowing them to take on the product as their own, enabling modifications, upgrades, and new releases as necessary. Since its release, Oky has been downloaded over 1,900 times.
- The Digital Enrolment and Attendance system in Zanzibar, is a core component of the broader

“Education for All Out-of-School Children Programme”. It is an innovative, android-based system that has enabled the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training in Zanzibar to systematically track, and report disaggregated data on enrolment, attendance, promotion, retention, and dropouts in a near real-time manner. Data collection for attendance is done daily by the teachers, mostly offline and then uploaded on a Wi-Fi contact point or through mobile data. The system is now being utilized by a total of 280 schools in Zanzibar. In these schools, a total of 31,639 (15,329 girls and 16,310 boys) students’ attendance is being monitored. Further scale up is foreseen by the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training in Zanzibar. These include full integration of the system with the existing School Information System (SIS) and expansion of the system to all 327 public primary and 217 secondary schools in Zanzibar.

- The *Mama na Mwana* system continued to make progress into a sustainable product through the expansion of its content and functionality to a holistic client feedback mechanism for PHC that includes general client feedback, m-mama, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, TB, family planning and push messages for educational content sharing and user centric reminders. Geographically, the service is running in ten regions of mainland Tanzania, and the number of users in the platform has increased substantially from 19,499 users in 2022 to 97,261 users by November 2023. Of these, 94,255 are females and 3,006 are males. One of the reasons for the exponential growth in the number of users has been the strategically innovative option to integrate *Mama na Mwana* as part of a unified Community Health Information System operated by the MOH. By doing so, whenever a user is registered in the community using the unified system, she or he automatically gets registered in *Mama na Mwana*. *Mama na Mwana* has further been integrated into the government’s routine Health Management Information System (HMIS) platforms. *Mama na Mwana* is now better positioned as a valuable resource for data visualizations and score card generation, thus improving its utilization by government officials. This year, dialogues and planning have taken place with government authorities to facilitate expansion of the application to an additional seven regions of mainland and the whole of Zanzibar in 2024.

[1] The IHBS expected in 2024 will provide official poverty rates.

[2] World Bank (2023) Tanzania Economic Update

[3] The probability of dying between birth and the fifth birthday