



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in the United Republic of Tanzania, 2026

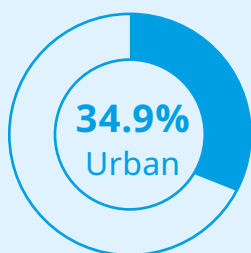
Growing up in the United Republic of Tanzania



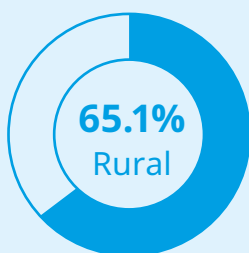
Population^{1,2}

The country's population is expected to grow significantly in the coming decades, alongside gradual urbanization.

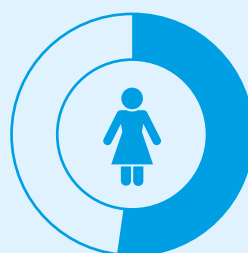
Total: **61,741,120** in 2022, with a projected increase to **118,105,370** by 2050



with a projected
increase to
37.5% by 2050



with a projected
decrease to
62.5% by 2050



51.3%
Female (2022)



48.7%
Male (2022)

49% Nearly half of the population are **children** aged 0–17 years, with an **equal split between girls and boys** (50%) in 2022

Adolescents and youths as a proportion of the population in 2022:



10–19 years: **23.1%**



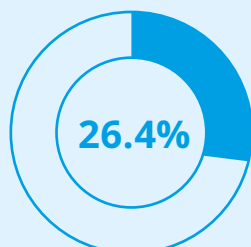
15–24 years: **19.2%**



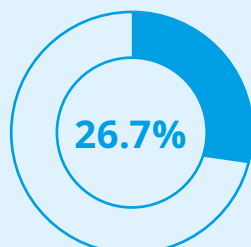
Poverty^{3,4}

Just over a quarter of the population live below the national poverty line, while nearly 1 in 10 people live in extreme poverty.

People living below the national basic needs poverty line

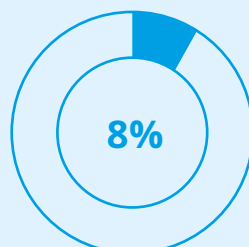


Mainland Tanzania

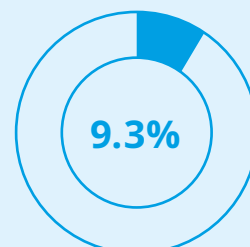


Zanzibar

People living below the national food poverty line



Mainland Tanzania



Zanzibar

Children aged 0–17 years



While **1 in 3 children** do not have their basic needs met, around **1 in 10 children** live in extreme poverty.

30.1% of children in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar live **below the national basic needs poverty line**

Children living below the national food poverty line

Mainland Tanzania **9.4%**

Zanzibar **11.4%**

Children living in multidimensional poverty (at least 3 deprivations)



Mainland Tanzania: **31%**



Zanzibar: **34%**

Highest deprivations in:

Mainland Tanzania

Water and sanitation*

83%

Housing

83%

Zanzibar

Water and sanitation

47%

Housing

66%

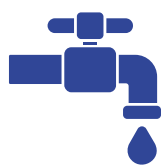
Nutrition

55%

1 in 8 children in Mainland Tanzania and **1 in 6 children** in Zanzibar live in both **multidimensional poverty** and **below the national basic needs poverty line**

* Includes indicators for water source, time to water and form of sanitation

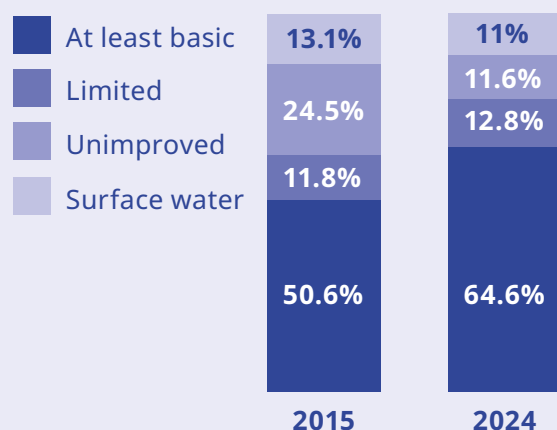
WASH** in households



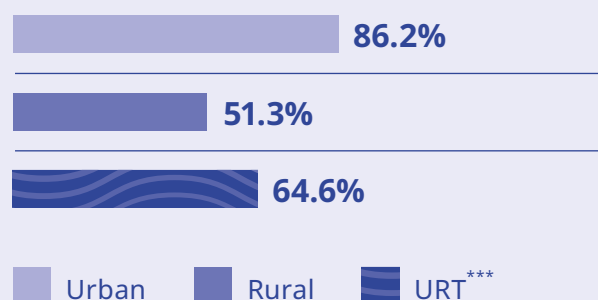
Water

While considerably more people have access to improved drinking water, many still lack safe drinking water at home, and safe water treatment practices have declined.

Household population access to drinking water services⁵



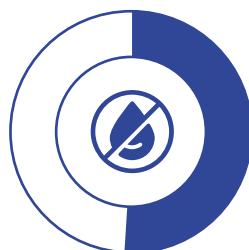
Urban and rural household access to basic drinking water services in 2024



Drinking water access in 2024⁵



77.4% of people relied on an **improved source**, up from 62.4% in 2015



51.3% of people had **access to enough drinking water when needed**, up from 39.8% in 2015



48.8% of people had **on-site drinking water**, up from 22.1% in 2015

Water treatment^{6, 7}

People using appropriate water treatment methods

35.8%
in 2015/16

vs

21.9%
in 2022

People who do not treat drinking water

61.7%
in 2015/16

vs

65.5%
in 2022

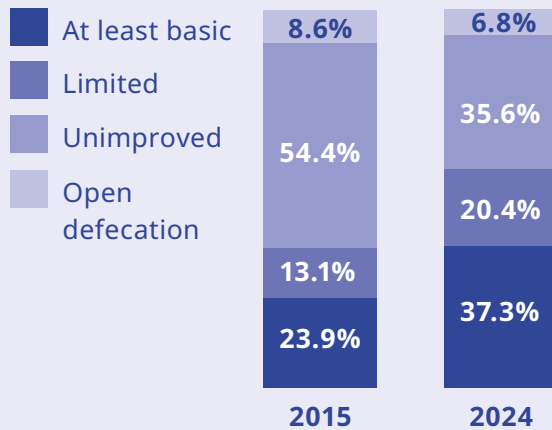
WASH = water, sanitation and hygiene; *URT = United Republic of Tanzania



Sanitation

Sanitation access and improved-facility coverage have improved, while safe-disposal practices, particularly for young children's waste, have worsened.

Household population access to sanitation services⁵



Urban and rural household access to basic sanitation services in 2024

Urban 55.8%

Rural 25.8%

URT 37.3%

Urban Rural URT



In 2024, **57.7% of households** had access to an **improved sanitation facility**, up from 37% in 2015

Excreta management⁶

In 2022, **71.3%** of the household population had **access to safe wastewater management**

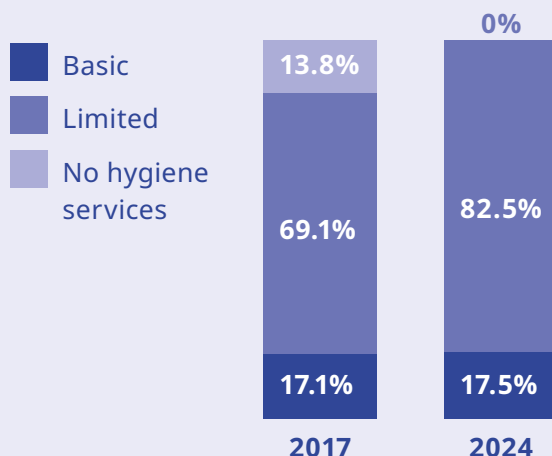
55.5% of children under 2 years living with their mothers had their **faecal matter disposed of safely** in 2022, down from 67.9% in 2015/16



Hygiene

Most households still lack adequate hygiene services, though adolescent girls report high levels of privacy and use of appropriate menstrual hygiene materials.

Household population access to hygiene services⁵



Urban and rural household access to basic hygiene services in 2024

Urban 21.8%

Rural 14.8%

URT 17.5%

Urban Rural URT

Menstrual hygiene management for girls aged 15–19 years⁶



95.8%

of girls wash and change in privacy and use appropriate materials during menstruation

Most appropriate menstrual protection used:

45.8% Disposable sanitary pads

43.4% Cloth

12.7% Reusable sanitary pads

2.4% Tampons

0.2% Toilet paper

0.2% Cotton wool

0.2% Menstrual cups

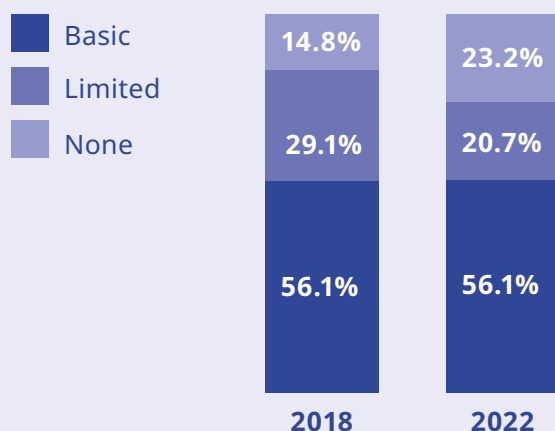
WASH in schools



Water⁵

Since 2018, around half of schools have basic drinking water services and the number of schools lacking any water services has risen significantly.

Drinking water services at schools



Urban and rural school access to basic drinking water services in 2022

72.4%

51.5%

56.1%

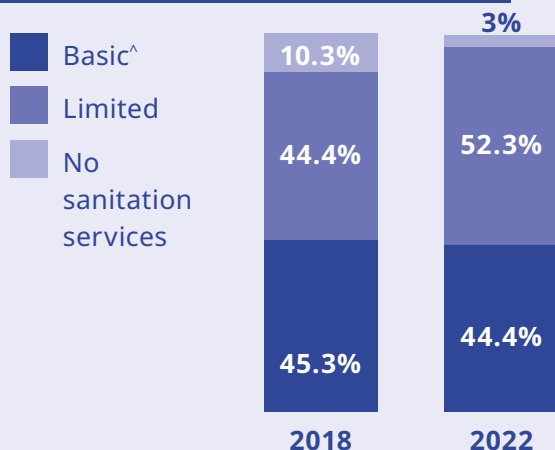
Urban Rural URT



Sanitation⁵

While more schools have some sanitation services, many still depend on limited facilities, with rural schools especially lacking basic services.

Sanitation services at schools



Urban and rural school access to basic sanitation services in 2022

Urban 58.7%

Rural 39.6%

URT 44.4%

Urban Rural URT

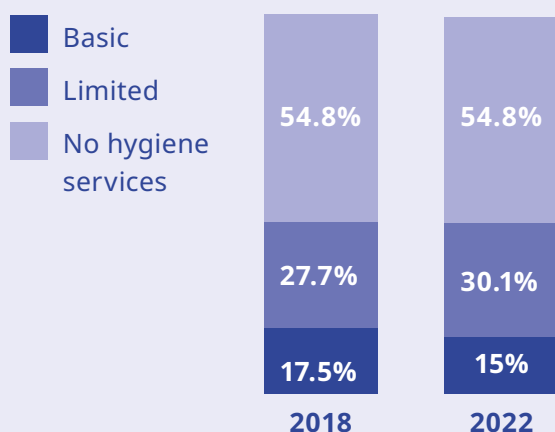
27.5% of schools meet the **recommended pupil-to-latrine ratio**⁸



Hygiene

More than half of schools lack hygiene facilities, few offer basic services and urban schools have especially limited access to basic hygiene services.

Hygiene services (soap and water) at schools⁵



Urban and rural school access to basic hygiene services in 2022

Urban 8.9%

Rural 16.6%

URT 15%

Urban Rural URT

81.1% of schools have **handwashing facilities next to toilets**

54.8% of schools have **observed handwashing facilities**⁸

16.8% of girls **miss school for menstruation-related reasons** (pain, fear, lack of menstrual-materials and -friendly WASH facilities)^{^^9}

66.8% of primary and secondary schools have **menstrual hygiene management services**

[^] Latrines for boys and girls; ^{^^} From a survey report of 19 district councils in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar

WASH in healthcare facilities⁵



WASH access in healthcare facilities is limited, with just over half of all facilities providing basic water services, only 1 in 18 offering basic sanitation services and 4 in 10 having basic hygiene services.

Healthcare facilities in 2022



Impacts of WASH on child outcomes



Nutrition^{6,7}

Inadequate WASH conditions contribute to child undernutrition by increasing the incidence of diarrhoeal disease and impairing nutrient absorption, limiting healthy growth.

Children under 5 years



Health^{6,7}

Inadequate WASH in healthcare facilities increases the risk of healthcare-associated infections, leading to preventable illness and deaths, even where skilled attendance and essential medicines are available.



In 2022, **81.2%** of pregnant women (15–49 years) **gave birth in a healthcare facility**, a significant increase from 64.8% in 2015/16



Experience of diarrhoea in children under 5 years: **8.9%** in 2022, down from 11.8% in 2015/16



Mortality rates
(per 1,000 live
births)

Neonatal deaths



25

(2015/16)

24

(2022)

Infant deaths



43

(2015/16)

33

(2022)

Under-five deaths

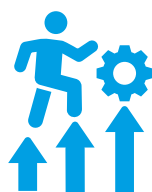


67

(2015/16)

43

(2022)



Early childhood development⁶

An inadequate WASH environment hinders children's early development by reducing the healthy, stimulating and nurturing conditions they need to develop on track.



Less than half (47.4%)
of children aged
24–59 months are
developmentally on track
in health, learning and
psychosocial well-being



Less than a quarter (23.3%)
of children aged 6 years
**attended an early childhood
development programme**
in the year before entering
primary school

Sources

- 1 Ministry of Finance (United Republic of Tanzania) et al., *The 2022 Population and Housing Census: Age and sex distribution report – Volume 2A, URT*, 2022, available at <https://www.nbs.go.tz/nbs/takwimu/Census2022/Age_and_Sex_Distribution_Report_Tanzania_volume2a.pdf>.
- 2 National Bureau of Statistics (Mainland Tanzania) and Office of the Chief Government Statistician (Zanzibar), *National Population Projections 2023–2050*, United Republic of Tanzania, 2024, available at <<https://www.nbs.go.tz/uploads/statistics/documents/en-1764575980-National%20Projection%20Report%20E2%80%93202023-2050.pdf>>.
- 3 Ministry of Finance and Planning, National Bureau of Statistics and World Bank, *Tanzania Mainland Household Budget Survey 2017–18: Final report*, United Republic of Tanzania, Dodoma, 2020, available at <<https://www.nbs.go.tz/statistics/topic/household-budget-survey-hbs>>.
- 4 Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar [RGoZ] and United Nations Children's Fund [UNICEF], *The State of Zanzibar's Children: Evidence from the Zanzibar Household Budget Surveys (2010–2020)*, RGoZ and UNICEF, Zanzibar City, 2022, available at <<https://www.unicef.org/tanzania/media/2826/file/State%20of%20Zanzibar's%20Children.pdf>>.
- 5 World Health Organization/United Nations Children's Fund Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, 2025, available at <<https://washdata.org/data/downloads#WLD>>.
- 6 Ministry of Health (Mainland Tanzania) et al., *Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey and Malaria Indicator Survey (TDHS-MIS) 2022: Final report*, Ministry of Health (Mainland Tanzania), Ministry of Health (Zanzibar), National Bureau of Statistics, Office of the Chief Government Statistician and ICF, Dodoma and Rockville, Maryland, 2023, available at <<https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR382/FR382.pdf>>.
- 7 Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children [MoHCDGEC] et al., *Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey and Malaria Indicator Survey 2015–16*, MoHCDGEC (Mainland Tanzania), Ministry of Health (Zanzibar), National Bureau of Statistics, Office of the Chief Government Statistician and ICF, Dar es Salaam and Rockville, Maryland, 2016, available at <<https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR321/FR321.pdf>>.
- 8 National Bureau of Statistics, Office of the Chief Government Statistician and United Nations Children's Fund, *Tanzania: 2018 School Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Assessment – Main report*, Dodoma, 2020, available at <<https://www.unicef.org/tanzania/media/2356/file/National%20School%20WASH%20Report%202020.pdf>>.
- 9 National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) and Public Health Laboratory Ivo de Carneri, *Menstrual Health and Hygiene Among School Girls in Tanzania: Research report*, NIMR, Dar es Salaam, 2021, available at <<https://www.unicef.org/tanzania/reports/mhh-school-girls-tanzania>>.

