What is life like as an adolescent in Mainland Tanzania?

There are 13,849,710 adolescents (10–19 years) in Mainland Tanzania.

- 23.1% of the population
- 10–14 years: 13.0%
- 15–19 years: 10.2%

Poverty

- About 3 in 10 adolescents (10–19 years) live in monetary poverty.
  - 10–14 years: 33.4%
  - 15–19 years: 34.1%

- About 1 in 10 adolescents (10–19 years) live in a household below the food poverty line.
  - 10–14 years: 33.7%
  - 15–19 years: 25.8%

- 1 in 10 adolescents (10–19 years) lives in a household that receives funding from the Tanzania Social Action Fund.
  - 10–14 years: 10.0%
  - 15–19 years: 10.5%
  - Disabled 10–19 years: 8.1%
What is life like as an adolescent in Mainland Tanzania?

**SECONDARY EDUCATION ENROLMENT (FORM 1–6)**

- **Girls:** 32.6%
- **Boys:** 29.7%

0.4% of enrolments are adolescents with **disabilities**

**School dropout**

Dropout rates in ordinary and advanced secondary schools in 2020

- **4.6%** of all students
- **4.8%** male
- **4.4%** female

**Transition rate**

Only **2 in 10** students who sat for the Certificate of Secondary Education Examination in 2019 transitioned to Form 5

**Only 13.9%** of students completed Form 4 in 2021

**Reasons for school dropout in ordinary and advanced secondary schools**

- **Boys**
  - 96.9% truancy
  - 2.4% indiscipline
  - 0.7% death

- **Girls**
  - 90.3% truancy
  - 8.1% pregnancy
  - 1.1% indiscipline
  - 0.5% death

**School performance**

Only **2 in 10** exam-sitting students pass the basic maths ordinary level secondary school examination

- **Certificate of Secondary Education Examination**
  - Of all students:
    - **85.8%** passed with division I-IV
    - **35.1%** passed with division I-III

- **Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education Examination**
  - Of all students:
    - **99.5%** passed with division I-IV
    - **32.6%** passed with division I-III
What is life like as an adolescent in Mainland Tanzania?

26.6% of all adolescents (15–19 years) can read and write in both Kiswahili and English.

HIV prevalence is slightly higher in girls aged 15–19 years than in boys of the same age. 0.4% boys, 1.0% girls.

Only 3 in 10 adolescents aged 15–19 years have proper knowledge of HIV prevention. 32.6% boys, 33.1% girls.

A larger proportion of adolescent boys (15–19 years) have had sex before age 15 than adolescent girls (15–19 years). 15.1% boys, 9.7% girls.

9 in 100 adolescents in each age group (10–14 years and 15–19 years) are covered by medical insurance.

13 in 100 adolescent girls aged 15–19 years have experienced teenage pregnancy.

5.9% of adolescent girls aged 15–19 years have been circumcised.

8 in 100 adolescents in each age group (10–14 years and 15–19 years) lives in a household with problems meeting their food needs.

27.6% of adolescent girls aged 15–19 years have anaemia.

Health and nutrition

Literacy

Adolescent boys (15–19 years) are literate 83.5%
- 55.4% can read and write in Kiswahili only
- 1.0% can read and write in English only
- 27.2% can read and write in both Kiswahili and English

Adolescent girls (15–19 years) are literate 83.6%
- 56.2% can read and write in Kiswahili only
- 1.3% can read and write in English only
- 26.1% can read and write in both Kiswahili and English

Reproductive health

23 in 100 adolescent girls aged 15–19 years have experienced teenage pregnancy.

5.9% of adolescent girls aged 15–19 years have been circumcised.

Adolescent boys (15–19 years) are literate 83.5%
- 55.4% can read and write in Kiswahili only
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Around half of all adolescent boys and girls aged 15–19 years have had sex. 47.0% boys, 53.6% girls.

10–14 years
- 8.3% boys
- 8.0% girls

15–19 years
- 7.8% boys
- 7.8% girls

9 in 100 adolescents with disabilities are covered by medical insurance.

Disabled 9.2%
What is life like as an adolescent in Mainland Tanzania?

Protection

7.3% of adolescent girls and

1.8% of adolescent boys

are married in childhood

Almost 4 in 10 believe a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife if she argues with him or neglects their children

Almost 4 in 10 do not make decisions about their health care

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Less than a quarter of adolescent girls and boys aged 10–14 years have birth certificates

Boys: 22.6%
Girls: 22.4%

Around a quarter of adolescent girls and boys aged 15–19 years have birth certificates

Boys: 24.5%
Girls: 25.1%

Labour

About 4 in 10 adolescents (10–19 years) are in employment

Boys: 42.0%
Girls: 44.0%
Total: 40.1%

About 3 in 10 adolescents (10–14 years) are in employment

Boys: 32.0%
Girls: 33.4%
Total: 30.7%

More than 5 in 10 adolescents (15–19 years) are in employment

Boys: 55.2%
Girls: 58.0%
Total: 52.3%

Adolescents (10–19 years) engaged in economic activities

73.8% agricultural sector
18.4% household activities
7.7% private sector
0.1% public sector
What is life like as an adolescent in Mainland Tanzania?

**Energy**

Around a quarter (23.3%) of adolescents (10–19 years) live in households connected to the main grid.

95.0% non-clean energy

23.3% electricity

95 in 100 adolescents (10–19 years) live in households that use non-clean energy for cooking.

**Water, sanitation and hygiene**

Around 6 in 10 adolescents (10–19 years) live in households with improved sources of drinking water at home.

About 4 in 10 adolescents (10–19 years) live in households in which water is treated before drinking.

A little over half of schools have basic water services.

Basic water services: 54.5%

Limited water services: 12.9%

No services: 32.5%

Around half of all adolescents have basic hygiene services at home.

10–14 years: 46.2%

15–19 years: 50.5%

4 in 10 primary and secondary schools have improved toilets.

About 7 in 10 schools have proper menstrual hygiene management.

Only 24% of adolescents aged 10–14 years and 35% of adolescents aged 15–19 years live in households with improved toilets.
What is life like as an adolescent in Mainland Tanzania?

The proportion of boys aged 15–19 years with access to the internet is more than twice that of girls of the same age.

Boys aged 15–19 years are more likely to own a mobile phone than girls of the same age.

Boys aged 15–19 years of adolescents aged 10–14 years

More than 20% of adolescents aged 15–19 years

Distance to basic services

Around half of adolescents live within 2 km of the nearest health facility.

Fewer than a quarter of adolescents (10–14 years) live within 2 km of the nearest market.

4.1% of adolescents aged 15–19 years live in households with cars.

14.7% of adolescents aged 15–19 years live in households with motorbikes/bajaji.

43.2% of adolescents aged 15–19 years live in households with bicycles.

Endnotes


