VIONJO VYA LISHE NA MALEZI

Child Nutrition and Development Flavours

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UNICEF Tanzania Child Nutrition & Development Section

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A child benefiting from a nutrition assessment through mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) measurement during the Village Health and Nutrition Day in Igurusi, Mbeya.

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Launch of an integrated sanitation and nutrition action in Pemba in partnership with the Government of Japan



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Mr. Jin Hashimoto, Head of Cooperation, Embassy of Japan, giving remarks during the launch of the project in Pemba, Zanzibar.

UNICEF's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Child Nutrition and Development sections officially launched the Japan-supported Sanitation and Nutrition Project in North Pemba, targeting Wete and Micheweni Districts, under the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) – a high-level international forum promoting cooperation and partnership between Japan and African countries. The launch was officiated by Hon. Mgeni Khatib Yahya, Regional Commissioner of North Pemba, and attended by a delegation from the Embassy of Japan led by Mr. Jin Hashimoto. Prior to the launch, the delegation visited Kojani Island to observe ongoing WASH and nutrition interventions. The project aims to strengthen sanitation, hygiene and nutrition outcomes through integrated community-based approaches, demonstrating the shared commitment of the Government of Japan, UNICEF and Zanzibar authorities to improving child well-being and resilience.



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Ms. Patricia Safi Lombo, UNICEF Deputy Representative (Programme), giving remarks during the launch of the project in Pemba, Zanzibar.



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Ms. Patricia Safi Lombo, UNICEF Deputy Representative (Programme); Hon. Mgeni Khatib Yahya, Regional Commissioner of North Pemba; and other participants during the launch.



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Mr. Jin Hashimoto (third from right), Head of Cooperation, Embassy of Japan, speaking with a local food producer.

Tanzania accelerates maternal nutrition through Lishe Yangu

Tanzania is accelerating action to improve maternal nutrition for more than 300,000 pregnant women through the Lishe Yangu initiative, launched on 29 June for implementation across Mbeya, Njombe, Songwe and Dodoma. This initiative will strengthen delivery of a comprehensive maternal nutrition package, including counselling, nutrition assessment, preventive treatment and micronutrient supplementation, with a focus on improving the quality, coverage and continuity of care during pregnancy.

To support implementation, UNICEF and the Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC) worked with regional authorities in Mbeya to conduct a Training of Trainers



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Guest of Honour Hon. Mbarak Alhaj Batenga, Chunya District Commissioner, representing the Mbeya Regional Commissioner, handing over a sample of the maternal nutrition package to Ms. Neema Joshua, Assistant Director of Nutrition, Ministry of Health, during the launch.



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Ms. Joyce Ngegba, UNICEF Nutrition Specialist, speaking during the launch of Lishe Yangu.



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Dr. Germana Leyna, Managing Director of TFNC, speaking during the launch of Lishe Yangu.

(ToT) for 71 participants from 1–2 July. The training will be cascaded to health facility and community providers, strengthening service delivery, commodity management, data use and supportive supervision. Government and technical partners, including TFNC, Sokoine University of Agriculture, the Medical Supplies Department and the Mbeya Regional Health Management Team, supported delivery of the training.

Speaking at the training, Dr. Elizabeth Nyema, Regional Medical Officer, highlighted the package's potential to reduce anaemia and micronutrient deficiencies while improving birth outcomes. She called for monthly virtual review meetings to strengthen accountability, capture learning and address implementation challenges in real time – an important step in translating training into sustained improvements in service delivery.

Implemented with the Government of Tanzania and supported by Kirk Humanitarian, Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI) and the UNICEF-led Child Nutrition Fund (CNF), Lishe Yangu will generate operational evidence to inform the scale-up of maternal nutrition programming in Tanzania and contribute to global learning on accelerating maternal nutrition through routine health and community systems.

The initiative supports Tanzania's development and health priorities, including the Tanzania Development Vision 2050, the Health Sector Strategic Plan and NMNAP II, while advancing UNICEF's global maternal nutrition acceleration priorities, which position maternal nutrition as central to child survival, growth and development.

Driving evidence for change: food policies to prevent childhood overweight and obesity

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Health (MoH), UNICEF supported a national validation workshop for the Nutrition Investment Case for the Prevention of Childhood Overweight and Obesity, bringing together representatives from government, academia, development partners and civil society. The workshop marked an important step towards strengthening the evidence needed to accelerate the adoption of effective food and nutrition policies in Tanzania to prevent childhood overweight and obesity and chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Participants reviewed and validated the findings of two key analyses. The first examined the country's existing policy and regulatory framework for creating healthier food environments for children. This analysis identified



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Ms. Neema Joshua, Assistant Director of Nutrition, MoH, speaking during the validation workshop.



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Working groups during the Nutrition Investment Case (Overweight and Obesity) validation workshop (left & right).

key opportunities to advance priority policies, including the development and adoption of a national Nutrient Profile Model (NPM) to guide food and nutrition policies such as front-of-package warning labels, restrictions on the marketing of unhealthy foods and beverages targeting children and adolescents, school nutrition policies, and sugar-sweetened beverage taxation.

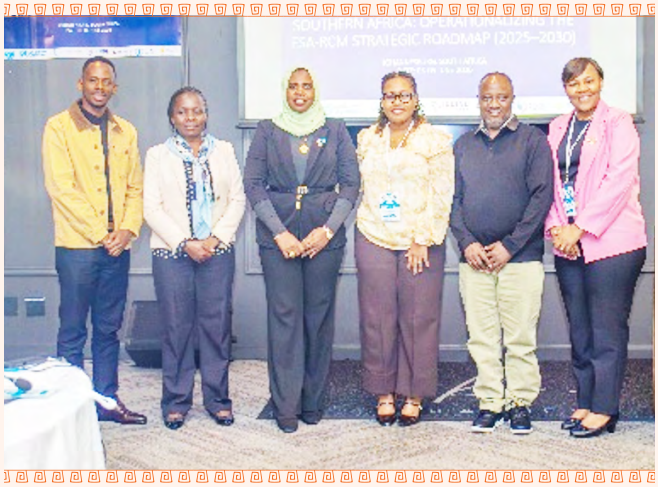
The second assessed the legal feasibility of advancing these policies in both Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, outlining practical pathways while recognizing their distinct legal and institutional contexts.

The workshop provided an opportunity to identify evidence and policy gaps and discuss implementation challenges. The validated findings will inform the finalization of the Nutrition Investment Case, demonstrating the health, social and economic benefits of investing in the prevention of childhood overweight and obesity in the United Republic of Tanzania. Through evidence-informed policymaking and multisectoral collaboration, UNICEF continues to support the Government of Tanzania in creating healthier food environments and improving nutrition outcomes for every child.



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Participants at the high-level SADC consultative meeting.



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Tanzania delegation at the SADC meeting.

From regional dialogue to national action: advancing food standards and fortification to improve nutrition outcomes

UNICEF Tanzania supported government participation (Ministry of Health, Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre and Tanzania Bureau of Standards) in two regional engagements held in Johannesburg, South Africa: the High-Level Committee Meeting on the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Standard for Commercially Produced Complementary Foods, held from 1–2 June 2026, and the convening on *"Sustaining Momentum for Large-Scale Food Fortification (LSFF) in Eastern and Southern Africa: Operationalizing the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Coordination Mechanism (ESA-RCM) Strategic Roadmap 2025–2030,"* held from 3–5 June 2026.

The meetings advanced regional efforts to harmonize food standards, improve the safety and nutritional quality of foods for young children, and accelerate equitable and sustainable LSFF across Eastern and Southern Africa. With UNICEF support, Tanzania contributed to technical dialogue on the draft SADC standard for commercially produced complementary foods, helping shape guidance on product composition, fortification, food safety, packaging, labelling, marketing restrictions, trade considerations and the protection of breastfeeding. The delegation also engaged in discussions on LSFF progress, regulatory monitoring, data systems, private sector engagement and implementation of the ESA-RCM Strategic Roadmap.

The discussions helped clarify next steps for finalizing, adopting and implementing regional standards, while strengthening policy coherence and multisectoral coordination. Building on this, Tanzania will review the implications of the SADC standard for national regulations; update the Country Action Plan in line with the ESA-RCM Roadmap; advance implementation of the 2024 Food Fortification Regulations; strengthen monitoring, enforcement, laboratory capacity and data use; and engage industry, including small and medium-scale producers, to improve access to safe, nutritious and fortified foods for children, women and communities.

UNICEF Tanzania and CEO Roundtable explore opportunities to support marketplace childcare and early childhood development

UNICEF Tanzania facilitated a delegation from the CEO Roundtable (CEOrt) to visit market-based early childhood development (ECD) centres in Njombe Region. The delegates met with the Regional Commissioner's Office, Njombe Town Council officials and market leaders at the centre; observed the operationalization of the market-based ECD centre; and engaged directly with caregivers and parents to explore how the childcare model balances affordability, quality and sustainability while responding to the needs of working families. The assessment covered key aspects of service delivery, including the physical environment and safety, daily routines, the provision of nurturing care and integrated ECD services, the quality of caregiver–child interactions, parent engagement and record-keeping practices.

The visit highlighted the transformative potential of workplace-based childcare solutions in advancing ECD in Tanzania. In market settings and other informal workplaces, many parents are forced to bring children into unsafe environments, balancing caregiving with income-generating activities. The Njombe experience provides a practical response to this challenge through the establishment of integrated workplace ECD centres. These centres offer safe, nurturing spaces where



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Delegates, UNICEF staff and children at the market-based ECD centre in Njombe.



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Children at the market-based ECD centre in Njombe.



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Delegates at the market-based ECD centre in Njombe.

children receive nutrition, early learning and care, while parents are able to work with greater focus and stability.

The exchange created meaningful discussion around the importance of family-friendly workplaces and investing in quality childcare solutions for working parents, especially women.

As the way forward, private sector engagement will be critical in scaling these solutions. The Njombe model provides a compelling case for investment, partnership and leadership in ensuring that every child has the opportunity to grow, learn and thrive while supporting Tanzania's broader development agenda.

Strengthening nutrition planning and budgeting at regional and council levels

In April 2026, the Prime Minister's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government (PMO-RALG), with support from UNICEF, convened a national nutrition budget scrutiny exercise in Morogoro to review Regional Secretariat (RS) and Local Government Authority (LGA) nutrition plans for the financial year (FY) 2026/27. Covering all 26 regions and 184 councils, the exercise provided a critical platform to strengthen the quality, credibility and strategic alignment of subnational nutrition priorities.

The review assessed activities extracted from government planning systems and classified them as nutrition-specific, nutrition-sensitive, governance-related or enabling environmental actions. This helped identify non-nutrition activities incorrectly budgeted under nutrition, gaps in compliance with the minimum budget-per-child allocation, and opportunities to better align investments with national planning and budgeting guidance and National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan II (NMNAP II) priorities.

Following the review, regions and councils were guided to revise their plans, remove ineligible activities and sharpen the strategic focus of proposed investments. The process also served as a practical learning platform for regional and council planners and nutrition officers, reinforcing the use of evidence, clear criteria and accountability mechanisms to improve resource allocation and implementation of high-impact nutrition interventions.

Beyond compliance, the exercise demonstrates how systematic budget scrutiny can translate policy commitments into better-quality plans and more accountable use of resources. By strengthening subnational planning and budgeting systems, the initiative supports Tanzania's efforts to direct investments towards interventions that can deliver measurable nutrition results for children, women, and communities.



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Technical team from PMO-RALG, the MoH, RS and LGAs conducting the review and scrutiny of regional and council nutrition budgets for FY 2025/27 (left & right).

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