

Early Childhood Development in the United Republic of Tanzania



Demographics^{1,2}

About half (49.0%) of the population are **children** (aged 0–17 years) while **children aged 0–8 years** make up just over one-quarter (27.0%) of the population

Children (0–17 years) as a proportion of total population

2012

2022

22,504,787 children

50.1%



30,257,195 children

49.0%



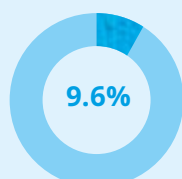
Young children (0–8 years) as a proportion of total population

2012

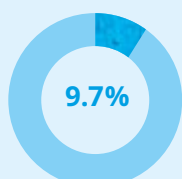
2022

12,781,113 children

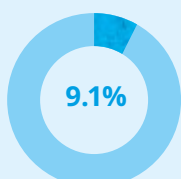
28.4%



0–2 years



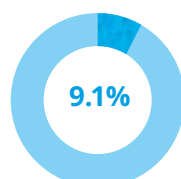
3–5 years



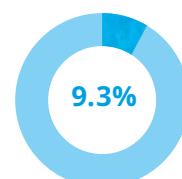
6–8 years

16,694,763 children

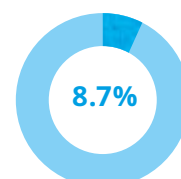
27.0%



0–2 years



3–5 years



6–8 years



Poverty^{3,4}

Although the proportion of children **living in poverty** has decreased slightly, **almost 30%** of children aged 0–8 years live **below the national basic needs poverty line** and **just under 10%** live **below the national food poverty line**

Children living below basic needs poverty line in Mainland Tanzania:

0–17 years		0–8 years	
31.8% in 2011/12	vs	30.1% in 2017/18	
		30.3% in 2011/12	vs 28.2% in 2017/18

Children living below basic needs poverty line in Zanzibar:

0–17 years		0–8 years	
34.7% in 2014/15	vs	30.1% in 2019/20	
		31.2% in 2014/15	vs 26.9% in 2019/20

Children living below food poverty line in Mainland Tanzania:

0–17 years		0–8 years	
11.3% in 2011/12	vs	9.4% in 2017/18	
		10.5% in 2011/12	vs 8.7% in 2017/18

Children living below food poverty line in Zanzibar:

0–17 years		0–8 years	
12.8% in 2014/15	vs	11.4% in 2019/20	
		10.8% in 2014/15	vs 9.6% in 2019/20



Expenditure⁵

Average annual government **expenditure per child** aged 0–6 years
in 2019: **US\$40**

Early childhood development

Early childhood development index⁶

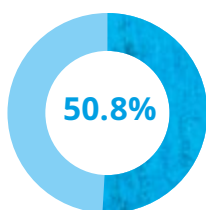


Less than half (47.4%) of children (aged 24–59 months) are developmentally **on-track** in health, learning and psychosocial well-being

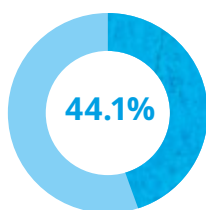


Children on-track

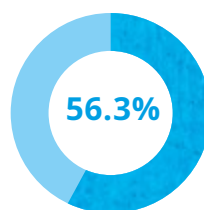
47.4% of children (aged 24–59 months) are developmentally **on-track**



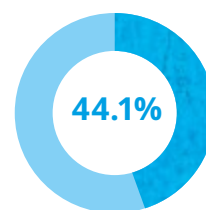
Girls



Boys



Urban

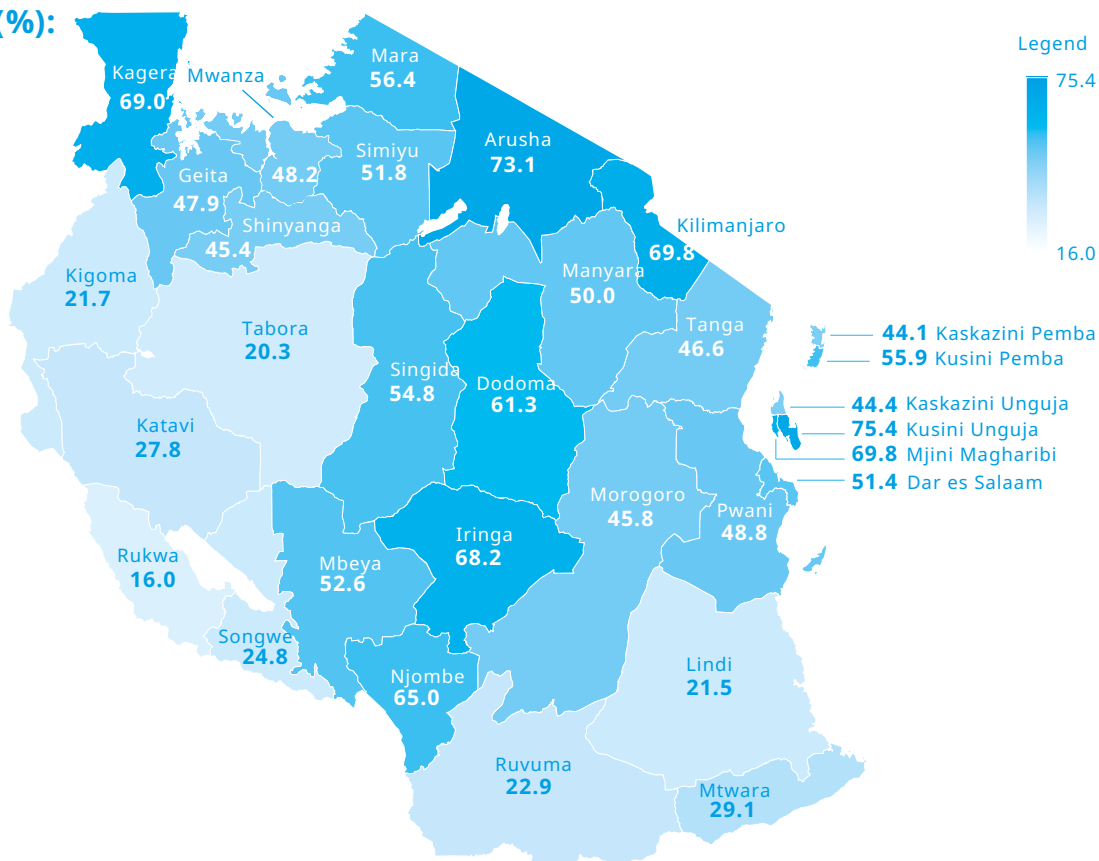


Rural

By age:



By region (%):



Children from **better educated** and **wealthier households** fare better

Mother's education level:			
32.3% no education	vs	60.9% secondary +	
		36.5% lowest wealth quintile	vs 65.4% highest wealth quintile



Children with functional difficulty

3.7% of children aged 5–8 years display **difficulty in at least one** of six domains (seeing, hearing, communication, cognition, walking, self-care) while **0.9%** display **a lot of difficulty** (or 'cannot do at all')

Good health^{6,7}



Maternal health

Access to maternal health care has **improved significantly**



Pregnant women (15–49 years) in 2022:

65.1% had **4 or more antenatal clinic visits**, up from 48.0% in 2015/16

81.2% gave birth in a health facility, up from 64.8% in 2015/16

85.0% were **assisted by a professional/skilled health attendant** during delivery, up from 65.8% in 2015/16

50.5% had a **postnatal checkup in the first two days** following birth, up from 34.3% in 2015/16

98.0% received **anti-retrovirals** to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission, up from 91.0% in 2015⁸



Infant and child health

While **infant and under-five deaths have decreased** and **health care for newborns has improved**, **neonatal mortality** has remained **almost stagnant** and **fewer young children** were **immunised** in 2022

Mortality rates (per 1,000 live births):




Neonatal deaths:

Infant deaths:

Under-five deaths:

25 (2015/16) ↔ **24** (2022) **43** (2015/16) ↓ **33** (2022) **67** (2015/16) ↓ **43** (2022)

In 2022:

-  **53.9%** of newborns received a **postnatal checkup** within the first two days after birth, up from 42.4% in 2015/16
-  **52.6%** of children (aged 12–23 months) received **all basic vaccinations**, down from 75.3% in 2015/16
-  **79.3%** of children with symptoms of acute respiratory infection (ARI) **sought advice or treatment from a health facility or provider**, down from 84.6% in 2015/16





Adolescent health

Teenage pregnancy and female genital mutilation/cutting rates have **decreased**



Teenage girls (15–19 years) in 2022:

-  **22.0%** had **started childbearing**, down from 26.7% in 2015/16
-  **8.2%** had undergone **female genital mutilation/cutting**, down from 10.0% in 2015/16

Adequate nutrition^{6, 7}



The incidence of **low birth weight** has **increased**:

7.2%
in 2015/16



8.4%
in 2022



Breastfeeding

More infants
are **breastfed**

In 2022:

- 70.2%** of infants were **breastfed within 1 hour of birth**, up from 51.2% in 2015/16
- 64.3%** of children aged 0–5 months were **exclusively breastfed**, up from 59.2% in 2015/16



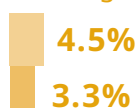
Children under 5 years

Young children continue to suffer from **high levels of malnutrition**

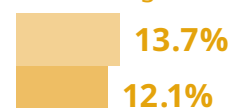
Stunting



Wasting



Underweight



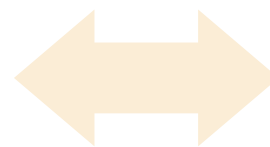
In 2022, **17.9%** of mothers/caregivers of children (aged 6–23 months) received **infant and young child feeding counselling** from a health provider at a health facility

In 2022, **7.9%** of children (aged 6–23 months) received the **minimum acceptable diet**, down from 8.7% in 2015/16



Anaemia (capillary blood)

Anaemia among **women and children** remained almost stagnant



Women aged 15–49 years:

44.8%

in 2015/16



41.5%

in 2022

Children aged 6–59 months:

57.7%

in 2015/16



59.1%

in 2022



In 2022, only **53.3%** of children (aged 6–59 months) had received one dose of **vitamin A supplementation** in the last 6 months while in 2015/16, 41.3% had received one dose

Safety and security^{6,7}



While **birth registrations** and access to **safe drinking water** have improved, access to **sanitation facilities** has not



Birth registration

Children under 5 years:

Birth registered with a civil authority

Have a birth certificate

2015/16

26.4%

14.0%

2022

67.7%

57.7%



Parental care

In 2022, **7.3%** (8.4% in 2015/16) of children **had lost one or both parents** while the proportion of children (**17.8%**) who **do not live with a biological parent** has remain unchanged since 2015



Households

Main source of drinking water is an improved source:

No toilet facility:

64.0%

in 2015/16



73.5%

in 2022

9.5%

in 2015/16

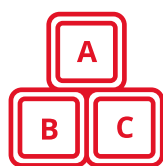


8.7%

in 2022



Between 2015 and 2022, access to an **improved sanitation facility** has remained unchanged at **74.9%**



Pre-primary school (age 5 years)

Between 2022 and 2023, **net** and **gross enrolment rates** for pre-primary school increased in Mainland Tanzania while in Zanzibar, they declined

Mainland Tanzania:⁹

Gross		Net	
83.9% in 2022	vs	89.5% in 2023	
		37.4% in 2022	vs 40.5% in 2023

Zanzibar:¹⁰

Gross		Net	
89.8% in 2022	vs	87.0% in 2023	
		71.9% in 2022	vs 67.3% in 2023



Primary school enrolment rates

Primary school enrolment declined in 2023 while **pre-primary enrolment remains low**, although significantly higher in Zanzibar than in Mainland Tanzania

Mainland Tanzania (age 7–13 years):

Gross		Net	
108.5% in 2022	vs	98.2% in 2023	
		94.4% in 2022	vs 86.0% in 2023

Zanzibar (age 6–12 years):

Gross		Net	
110.4% in 2022	vs	105.3% in 2023	
		93.6% in 2022	vs 86.8% in 2023



Sources

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