The Journey of a Child
in the United Republic of Tanzania

Motherhood

TEENAGE PREGNANCY IS DECREASING:

22.7% of teenage girls (aged 15–19) in **Mainland Tanzania** in 2022 vs **26.7%** in 2015/16

4.1% of teenage girls (aged 15–19) in **Zanzibar** in 2022 vs **8.2%** in 2015/16 have **started childbearing**

SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN PREGNANCY-RELATED MORTALITY RATIO:

1 in nearly 962 women die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth (2022) vs **1 in 189 women** in 2015/16

MATERNAL MALNUTRITION IS SUBSTANTIAL:

55.7% of pregnant women (aged 15–49) are **anaemic**

Nearly half (45.0%) of teenage girls (aged 15–19) in Tanzania are **anaemic**

HIGH LEVELS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:

Nearly 5 in 10 women

3 in 10 men believe that a **husband is justified in beating his wife**

Birth

NEONATAL MORTALITY IS BECOMING MORE PROMINENT:

Neonatal mortality in URT remained almost **stagnant** between 2015/16 and 2022

24/1,000 live births in 2022 vs **25/1,000** in 2015/16

Mainland Tanzania has a lower neonatal mortality rate (23/1,000) than **Zanzibar** (34/1,000)

Under-five deaths: Nearly half (48.9%) of all these deaths in Mainland Tanzania and nearly three-quarters (72.3%) in Zanzibar occur in the first month of life

64.3% of youngest children (under 6 months of age) are **exclusively breastfed**

Birth registration of children under 5 years has increased substantially, from 26.4% in 2015/16 to 67.7% in 2022

URBAN DISADVANTAGE:

A baby born in an urban area in URT is more likely to die in the first month of life as a baby from a rural area (35 per 1,000 live births compared to 21 per 1,000 live births)

Early childhood

VERY YOUNG CHILDREN ARE STILL VULNERABLE:

The survival of children under five has improved in URT but **76.7%** of **under-five deaths** occur during the first year of life, indicating an unmet human need in health care, nutrition, sanitation and education

Under-five mortality rates (47/1,000) are the same in **Mainland Tanzania** and **Zanzibar** and slightly higher in **urban** areas (49/1,000) than **rural** areas (41/1,000) in URT

CHILDREN SUFFER FROM HIGH LEVELS OF MALNUTRITION:

3 in 10 children in **Mainland Tanzania**

and nearly **2 in 10 children** in **Zanzibar** are stunted

47.4% of children aged 24–59 months are **developmentally on-track** in health, learning and psychosocial well-being.

56.3% in **urban** areas vs **44.1%** in **rural** areas

47.0% in **Mainland Tanzania** vs **60.8%** in **Zanzibar**

Primary education

1 in 5 primary-school aged children are **out of school** in URT

Primary school gross enrolment ratio (GER): 98.2% in Mainland Tanzania and 105.3% in Zanzibar

Primary school completion rate: About 80.1% in Mainland Tanzania and 86.6% in Zanzibar

ACUTE SHORTAGE OF CLASSROOMS:

75 The average number of school children per classroom in **Mainland Tanzania**

62 The average number of school children per classroom in **Zanzibar**

Well above the international best practice of a maximum of 30

SCHOOL SANITATION IS LAGGING BEHIND:

29.5% of schools in Mainland Tanzania and **58.3%** in Zanzibar have **basic sanitation services**

Handwashing with soap is infrequently practised, with only **17.6%** of schools in **Mainland Tanzania** and **18.2%** in **Zanzibar** having basic hygiene services

Secondary education

2 in 5 lower-secondary-school aged children are **out of school**

'PERIOD POVERTY' AFFECTS GIRLS' EDUCATION:

16.8% of students still miss school due to menstruation (15.3% in Mainland Tanzania, 26.9% in Zanzibar)

57.5% of girls in Mainland Tanzania and 49.4% in Zanzibar practise safe menstruation (access to safe menstrual products, comprehensive knowledge and supportive environment)*

51.4% of schools in **Mainland Tanzania**

CHILD MARRIAGE:

29.1% of women aged 20–24 years were first married by age 18

High child marriage rates contribute to the high levels of teenage pregnancy, and by extension, to just under 3 in 4 girls **failing to complete their secondary education**

1.0% of 15–24-year-olds are **living with HIV,** with **girls and young women (1.3%)** twice as likely to be affected as **boys and men (0.6%)**

More lower secondary students are completing their education: Gross completion ratio (GCR) in 2023 – 42.0% in Mainland Tanzania and 60.0% in Zanzibar

Sources: (1) *2022 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey and Malaria Indicator Survey: Final report,* 2023; (2) *Tanzania HIV Impact Survey 2022–2023: Summary sheet,* 2023; (3) 'National Basic Education Statistics in Tanzania (BEST)', 2023; (4) 'Education Statistical Abstract', Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, 2023; (5) *2018 Tanzania School Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Assessment: Main report,* 2020; (6) *Menstrual Health and Hygiene Among School Girls in Tanzania: Research report,* 2021; (7) Global Initiative on Out-of-School Children, *Tanzania Country Report,* 2018

Note: * These statistics come from a survey report of 19 district councils in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

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