Fast facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children 0–14 years living below the basic needs poverty line</td>
<td>6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children 0–14 years living below the food poverty line</td>
<td>3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children suffering 2 or more severe deprivations of basic human needs</td>
<td>70.8%</td>
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Source: REPOA, NBS and UNICEF, 2009, *Childhood Poverty in Tanzania*

## WIDESPREAD POVERTY

The effects of poverty and deprivation on children are devastating. Poverty interacts with and reinforces poor outcomes in health, nutrition, schooling, water and sanitation. Poverty makes children vulnerable to exploitation, violence and abuse, as well as to common ailments and premature death, and denies their rights to a standard of living adequate for their physical, mental and social development.

Tanzania has made significant progress towards achieving global and national targets in key areas of child wellbeing, particularly child survival and primary schooling. Yet a full decade of sustained and robust economic growth has only led to negligible declines in poverty rates. Poor families living in a state of chronic insecurity and vulnerability are constantly exposed to shocks from which they are seldom able to recover.

The Household Budget Survey (2007) indicates that about 34 per cent of mainland Tanzanians live below the basic needs poverty line, and about 17 per cent below the food poverty line. This includes about six million children aged 0–14 years whose families cannot afford the expenses to meet their basic needs. About three million children live in households so poor that providing food may be a real challenge, especially during the leanest times of the year or when prices of basic consumption items rise by only a fraction.

### Significant disparities

The incidence and impact of poverty on children is far greater than indicated by conventional income-consumption measures, especially in rural areas.

More than 70 per cent of Tanzanian children are reported to suffer two or more deprivations in regard to health, nutrition, sanitation, education, information, water supply or shelter – with inadequate access to shelter and
Incidence of severe deprivations among rural and urban children in Tanzania 2004/5

A tiny fraction of the population is protected against common risks and life contingencies like unemployment, old age, maternity, sickness or disability. Climate change, rapid urbanization and HIV and AIDS compound the situation. The vast majority of Tanzanians are left to fend for themselves, with increasingly fewer chances to rely on overstretched community support. In spite of this, there is no clear national policy or strategic framework to guide priority setting and programme choices by line ministries and development partners. Decision-makers often focus concerns on the cost of rolling out social protection interventions, without giving due consideration to the positive impact that social transfers and income support schemes can have on the welfare and productivity of poor families, hence on the overall performance of the national economy. The overall capacity for policy coordination and resource mobilization remains weak and the social protection measures that do exist are fragmented.

Limited budgets for fulfilling child rights

Translating policy intentions into programmes and services that deliver results for children requires resources – human, technical as well as financial. Children cannot study without schools. Students cannot learn if schools have no teachers. Teachers will not be able to impart their knowledge if they lack incentives, are poorly paid or trained, or if there are insufficient classrooms or textbooks. Nor can children learn on an empty stomach or if they miss school as a result of sickness, or if their parents cannot afford the cost of educating them. Reducing these costs and removing the barriers that prevent children from accessing core services depends on the availability of public resources, whether raised through domestic revenues, borrowing or development partners’ contributions.

Of particular concern is the prospect for a declining social-sector budget in the face of a persistent deficit and financing gap. Tanzania’s limited revenue base and its need to increase investment in infrastructure to spur economic growth is putting greater pressure on its budget, with the risk that social spending will decline. Poor families will be hardest hit, and children are likely to suffer the most as the fulfilment of their rights depends so much on public provisioning.

Patchy and fragmented social protection

The national poverty reduction strategies, known as the MKUKUTA on the Mainland and MKUZA in Zanzibar, have explicit aims to provide adequate social protection and rights to vulnerable and needy groups. Yet despite the proven record of social protection in reducing poverty and helping families overcome vulnerability and build their asset base, the core elements of social protection are generally perceived as an expense that Tanzania cannot afford.

water the most severe. The level of deprivation among rural children is up to three times higher than for urban children. In particular, rural children are significantly more likely to be malnourished than urban children on average, even though poor urban families living in a cash economy may find it as difficult as their rural counterparts, if not more, to put food into their children’s mouth.

The depth of poverty varies inversely with the level of education attained by children’s mothers, underscoring the critical importance of investing in education to break inter-generational poverty cycles. While net secondary enrolment has expanded quickly from 6 per cent in 2002 to over 32 per cent in 2011, girls in rural areas face far great challenges in completing primary schooling and transitioning to secondary school than girls in urban centres. The incidence of severe deprivations among children is also much higher on the Mainland than Zanzibar; over 40 per cent of Mainland children suffer three or more severe deprivations compared with 19 per cent of children in Zanzibar.

Despite Tanzania’s strongly egalitarian policy thrust since independence, vast disparities persist in health outcomes and access to health services among households of different means, as well as across regions and districts. Similar disparities are present in regard to education, water and sanitation, and protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation, which hamper Tanzania’s efforts to build a solid basis for sustained economic growth and achieve progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.
WHAT IS UNICEF DOING

Investing in children is not only a moral imperative, it also yields positive benefits to economies and societies by breaking the cycle of poverty, hunger, disease and ignorance that result in preventable morbidity and premature deaths, and deny children their rights to survival, protection and development. To ensure sustainable outcomes for Tanzania’s children, UNICEF’s Social Policy Analysis and Development team prioritizes results in: (a) establishing the evidence and knowledge base on the situation of women and children in Tanzania (b) ensuring adequate budget allocations for the implementation of policies for children and their families and (c) promoting the development of a comprehensive social protection system to prevent and mitigate the impact of poverty and vulnerability on children and their families.

Promoting evidence and knowledge on the situation of children

UNICEF supports national capacity to collect and analyse strategic information on the situation of children and women through routine data systems, regular surveys and the national census. By supporting the government in the implementation of national surveys like the 2010 Tanzania Demographic Health Survey, the 2011/12 Household Budget Survey and the 2011/12 HIV/AIDS Malaria Indicator Survey, UNICEF enables the government to track progress towards the realisation of national goals and global commitments to children as expressed in the Millennium Development Goals and other international instruments.

UNICEF supports the Tanzania Socio-Economic Database (TSED), which enables storage and dissemination of data from national surveys as well as routine data collected by various social sectors. TSED is a tool adopted by the Government of Tanzania to facilitate evidence based planning and monitoring of human development by improving the availability and timely dissemination of comprehensive statistical information on key socioeconomic and demographic trends.

UNICEF also supports analytical studies to improve the design, implementation and monitoring of child and women-friendly policies. UNICEF research and analysis on children with disabilities, urban children and adolescents, among other areas, aim to help shape the priorities in the national policy agenda for children. The studies supported by UNICEF on Childhood Poverty in Tanzania and the Situation Analysis of Women and Children in Tanzania, provide concrete data and information on critical dimensions of child well-being. They helped to inform prioritization of policy directions in national strategic documents such as the national poverty reduction strategies 2010–2015 (MKUKUTA and MKUZA) for both the Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.
Tracking public spending

For UNICEF’s work on budgets, the key question is whether children, particularly the most disadvantaged, are receiving an adequate and fair share of public resources, and if not, how can more be made available and used effectively to enhance their impact on child well-being.

To help inform budget decisions in favour of children, UNICEF regularly undertakes an analysis of budget performance in the sectors with the greatest impact on child well-being. This analysis not only seeks to gauge if resources devoted to programmes benefiting children are sufficient, target the areas of greatest priority (e.g. children’s major killer diseases) and are spent effectively and equitably; it also seeks to identify the main entry points in the budget cycle for leveraging resources for those programmes.

Budget trends are examined for key sectors, such as health and nutrition, education, water and sanitation, and child protection. This analysis provides benchmarks of Tanzania’s performance vis-à-vis comparable countries as well as its own national development priorities. At present UNICEF is supporting several Ministries in tracking disbursements from the centre and expenditures by local authorities in services aimed at preventing and responding to child abuse, neglect and exploitation. UNICEF also aims to support implementation of the government’s commitment to establish a budget vote for nutrition and to increase the resources available to critical interventions targeting malnourished mothers and their children. In Zanzibar assistance will be geared to the introduction of performance-based budgeting and the inclusion of child concerns in the new devolution policy.

Building a child-sensitive social protection system

As Co-Chair on behalf of Tanzania’s development partners of the Joint Social Protection Working Group, chaired by the Ministry of Finance, UNICEF plays a lead role in the national policy dialogue on social protection. In this capacity, UNICEF has supported the drafting of a National Policy Framework, which was recently tabled to the Cabinet. UNICEF endeavours to enhance coordination among development partners in support of government priorities for children.

Analytical work is commissioned to inform policy choice. Areas considered of highest priority include a mapping of social protection interventions on Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar (to identify gaps in coverage and benefits), benchmarking on- and off-budget allocations to social protection, identifying fiscal space and financing mechanisms for its expansion, and costing a social protection system, among others.

Advocacy, sensitisation and capacity strengthening of key policy makers is another area of support—through missions to countries with working social protection programmes in the region, in-country workshops and training. In the absence of progress in approving an overarching policy framework, UNICEF and other UN agencies have joined the World Bank and UK Aid in supporting government efforts to expand TASAF (Tanzania Social Action Fund) and turn it into the cornerstone of a national social safety net programme that will target food-insecure families in drought prone areas (labour-intensive public works) as well as those with pregnant women, children and elderly persons (cash transfer component).

TASAF is due to start in 2012, with initial funding pledges of around USD 300 million in its first four years. UNICEF aims to focus on promoting greater convergence between TASAF and other social protection programmes, strengthening local government capacity for service provision, and helping to improve coordination between TASAF’s demand-side interventions (cash support to poor families and conditions related to school attendance by school-age children and regular health check-ups by pregnant women, infants and young children, and elderly members of the household) and the supply of quality services by schools and health facilities in communities targeted by TASAF. UNICEF also aims to strengthen the evidence base for program scale-up through a timely and efficient monitoring and evaluation system.
KEY RESULTS FOR SOCIAL POLICY ANALYSIS AND DEVELOPMENT BY 2015

- Supporting national capacity to collect regular data on the situation of children and women.
- Ensuring inclusion of child sensitive indicators in national data collection systems.
- Analysis of national budgets to help advocate for and influence the prioritization of children in the national budget formulation process.
- Capacity building of national and local partners to analyse and identify inequities in national policy and budget formulation and implementation and identify strategies for overcoming them.
- Supporting development and implementation of a comprehensive child-sensitive social protection system to address poverty and socio-economic vulnerabilities of families in Tanzania.
- Development and implementation of an evidence-based communication and advocacy strategy on social protection to leverage support for children.
- Awareness raising on and capacity building of national partners for prioritization of policy choices in social protection.
- Ensuring a national policy framework in place, with clear objectives, priorities, strategies and targets.
- Supporting implementation of a national social safety-net programme, with clear operating rules and a sustainable financing strategy that increasingly draws on domestic sources of funding.

FUNDING GAP (USD) 2011–2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme intervention</th>
<th>Funds required</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Protection system</td>
<td>1,800,000</td>
<td>540,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evidence-based policy analysis</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>700,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Social Policy Analysis and Development</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,800,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,240,000</strong></td>
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