THE UNITED REBUPLIC OF TANZANIA

MINISTRY OF LANDS, HOUSING AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

SEPTEMBER, 2025

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AF	Adaptation Fund
AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use
AMHEWAS	Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System
AQRB	Architects and Quantity Surveyors Registration Board
ARU	Ardhi University
BRELA	Business Registrations and Licensing Agency
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CDEA	Cultural Development East Africa
CFCA	Capital Formation and Credit Access
CH_4	Methane
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CRB	Contractors Registration Board
CWW	Community Water Watch
DARAJA	Developing Risk Awareness through Joint Action
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EASTRIP	Eastern Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project
EOCC	National Emergency Operations and Communication Centre
ERB	Engineers Registration Board
ESPJ	Education and Skills for Productive Jobs
EU	European Union
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FVPO	First Vice President's Office
FYDP	Five-Year Development Plan
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Green House Gas
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
GVA	Gross Value Added
HDI	Human Development Index
ICMAPs	District Integrated Coastal Management Action Plans
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IDA	International Development Associations
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LCFI	Local Climate Finance Initiative
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry
CMGs	Community Microfinance Groups
MLHHSD	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
MoCU	Moshi Co-operative University
N_2O	Nitrous Oxide

NACTVET	National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training
NAO	National Audit Office
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NCCRS	National Climate Change Response Strategy
NCCS	National Climate Change Strategy
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NEMC	National Environment Management Council
NEMC	National Environment Management Council
NICEMS	National Integrated Coastal Environment Management Strategy
NO_x	Nitrogen Oxides
NUA	New Urban Agenda
O_3	Ground-Level Ozone
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Authority
PFMRP	Public Financial Management Reform Programme
PM	Fine Particulate Matter
PMO	Prime Minister's Office
PO-RALG	President's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government
PSSN	Productive Social Safety Net
PFMRP	Public Financial Management Reform Programme
REA	Rural Energy Agency
SMS	Short Message Service
SO_2	Sulphur Dioxide
SUA	Sokoine University of Agriculture
SUZA	State University of Zanzibar
TASAF	Tanzania Social Action fund
TBS	Tanzania Bureau of Standards
TCRA	Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority
TEPRP	Tanzania Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan
TFDA	Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority
TICGL	Tanzania Investment and Consultant Group Ltd
TMA	Tanzania Meteorological Authority
TMDA	Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority
TREEP	Tanzania Rural Electrification Expansion Project
TV	Television
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UDSM	University of Dar es Salaam
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
URT	United Republic of Tanzania
US	United States
USD	United States Dollar
VETA	Vocational Education and Training Authority
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSDP	Water Sector Development Programme
ZADEP	Zanzibar Development Plan
ZCCS	Zanzibar Climate Change Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Tanzania New Urban Agenda (NUA) Second Implementation Report, 2025, echoes the country's commitment to the global Sustainable Development Agenda, with particular emphasis on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11, which advocates for inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements. The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, serving as the national focal point for UN-Habitat affairs, led the coordination and preparation of this report.

The development of this NUA implementation report was guided by a participatory and inclusive process, primarily drawing on secondary data from government ministries, departments and agencies, local government authorities, academic institutions, civil society organizations, and international partners. While data limitations posed some challenges, the report offers a clear and credible overview of Tanzania's progress in implementing the NUA. The subsequent sections provide a brief summary of findings across the Agenda's key thematic areas.

Sustainable urban development for social inclusion and ending poverty

From 2020 to 2025, Tanzania has shown strong national commitment to promoting sustainable urban development, social inclusion, poverty reduction, and access to adequate housing in line with the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and Sustainable Development Goal 11.1. Extreme poverty declined from 36 per cent in 2000 to 26 per cent in 2024, and per capita income rose to USD 1,277, supported by impactful programs such as the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN). Urban inequality was addressed through the regularization of over 1.1 million plots and the preparation of more than 10,000 detailed planning schemes, improving equitable access to land, jobs, and essential services. Tanzania also formalized over 1.7 million housing units and issued more than 675,000 land tenure documents, enhancing tenure security and housing adequacy. Investment in housing for both formal and informal sectors accounted for 3.5–4.5% of GDP.

Positive progress has been shown in expanding access to basic services including water, sanitation, electricity, and public transport, particularly in urban centres. The mortgage market showed steady growth, with outstanding mortgage debt increasing from TZS 436 billion in 2020 to TZS 659.3 billion in 2024, though mortgage-to-GDP remains modest at 0.4 per cent. Legal and policy reforms, such as the 2023 revision of the National Land Policy, significantly advanced gender equity, raising female land ownership to 28 per cent and women parliamentary seat representation rising to 37.4 per cent. Initiatives promoting youth empowerment, disability inclusion, and migrant integration further reflect Tanzania's efforts to leave no one behind.

Moreover, public space development improved with over 1,000 hectares allocated in Dar es Salaam for parks and recreation, though gaps remain in pedestrian and cycling infrastructure. While progress has been significant, challenges such as housing affordability, service access in rural and peri-urban areas, and digital connectivity persist. Sustained investment, inclusive governance, and policy innovation remain key to ensuring Tanzanian cities become more inclusive, equitable, resilient, and sustainable for all by 2030.

Sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all

Tanzania's implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) between 2020 and 2024 reflects a committed effort to advance sustainable, inclusive, and equitable urban development. Amid rapid urbanization, governments and stakeholders have focused on strategies that promote economic growth, reduce inequality, expand access to basic services, and empower marginalized urban populations including women, youth, and persons with disabilities. Key achievements include narrowing income disparities.

For instance, the Gini coefficient remained stable at 0.404 in 2023 slightly above the peer average. Tax reforms ranked the country among the top performers globally in reducing post-tax inequality. Likewise, social programs and youth and women enterprise funds expanded in coverage and disbursement while the National Financial Inclusion Framework (2023–2028) targets expanded digital finance access for youth, women, and SMEs. Baseline-to-target indicators show substantial progress in mobile money, SME access to credit, and fin-tech innovation. Likewise, from 2020 to 2024, employment in agriculture modestly declined, while industry employment grew from 8.0 per cent to 8.5 per cent. These shifts suggest gradual structural transformation, though accelerated efforts are needed for inclusive industrialization.

Environmental sustainability and resilient urban development

Tanzania demonstrates its commitment to environmental sustainability and resilient urban development through strategic policy instruments such as the National Disaster Management Strategy (2022–2027), which integrates disaster risk reduction into national planning and budgeting. The launch of the National Emergency Operations and Communication Centre (EOCC) in 2024 marks a significant step toward improving disaster preparedness and response. With urban population growth projected to reach over 78 million by 2050, the government has introduced key planning frameworks to manage urbanization impacts. These include the Guideline for Spatial Development Control and the Building Codes Regulation, both introduced in 2025. Furthermore, the Urban Redevelopment Planning Program (2026–2030) will facilitate land readjustment in 111 areas across 24 regions, targeting approximately 24,309 hectares of urban centres.

To reinforce these efforts, Tanzania has invested in sustainable transport infrastructure aimed at enhancing urban resilience and efficiency. Projects such as the Dar es Salaam Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and the Tanzania Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) exemplify a shift toward modern, inclusive systems that support environmental goals while improving urban mobility. Collectively, these initiatives reflect a proactive and integrated approach to managing the environmental and developmental challenges posed by rapid urbanization.

Effective implementation

Tanzania has recorded substantial achievements in the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), demonstrating strong political will and institutional commitment toward sustainable urbanization. A key milestone has been the establishment of a sound urban governance structure, anchored in supportive legal and institutional frameworks that empower both national and local governments to manage urban growth more effectively. Since adoption of the New Urban Agenda in 2016, Tanzania has successfully approved and implemented 28 master plans, conducted regularization programs in 2,256 Mitaa (streets/ sub-wards) of informal settlements, and issued 4,059,609 tittles countrywide, thus, resulting in more organized urban spatial development and improved land tenure security.

In mobilizing financial resources, the government has strategically combined domestic financing, donor contributions, and public-private partnerships to fund urban infrastructure and essential services. The recurrent grants released from central government to local governments increased by TZS 588.47 billion from TZS 5.20 trillion in 2022/23 to TZS 5.79 trillion in 2023/24, representing an 11 per cent increase while the development grants released increased by TZS 125.20billion from TZS 2.4 trillion in 2022/2023 to TZS 2.62 trillion in 2023/24, equal to an increase of 9 per cent. Similarly, there has been a significant increase in the own-source revenue collection of local government authorities for the past four years from TZS 891.84 billion (2%) in the final year 2021/2022 to TSZ 1. 23Trilion (8%) in 2023/2024. However, over-dependence on central government grants remains a challenge to local governments in Tanzania.

Significant investments have also been made in capacity building by supporting institutions which provide training and conduct research in matters related to land, the built environment, social-economic and other environmental related disciplines. Since 2021, the Government through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is implementing the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) Project funded by the World Bank with a budget of US$425 million in 16 higher learning institutions.

Furthermore, Tanzania has embraced technology and innovation through the adoption of GIS tools, digital land information systems, and smart city solutions, leading to greater efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness in urban management. Building on earlier successes, since 2022, the government through the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development has continued to install and roll out the integrated electronic land services system known as e-Ardhi (formerly Integrated land management and information system- ILMIS) in the country. As of June, 2025, the system was being used in 46 LGAs within 11 out of 26 regions in the country.

This report is structured in two parts: Part One outlines Tanzania's progress in implementing the New Urban Agenda from 2016 to 2025, focusing on three key areas, namely: sustainable urban development for social inclusion and poverty eradication; inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all; and environmental sustainability and resilient urban development. Part Two presents an assessment of implementation mechanisms and the strategic directions for advancing the agenda.

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This report acknowledges the valuable contributions of all stakeholders who played key roles in its successful and timely report writing and completion. Foremost, efforts of the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development for its strategic leadership, organisation, coordination and overall guidance throughout the process are recognised. Highly appreciated is also the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) for enormous support in accessing the socio-economic, population and building data from the National Population Census (2022). The data received from NBS have been reliable and evidence-based and has significantly contributed in the preparation of the National Progress Report on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

Further appreciation is anchored to the Vice Presidents' Office, President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government), Home Affairs, Ministry of Works, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Prime Minister's Office (Policy and Parliamentary Affairs), Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Employment, Youth and Persons with Disability), Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women, Children and Special Groups, Ministry of Information, Communications and technology and Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports to mention a few, whose profiles and data bases constituted reliable sources of information for analysis and preparation of the National NUA Report.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to various government agencies and the Local Government Authorities for practical insights and on-ground experiences that enriched the report with context-specific realities. Academic institutions contributed research-based knowledge and critical analysis that enhanceed the quality of the report. Discourses from Civil Society Organizations provided vital perspectives on exclusivity, community needs and grassroots engagement. In addition, the international organisations support during data collection and policy alignment is immensely appreciated. Overall, a wide range of stakeholders provided the required data and above all, their guidance was instrumental in the process of preparing this report.

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FOREWORD

The United Republic of Tanzania is among member states of the United Nations which complies with the implementation of the United Nations' resolutions. The country marks the Second iteration of the New Urban Agenda Report reflecting on its efforts and initiatives in overcoming evolving dynamics of urbanisation and promoting the ever-growing need of innovation, inclusion, safety, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements for all by 2030.

Following the unprecedented rapid rate of urbanisation globally and locally, the government of the United Republic of Tanzania is committed to participate in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) adopted in 2016 to be used as the roadmap for sustainable Urbanisation. As such, Tanzania took several initiatives to sustain investments, have inclusive governance, and policy innovations. Some of the key Legal and policy reforms made by the Government include: development of National vision 2050 and revision the National Land Policy and Tax Reform, to mention a few.

The efforts made by the Government in tax reforms have so far ranked the country among the top global performers in reducing post-tax inequality. Social programme funds have been expanded by the Government to cover a wide range of disbursements throughdigital finance access.

The Government has recognised that digital transformation is not only a tool for enhancing service delivery and urban management but also a critical enabler of inclusive development, economic competitiveness, and climate resilience. In view of this recognition, concerted efforts have been made by the government of the United Republic of Tanzania to expand digital infrastructure, deploy smart systems in land and urban management, and foster digital inclusion across all population groups and geographical regions in the country. Information technology and innovation have remained pivotal to achieving the New Urban Agenda (NUA) objectives in Tanzania.

To further reinforce these efforts, Tanzania has invested in sustainable transport infrastructure and Projects such as the Dar es Salaam Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and the Tanzania Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) being a visionary and paradigm shift toward modern and inclusive systems that support environmental goals while improving urban mobility. Collectively, these initiatives reflect a few proactive and integrated approaches and efforts undertaken by the Government to manage the environmental and developmental challenges posed by phenomenal rapid urbanisation.

Successful implementation of the NUA by the country has been enhanced by joint efforts from all Government Ministries, Agencies, Private sectors, Non-Governmental Organisations and International Partners. This report not only catalogues achievements and lessons learned; it reaffirms our collective commitment to have cities that are liveable, just, and climate-resilient for all. It is a tribute to the policymakers, urban planners, civil society actors, and citizens who make change happen to also understand Government efforts towards NUA implementation.

Tanzania still joins hands together with the global community to enhance sustainable urban development. Let’s, together, build on what works, challenge what doesn’t, and champion a future where urban opportunities can be seized with equity and become a right, not a privilege.

Hon. Deogratius J. Ndejembi

Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development

PART ONE

1.1 Sustainable urban development for social inclusion and ending poverty

This chapter introduces efforts by the government to reduce inequality and promote social inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable groups, access to adequate housing and access to basic services.

1.1.1 Reducing inequality and promoting social inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable groups

Tanzania, like many other member countries of the United Nations, has signed several international agreements and treaties including commitments to implement New Urban Agenda (NUA) as adopted in 2016. Ending poverty and social inclusion are among the pertinent targets of the NUA. This section therefore avails on how the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania strides to ensure that poverty is eradicated and her urban habitats are exposed to equitable access to opportunities, services and participation in urban life regardless of their income, gender, ethnicity or abilities to make Tanzania cities just, resilient and inclusive.

1.1.1.1 Ending poverty in its all forms

Urban poverty reduction in Tanzania has been a central focus of national development strategies since independence of Mainland Tanzania in 1961, the Zanzibar Revolution in 1964 and the subsequent union of 1964 to-date 2025. This focus is still strategically included in the National Development vision 2050. Since independence, the country has focused on overcoming three key national issues; namely ignorance, diseases and abject poverty. In the struggles to eradicate poverty, the Government developed the 2025 National development vision in the year 2000, which among many objectives, was to make the country attain middle-income status.

Evaluations made by the country during development of the National development vision, 2050, proved significant achievements as the level of extreme poverty was reduced from 36% in 2000 to 26% in 2024 and the individual income per capita has increased from USD 453 in the year 2000 to USD 1,277 in 2023 with an average of USD 3.5 per day above the international poverty line (USD 2.15). In similar oscillation, the newly developed National Vision 2050 has targeted to increase individual per capital income from the targeted USD 3000 per year in 2025 to USD 7000 per year in 2050.

In the continuous struggles to end poverty, the government developed several programmes and projects including the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) which is implemented through three components namely: Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) to meet household basic needs; Public Works Programmes (PWP) to increase household income; encouraging establishment of Ccommunity Microfinance Groups (CMGs); and investing in productive ventures through CMGs. The PSSN is implemented by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) with specific objectives of increasing income and consumption of the poor household communities and improving their ability to cope with shocks among vulnerable populations, while enhancing and protecting the human capital of children. A good example is extracted from the recent country's (Tanzania) Economic Survey report, 2022. There were 1,371,038 households with a total of 6,596,820 Programme beneficiaries out of which, 3,356,621 were women (50.9 %) and 3,240,199 were men (49.1%) compared to 1,279,433 households with 6,396,620 beneficiaries in the corresponding period in 2021.

According to the UNDP Global Human Development Report 2022, Tanzania was ranked 160th out of 191 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI) in 2021 compared to 163rd position in 2019. In addition, the Report revealed that HDI increased to 0.549 above the average of 0.547 for Sub - Sahara African countries. This is a result of initiatives that the Government is doing to end poverty in the country through existing and newly developed initiatives and programmes.

According to the (Tanzania) Household Survey report, 2022, the share of the urban population below the Basic Needs Poverty Line fell sharply from 15.8% in 2018 to 1.4% in 2021/22, highlighting the impact of targeted interventions. Urban food poverty also declined from 4.4% to 4.0%. At the national level, the Multidimensional Poverty Index improved significantly, dropping from 55.4 to 45.7, reflecting better outcomes in health, education, and living conditions. Income inequality remained largely unchanged, with a slight improvement in urban areas (from 0.38 to 0.37). Despite a slight drop in the Human Development Index (from 0.57 to 0.50), poverty indicators showed marked improvement. Again, the national unemployment rate fell from 9.7% to 9.0%, suggesting growing access to job opportunities. These results reflect Tanzania's strong commitment to inclusive urban development and poverty reduction.

1.1.1.2 Reducing inequality in urban areas

Tanzania cities, like many Sub-Saharan African countries, are affected by poor connectivity and low accessibility as a result of leapfrog development, with isolated neighborhoods of the newly developed land not in proximal to existing areas of employment. Such fragmentation causes lengthy travel times between homes, jobs, and business and low accessibility by public transport means. Public transport systems allow urban dwellers to access only a small share of jobs and amenities, undermining the city's potential to benefit from agglomeration economies.

Land-use inefficiencies, such as low levels of vertical development and patches of poorly developed prime areas in and around city centers, increases pressure on land at the urban periphery. Cities are "growing out, not up". The resulting sprawling urban form makes infrastructure and basic service provision relatively costly. This situation traps cities in a vicious cycle of car dependence: This kind of city development for long has widened the gap of inequalities in accessing basic social needs and amenities to both women, youth and vulnerable groups.

The government of Tanzania having realised such challenges, several mitigation and adaptation measures have been undertaken to reduce such inequalities and exclusion of the communities to access urban services by ensuring availability of serviced plots; review of policies and laws to favour and attract development of affordable housing. Among many efforts made by the Government is to enhance preparation of town planning drawings with varying land uses such as; Open spaces, recreational areas, hospitals, schools, market spaces, religious sites, public areas and all necessary land uses.

Since 2022 to-date (2025), a total of 10,192 town planning drawing plans have been prepared with a total of 1,516,309 plots of different land use categories and sizes as one way of reducing spatial inequalities and enhance availability of jobs, employment and social services in proximal areas to the communities. Within the similar vein and time horizon, a total of 1,187401 plots have been regularised to provide legitimacy of existing commercial residential, residential, and commercial and institutions plots to enhance availability and accessibility of different services in proximal areas to the communities. Different utilities such as electricity, water and gas lines are provided in regularised areas of Tanzania. The regularisation is an alternative approach used to upgrade and service unplanned settlements in Tanzania and endeavors to help communities secure infrastructure services such as roads for accessibility, open spaces and play grounds. Currently, 2025, the government of the United Republic of Tanzania is venturing in Land Readjustment Programmes to promote vertical development and secure land in unplanned areas proximal to Central Business Districts (CBD) to enhance availability of inclusive affordable housing to inhabitants without disturbing their livelihoods.

Additional efforts made by the government of the United Republic of Tanzania in compliance to NUA requirements includes: Revision of the National Land Policy, 1995 (RE 2023), which among many critical issues, is to promote equal land ownership and inheritance rights to women by eliminating discriminatory customary practices: Development of the National Vision 2050, which requires Tanzania cities to be inclusive, liveable where all social services are accessible to all.On-going review of the National Human Settlements Development Policy, 2000 also forms part of government initiatives in the implementation of NUA objectives.

1.1.1.3 Achievement of social inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable groups

Tanzania fairs well on fostering social inclusion of vulnerable groups. The Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977, as amended, explicitly prohibits discrimination on the basis of; gender, age (youth or old) with disabilities and citizenship especially migrants. These groups of persons are such important community members being considered by Tanzania during preparation of her national development plans and strategies. The country has adopted and struggles to ensure that no one is left behind in addressing human rights by replacing repressive laws, increasing access to justice, sector reforms and strengthening policies, laws and guidelines. The following section provides the details of the country's efforts and initiatives to increase social inclusion in urban areas by embracing and promoting social protection, labour rights and urban planning.

a) Gender equality

There are several government efforts towards eliminating gender-based violence, gender inequality, access to economic assets and improving women's leadership and participation. Different programmes are implemented by the government to empower women by revealing and increasing economic opportunities, building business capacity and creating access to capital markets and credit facilities. Several training sessions for women to attain key business skills have been carried out by the government institutions and partner local and international organizations. Other interventions that address gender inequalities against women and girls include; increased opportunities for girls' education and training, swift measures against discrimination on land ownership and inheritance, violence against women and girls and an intensified voice against cultural biases on women.

The government also embarked on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB), where, the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP) integrated gender targets for the first time in its Public Financial Management Reform Programme (PFMRP) in three of the five strategic objectives of the PFMRP Strategic Plan (2022-2027). The country has made tremendous progress towards advancing gender equality in leadership and decision making at all levels, with more women being appointed to lead key positions. At the highest level, the URT President is a Woman - Her Excellency, Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan and the Speaker and Clerk of the National Assembly are women, and 35 per cent of Ministers are women. This representation has remained relatively stable. By 2025, 37.4% of members of parliament in Tanzania Mainland are women, showing empowerment and inclusion of women in political leadership, though more robust measures are still needed to sustain and accelerate further progress.

b) Youth

Tanzania is one of the countries with a majority youth population, where about 57.1 per cent of the population is between 15 to 35 years. More than half of these youths are female. The youth present both challenges and opportunities. Challenges include prevalent youth unemployment, especially among young women. There is a strong conviction that having a youthful population brings potential to the labour force markets and savings. In Tanzania (URT), unemployment rates for young women stand at 16.7 per cent, whilst for young men it is 8.3 per cent.

The government has different interventions in place to ensure economic prosperity of young people. Such interventions include: Establishment of the National Economic Empowerment Council which to date, has injected over 45 special funds in different ministries and departments to ensure that youth are economically empowered. The government prioritises skills development for youth through different government led programs in partnership with stakeholders in the private sector and civil society to guarantee sustainability. In mainland Tanzania, the National Youth Development Policy, 2007 is under review to reflect the current state of youth development, priorities and challenges. In Zanzibar, the integration of human rights, gender and youth has been substantiated by intergrating them into the ZDV 2050, and Zanzibar Development Plan (ZADEP), the Zanzibar Gender Policy with its Action Plan, and the five-year National Action Plan.

c) Migrants

It is evident that, in many other countries in the globe, migrants face challenges of marginalisation, social disintegration and adaptation and discrimination. This is in contrast to Tanzania where, apart from the "Ujamaa philosophy" where every person is counted as a relative/brother ("Kila mtu ni Ndugu"). To control rural-to-urban and cross-border migration in the country, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania enacted several Legal and Policy Frameworks to control and enhance smooth migration. The Immigration Act (Cap. 54, R.E. 2023) governs entry of residents and employment of non-citizens. The Government adopted the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Management Strategy to support regular migration pathways and integration of migrants into urban systems since 2002 which works on a wide range of issues including border management, counter-trafficking, migration and health, and climate-related displacements. These efforts align with IOM's Global Strategic Plan 2024–2028, which emphasises saving lives, driving solutions to displacement, and facilitating regular migration pathways.

Tanzania has continued to be an important country of asylum for people seeking international protection. As of the end of April 2023, there were some 250,000 refugees and asylum seekers in the country. Most of the refugees and asylum seekers reside in two camps in north-western Kigoma Region. In addition, the country has a very small urban caseload of some 200 registered individuals from various countries. Refugees and asylum seekers residing in the camps are provided with essentials and have access to basic services provided by the government of the United Republic of Tanzania with support from UN Agencies and other partners.

There has been a sudden surge in the number of refugees in recent years. Since early May 2023 over 10,000 people from neighbouring countries, particularly from Burundi and

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), who were looking for international protection were registered as asylum seekers by the Government. This shows how Tanzania has improved its inclusivity beyond the national boundary.

Tanzania cities and towns are rapidly urbanising. This urbanisation is a manifest of rural-to-urban migration as well as natural population increase. The perceived lack of opportunities in rural areas has been identified as the main push factors for Tanzanians to move from rural areas to urban cities and towns. The National Human Settlements Development Policy, 2000 (under review) realised the changing place of living from rural areas to urban is one of the leading and causative factors to the high annual growth rates of urban populations in Tanzania. This migration process has consequences on both rural and urban settlements, lives and treatment of people. Because of the high rate of migration, urban authorities cannot cope with it in terms of employment, services and housing provision. The National Human Settlements Development Policy, 2000 requires capacities of all Urban Authorities to be enhanced to accommodate the increasing population and to ensure no discrimination of such population segment.

1.1.1.4 Access to public spaces (streets, sidewalks and cycling lanes)

It is an undeniable fact that public facilities such as schools, parks, community centres, sidewalks and bike lanes, arts and cultural facilities, recreational facilities and plaza play central roles in creation of inclusive communities in every city. These facilities are required to be accessible to all persons of all ages (old and young persons), women and people with disabilities and are required to be equitably distributed throughout the cities. Despite increased urban population growth and density in the country, cities still offer residents with low access to such services as many cities become “dense with few amenities”. Most of such spaces previously allocated in urban planning schemes have long been encroached by residential or commercial development, motor vehicle repair workshops or showrooms, schools, office buildings or religious facilities. According to assessments made by the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development Report 2024; from 178 Local Government Authorities, there are 34,689 open spaces in Tanzania urban areas covering 24,487.19 ha of land which fosters economic, social, and environmental benefits of public spaces.

The government has undertaken several initiatives since the year 2000 immediately after enactment of the National Human Settlement development policy 2000. The policy restricts ownership of open spaces by individuals. The Government enacted the Urban Planning Act Cap 355 which directs provision of land for Open spaces during urban planning and design. Other initiatives include enactment of Urban Planning Regulations (2018) GN 93; The Urban Planning (Space and Standards) Regulations which directs compulsory allocation of open spaces with the minimum sizes based on the nature of anticipated activity for both passive and active recreational areas. Under the same Urban Planning Regulations (2018), GN 91 (Use groups and use classes) strictly prohibited change of use of public open spaces; and cemeteries to mention a few.

Further initiatives have been made by the government of the United Republic of Tanzania on the same by developing two guidelines namely: Guidelines and Standards for the Preparation and Implementation of Urban Planning Schemes, 2025 which has introduced 12 Urban planning schemes (Metropolitan plan, Master Plan, Structure plan, New area plan, Conservation area plan, Waterfront plan, Heritage plan, Transit-oriented Development (ToD), Special Economic or Institutional Zones, Redevelopment Plan, Regularisation Plan and Village Centre Plan) as opposed to the four (4) Urban Planning Schemes which have been in existence from the Guidelines for Preparation of Urban Planning Schemes, 2007. All these plans inclusively entail to increase the number and accessibility of public spaces. Guidelines for Spatial Development Control, 2025 were also developed to guide and monitor compliance and implementation of urban plans.

1.1.2 Access to adequate housing

This part evaluates progress made by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania in implementing access to adequate, safe, and affordable housing based on the requirements of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG); 11.1. This section, therefore, intends to enlighten the progress made by the country in policy reforms, public and private housing projects, financing mechanisms, improving access to secure tenure and settlement regularisation in addressing housing inadequacies.

1.1.2.1 Access to adequate and affordable housing

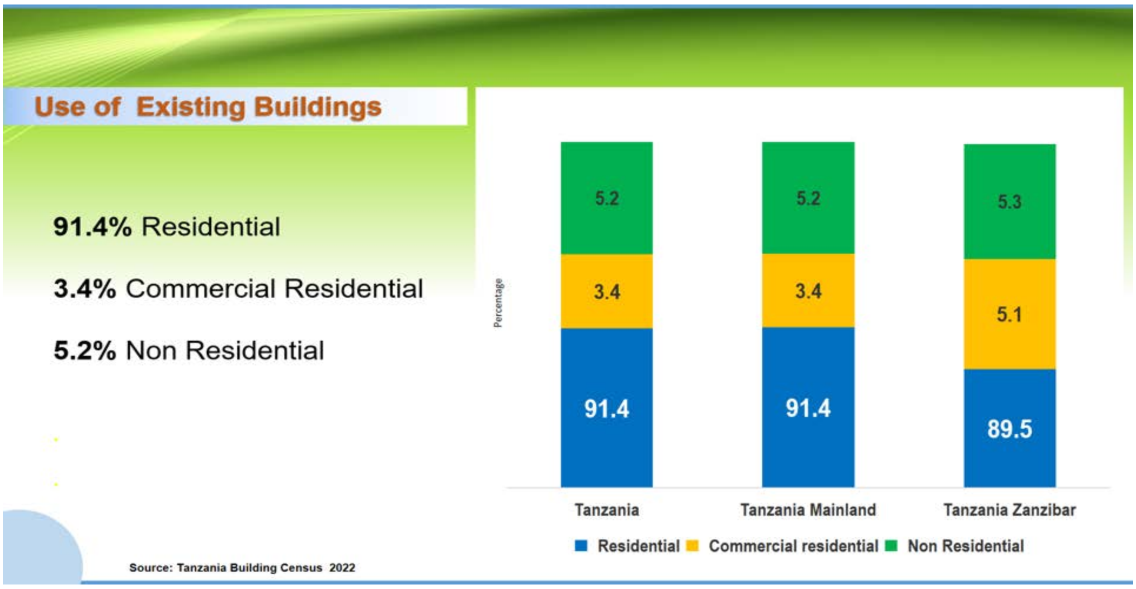
Housing is universally recognised as a fundamental human need and right. According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948, everyone has the right to a standard living adequate for their health and well-being, including housing (United Nations, 1948). This right was further codified in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), adopted in 1966 and entered into force in 1976. Tanzania ratified the ICESCR on June 11, 1976, thereby committing herself to progressively realise the right to adequate housing and related basic services (UN Treaty Collection, 2024).

At the global level, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11.1, specifically commits countries to "ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums by 2030" (UN DESA, 2015). The New Urban Agenda (NUA) emphasises housing as a central component of inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urban development. Paragraph 31 of the NUA explicitly calls for the promotion of the rights to adequate housing and the integration of housing into national urban policy frameworks (UN-Habitat, 2017).

Tanzania's commitment is reinforced by the National Human Settlements Development Policy (2000) under review. This policy prioritises enabling access to adequate and affordable housing for citizens across all income levels. It guides interventions in housing finance, urban upgrading, land delivery and building regulations as key pillars in addressing housing challenges in both urban and rural areas.

Since 2022 after submission of the Countries NUA report, several efforts have been made by the government, including conducting the National Population and Building Census in 2022. The Tanzania Building Census (TBC) Report, 2022 revealed that out of all buildings in the country; 91.4 per cent were residential, 3.4 per cent commercial and 5.2 per cent non-residential. Out of this stock, 87 per cent were owned by private individuals. Access to basic services (water, electricity, and sanitation) stands at 47.6 per cent in urban areas and 15.1 per cent in rural areas. In addition, 61.6 per cent of residential buildings were accessible by roads and 4.5 per cent were provided with infrastructure for people with disabilities. In order to sustain the growing population, the government is continuously implementing various policy and non-policy measures to ensure adequate housing.

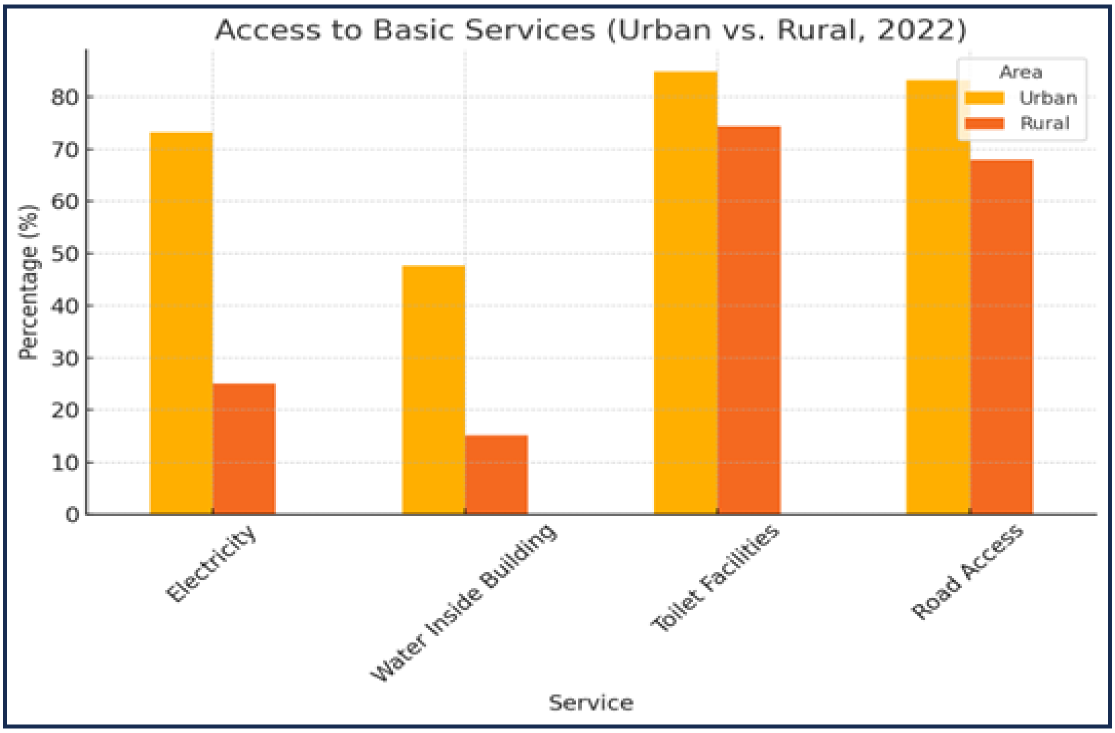
Figure 1: Share of residential building, indicating access to housing in Tanzania



Source: Tanzania Building Census, 2022

Many houses in Tanzania have access to essential services. The 2022 Building Census Report shows that access to electricity, clean water, sanitation, and road connectivity has increased, particularly in urban areas. However, rural settlements continue to face service delivery gaps, limiting the adequacy of housing in these areas (Figures 2 and 3).

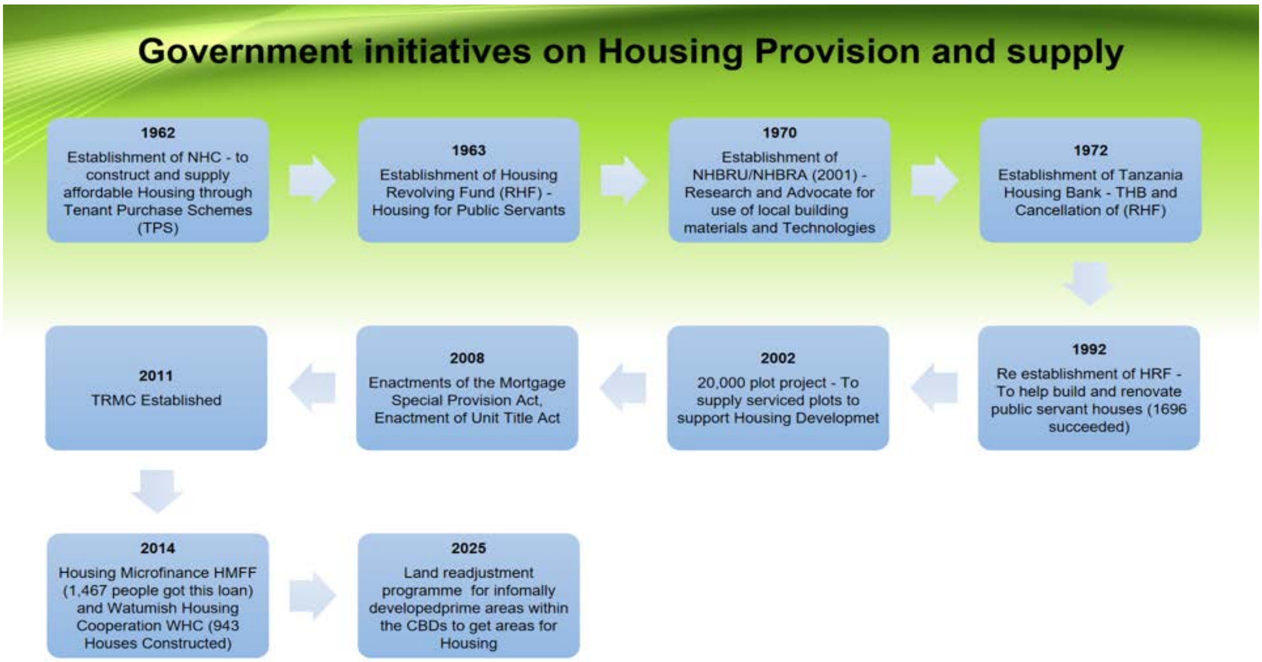
Figure 2: Access to basic services urban vs. rural



Source: Tanzania Building Census, 2022

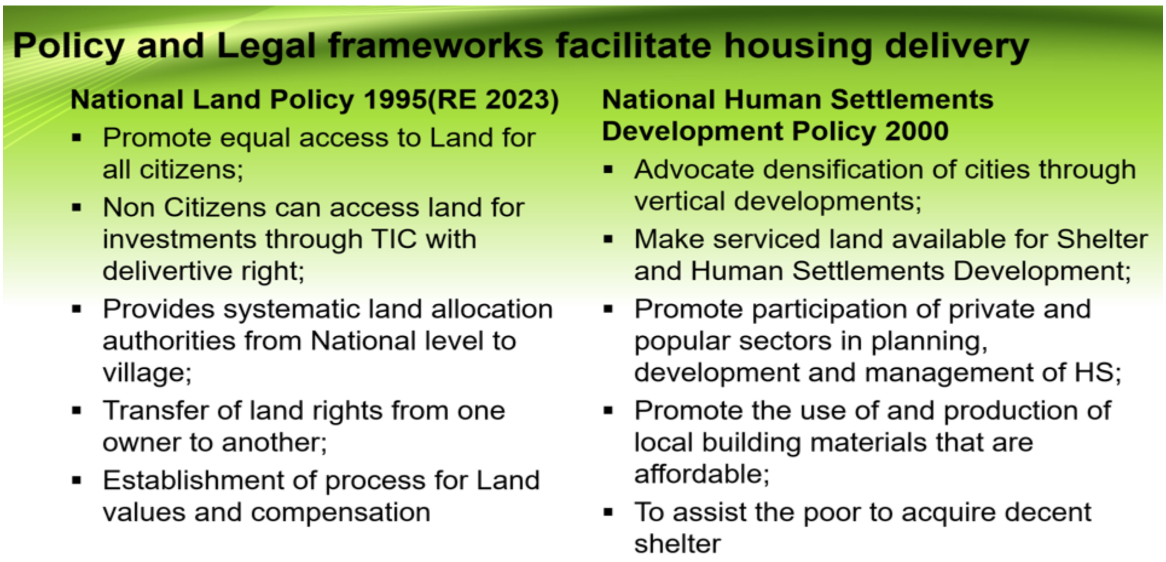
The United Republic of Tanzania, for years immediately after independence in 1961, has been struggling and doing several initiatives to enhance accessibility to adequate and affordable housing as illustrated in Figure3. The most recent initiative 2025 is the intent of Land Readjustment Programme to enhance availability of land for decent and affordable housing in 111 identified areas in prime areas, close to Central Business Districts (CBDs) and major infrastructure lines. With the increased oscillation height, additional initiatives to enhance availability and accessibility of decent and affordable housing includes: Revision of the National Land Policy, 1995 (RE 2023) now in use and the on-going review of the Human Settlements Development Policy, 2000. Key areas in the Revised National Land Policy, 1995 and the Human Settlements Development Policy, 2000 are described in Figure 4.

Figure 3: Initiatives to enhance accessibility to adequate and affordable housing



Source: Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, 2025

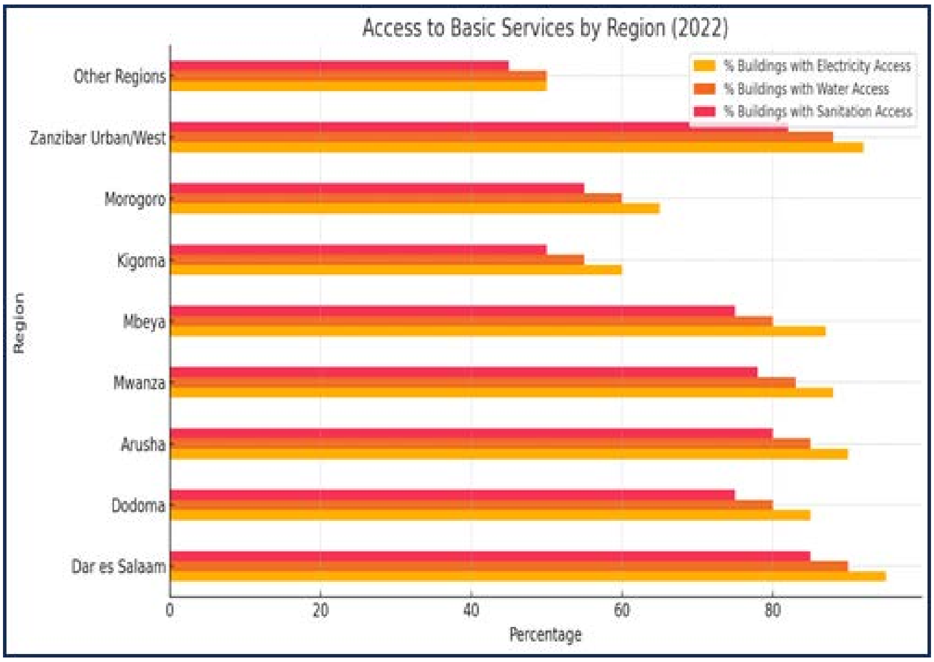
Figure 4: Policy frameworks to facilitate access to housing



Source: Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, 2025

Additional government efforts include but not limited to increased supply of formal housing. The Tanzania Buildings Agency (TBA) through Government Notice No. 595 has amended legislation that established it to allow private sector participation in the implementation of TBA projects, including the sale and rental of housing units to non-public servants at market rates.

Figure 5: Access to basic services by regions



Source: National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), 2022

1.1.2.2 Access to sustainable housing finance options

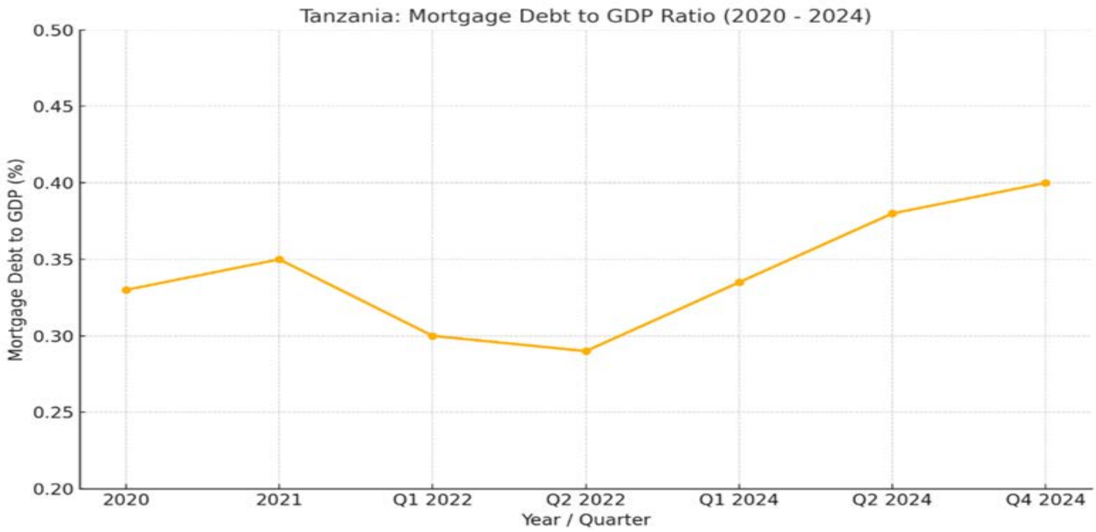
Tanzania's mortgage market has shown gradual but consistent growth, reflecting modest improvement in access to housing finance despite underlying structural barriers. In 2020, the outstanding mortgage debt stood at approximately TZS 436 billion, increased steadily to TZS 587.24 billion by the end of 2023 (Bank of Tanzania, 2023; CAHF, 2023). By March 2024, the outstanding mortgage portfolio had grown to TZS 614.57 billion, representing a quarterly growth of 4.65 per cent and annual growth of 11.38 per cent (Bank of Tanzania, 2024). The positive trend continued through June 2024, reaching TZS 625 billion, and by September 2024 it rose to TZS 649.85 billion, marking year-on-year growth of 9.4 per cent (Bank of Tanzania, 2024). By December 2024, the mortgage debt reached TZS 659.30 billion, reflecting an annual increase of 12.3 per cent (Bank of Tanzania, 2024; CAHF, 2024). Throughout this period, the mortgage-to-GDP ratio gradually improved from approximately 0.3 per cent in 2020–2021 to around 0.4 per cent by the end of 2024, signalling a slow deepening of the mortgage market relative to the national economy (CAHF, 2023; Bank of Tanzania, 2024). This growth has been supported by the expansion of mortgage lending institutions from three in 2010 to thirty-one banks and financial institutions by 2024, with CRDB, NMB, Azania, Stanbic, and First Housing Finance collectively hold about 62% of the market share (Housing Finance Africa, 2024; TMRC, 2024). The average mortgage loan size increased from TZS 102 million in early 2024 to TZS 114.8 million by the end of the year (CAHF, 2024). Additionally, interest rates, once as high as 22–24 per cent in 2010, had reduced to a range of 13–19 per cent by 2024 and mortgage repayment period has increased from the maximum of 5-7 years that was previously offered to 25 years, though affordability and access remain limited (TMRC, 2024).

Despite these positive developments, Tanzania's mortgage market remains relatively small when measured against GDP, highlighting the on-going need for policy reforms, particularly regarding land tenure security, interest rate management, and broader housing finance accessibility to ensure inclusive growth in the housing sector (CAHF, 2024; Bank of Tanzania, 2024).

The Housing Microfinance Fund (HMFF) was geared to provide long-term loans for lower-income earners who currently lack access to housing finance for either home construction or for home improvements. Zanzibar's improvements reflect growing inclusion in financial programs tied to housing development (Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, 2023). Figure 6 illustrates geographical distribution of the refinanced mortgages by primary mortgage lenders through TMRC as of 31 December 2024 in Tanzania regions.

Further, the Mortgage-to-GDP Ratio in Tanzania (2020-2024) clearly shows the gradual increase in the mortgage sector's contribution to the national GDP over the five-year period, reflecting slow but steady progress in the development of housing finance in Tanzania (Figure 6).

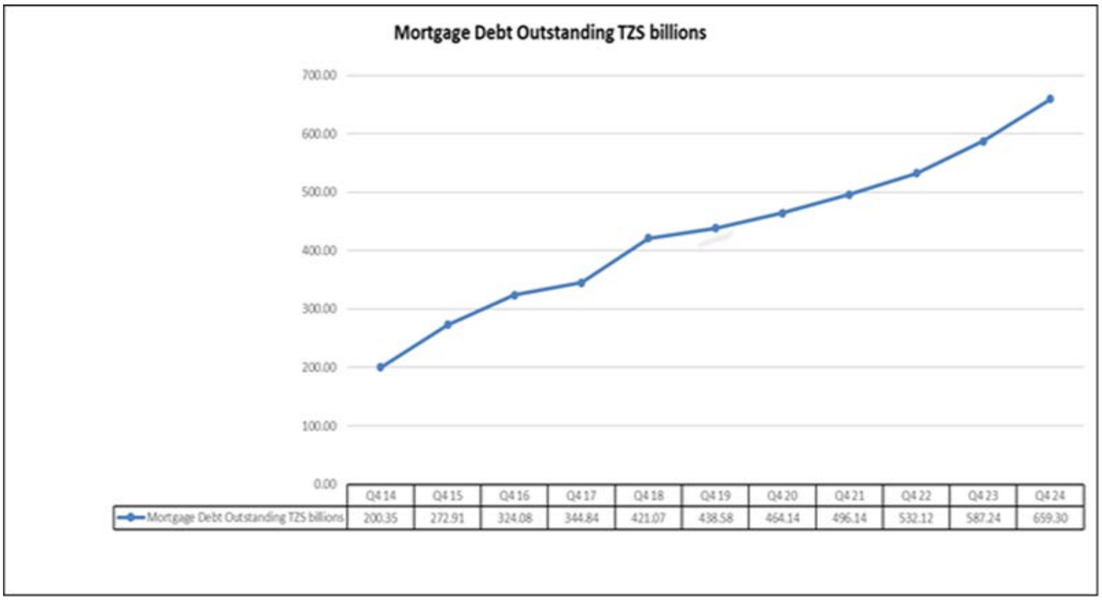
Figure 6: Mortgage to GDP ratio



Source: TMRC, 2024

Tanzania Mortgage debt is outstanding. Figure 7 indicates a consistent and accelerating increase in mortgage debt outstanding over the decades, reflecting growing financial activity in the housing sector in Tanzania with the reduced interests on residential mortgages from 22 - 24 per cent in 2010 to 13 – 19 per cent offered in 2024.

Figure 7: Tanzania mortgage debt outstanding - TZA billions (2014-2024)



Source: TMRC, 2024

Investments in housing in both formal and informal sectors as a percentage of GDP

Tanzania’s housing sector has experienced increased investment from both formal and informal sectors for the past four years from 2020–2024. The formal sector, led by National Housing Corporation (NHC), Watumishi Housing (WHC), Tanzania Building Agency (TBA), and large private developers, has focused on delivering housing for middle and upper-income earners in urban centres. The informal sector, driven by incremental self-construction by individuals, remains the largest contributor to urban housing growth.

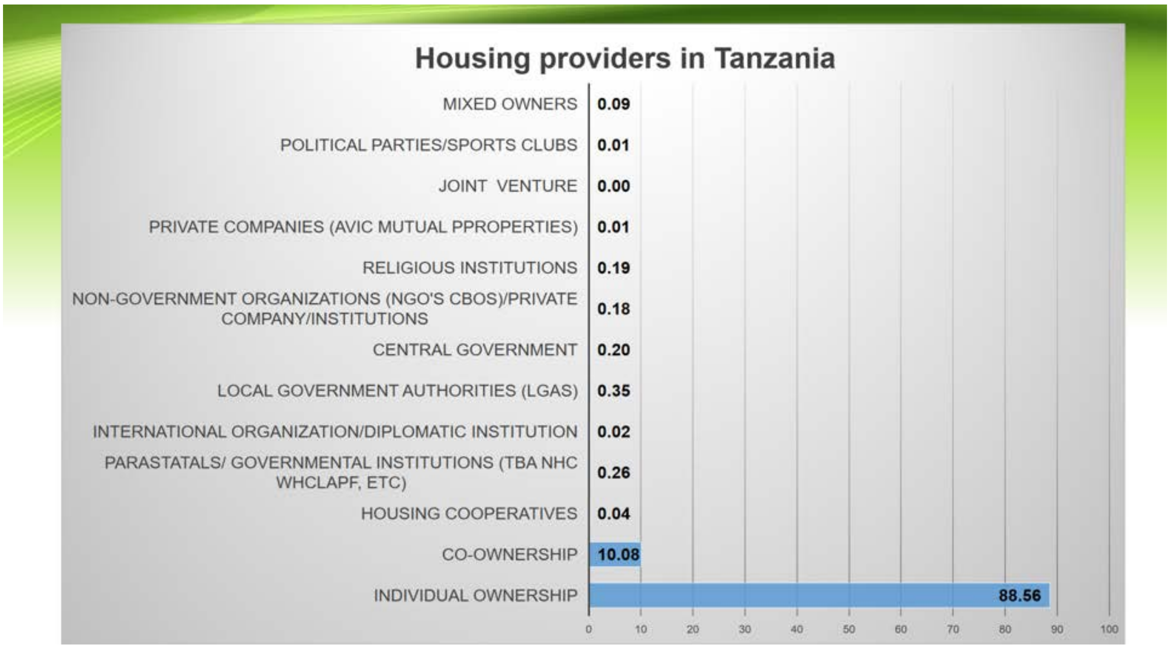
According to available data estimates, investment in housing accounted for approximately 3.5 per cent to 4.5 per cent of Tanzania’s GDP annually between 2020 and 2024 (CAHF, 2023; NBS, 2024). The Centre for Affordable Housing Finance (CAHF) corroborates this trend, highlighting the dominance of self-financed, incremental housing in Tanzania’s housing market dynamics. This informal investment is particularly evident in peri-urban expansion areas and unplanned settlements where regulatory oversight is limited.

Between 2020 and 2024, there`s notable progress in increasing formal housing supply through key public institutions and private sector involvement. The National Housing Corporation (NHC) delivered approximately 5,399 housing units with an additional 952 units under construction, bringing its total pipeline to about 6,350 units. Watumishi

Housing Company (WHC) completed 1,006 units and is working towards a target of 10,000 units by 2026, with on-going projects across various regions. The Tanzania Building Agency (TBA) continues to contribute to public servant housing. The private sector is historically responsible for delivering around 40,000 units before 2020 and has remained active in urban housing development, though precise recent figures are not consolidated. Collectively, these efforts reflect Tanzania's commitment to expanding formal housing stock, particularly targeting middle-income and public servant populations been through a mix of ownership and rental schemes. These interventions have been prominent in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Mwanza, Arusha, Mbeya, and Zanzibar. The proportion of households with access to adequate housing increased from 65% in 2020 to 71 per cent in 2024 (National Bureau of Statistics [NBS], 2024).

Through its initiatives, the government has introduced to the market a number of private and public institutions to participate in provision of housing in the country. The policy also provides space for individual developments so that they can complement the efforts of the Government.

Figure 8: Total investment in housing in both formal and informal sectors



Source: CAHF, 2023; NBS, 2024

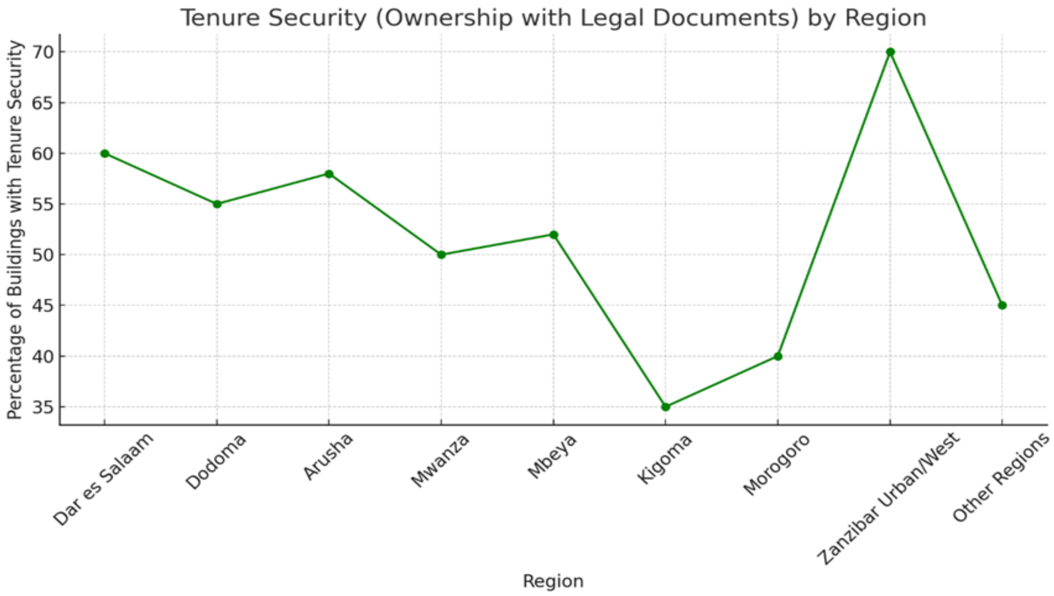
Despite remarkable progress, rapid urban growth in these cities created sustained demand for affordable housing, which remains constrained by high land prices, expensive construction materials, and slow housing finance penetration. Zanzibar achieved stronger results through targeted investments and comprehensive urban upgrading programmes supported by the Zanzibar Housing Strategy 2020-2030 (Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, 2023).

1.1.2.3 Security of tenure

Secure tenure is central to the NUA and SDG 11.1. Strengthening tenure security has been essential for housing development in Tanzania. The government, recognising that Security of tenure is not just solely about legal ownership, it is also about dignity, stability, and the foundation for inclusive urban development. Nonetheless, efforts to ensure housing adequacy are incomplete and unsustainable without security of tenure and therefore, the government, continues to entice community to secure tenure rights for their housing properties. By 2025, about 4,059,609 Certificate of Rights of Occupancy (CROs)-{Tittles} in urban land has been registered with 356,642 CROs being registered between 2021 and 2025. In rural areas, the government has registered over 1.7 Million of Customary Certificate of Right of Occupancy (CCROs) with more than 361,000 CCROs registered between 2022 and 2025 (MLHHSD, 2024).

Zanzibar's adoption of a digital land registry advanced security of tenure and reduced conflicts (Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, 2023). The 2022 Tanzania Building Census reports that individuals own the majority of buildings across the country, accounting for approximately 90 per cent of residential buildings (NBS, 2024, pp. 55-57) (Figure 9). In urban centres such as Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Arusha, Mwanza, and Mbeya, there has been a steady rise in formally registered individual property ownership, driven by increased land titling efforts and urban land regularisation programmes.

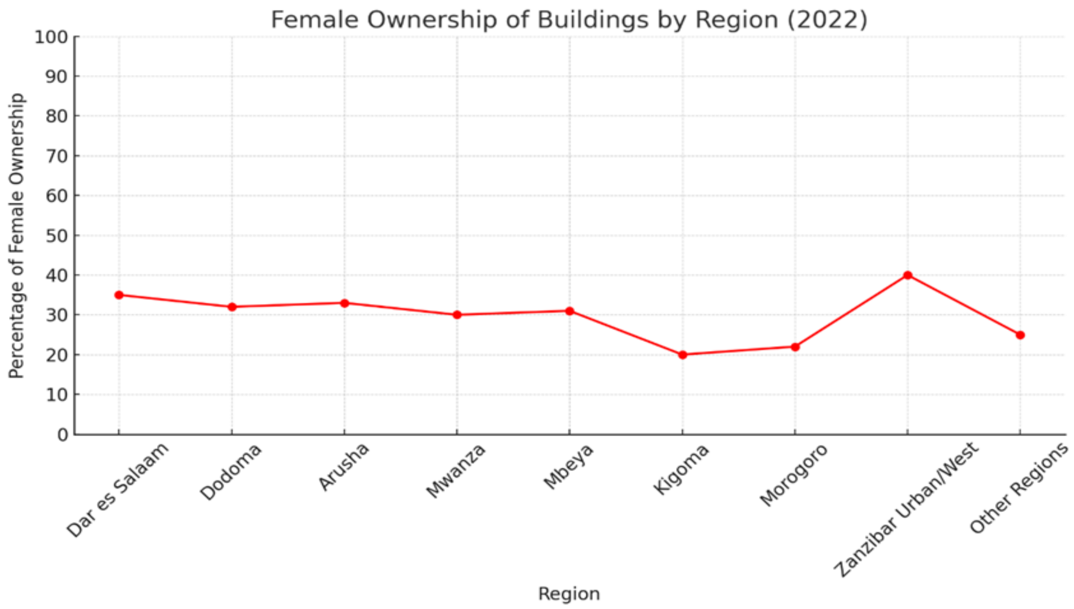
Figure 9: Percentage of buildings with tenure security across major cities and regions



Source: Tanzania Building Census Report, 2022

Urban women's ownership of buildings is showing positive trends. In cities like Zanzibar Urban-West, Dar es Salaam, and Dodoma, the gender gap is narrowing as women increasingly access property through both purchase and inheritance, supported by legal reforms promoting women's land and housing rights (NBS, 2024, p. 58).

Figure 10: Percentage of female ownership of buildings across major cities and regions



Source: Tanzania Building Census Report, 2022

Despite this progress, informal ownership still remains, especially in peri-urban and rural areas where 40% of buildings lack formal land ownership documents (NBS, 2024, pp. 61-63). This limits secure tenure, restricts access to mortgage finance, and exposes owners to legal vulnerabilities. In rural areas, customary land rights dominate. Although gender gaps are narrowing in urban centres, male dominance in building ownership persists nationally, reflecting broader structural inequalities in economic access and inheritance practices**.**

1.1.2.4 Slum upgrading programs

Despite the various attempts and interventions to improve and prevent the unplanned areas in the country, urban areas are still faced with a high rate of unplanned developments, to date 2025, Tanzania stands at 67.1 per cent informal settlements being improved from original and severally mention 70 per cent, with a decrease of 2.9 per cent attributed by -regularization and formal housing unit construction efforts. This rate is still high and it calls for rethinking on the hitherto strategies and approaches to be used to address the problem of unplanned housing. In 2013 the government prepared the National Program for Regularisation and Prevention of Unplanned Settlements to holistically review different initiatives and strategies as well as explore new ones to improve their performance and institute mechanism to proactively check further growth and expansion of unplanned settlements; consolidate socio-economic and physical investments improve livelihoods in the rapidly growing unplanned settlements and enhance security of tenure.

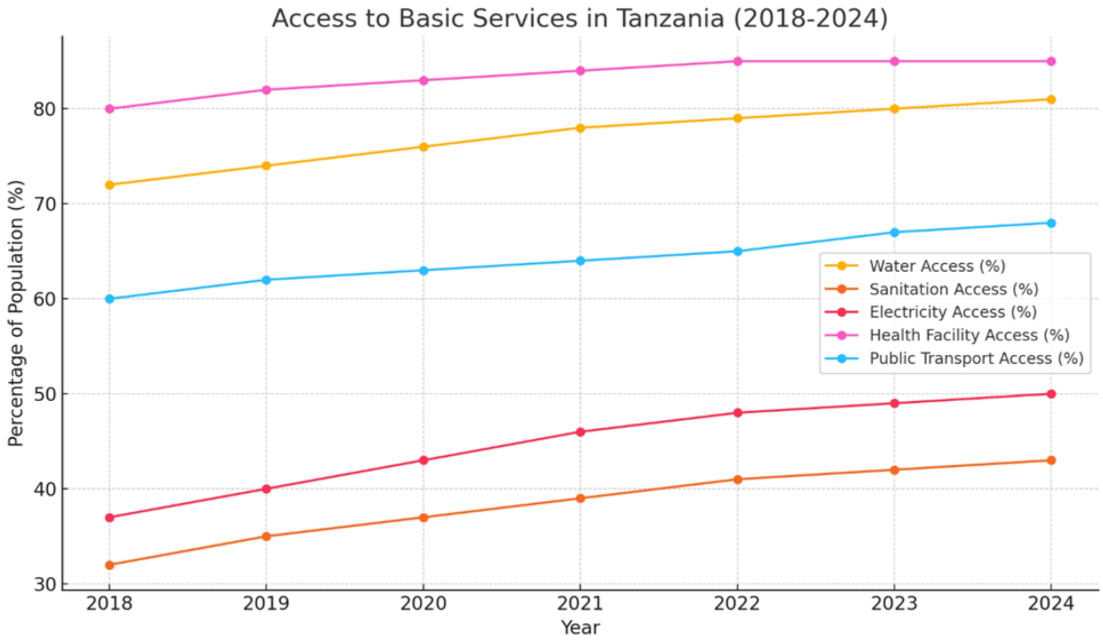
Tanzania's National Program for Regularisation of Unplanned Settlements (2013–2023) yielded significant improvements. In total, 2,774,540 parcels (housing properties) have been regularised from 2016-2025; that is, since adoption of NUA. From 2021-2025, a total of 1,710,920 housing properties were upgraded benefiting approximately 3.7 million people (MLHHSD, 2024). Significant strides were recorded in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Mwanza, Arusha, Mbeya, and Zanzibar and informal settlement populations declined from 43%/70% in 2020 to 37%/67.1% in 2024. Besides, the state of informal housing in Zanzibar was reduced from 38 per cent in 2020 to 27 per cent in 2024 through focused infrastructure and regularisation projects (Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, 2023)

1.1.3 Access to basic services

This section reviews Tanzania's progress in expanding access to basic services such as clean water, sanitation, electricity, health care, education, waste management, public transport, and digital connectivity between 2020 and 2025. It reflects achievements, highlights on-going gaps, and proposes key actions needed to meet national and global targets by 2030. In Tanzania, the Third Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP III 2021/22–2025/26) and the National Human Settlements Development Policy, 2000, require the government to take bold steps to expanding coverage, improve quality, and promote equity in service delivery especially in rapidly growing towns and cities.

The global benchmark targets 100 per cent access to basic services by 2030, Tanzania has achieved progress in expanding access to basic services between 2018 and 2024, as reflected from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Rural Energy Agency (REA), Basic Education Statistics in Tanzania (BEST), and the Ministry of Health (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Access to basic services 2018 - 2024

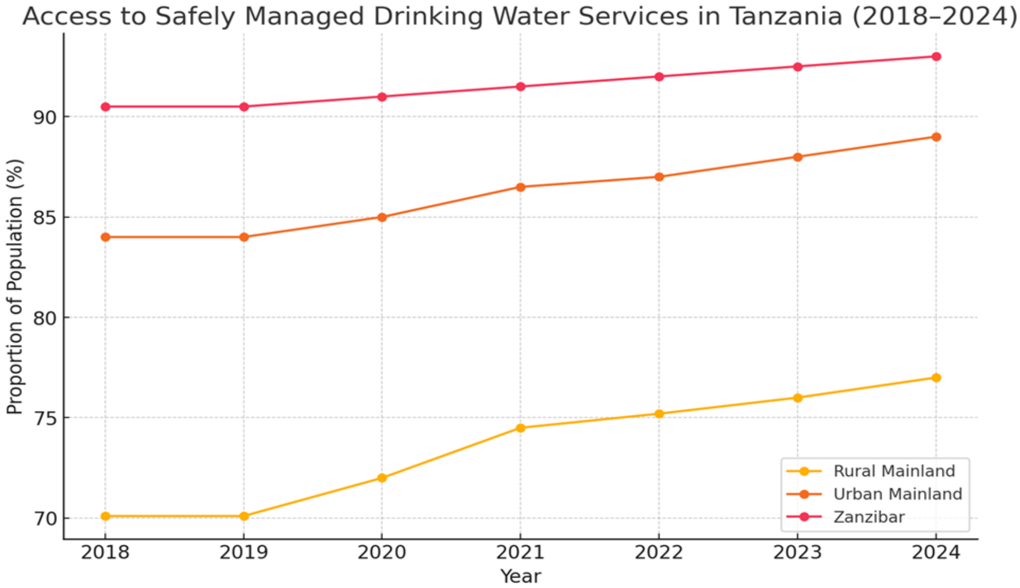


Source: National Bureau of Statistics, 2024

1.1.3.1 Access to safe drinking water and sanitation

Globally, the average population with access to safely managed drinking water was approximately 74 per cent in 2023, while the African average stood at around 30–40 per cent (WHO/UNICEF JMP, 2023) while in Tanzania this has increased from 72 per cent in 2018 to 81 per cent in 2024 (Figure 12). Such as success has been driven by the implementation of the Water Sector Development Program Phase III (WSDP III) which focused on rehabilitating existing water infrastructure, constructing new boreholes, expanding piped water systems, and ensuring community engagement in water governance through supply of Urban water supply infrastructure (NBS, 2024; MoW, 2024). Similarly, safely managed sanitation services rose from 32 per cent in 2018 to 43 per cent by 2024(NBS, 2024). Zanzibar had relatively better performance, with 91.1 per cent of households having access to improved water sources, particularly in urban areas where coverage exceeded 95 per cent (NBS, 2018; ZBS, 2019/20).

Figure 12: Access to safely managed drinking water services in Tanzania (2018 - 2024)



Source: National Bureau of Statistics, 2024

1.1.3.2 Access to electricity

National electricity access increased from 37 per cent in 2018 to 50 per cent in 2024, with rural areas rising from 16 per cent to 38 per cent due to efforts under REA III and urban access expanding to 78 per cent. These figures reflect substantial government investment in electrification, particularly for marginalised rural communities (REA, 2024).

1.1.3.3 Access to health and education services

According to BEST (2024) and the Ministry of Health (2024), access to health services remained stable, with 85 per cent of the population living within 5 kilometres of a health facility. Education enrolment rates, especially in primary schools, exceed 90 per cent, though disparities in infrastructure quality persist across regions.

1.1.3.4 Sanitation and solid waste management

Tanzania has demonstrated progress in expanding access to safely managed sanitation services, particularly under the framework of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6). By 2023 the proportion of the rural population with access to improved sanitation facilities increased sharply from 36 per cent in 2019 to 57 per cent in 2021. This improvement reflects the government's intensified efforts through water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure programs. A total of 1,704 healthcare facilities across the country were equipped with enhanced WASH services, including improved water supply systems, toilet facilities, hand washing stations, placenta pits, and medical waste incinerators by 2023 VNR report, 2023. These developments are aligned with Tanzania's broader health and environmental objectives to minimize health risks associated with poor sanitation. The mortality rate linked to unsafe water, sanitation, and hygiene significantly dropped from 302,820 deaths in 2016 to 136,872 deaths in 2022. These reductions underscore the critical link between investment in sanitation services and broader health impacts, reinforcing Tanzania's commitment to achieving NUA objectives (United Republic of Tanzania, 2023).

1.1.3.5 Access to Internet; Fixed internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants by speed

This indicator measures the extent of access to fixed broadband internet per 100 inhabitants, categorised by connection speed. It serves as a critical measure of progress towards achieving universal, affordable, reliable, and high-speed internet connectivity, increase access to ICT and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the internet).Globally, the average number of fixed broadband subscriptions stands at approximately 16 per 100 inhabitants, while the African average remains between 2 and 3 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants (ITU, 2023). These benchmarks highlight significant disparities between developed and developing regions.

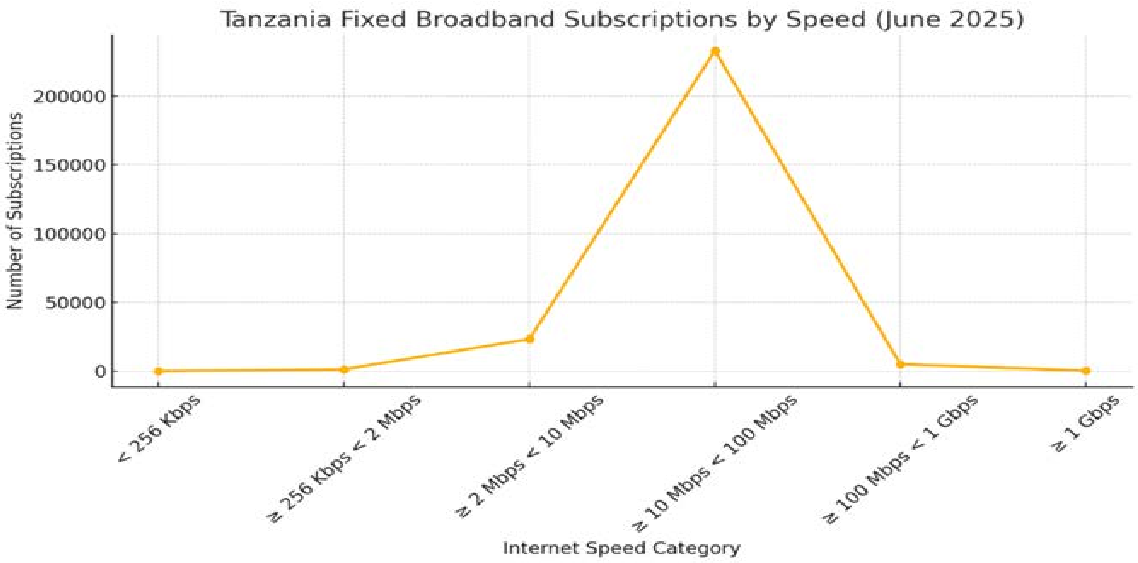
In 2018, mobile penetration reached 94 per cent of the country's population coverage, though fixed broadband was extremely limited, with 0.3 per 100 inhabitants. Internet users numbered 23 million, heavily concentrated in urban areas. Zanzibar's internet penetration was 43 per cent (TCRA, 2018; ZBS, 2019).By 2024, Tanzania recorded 60.5 million mobile subscriptions and 32 million internet users. Mobile coverage now reaches 99 per cent urban and 92 per cent rural populations. Fixed broadband remains limited but has increased to 0.4 subscriptions per 100 people, with urban broadband speeds averaging 20-30 Mbps. ICT access has significantly improved inclusion in mobile finance and information services (TCRA, 2024; ZBS, 2024).

The 0.4 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, is still significantly below both the African and global averages. Although the majority of Tanzania's fixed broadband connections (about 88.7%) fall within the 10–100 Mbps speed category, the overall penetration remains low and is largely confined to urban areas. This reflects Tanzania's continued reliance on mobile broadband, which accounts for over 99.5% of total internet connections, and underscores persistent challenges related to infrastructure development, affordability, and the urban-rural digital divide (TCRA, 2025).

According to the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA, 2025), by June 2025, Tanzania had recorded a total of 263,017 fixed broadband subscriptions nationwide, representing approximately 0.4 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, based on the national population estimate of 68.15 million people (TCRA, 2025). This figure highlights the persistence of a significant digital divide, with fixed broadband services remaining largely underdeveloped relative to the rapid growth observed in mobile broadband services.

The fixed broadband subscription data is further categorised by connection speed, revealing a concentration of users within mid-range bandwidth capacities. The TCRA (2025) reports that the majority of fixed broadband subscriptions, approximately 88.7 per cent, fall within the 10 Mbps to less than 100 Mbps speed category. This indicates a steady but slow transition towards higher-speed internet among Tanzanian households and businesses. In contrast, subscriptions at the highest speed tiers remain exceedingly rare. Specifically, subscriptions with speeds of 100 Mbps to less than 1 Gbps number only 4,885, constituting 1.9 per cent of total subscriptions, while those achieving 1 Gbps and above account for a mere 331 subscriptions, equivalent to 0.1 per cent of the total (TCRA, 2025) as shown in figure 13.

Figure 13: Fixed broadband subscription by June 2025



Source: Construction based on TCRA data report, 2025

Compared to the year 2018, when Tanzania's fixed broadband penetration stood below 0.3 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, progress to 0.4 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in 2025 reflects only a marginal increase (TCRA, 2025). This slow growth trajectory highlights the continued structural challenges in expanding fixed broadband infrastructure, especially in peri-urban and rural areas.

1.1.3.6 Access to public transport

This indicator measures the proportion of the population living within a convenient walking distance typically defined internationally as 500 metres from reliable and affordable public transport facilities, including bus stops, train stations, or ferry terminals (UN-Habitat, 2020) by sex, age groups (youth, elderly, and children) and persons with disabilities. Number of people who access public transport in urban areas improved from 60% in 2018 to 68% in 2024, with major cities benefiting from investments in Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems and road infrastructure. However, rural transport services remain limited and poorly regulated (NBS, 2024).

Convenient access to public transport significantly contributes to improved social inclusion which emphasises on the provision of safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all especially women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

Global benchmark for well-serviced urban areas requires at least 80% of the urban population should reside within 500 metres of a public transport access point by 2030 (UN-Habitat, 2020). Tanzania's progress on enhancing access to safe and efficient public transport has been mixed, with the most significant improvements observed in Dar es Salaam following the implementation of the Dar es Salaam Rapid Transit (DART) system. As of 2024, Dar es Salaam remains the only city in Tanzania with a formal and structured public transport network that meets modern urban standards. DART Phase I, which was completed and operational by 2018, currently serves an estimated 200,000 daily passengers and has significantly increased the proportion of urban residents with access to reliable transport within 500 metres (Ministry of Works and Transport, 2024; DART, 2023).

Phases II–V expansion of DART are underway and are projected to cover 70 per cent of the city's population within convenient walking distance of public transport by 2025. Other major urban centres such as Dodoma, Mwanza, Arusha, Mbeya, and Tanga rely primarily on informal and semi-formal transport systems, such as Dala-dala (minibuses) and Boda-boda (motorcycle taxis). In these cities, the proportion of people with convenient access to public transport is significantly lower, estimated between 20 per cent and 40 per cent, depending on urban density and settlement patterns (NBS, 2023).

Nationally, when aggregating urban areas, the proportion of people with convenient access to public transport has increased from 30 per cent in 2018 to 45 per cent in 2024, driven primarily by progress in Dar es Salaam (Ministry of Works and Transport, 2024).

1.2 Sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all

1.2.1 Inclusive urban economy

An inclusive urban economy is one where all urban residents including youth, women, low-income groups, and informal workers can access productive work, services, infrastructure, and assets that enable upward mobility and resilience. Ensuring and assessing an inclusive urban economy, depends heavily on robust data from labour markets to income distribution, access to services, and opportunities for entrepreneurship. In this regard, Tanzania advocates for "Inclusive" urban infrastructure development which is defined as an integrated approach encompassing sustainable, resilient, accessible and affordable solutions to the challenges faced by the urban poor and vulnerable groups by enhancing their access to urban services and infrastructure through targeted investments.

Since 2022 to date, numerous efforts have been taken to ensure that there is an inclusive urban economy in the country. For instance, there have been policy and institutional framework set ups for an inclusive urban economy that emphasises equitable access to housing, municipal services, and the formal economy in cities and secondary towns.

This section, therefore, examines and presents key economic indicators in urban Tanzania since 2022, highlighting enablers and constraints shaping an inclusive economic transformation. It draws on national statistics, international partner data, and emerging research to inform pathways toward equitable urban growth aligned with SDGs, Agenda 2063, and the New Urban Agenda.

1.2.1.1 Reducing inequality

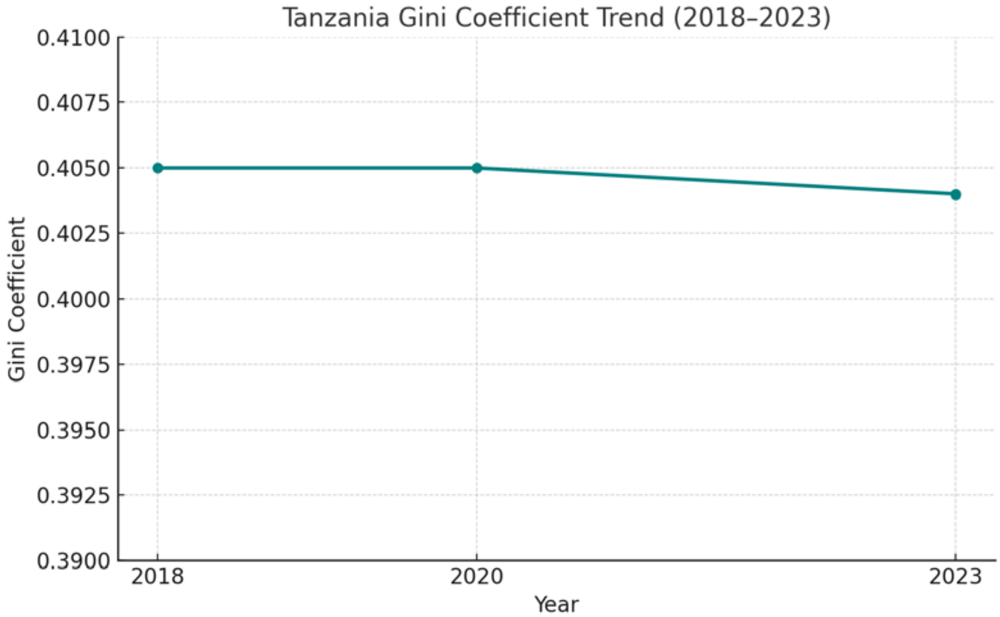
In reducing inequality, it is important to determine income inequality as well as spatial inequality. However, this section focuses on income equality only as spatial inequality is addressed in section 1.1.1 of this report. Therefore, measures like the Gini coefficient have been used here to help assess the gap between the richest and poorest in Tanzania. A lower Gini coefficient indicates more equitable income distribution.

Reporting on income inequality, National Gini Coefficient index based on Model-based projections by Statista, Tanzania has demonstrated relative stability in income inequality indicators over the past five years, although significant structural reforms remain essential for transformative change. The most recent available data from the World Bank (2025) reports a Gini coefficient of around 0.405 in 2018, with no publicly updated figures through 2024. Similarly, African Futures reported a 2023 Gini estimate of 0.404, slightly above the peer group average (0.379) and projects relative stability unless multi-sector reforms accelerate inequality reduction.

Also the Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index (CRI) evaluates how national policy pillars reduce inequality. Here, from Taxation point of view, In CRI 2022 (covering 2020–2022), Tanzania’s tax system reduced the Gini by 0.0431 which is about 7.1% of pre-tax Gini. In the CRI 2024 report (covering through about 2023), tax impact slightly declined to 7.0%.

Therefore, Tanzania continues to rely heavily on progressive taxation as its key tool for reducing inequality, maintaining a strong impact (7% Gini reduction) as shown in Figure 14. This suggests a marginal reduction in income inequality, with Tanzania slightly above the regional average (0.379). The stability highlights a need for deeper fiscal, labour market, and social protection interventions to meaningfully close equity gaps.

Figure 14: Tanzania Gini Coefficient trend (2018-2023)



Source: World Bank, 2025

The Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index of 2022, indicates that Tanzania’s tax system reduced inequality by 7.1 per cent (0.0431 reduction in Gini), ranking 3rd in Africa. In CRI 2024, the tax system still reduced inequality by 7.0 per cent, placing Tanzania among the global top 10 performers in progressive taxation.

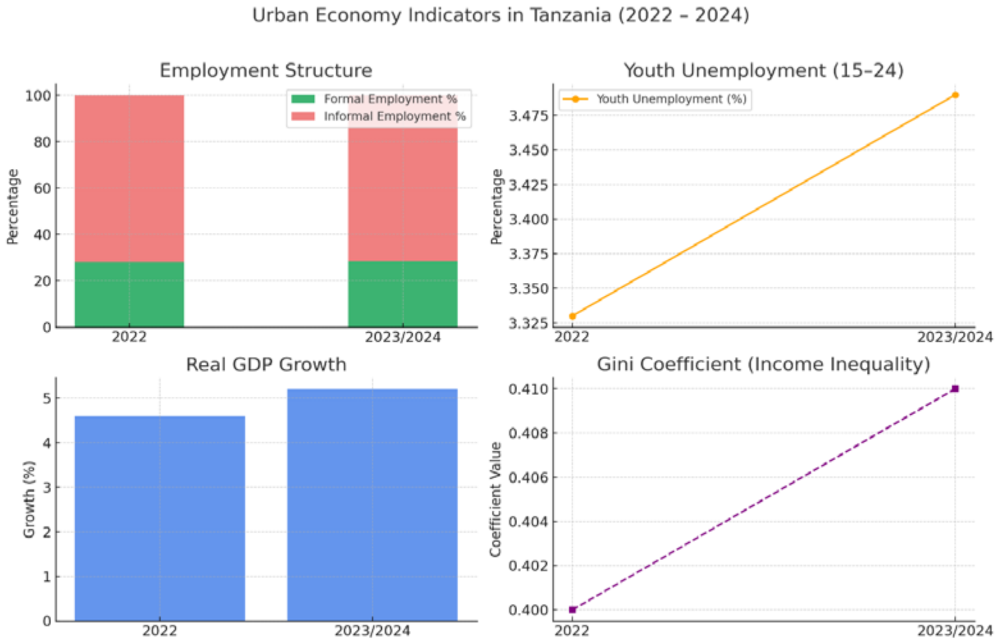
Reporting on income inequality and living standards, Tanzania's National Gini Coefficient index is forecasted at approximately 0.41 in 2025, indicating moderate income inequality. However, Dar es Salaam’s sub-national HDI was 0.653 in 2022 and that was above the national average which was approximately 0.549 indicating elevated urban living standards yet with internal variation, (NBS, 2024). Table 1 and Figure 15 show the trend of urban GDP and productivity from 2021 t0 2024 based on World Bank and IMF and NBS data.

Table 1: Urban GDP and productivity (2021/22 - 2023/24)

Indicator	2022	2023 / 2024	Notes
Formal employment share	~28 %	~28.2 %	Slow increase
Informal employment share	~72 %	~71.8 %	High, with slow decline
Youth unemployment (15–24)	3.33 %	3.49 %	Low vs global average
Women informal employment	~65 %	—	Continued vulnerability
Gini coefficient	~0.40	~0.41 (2025 est.)	Inequality persistent
HDI, Dar es Salaam	0.653	—	Above national level
BRT access coverage	—	~73 %	Urban transport access improved
Real GDP growth	~4.6 %	~5.2 %	Productivity gains under way
SME share of GDP	~35 %	—	Potential rise to 45 % by 2030
Own-source revenue vs target	—	76.8 %(nation-wide)	Significant variance by city
Digital/entrepreneurial skills need	—	~37–32 % respondents	High training demand among youth/women

Source: World Bank, IMF and NBS, 2024

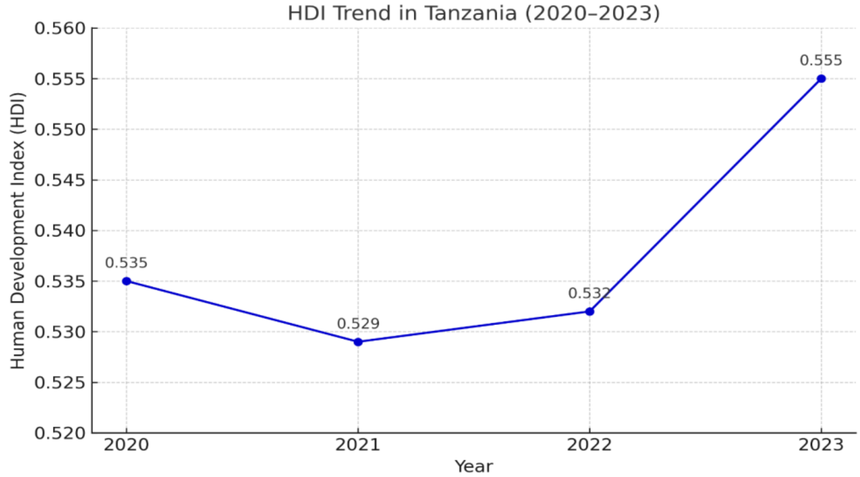
Figure 15: Urban economic indicators in Tanzania (2022 - 2024)



Source: World Bank and IMF data, 2024

Reporting on Tanzania Human Development Index (HDI) of National/Sub-national as of 2022, Dar es Salaam region was at 0.653 HDI while national average is approximated to be 0.549. Other urban centres such as South Zanzibar and Moshi both have HDI of 0.64 with the lowest being Tabora and Katavi/Rukwa with approximately 0.483 and 0.482 HDI respectively. This shows that disparities persist within urban areas, both indicating medium human development significantly ahead of many other regions as shown in Figure x based on NBS, 2022, UNData and Statista Tanzania, 2025.

Figure 16: HDI trend in Tanzania (2020-2023)



Source: NBS, 2022, UN Data and Statista Tanzania, 2025

The above graph shows that, after a slight dip from 0.535 in 2020 to 0.529 in 2021, Tanzania's HDI rebounded to 0.532 in 2022, then made a significant jump to 0.555 in 2023 the highest level recorded, moving Tanzania firmly into the higher end of medium human development. This acceleration signifies tangible gains in health, education, and income dimensions, a cumulative growth rate of nearly 4 per cent within three years.

Similarly, in supporting sustainable prosperity for all, NBS 2024 report indicates that Tanzania's GDP reached US $73.5 billion in 2023; industry contributed 33.5 per cent, services 38.2 per cent, and agriculture 28.4 per cent of Gross Value Added. According to Jakkie Cilliers, (2025), the informal sector, especially in urban areas, represented around 45 per cent of GDP in 2023, the second highest among lower-middle-income countries in Africa.

1.2.1.2 Promote productive employment for all including youth employment

Reporting country's effort in promoting productive employment for all including youth employment, formal and informal employment, youth employment and dis-aggregation by sex, age and disability data from 2022 to 2024 have been collected, analysed and presented. As of 2024, women and youth predominate in the workforce whereby approximately 65 per cent of informal workers are women and approximately 72 per cent are youth (18–35 years). In the formal sector shares, women constitute approximately 20 per cent, and youth constitute approximately 25 per cent. Youth unemployment (ages 15–24) was recorded to be 3.33 per cent in 2022 and 3.49 per cent in 2023, near historically low levels as global average remains approximately 16 per cent. Youth (ages 18–35) dominate informal employment by approximately 72 per cent, while formal employment among youth remains around 25 per cent. Urban female unemployment reached around 14.6 per cent, compared to male unemployment at approximately 4.6 per cent in 2021, (Macro-trends, 2024).

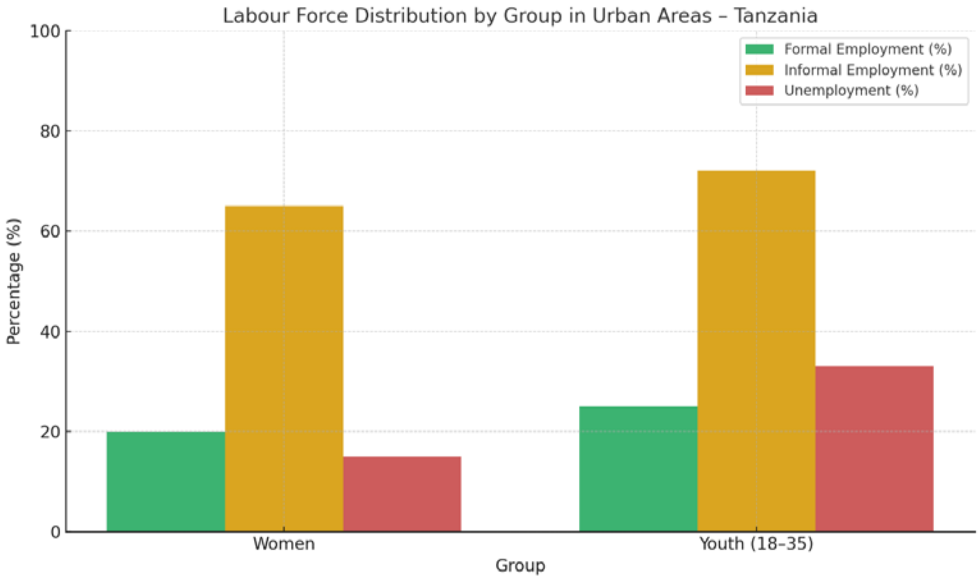
On disability-related employment, as of the 2022 National Census, national disability prevalence data has been collected, but dis-aggregated labour indicators by disability are pending detailed publication. Table 2 and Figure 17 show a summary of employment status by group during the year 2024.

Table 2: Employment status by group (women and youth), 2024

Group	Formal Employment (%)	Informal Employment (%)	Unemployment (%)
Women	20 %	65 %	15 %
Youth (18–35)	25 %	72 %	33 %

Source: Macro trends, 2023 and NBS 2022

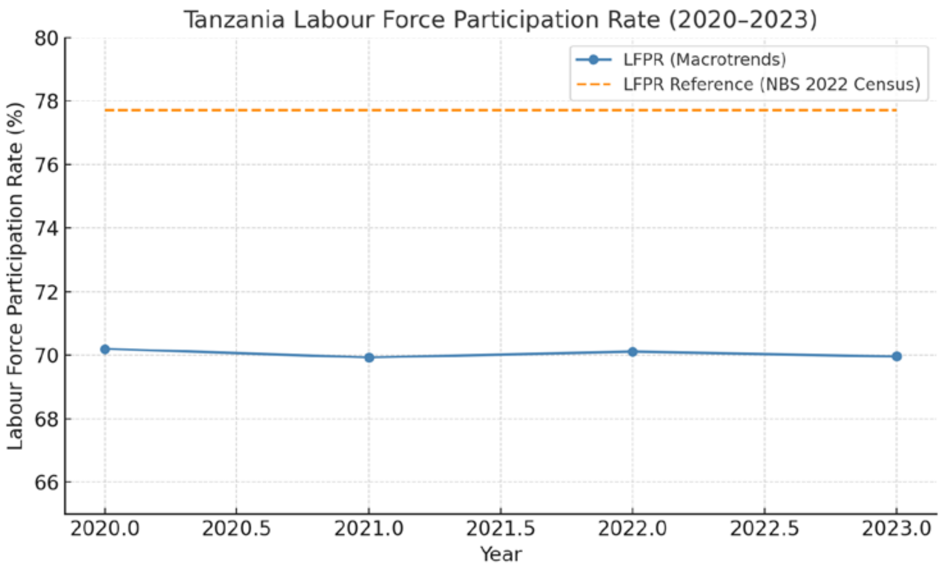
Figure 17: Labour force distribution in urban areas of Tanzania, 2023



Source: Macrotrends data, *2023*

Reporting productive employment, the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) has been analysed as follows; in 2020, LFPR was recorded to be 66.10 per cent, in 2021 it was 65.91 per cent, 2022 it was 65.69 per cent and in 2023 it was 66.05 per cent. These figures show marginal year-to-year fluctuation, with no clear upward trend, indicating a mostly stable participation rate among working-age Tanzanians as shown in Figure 18.

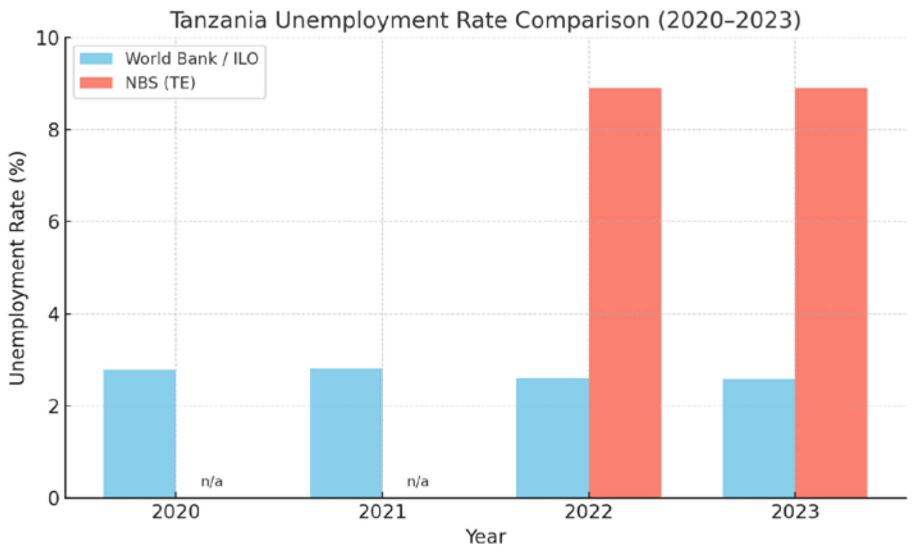
Figure 18: Tanzania labour force participation rate (2020-2023)



Source: Macrotrends, 2023 and NBS 2022

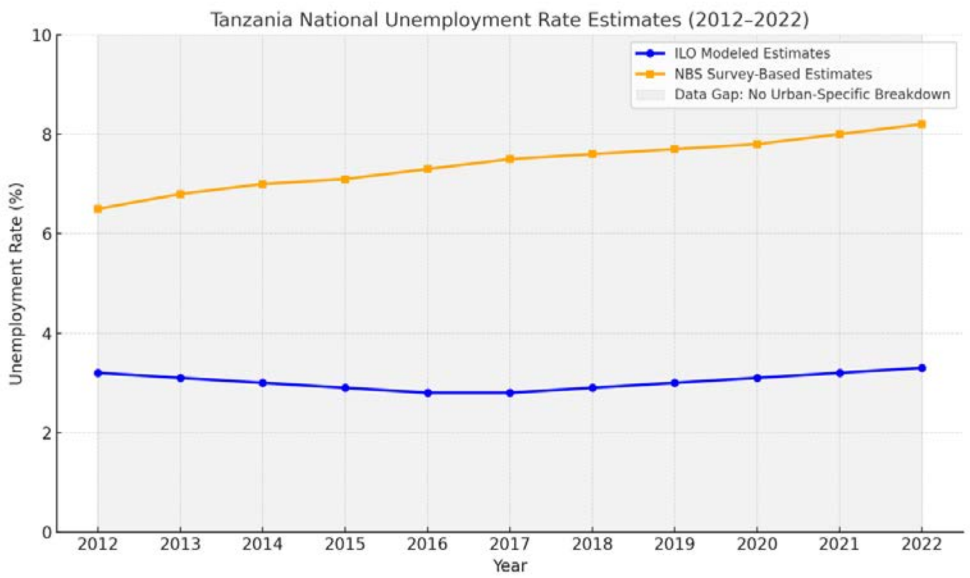
Reporting unemployment rate, as of 2020, it was recorded at 2.78 per cent, in 2021, it was 2.82 per cent, in 2022, it was 2.61 per cent and in 2023, it was 2.58 per cent. Unemployment has slightly improved, dropping from 2.78 per cent to 2.58 per cent over the period. This points to slightly better absorption of labour, though it remains low compared to regional standards (NBS, 2022 and World Bank 2024). Figure 19 shows the unemployment rate according to World Bank and NBS 2022 data and Figure 20 shows the national unemployment rate estimates from 2012 to 2022.

Figure 19: Tanzania unemployment rate comparison (2020-2023)



Source: World Bank, 2024 and NBS 2022

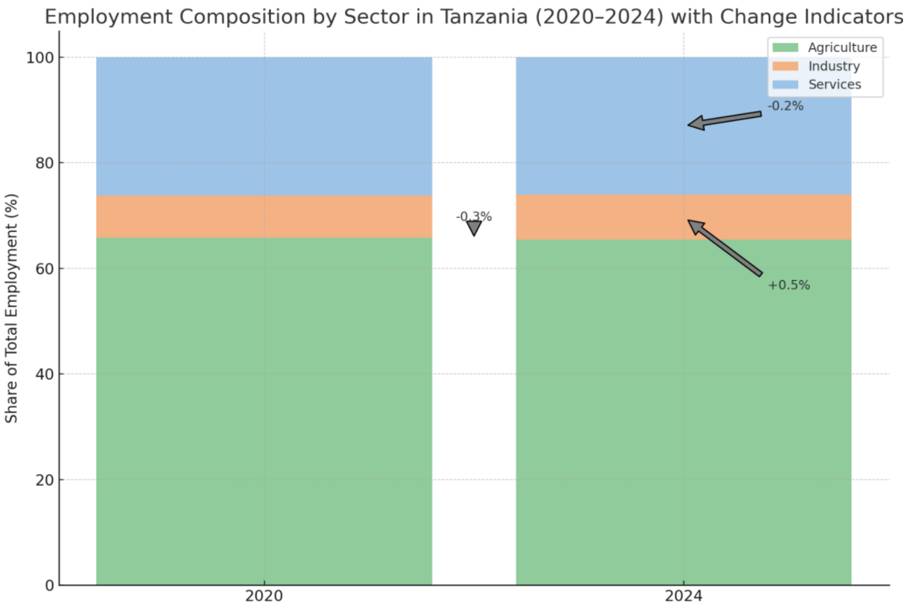
Figure 20: Tanzania national unemployment rate estimates (2012-2022)



Source: NBS 2022

Reporting on employment composition by sector (2020 to 2024), as per UN-data and NBS 2022 data, the agriculture sector decreased slightly from 65.8 per cent (2020) to 65.5 per cent in 2024. The industry sector rose up from 8.0 per cent to 8.5 per cent and the services industry was stable around 26 per cent based on UNdata. These shifts suggest marginal industrialisation as seen in Figure 21.

Figure 21: Employment composition by sector in Tanzania (2020-2024) with change indicator



Source: UN-data and NBS, 2022

NB: Bar chart indicates that agriculture remains dominant, but is slowly declining. Industry is slowly expanding, an early indicator of structural transformation while services remain stable, showing no major growth despite urbanisation.

Similarly, the Tanzanian government in support for promotion of productive employment for all including women and youth has taken measures in giving loans that can be used to start up entrepreneurial activities and small business enterprises for those lacking access to formal employment opportunities and capital. For instance, according to Section 37A of the Local Government Finance Act Cap 290 Revised Edition 2019, LGAs are required to earmark 10 per cent of own-source revenue for empowerment loans as follows; 4 per cent for women, 4 per cent for youth (primarily ages 15–35) and 2 per cent for people with disabilities. Strongly, entrepreneurship and incubator programmes are actively supported. Table 3 shows the Tanzania government budget for this sector for the years 2022 to 2025. In the year 2024/2025, the budget was TZS 158.5 billion but it was not disbursed because there were some reforms involving bank procedures prerequisite in the disbursement process.

Table 3: Loans provided by LGAs to women, youth and persons with disabilities (2022-2025)

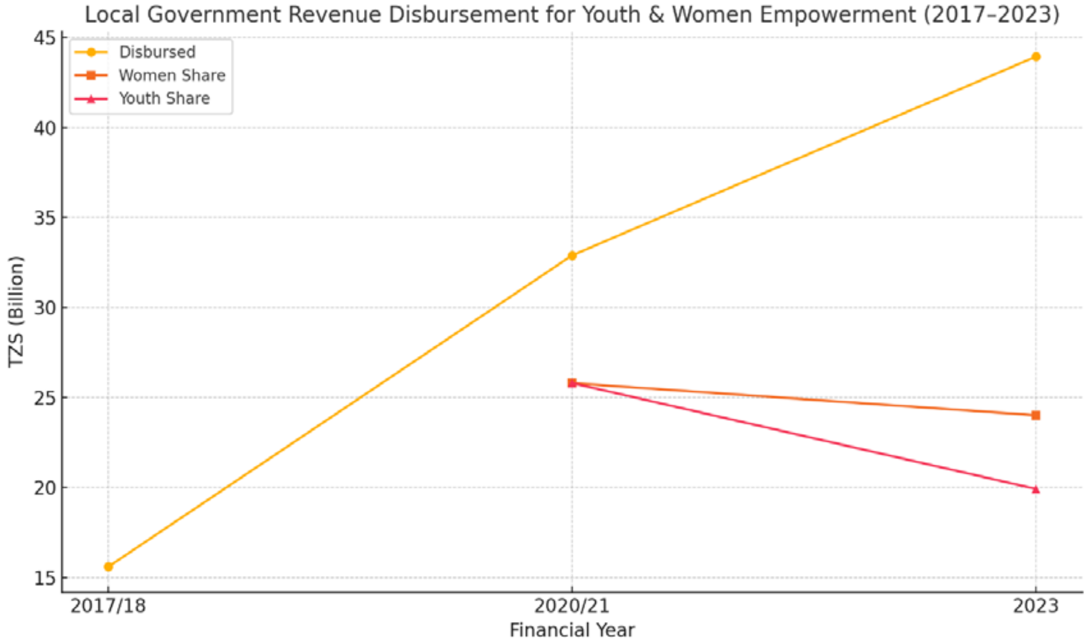
Category of beneficiaries	2022/2023 Budget		2024/2025 Budget	
	Amount (TZS Billions)	Number of Groups	Amount (TZS Billions)	Number of Groups
Loans allocated to Women	15.76	3,308	63.40	8,576
Loans allocated to Youth	12.55	1,880	63.40	4,981
Loans allocated to people with disabilities	3.58	939	31.70	2,319
Total	31.89	6,127	158.50	15,876

Source: Tanzania Budget Report, 2024/2025

Disbursement trends and loan uptake for the year 2023 is as follows; total disbursed is TZS 43.94 billion to women and youth, beneficiaries being approximately 23,000 in total whereby women accounted for 16,724 recipients, receiving TZS 24.02 billion and youth accounted for 10,032 recipients, receiving TZS 19.92 billion.

For the case of Dar es Salaam city, in 2017/18, TZS 61.6 billion was allocated (10 per cent benchmark), but only approximately 25 per cent disbursed accounting for TZS 15.6 billion was given to 8,672 groups by early 2018 and during 2020/21, TZS 64.5 billion was allocated to 18,244 groups; but only around 40 per cent was reportedly disbursed amounting to TZS 25.8 billion was for women, and TZS 25.8 billion for youth and TZS 12.9 billion was for people with disabilities groups (Figure 22).

Figure 22: Government revenue disbursement for youth and women empowerment (2017-2013)

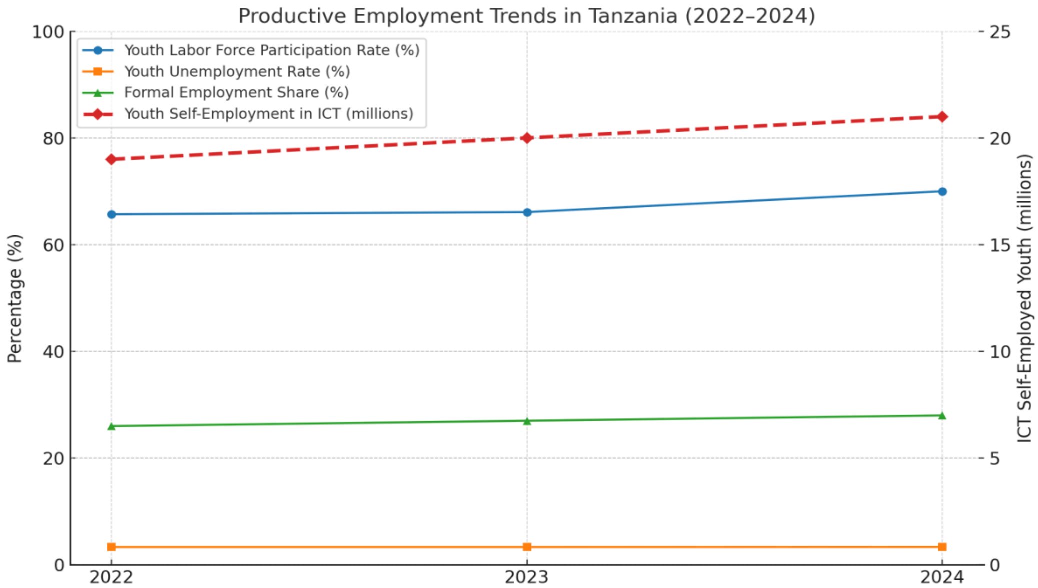


Source: UNDP 2023, NBS 2022

NB: This TZS 43.94 billion disbursed in 2023 is from all LGAs combined (urban and rural), including municipal, town, and city councils. It reflects funding allocated to youth, women, and people with disabilities groups from LGAs' own-source revenue, as mandated by the “10 per cent policy” explained in the preceding paragraphs. This national figure is usually reported by PO-RALG or summarized in CAG audit reports and parliamentary briefings. However, this graph reflects declining uptake mostly by youth compared to previous years due to transition toward bank-managed disbursement protocols.

Youth job-creation sectors show that manufacturing jobs sharply rose from 657 in Jan 2023 to 3,584 in Jan 2024. Transportation jobs grew from 542 to 2,379 year-on-year. As of March 2024, youth self-employment in ICT and innovation sectors reached 21 million, forming 33 per cent of population aged 15–34. Therefore, employment opportunities in the ICT sector grew by approximately 14.7 per cent, with 89,509 jobs created by 2022, and start-ups increased from 587 (2020) to 673 (2022) as shown in Figure 23.

Figure 23: Productive employment trend in Tanzania (2022-2024)



Source: NBS, 2024

NB: There is no official NBS data for urban unemployment broken down by city, age group, or gender for the period 2015–2022.

1.2.1.3 Supporting the informal urban economy

Reporting the country's effort in support of the informal urban economy, there have been policy dialogues for instance national urban dialogue and Africa Urban Forum (2024) reinforcing the need for holistic planning, infrastructure investment, and inclusion of informal economies.

In the year 2023 alone, Tanzania's informal sector accounted for approximately 45% of GDP and had the second-largest informal sector in Africa after Zimbabwe (Jakkie Cilliers, 2025). In the same year, approximately 76 per cent of Tanzania's labour force which is around 32.2 million workers was employed in the informal sector, excluding agriculture. Of these, approximately 31 per cent worked in the formal sector informally while 69 per cent worked in fully informal roles (Jakkie Cilliers, 2025).

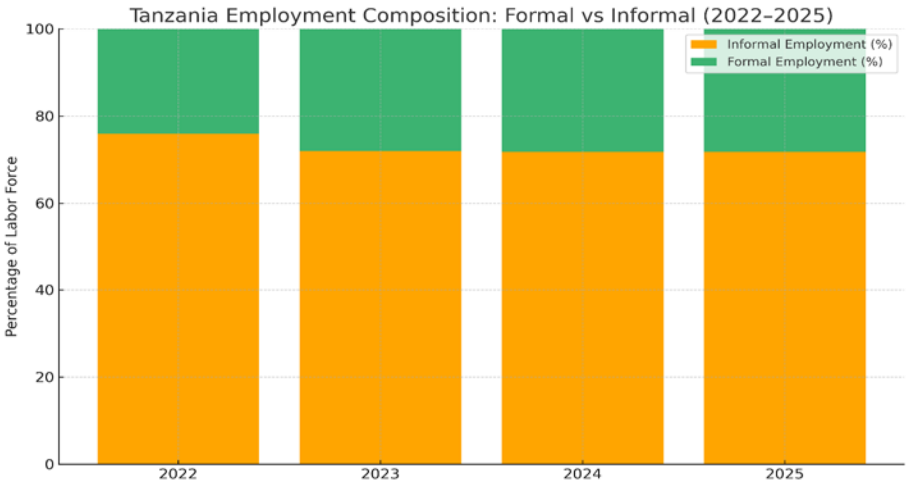
According to NBS (2022) and TICGL, 2025 data, around 71.8 per cent of Tanzania's workforce (approximately 25.95 million workers) was employed in the informal sector in the year 2024, while only 28.2 per cent (approximately 10.17 million) were in formal employment, largely dominated by private enterprise (approximately 91.8 per cent) as shown in Table 4, Figure 24 and Figure 25 shows sectorial breakdown within the informal employment sector.

Table 4: Trend of formal vs. informal employment (2022-2024)

Year	Informal Employment (%)	Formal Employment (%)
2022	~76%	~24%
2023	~72%	~28%
2024	~71.8%	~28.2%
2025*	~71.8%	~28.2%

Source: TICGL, 2025 and Jakkie Cilliers, 2025

Figure 24: Tanzania employment composition, formal vs. informal (2022-2025)



Source: NBS, 2022; TICGL, 2025; and Jakkie Cilliers, 2025

Projected formalization trend indicates that, formal employment is expected to rise to 38 per cent by 2030, reducing the informal rate accordingly.

Table 5: Sectoral breakdown of informal employment, 2024

Sector	Share of Informal Workers	Estimated Workers (millions)
Agriculture & Fishing	65–70 %	~16.9 – 18.2
Retail Trade & Commerce	10–15 %	~2.6 – 3.9
Manufacturing & Crafts	5–8 %	~1.3 – 2.1
Construction	4–6 %	~1.0 – 1.6
Transportation	3–5 %	~0.8 – 1.3
Personal Services & Other	2–4 %	~0.5 – 1.0

Source: TICGL, 2025

Figure 25: Informal employment by sector, 2024

Source: TICGL, 2025

The above data indicates that agriculture and fishing dominate the informal economy, employing approximately 2 in every 3 informal workers. Trade (retail and commerce) is the second-largest employer within the informal sector (12 to 15%). Manufacturing and crafts, construction and transport collectively account for about 15 to19 per cent while personal services and smaller categories represent the remaining share.

Agriculture and fishing stand as cornerstones of the informal economy, employing millions especially women and youth through smallholder farming, artisanal fishing, processing, and trading. Recognising this situation, the Government of Tanzania and various development partners have taken significant steps to support and formalise these sectors. For instance, there has been a flagship government programme (2017–2028) focusing on commercialising of smallholder farming, irrigation development, agro-processing and value addition, strengthening farmer groups and cooperatives and encouraging PPP investments and climate-smart agriculture. Also, the Tanzania Agriculture Policy (2013) recognises informal producers as key actors and therefore promotes land tenure security, access to finance (e.g., input credit schemes) and linkages to markets.

There are also agricultural inputs subsidy programmes that subsidise fertilizers and improved seeds (e.g., through the National Input Voucher Scheme) and use of Mobile-based registration systems to access this category. Through the Youth Agri-preneurship

Programme, youth are given business incubation, loans and grants and training in modern farming techniques.

Similarly, Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) was established to provide affordable financing for smallholders and agribusinesses focusing on dairy, horticulture, grains, and oil seeds. There is also the Blue Economy Strategy (Zanzibar and Mainland) that emphasises on sustainable use of marine resources for economic transformation. Focus areas are Marine spatial planning, aquaculture promotion, coastal community development and sustainable tourism and mangrove conservation..

Correspondingly, recognizing that informal urban economy (specifically petty traders) account for a growing share of urban livelihoods, predominantly youth and women, during FY 2022/23, urban councils across Dar es Salaam allocated TZS 45 billion—under the 10% own-source revenue policy for petty trader empowerment and infrastructure development. Of this, only TZS 600 million (about 1.3%) was actually disbursed as revolving loans to eligible petty traders. The vast majority (TZS 44.4 billion) was instead directed toward constructing or upgrading market and stall infrastructure to formalise trading operations. The low loan uptake has been attributed to weak leadership, poor beneficiary targeting, and managerial challenges among trader associations, (URT, 2025).

1.2.1.4 Technical and entrepreneurial skills within a modern urban economy

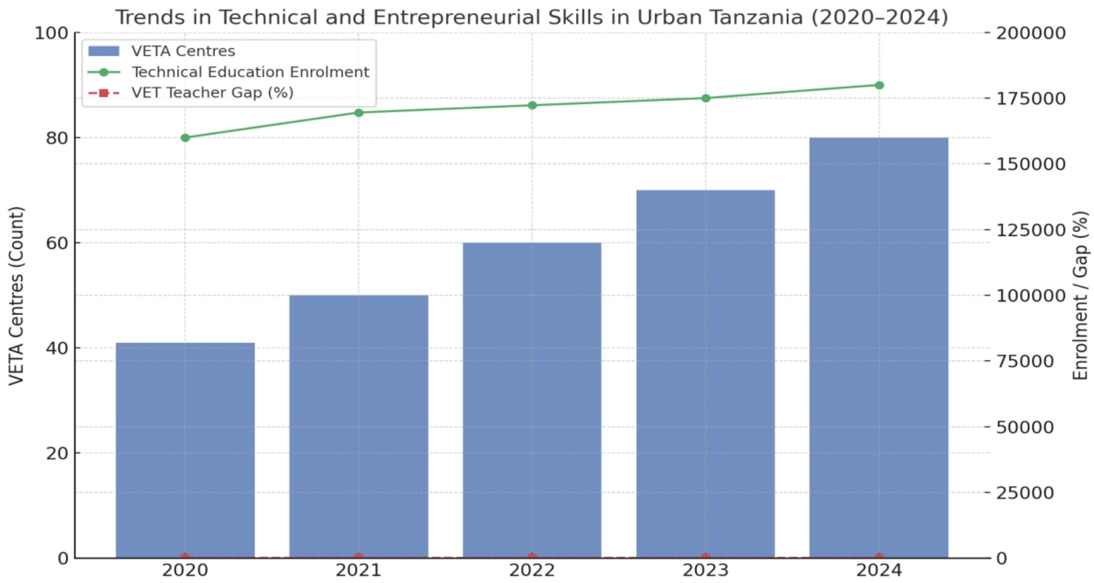
In a modern urban economy, technical and entrepreneurial skills are crucial for driving innovation, creating jobs, and fostering economic growth. Technical skills enable the development of new technologies and efficient business operations, while entrepreneurial skills drive the creation and growth of new businesses and ventures. Together, they are essential for a thriving urban economy.

Realising this context, Tanzania has made several efforts and attained remarkable achievement within the technical and entrepreneurial skills development in urban Tanzania from 2020–2024. For instance; with respect to expansion of TVET and Technical Education, the number of VETA vocational training centres nearly doubled from 41 in 2020 to 80 by early 2025 with 33 new centres completed between 2021 and 2024, expanding enrolment capacity by nearly 90,000 places. There were also announced plans in May 2024 including construction of 100 technical vocational secondary schools and expanding to 885 technical training colleges nationwide, targeting enrolment of 73,200 students in technical colleges and 190,518 in vocational colleges for 2024/25 (NACTVET, 2025).

With respect to enrolment trends in Technical Education and VET, technical education, enrolment grew modestly from 169,518 students in 2021/22 to 172,264 in 2022/23 (approximately 1.6% growth). Female participation slightly declined from 87,023 to 85,751. In VET institutions, enrolment reached 380,748 in 2020/21, driven by strong demand in ICT and automotive training. Similarly, institutional growth has occurred too. For instance, VET institutions grew from 662 to 687 between 2021/22 and 2022/23; and Technical institutions rose from 465 to 474.

With regards to entrepreneurial capacity and urban innovation, universities and innovation hubs (e.g. at University of Dar es Salaam) are incorporating entrepreneurship education, incubation, and business plan support into curricula to nurture tech-savvy entrepreneurs. Similarly, informal data from tech community discussions indicates limited but emerging start up hubs and incubators in Dar es Salaam (like Seedspace, BUNI), though ecosystem growth remains slow due to funding, governance, and adoption barriers. Figure 26 shows trends in Technical and Entrepreneurial skill from 2020 to 2022.

Figure 26: Trends in technical and entrepreneurial skills in urban Tanzania (2020-2024)



Source: NACTVET, 2025

Correspondingly, on education and training on modern economy, participation rates for youth and adults, under FYDP III (2021/22–2025/26) and allied strategies, two major schemes were funded by the government. These schemes are Trainee Voucher Scheme and Skills Development Fund (SDF), enrolling approximately 22,000 trainees in 2021 49 % female in TVET and university short-term skills programmes (Lambin, R.A. and Nyssölä, M.,2024).

The Skills Development Fund and ESPJ/EASTRIP programs had reached approximately 45,700 trainees by 2024, offering apprenticeships, internships, and quality assurance in TVET across sectors. Despite increasing access, the gross enrolment ratio for vocational training among persons aged above 15 years remained low at just approximately 2.5 per cent in 2020/21. The number of registered students rose to approximately 531,000 by 2021, indicating growing but still limited adult participation (World Bank, 2024).

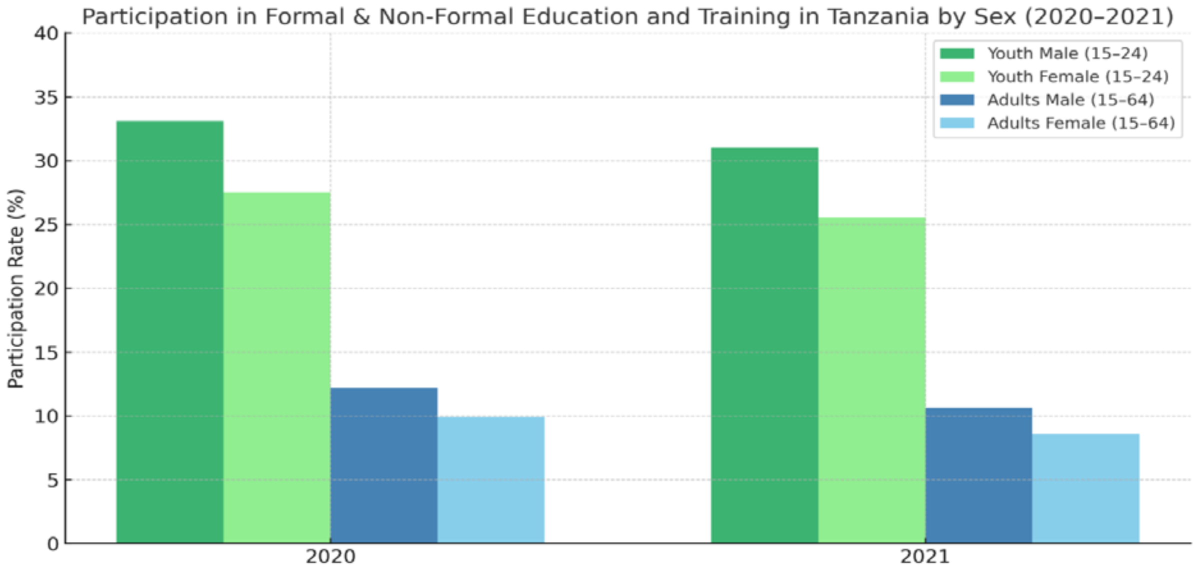
Generally, reporting participation of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in Tanzania, focusing on the SDG 4.3.1 indicator (ages 15–24 and 15–64) from 2020 to 2025, result is shown in table 6 and figure 27.

Table 6: SDG 4.3.2 participation rates 2020/21 disaggregated by sex

Age Group	2020 Participation (%)	2021 Participation (%)
Ages 15–64	~11.00%	~9.59%
Ages 15–24	~30.20%	~28.28%

Source: URT, Ministry of Education

Figure 27: Participation in formal and informal education and training in Tanzania by sex (2020-2021)



Source: URT, Ministry of Education

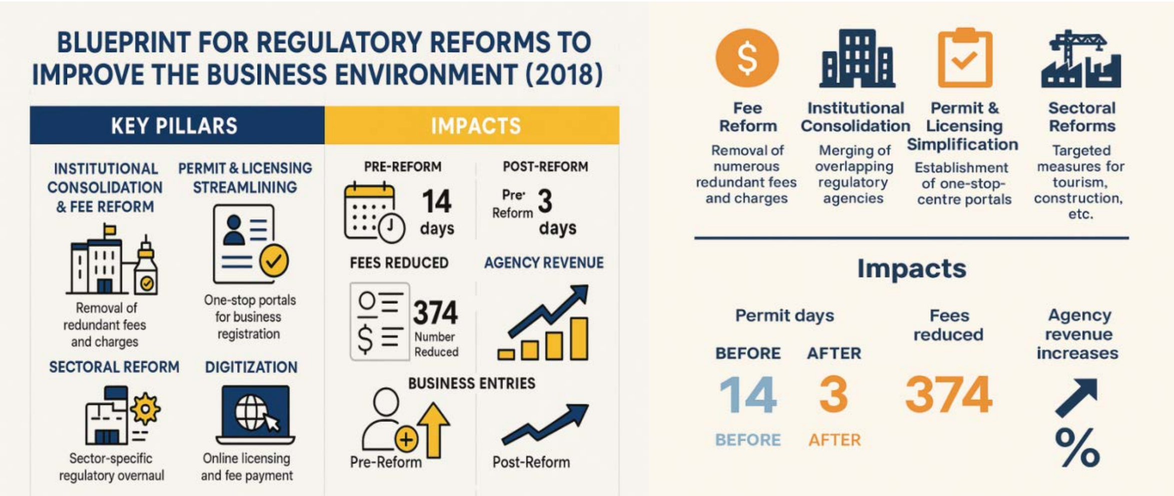
1.2.1.5 Promoting an enabling, fair and responsible environment for business innovation

Tanzania as a country realises that the business environment influences the choice of entrepreneurs (and investors) in locating, operating and expanding their businesses. Uncertain economic policies or those that lack proper direction can hinder economic growth even when a country makes significant progress on other development fronts. Therefore, there are notable country progress in fostering an enabling, fair, and responsible environment for business and innovation. They include targeted reforms in regulatory frameworks, digital infrastructure expansion, SME support mechanisms, and the promotion of urban economic clusters. These efforts aim at accelerating inclusive economic growth, particularly among youth and women, within urban centres while fostering sustainable and innovative enterprises aligned with the National Urbanisation Agenda.

To begin with the Blueprint for Regulatory Reforms to Improve the Business Environment (2018), Tanzania adopted this Blueprint to streamline regulations, reduce bureaucracy and lower the cost of doing business especially for urban-based MSMEs and start-ups. The objectives of the Blueprint for Regulatory Reforms to Improve the Business Environment (2018) are as follows; to eliminate regulatory inefficiencies, fee duplications and overlapping institutional mandates, to simplify business start-up and operation procedures, to accelerate economic transformation toward Tanzania Vision 2050 and the “Tanzania ya Viwanda” (Industrial Tanzania) goal.

The reforms have managed the country to realise the following; Identification and removal of 374 redundant fees and charges across regulatory agencies, particularly at ports, health, environment, and food sectors, recommendations to merge overlapping regulatory bodies for example consolidating CRB, ERB, AQRB, TPRB, etc. under a unified Construction Industry Development Board to streamline construction permits and Establishment one-stop-centre portals (including e-platforms) for business registration, licences, and permits uniting agencies like BRELA, OSHA, NEMC, TBS, and TFDA. Blueprint for Regulatory Reforms to Improve the Business Environment (2018) Impact to Date & Progress Metrics is as follows: Revenue increases were recorded in numerous agencies after fee reforms; for example: TMDA saw revenue rise from TZS 75bn to TZS 89 bn (2019/20 to 2022/23), despite abolishing 12 fee categories, Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) abolished six fees yet increased collections from TZS 34bn to TZS 63bn, Port Authority revenues rose from TZS 661bn to TZS 907bn, despite simplified clearance procedures and permit processing times dropped from 14 days to 3 days; BRELA company registrations rose from 7,800 to 10,600 annually; TMDA and NEMC saw permit issuance more than doubled as graphically shown in Figure 28.

Figure 28: Blueprint for regulatory reforms to improve business environment 2018 (key pillars and impact)



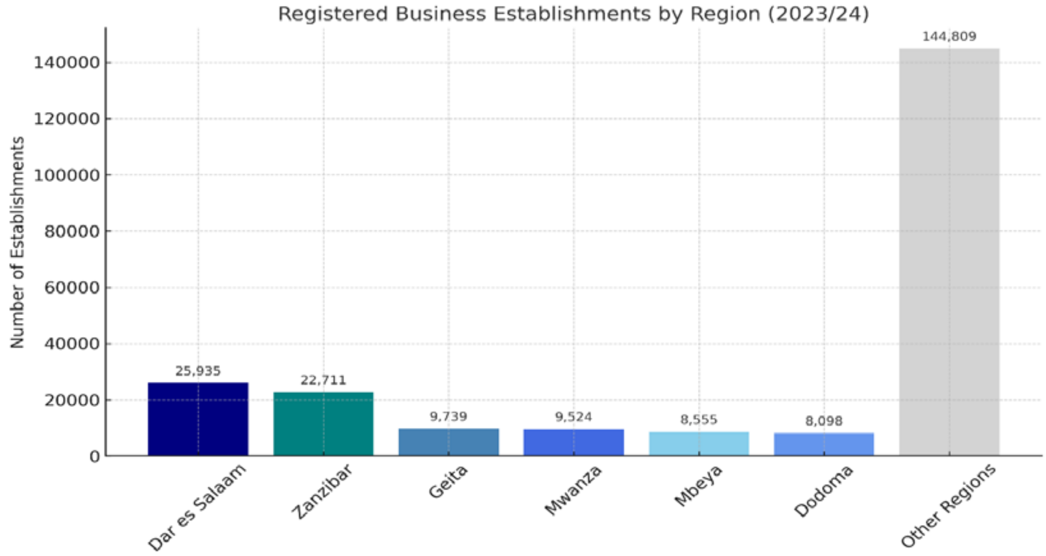
Source: Blueprint for Regulatory Reforms to Improve the Business Environment (2025) report

Similarly, the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA) has recently digitised company and trademark registration to reduce processing time and increase transparency. In 2015 BRELA launched the Online Business Name Registration (OBRS) followed by the implementation of the Online Registration System (ORS) in 2018. Other local government reforms include decentralisation of some business licensing functions to local authorities, improving proximity and responsiveness in urban areas.

From 1999 to 2015, BRELA registered a total of 150,000 companies, with 9,000 companies and 20 factories registered in 2015 alone. The agency also reported registering 15,000 in a year after educating the public on the registration procedures. Therefore, as BRELA continues to modernize its services, the agency remains committed to supporting Tanzania's business landscape and economic growth. According to 2024 BRELA data on regional business establishments and registration distribution, Dar es Salaam had 25,935 establishments (11.8% of national total), Zanzibar (Mjini Magharibi) had 22,711 establishments (10.4%), Geita had 9,739 (4.4%), Mwanza had 9,524 (4.3%), Mbeya had 8,555 (3.9%), Dodoma had 8,098 (3.7%) and the remaining regions each contributed 3.6 per cent.

BRELA business establishments by sector are as follows: For the year 2023/24, trade (wholesale and retail and vehicle repair) accounted for 55.1 per cent, accommodation and food services accounted for 9.3 per cent, manufacturing accounted for 8.0 per cent, other services accounted for 7.5 per cent, education accounted for 5.9 per cent. For the remaining sectors each account for less than 5% as shown in Figure 29 and 30. Data by ownership indicates that 84.3 per cent of the establishments are owned by private profit-making institutions, 7.6 per cent owned by government institutions, 3.9 per cent owned by private not-for-profit institutions, 1.8 per cent owned by parastatals, 1.5 per cent owned by cooperatives and 0.9 per cent are owned by joint ventures.

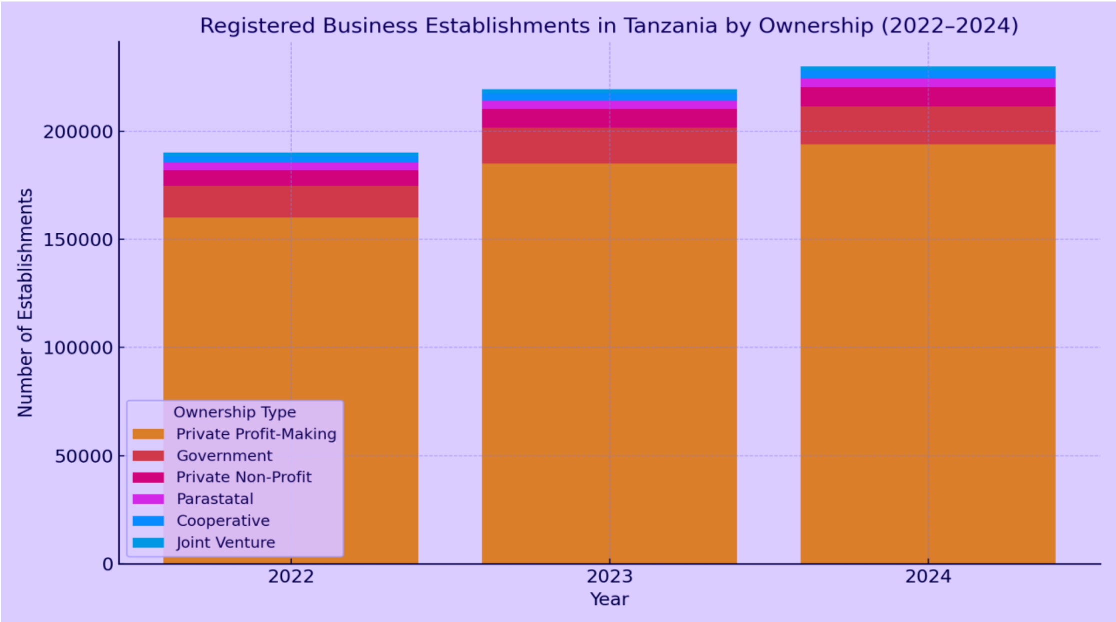
Figure 29: Registered business establishment by regions, 2023/24



Source: BRELA and TICGL, 2025

Similarly, 2023 (SBR 2023/24 Census) indicates that A total of 219,371 establishments were enumerated across Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

Figure 30: Registered business establishments in Tanzania by ownership, 2022-2024

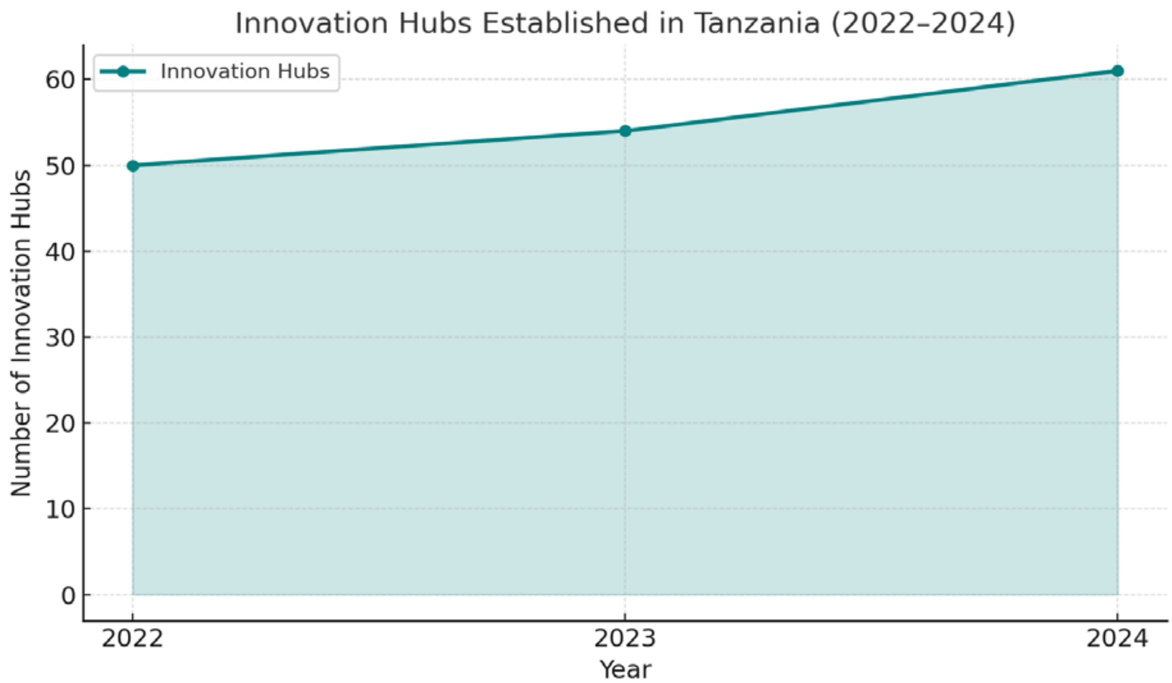


Source: BRELA, 2024

Reporting on digital and innovation infrastructure, Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) supports tech hubs and research institutions in Dar es Salaam, Arusha, and Dodoma. Innovation hubs, incubators, and digital platforms are recently rapidly emerging in urban areas. Good enough, universities and vocational centres in urban areas are aligning programmes with urban economic needs. Women and youths too have not been left behind, for instance, programmes like Innovating with Women (supported by UN Women and COSTECH) foster female-led urban innovation in sectors like fashion, food processing, and IT. Similarly, Buni Innovation Hub (Dar es Salaam) and Smart Lab are examples of tech incubators nurturing urban youth in ICT, fintech and agri-tech innovations. There are also youth-focused entrepreneurship campaigns (e.g., Tanzania Youth Business Forum) that promote responsible enterprise development and peer mentorship in cities.

As of March 2024, Tanzania had more than 54 innovation hubs in operation, largely driven by private and civil society actors. At the 2024 AfriLab Annual Gathering, Tanzania sent 25 innovation hubs as part of its national delegation suggesting a significant scale-up in active hubs by late 2024. In mid-2024, Information and Communication Technologies Commission (ICTC) and SIDO launched a programme to establish six digital innovation hubs and two specialised equipment innovation hubs in six different regions. These estimates assume modest private-sector growth between 2022 – 2023 and public-sector expansion in 2024 as shown in Figure 31.

Figure 31: Innovation hubs established in Tanzania, 2022-2024

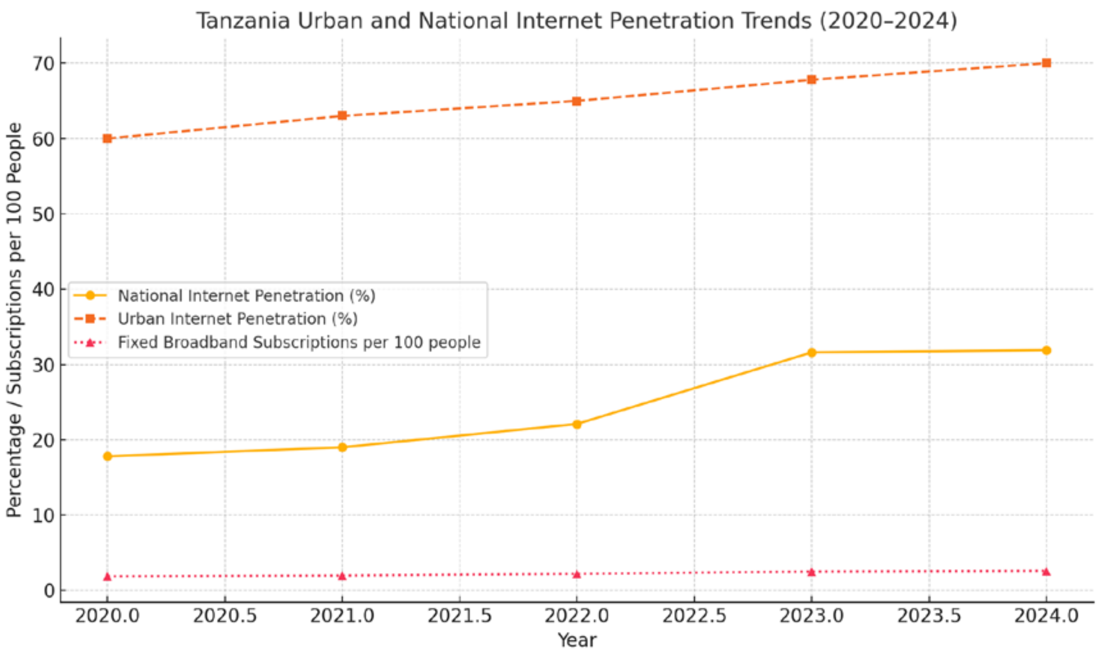


Source: COSTECH, 2025

Enlightened that the internet plays a vital role in business operations by facilitating communication, enabling access to information, streamlining processes and expanding market reach, Tanzania acknowledges that it is also a crucial tool for both large and small businesses to stay competitive and adapt to the evolving digital landscape. In this regards, according to (Reddit, 2024), the Tanzania National internet penetration has been increasing steadily from approximately 17.8 per cent in 2020 to around 31.9 per cent by early 2024, with a slight decline to 29.1 per cent in early 2025. Urban areas have historically had significantly higher access. For instance, in 2023, urban internet coverage reached approximately 67.8 per cent, compared to just 28.9 per cent in rural zones.

By March 2025, national internet penetration had risen to about 72 per cent as reported by TCRA implying that coverage in major cities likely exceeds 85 per cent, even as rural access lags. Fixed broadband adoption remains modest about 1.86 per cent in 2020 and rising to approximately 2.50 per cent by the end of 2023 as shown in Figure 32.

Figure 32: Tanzania urban internet penetration trends, 2020-2024



Source: Reddit, 2024

Reporting on investment and urban economic zones, there have been several country efforts in the establishment of new economic zones in Bagamoyo, Dodoma, and Dar es Salaam offering streamlined licensing, tax incentives, and ready-made infrastructure. Likewise, Export Processing Zones (EPZs) continue to attract FDI in light manufacturing, agro-processing, and tech-based services.

As of 2018, Tanzania had 14 SEZ/EPZ industrial parks registered by the Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA); only four were operational at that time, with others under development. Therefore, the number of registered SEZ/EPZ parks remained at 14 through 2022–24. However, all 14 are now under operation. In 2025, a policy shift merged TIC and EPZA into the Tanzania Investment and Special Economic Zones Authority (TISEZA) to promote, regulate and facilitate investments within Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Export Processing Zones (EPZs). Merge benefits to investors includes; 10-year corporate tax holiday, exemption from customs duties, no restrictions on foreign ownership and quick licensing and approvals through one-stop facilitation.

Similarly Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA) is also reforming the urban investment climate in Unguja and Pemba with a focus on inclusive and sustainable businesses. ZIPA offers several incentives such as: tax holidays (corporate and import duties),100% foreign ownership allowed, repatriation of profits, long-term land lease opportunities and streamlined business registration and licensing.

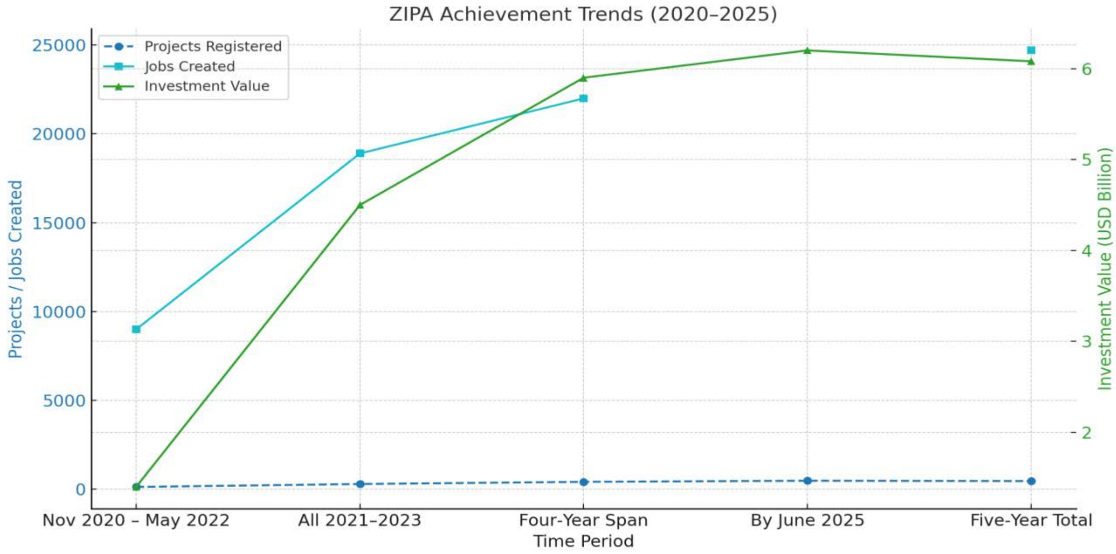
ZIPA achievement since 2020 is as follows; in a five-year period (approx. 2020–2025), over 466 projects worth USD 6.08 billion have been undertaken that facilitated creation of over 24,700 jobs as shown in summary Table 7 and Figure 33.

Table 7: Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority achievement (2020-June 2025)

Time Period	Projects Registered	Investment Value	Jobs Created
Nov 2020 – May 2022	~136	USD 1.4B	~9,000
All 2021–2023	~300	USD 4.5B	~18,900
Four-Year Span	~424	USD 5.9B	~22,000
By June 2025	485	USD 6.2B	Not specified
Five-Year Total	466	USD 6.08B	~24,700

Source: Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority 2025, Zanzibar Investment Guide 2023, Governance of Special Economic Zones in Zanzibar 2024

Figure 33: Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority achievement trend (2020-June 2025)



Source: Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority 2025, Zanzibar Investment Guide 2023, Governance of Special Economic Zones in Zanzibar 2024

Generally, ZIPA's performance from 2020 to 2024 exhibits a remarkable upward trajectory in project volume and diversity, total capital attracted, employment generation and institutional efficiency. On Institutional innovation, ZIPA implemented a 24-hour electronic registration portal (ZIeW) enabling online registration within days rather than months.

1.2.2 Sustainable prosperity for all

Measuring sustainable prosperity for all requires a multi-faceted approach that goes beyond just economic growth. While GDP growth is important, it needs to be complemented by measures that reflect human development, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability and they have been covered in other sections of this report.

With this regard, Tanzania has developed Tanzania Development Vision 2050 that explicitly recognises urbanisation as a key driver for achieving national prosperity and aims to manage its urban areas strategically to ensure sustainable and inclusive development. The vision acknowledges the rapid urban population growth (5.2% currently) and its potential to contribute to economic advancement and job creation, while also highlighting the need for deliberate planning to link urban areas with rural areas and productive sectors. In general, Tanzania's Vision 2050 recognizes that urban prosperity is not just about economic growth but also about creating inclusive, equitable, and sustainable urban environments that benefit all Tanzanians.

1.2.2.1 Diversification of the urban economy

Diversification is used as a strategy to encourage positive economic growth and development. According to the World Bank and summarised in its country overview (as of April 2025), Tanzania's economy is relatively diversified as agriculture accounts for roughly 25 per cent of GDP, industry accounts for about 33 per cent and services make up the remaining third or slightly more. From 2020 to 2024, growth in industry and service sectors, compared to agriculture, suggests greater urban economic diversification. GDP growth accelerated to 5.5 per cent in 2024, driven by exports, increased productive capacity, and infrastructure-led urban investment such as port, rail, and energy projects. Key urban infrastructure projects completed or operational by 2024 to 2025 that support diversification include:

a) Standard Gauge Railway (SGR): Dar es Salaam–Morogoro-Dodoma line inaugurated passenger service in June 2024, enhancing goods and passenger movement to/from urban centres
b) Dar es Salaam Bus Rapid Transit (BRT): Phase II construction completed by May 2024; Phase III 81% was completed by March 2025, boosting urban mobility and linking key business areas
c) Kigongo – Busisi Bridge: Completed on December 2024 and opening in June 2025 improving logistics between Mwanza and Geita regions, facilitating manufacturing and trade growth in those urban zones
d) Benjamin William Mkapa SEZ in Dar es Salaam is part of Tanzania's "Mini-Tiger Plan 2020" aimed at semi-industrialisation, boosting manufacturing and logistics in an urban setting; and
e) Kwala Satellite City project includes over 200 light industries (food processing, pharmaceuticals, garments, steel, etc.) situated near Dar es Salaam and linked via inland container depot and rail.

All these initiatives represent deliberate diversification of urban economic base via industrial, commercial, and logistics sectors. Similarly, these infrastructure developments directly support urban economic diversification by improving connectivity, enabling industrial zones, and expanding access to services and markets.

Correspondingly, GDP growth is a starting point in analysing diversification of the urban economy. It is also crucial to analyse GDP impact on different segments of the population. For instance, analysis of whether GDP growth is inclusive, benefiting all income levels, or is it concentrated at the top is important. Similarly, it is important to determine income inequality. Therefore, measures like the Gini coefficient have been used to help assess the gap between the richest and poorest in Tanzania. A lower Gini coefficient indicates more equitable income distribution. Last but not least, poverty rates have been used because they are crucial as it helps to track the percentage of the population living below the poverty line using both national and international standards.

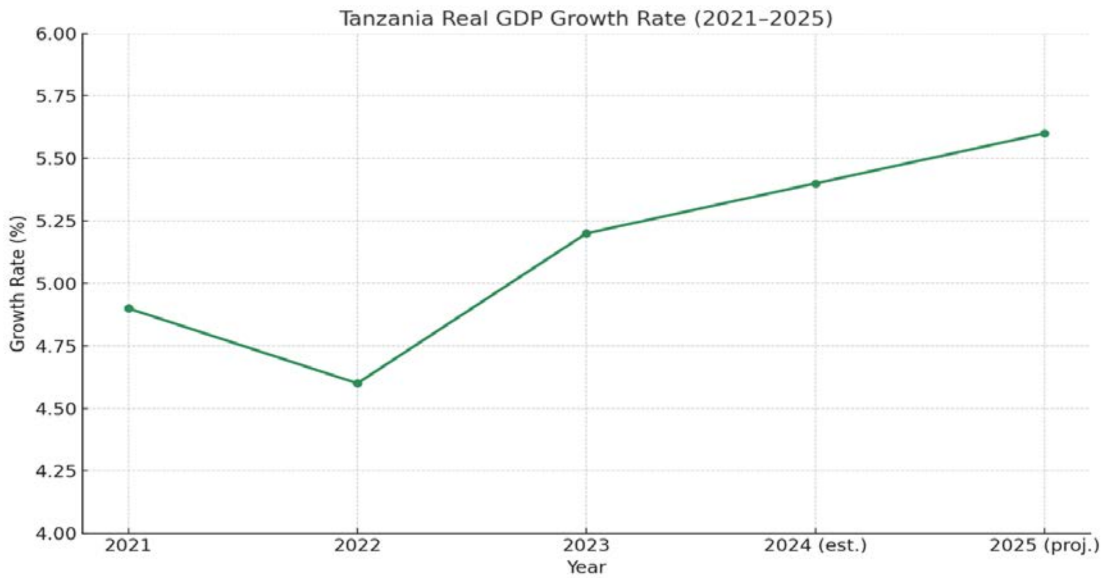
Therefore, according to the Tanzania mainland poverty assessment report, on real GDP per employed person growth rate, the national GDP grew to approximately 4.6 per cent in 2022 and to approximately 5.2 per cent in 2023 and hence productivity per worker correspondingly improved (NBS, 2023). Figure 34 summarises shares of sectorial contribution to GDP for the year 2023 while Table 8 shows GDP growth rates from 2022 to 2024 and summarises urban GDP and productivity for the year 2021/2022 to 2023/2024.

Table 8: Real GDP growth rate (2021-2025)

Year	Real GDP Growth Rate
2021	4.32 %
2022	4.57 %
2023	5.19 % (World Bank: 5.2 %)
2024*	Estimated 5.4–5.6 %
2025*	Projected ~6 % (IMF), ~6.0–6.3 % (IMF/IMF-derived)

Source: World Bank and IMF, 2024

Figure 34: Tanzania real GDP growth rate (2021-2025)



Source: World Bank and IMF, 2024

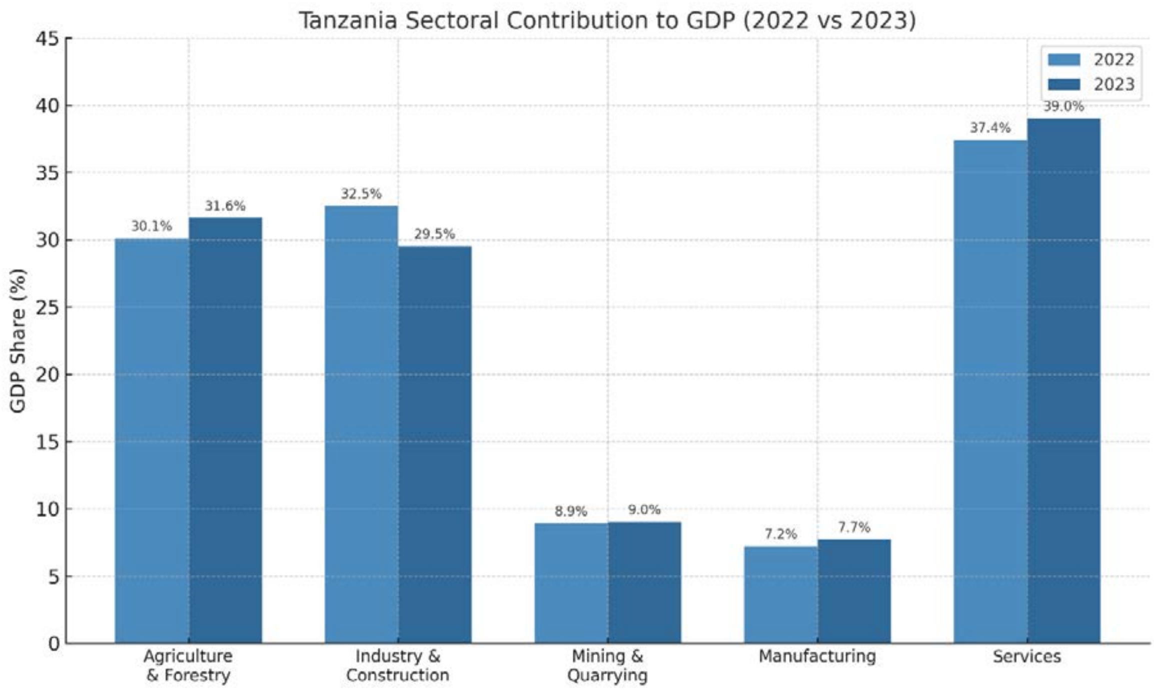
From a GDP of 4.32 per cent in 2021, and 4.57 per cent in 2022 it affirms that growth has been strengthened in 2023, reaching to approximately 5.2 per cent, reflecting resilience and robust performance in services, agriculture, and exports. Forecasts estimated further acceleration to 5.4 -- 5.6 per cent in 2024, and approximately 6 per cent in 2025, as structural reforms and favourable external drivers take effect. Table 9 and Figure 35 show sectorial trend contribution to GDP according to TICLG 2025 data.

Table 9: Sectorial contributions to GDP, 2022 and 2023

Sector	June 2022 GDP (TZS million)	Dec 2023 GDP (TZS million)	Sector Share 2022 (%)	Sector Share 2023 (%)
Agriculture, Hunting & Forestry	12,010,526	14,943,066	~30.1 %	~31.6 %
Industry & Construction	12,950,909	13,977,368	~32.5 %	~29.5 %
Mining & Quarrying	3,553,026	4,244,243	~8.9 %	~9.0 %
Manufacturing	2,879,571	3,650,506	~7.2 %	~7.7 %
Services	14,886,697	18,486,102	~37.4 %	~39.0 %
Total GDP (market price)	39,848,131	47,346,113		

Source: TICGL, 2025

Figure 35: Tanzania sectorial contributions to GDP (2022 VS. 2023)



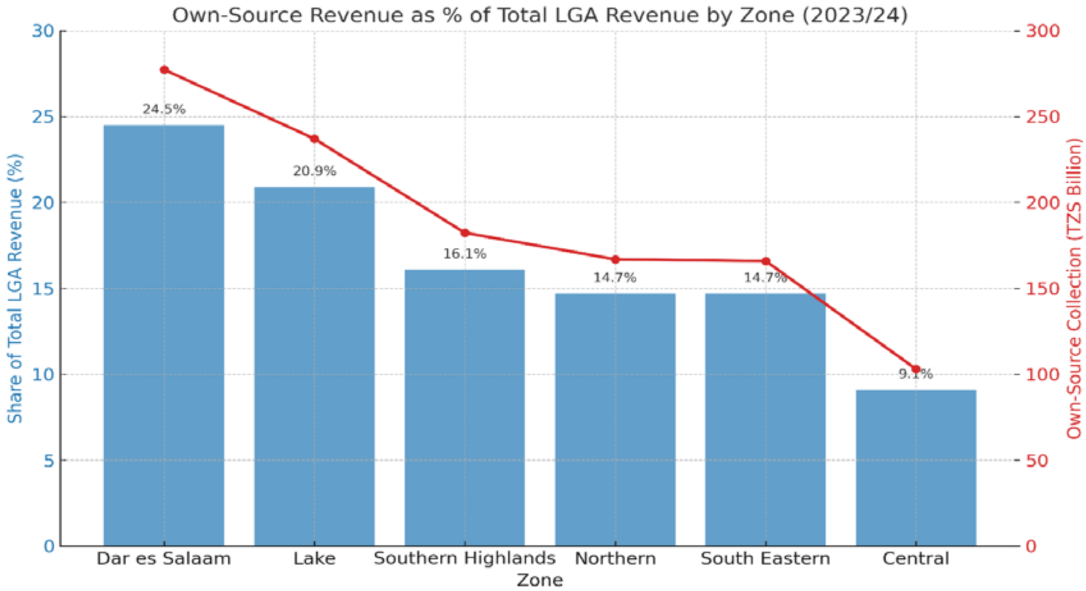
Source: NBS 2022 and TICGL, 2025

NB: While sector GDP shares have stabilised, tangible progress is seen through operational infrastructure and urban industrial expansion—important enablers of diversification.

Reporting on own source revenue as percentage of city revenue, for fiscal year 2023/24, local governments collected TZS 854.8 billion, approximately 76.8 per cent of annual target. Own-source revenue covers only approximately 15 per cent of recurrent spending on average. The exception is in Dar es Salaam city. It has collected over 100 % of recurrent needs indicating stronger fiscal capacity. Another estimate indicates that own revenue covered around 52.9 per cent of targets in 2023/24 (TZS 592.9 billion extracted), (SNG-WOFI, 2023). Unfortunately, publicly reported data does not provide details for 2022 and 2023 figures specifically for own-source revenue as a percentage of total revenue. Therefore, a precise multi-year trend (2022–2024) for this indicator cannot be fully verified.

However, own source revenue as percentage of total LGA by major zones indicates that in the fiscal year 2023/24, Dar es Salaam Zone, Own-source collection was TZS 277.3 billion and share of total LGA revenue was 24.5 per cent. For Lake Zone, Own-source collection was TZS 237.0 billion and share of total LGA revenue was 20.9 per cent. In Southern Highlands Zone, Own-source collection was TZS 182.3 billion and share of total LGA revenue was16.1 per cent. In Northern Zone, Own-source collection was, TZS 166.9 billion and share of total LGA revenue was 14.7 per cent. In South Eastern Zone, Own-source collection was TZS 165.9 billion and share of total LGA revenue was 14.7 per cent. In Central Zone, Own-source collection was TZS 103.0 billion and share of total LGA revenue was 9.1 per cent and for the National Total, Own-source revenue was, TZS 1,132.1 billion, achieving 94.8 per cent of the set target. This data is presented visually in Figure 36.

Figure 36: Own source revenue as percentage of total LGA revenue by major zones (2023/24)



Source: NBS 2023 and TICGL 2025

Calculation of own-source revenue as a percentage of total city revenue matters because it shows how much a city depends on its own local income (e.g., property taxes, service levies, licenses) compared to transfers or grants from the central government. Higher own-source revenue percentage implies, stronger fiscal autonomy, better potential for long-term sustainability and greater flexibility in urban planning and service delivery.

Figure 36 indicates that Dar es Salaam Zone leads in own-source revenue both in absolute TZS and as a share of total local government income (24.5%), reflecting its economic centrality and better fiscal mobilization systems. Lake Zone follows with 20.9 per cent, revealing significant economic activity driven by agriculture and trade. Southern Highlands, Northern, and South Eastern zones each contribute approximately 14–16 per cent, supported by agriculture and infrastructure projects. Central Zone records lowest share (9.1%), indicating weaker internal revenue bases or collection mechanisms.

In summarising economic growth and fiscal stability, the IMF recently approved US $786 million for climate initiatives and US $149 million in budget support, recognising Tanzania's strong macroeconomic recovery and sustainable, inclusive growth forecast at 5.4 per cent, real GDP growth in 2024, up from 5.1 per cent in 2023. Similarly, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI inflows) rose to US $1.34 billion in 2023, up from US $1.26 billion in 2022, driven largely by tourism and services now contributing roughly 17 per cent of GDP and 10 per cent of employment (IMF, World Bank, 2024).

Last but not the least, the Legatum Prosperity Index 2023 places Tanzania 117th out of 167 countries, ranking highest in Natural Environment (70th) and Governance (85th), while lagging in Living Conditions (137th), Health (128th), and Education (130th) while the Happy Planet Index 2024 gives Tanzania a score of 28.8, ranking 118th out of 147, (SNG-WOFI, 2023).

1.2.2.2 Support and Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries

Tanzania's urban economic agenda is clearly integrating diversification with cultural and creative sector development. Key pillars to achieve this include institutional support, flagship events, policy frameworks, funding initiatives, education integration, digitisation, and tourism incentives. However, to fully unleash the potential, significant reforms are needed in legal frameworks, infrastructure, and ecosystem coordination. Equally, Tanzania Vision 2050 has cultural goals: Tanzania's long-term development strategy emphasises preserving cultural heritage and supporting creative industries (music, crafts, and arts) as pillars of economic growth.

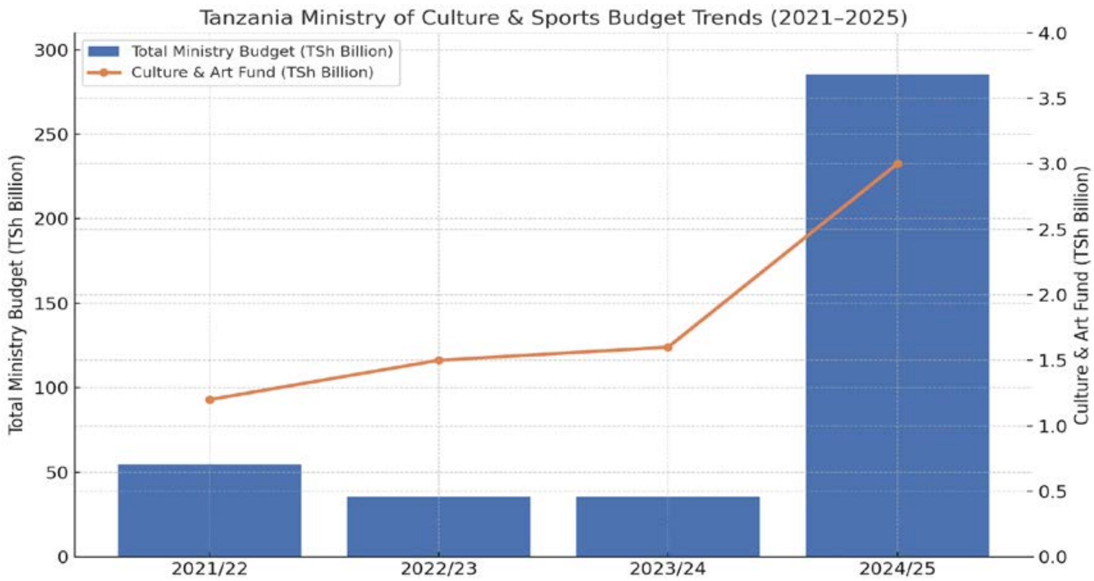
With respect to national coordination and institutions to support and to promote cultural and creative industries, there is Baraza la Sanaa la Taifa (BASATA). This is the National Arts Council under the Ministry of Arts, Culture & Sports, founded in 1984, actively promoting arts, music, and theatre through grants, festivals, and artist training. There is also Bagamoyo Arts & Cultural Institute (TaSUBa). This is a government-established institute in 2007 offering diplomas and certifications in visual and performing arts, and hosting the International Festival of Arts and Culture.

For festivals and events as catalysing, there is Zanzibar International Film Festival (ZIFF) founded in 1997. It is a major East African cultural and film event that fosters industry growth through screenings, discussions, film tuition, panels, and networking. Similarly, Bagamoyo Festival, hosted by '*Taasisi ya Sanaa na Utamaduni Bagamoyo (TaSUBa)',* encourages events featuring performing arts and boosts cultural tourism with domestic and international performers.

Likewise, the government has coordinated various concerts with the aim of enhancing cultural heritage including, National Cultural Festival held July, 2022 in Dar es Salaam; the fifth (5th) East African Community Cultural Festival also known as '*Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki Utamaduni Festival (JAMAFEST)'* was held on September, 2022 in Bujumbura - Burundi. The 41st Bagamoyo International Culture and Arts Festival, the South Africa Cultural Season Festival held in November, 2022 and Miss and Mr Deaf International (MMDI) competitions held in 2022 being the first time to be held in Africa.

Therefore, with respect to culture, arts and sports support, the Ministry of Culture, Arts & Sports' annual budget allocation skyrocketed from TZS 1.6 bn (2022/23) to TZS 3 bn (2023/24), and a record TZS 8 bn (2025/26), with TZS 4 bn specifically allocated to the Culture and Arts Fund. Of this, TZS 3.6 bn is channelled through partner financial institutions to provide soft loans totalling TZS 5.4 bn, expected to support around 500 creative entrepreneurs and generate about 75,000 jobs nationwide. Within the 2024/25 allocation, distinct arts-related sub-components include; Culture and Arts Fund (TZS 3 billion), Art Sector Development (TZS 2.1 billion), Baraza la Kiswahili Tanzania-BAKITA (National Kiswahili Council); TZS 500 million and Art and Film Complex; TZS 300 million as shown in Figure 37.

Figure 37: Tanzania Ministry of Culture and Sports budget trends (2021-2025)



Source: Ministry of Culture and Sports budgets (2021-2025)

The Figure above shows that in 2021/22 to 2022/23 budget, Ministry allocation dropped sharply from TZS 54.7b to TZS 35.4b. However, in the year 2022/23 to 2023/24 budget, the budget stabilised at TZS 35.4b and in the year 2023/24 to 2024/25 budget, there is massive increase (≈705% or more) to TZS. 285.3b, largely driven by sports infrastructure spending tied to upcoming continental events such as CHAN and AFCON 2027 (URT, 2025).

Similarly, the "Connect for Culture Africa" initiative, through a national stakeholder round-table took place in October 2024, bringing together Tanzania Artists Rights Organization, Selam, and the Swedish Embassy to advocate for cultural budget support targeting at least 1% of national budgets for arts funding, highlighting the sector's role in youth employment and economic development. The government acknowledged current allocation at 0.6 per cent and expressed intent to increase it to the proposed 1%.

Likewise, the French Fund for Cultural Entrepreneurship in Africa (FAEC) Launched in August 2023, known as the FAEC initiative, provides €550,000 (~TZS 1.5 bn) in Tanzania in order to; Promote Singeli music internationally, Support Meraki Fashion collective with training from Institut Français de la Mode, launch mobile cinema (Ajabu Ajabu), Develop a Tanzanian audio book with publisher Mkuki na Nyota and Create an artist resource centre at the Alliance Française in Dar es Salaam (France Embassy, Dar es Salaam, 2025).

Likewise, creative incubators such as Culture and Development East Africa (CDEA), funded by EAC/GIZ/DANIDA, operate incubators and the SanaaBiz portal to support fashion, film, and music entrepreneurs offering business incubation, training, and market access.

With respect to tourism and urban economic diversification, there are cultural tourism incentives whereby, Zanzibar Development Vision 2050 includes incentives like tax holidays, lease terms and import duty exemptions to develop sustainable cultural tourism, strengthening linkages between tourism and creative industries. Similarly, on the mainland, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Urban Industrial Zones are generating jobs and act as spaces where services, including creative services, can flourish alongside manufacturing.

Therefore, in general, the arts and entertainment sector grew by 17.7 per cent in 2023 the fastest among national sectors driven by increased tourist purchases, improved regulatory frameworks, and formalisation efforts (1,089 artists registered in 2023 vs 472 in 2022).

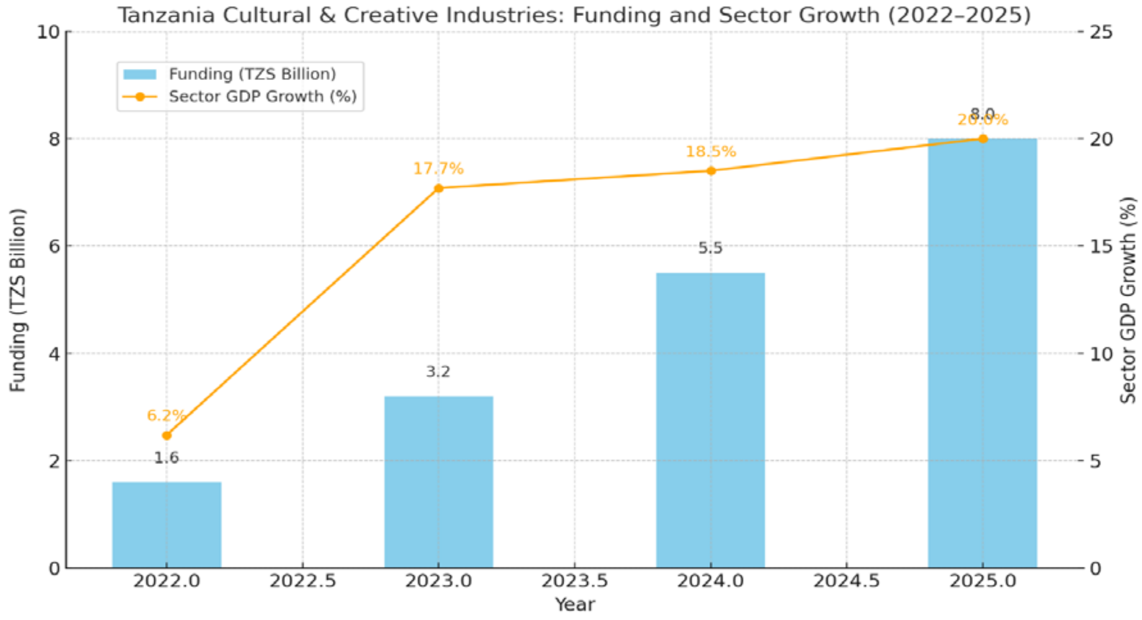
Film production permits also rose to 276 in 2023. Government creative sector budget grew more than fourfold from TZS 3.2 bn (2022/23) to more than TZS 13 bn (2025/26). Soft-loans for Culture and Arts Fund provides around TZS 5.4 bn in loans annually. Job creation and training are estimated to be over 75,000 jobs supported through arts funding. Similarly, platforms like Nafasi build artist careers while at the same time registration of artists has more than doubled in one year with film permits steadily increasing. Table 10 and Figure 38 show Tanzania cultural and creative industry funding and sector growth from 2022 to 2024.

Table 10: Tanzania cultural and creative industry funding and sector growth (2022-2024)

Indicator	2022	2023	2024 (Est.)	2025 (Target/Projection)
Registered Artists (formal)	312	472	1,089	1,500+
Film Production Permits	139	276	320+	400+
Sector GDP Growth (Arts & Entertainment)	6.2 %	17.7%	18.5%	20%+
Culture Fund Disbursed Loans	N/A	TZS 1.2 bn	TZS 3.6 bn	TZS 5.4 bn
Estimated Jobs Supported by Fund	–	15,000+	35,000+	75,000+

Source: The ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports, 2025

Figure 38: Tanzania cultural and creative industries funding and sector growth (2022-2025)



Source: The Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports, 2025

Last but not the least, in March 2025, a collaboration between BASATA (National Arts Council) and ARIFA (African Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence) explored integrating AI and digital technologies to modernise content creation and income management within the arts sector, marking the beginning of a digital shift in creative industries. Generally, the collaboration is intended to promote innovation and value addition across artistic disciplines.

Nevertheless, there is still a need for school curriculum integration of creative industries, for instance more efforts to include traditional crafts, dance, and Kiswahili poetry in school curricula to help promote cultural knowledge and career pathways in creative sectors.

1.2.2.3 Supporting small and medium- sized enterprises

With reference to the previous Tanzania 2022 NUA report, SMEs played a key role in Tanzania's economic development. According to the Ministry of Finance report in 2020, SMSEs contribution to the National economy accounted for up to 27 per cent of the country's GDP and employed more than 5.2 million people.

In ensuring support for SME, the SME Development Policy of 2003 was revised and came into effect on July first 2021. The 2021 revised edition aims at increasing the participation of SMEs and regional businesses in government procurement of goods and services. It also guides access to finance, markets, and capacity-building for MSMEs, with a focus on urban job creation (URT, 2021).

Aside Micro, Small and Medium Industrial Development Agency (SMIDA) a parastatal Industrial Development Agency established by the Act No. 2 of 2018, there is also the Tanzania Industrial Development Strategy (2015–2025) that promotes light manufacturing and value addition in urban areas through industrial parks and SME clusters. From 2020, to 2025, a total of 47,063 industries have been developed to increase employment out of which 365 are heavy industries, 1,360 medium industries and 45,338 are small scale industries.

Equally, the Tanzania government is supporting the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) that provides incubation, training, and affordable work-spaces in urban centres like Mwanza, Mbeya, and Morogoro etc. that eventually facilitates establishment and functioning of SMEs.

Reporting on SMEs established since 2024, according to the 2023/24 Tanzania Statistical Business Register (SBR) Census, a complete enumeration of operating businesses was first carried out nationwide, covering all establishments with fixed premises and at least one employee. However, the report does not provide historical annual counts, so direct year-by-year growth figures aren't yet published. However, SMEs represent approximately 95 per cent of all businesses, contribute around 35% of GDP, and employ nearly 4–6 million people, equivalent to 50 per cent of the national workforce, with no published change to these proportions over 2022–2024.

Reporting on SME access to finance (as proxy for growth and establishment potential); MSME loan accounts increased from 144,522 in 2022 to 176,213 in 2023 (a 21.9% rise), while loan values grew from TZS 3,109.20 billion to TZS 3,612.72 billion (a 16.2% increase). These gains suggest a significant expansion in SME activity and formalization through increased uptake of credit.

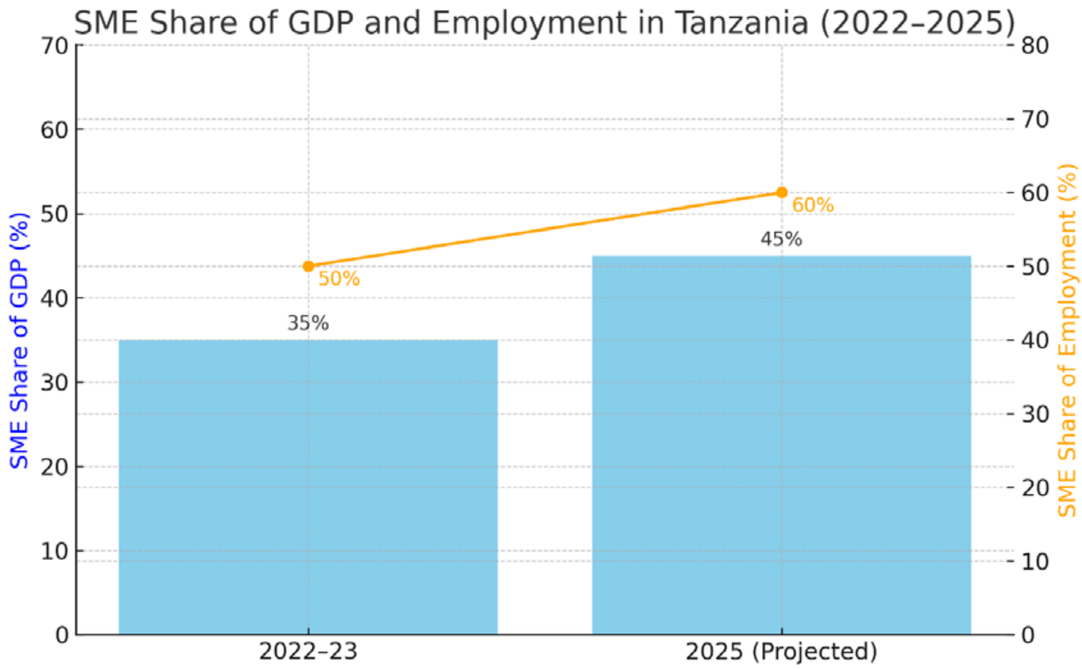
Data from TICGL and other sources confirm that in the year 2024/25 SMEs contributed to approximately 35 per cent of GDP and account for about 50 per cent of total employment, employing 5 - 6 million people. They represent around 95 per cent of all businesses in Tanzania, projected to grow to 45 per cent of GDP and 60 per cent of employment by 2030. Support measures to SMES include simplified business registration, SME finance promotion, and entrepreneurship training (Jakkie Cilliers, 2025). Table 11 and Figure 39 show a summary of SME share of GDP and employment as discussed.

Table 11: SMEs share of GDP and employment 2024/25

Indicator	Estimate (2024/25)	Notes
SME share of GDP	~35 %	Could rise to ~45 % by 2030 with policy reform
SME share of total employment	~50 % (~5 -6 M people)	Target to grow to ~60 % by 2030

Source: TICGL, NBS estimates

Figure 39: SMEs share of GDP employment in Tanzania (2022-2025)

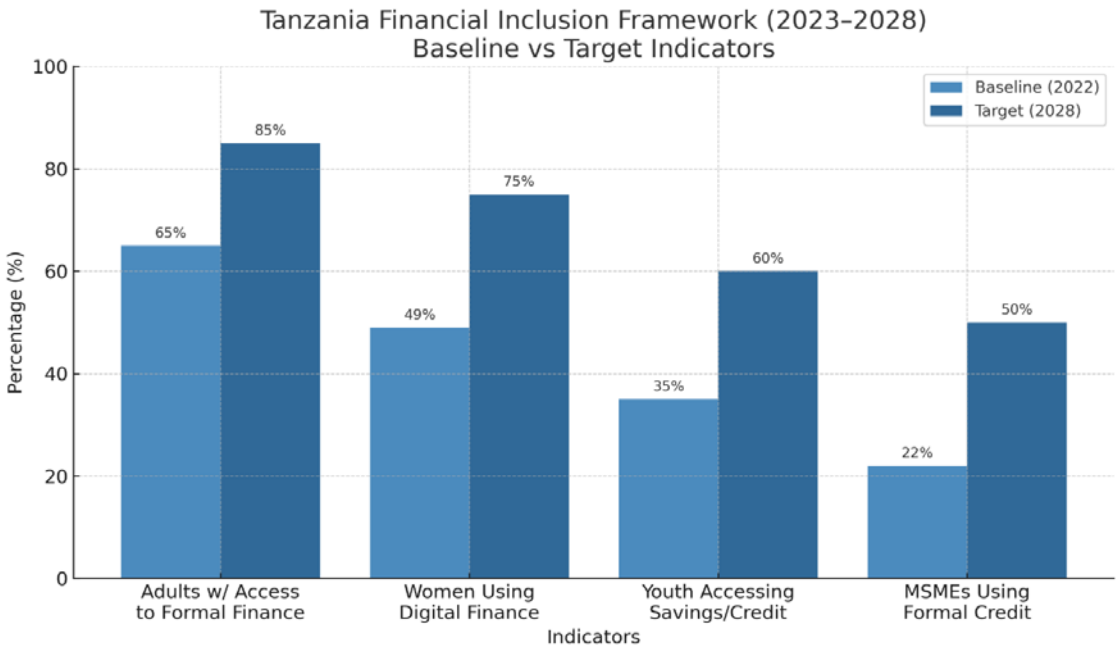


Source: Based on TICGL, NBS estimates

NB**:** These projections are based on TICGL research emphasising on-going reforms in financing access, infrastructure, and regulatory environments shaping SME formalisation pathways.

Similarly, the Government of the URT recently enacted the Financial Inclusion Framework (2023–2028), a national roadmap led by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) and coordinated through the National Council for Financial Inclusion, aiming to; enhance inclusive access and usage of quality financial services, foster digital innovations to support micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and reduce gender and youth disparities in financial access. The Tanzania Financial Inclusion Framework 2023–2028 targets increased digital and financial access for women, youth, and SMEs, especially in urban and peri-urban areas. Through strategies like gender-smart fintech tools, youth loan programs and MSME digitisation, the framework aims to bridge structural inequalities in the financial ecosystem. By 2028, it seeks to expand formal financial inclusion from 65% to 85% of the adult population, with a special focus on digital finance innovations and inclusive credit scoring. Its implementation will be crucial in accelerating productive urban employment and SME growth aligned with inclusive economic goals under the National Urbanisation Agenda as shown in Figure 40.

Figure 40: Tanzania financial Inclusion Framework (2023-2028)

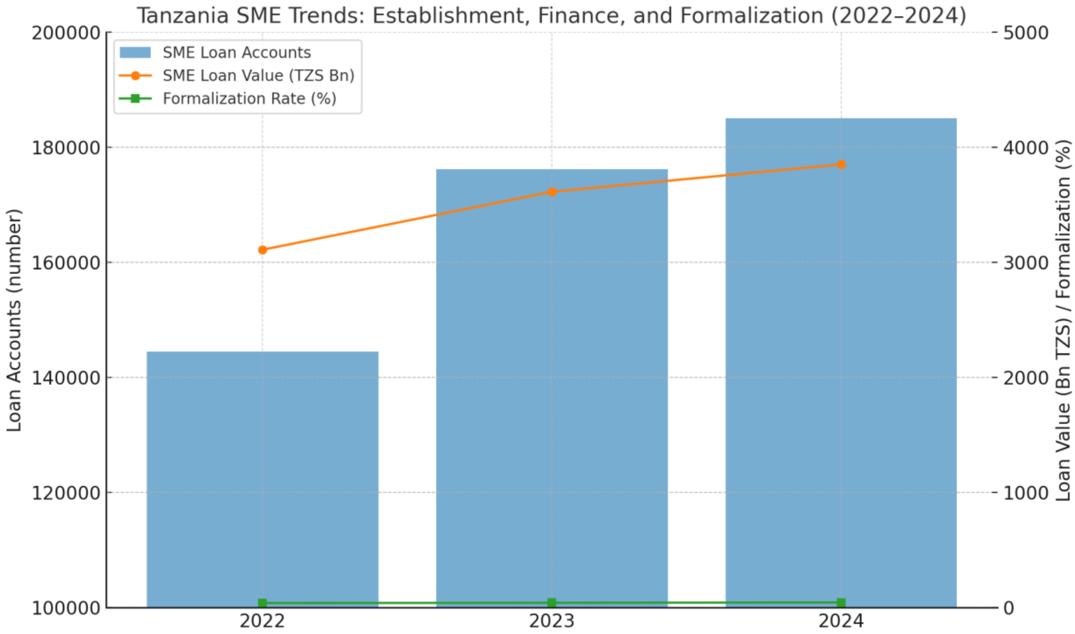


Source: BoT, 2025

Figure 40 shows that selected indicators such as adults with access to formal finance: rose by target from 65 per cent to 85 per cent, women using digital finance: rose by target from 49 per cent to 75 per cent, youth accessing savings/credit: rose by target from 35 per cent to 60 per cent and MSMEs Using formal credit: rose by target from 22 per cent to 50 per cent (BoT, 2025)

Nonetheless, according to Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) and Azania Bank's, SME windows are supporting agro-based urban start-ups and the Digital Credit Boom that has made mobile lending and payment platforms like M-Pesa, Tigo Pesa, and Airtel Money pivotal in facilitating small-scale urban business transactions. All these efforts enhance quick and ease of accessing financial services and henceforth SMEs overall prosperity. Figure 41 shows SMEs trend of establishment, financing and formalisation progress from 2022 to 2024.

Figure 41: Tanzania SMEs trend of establishment, finance and formalization (2022-2024)



Source: TICGL, NBS

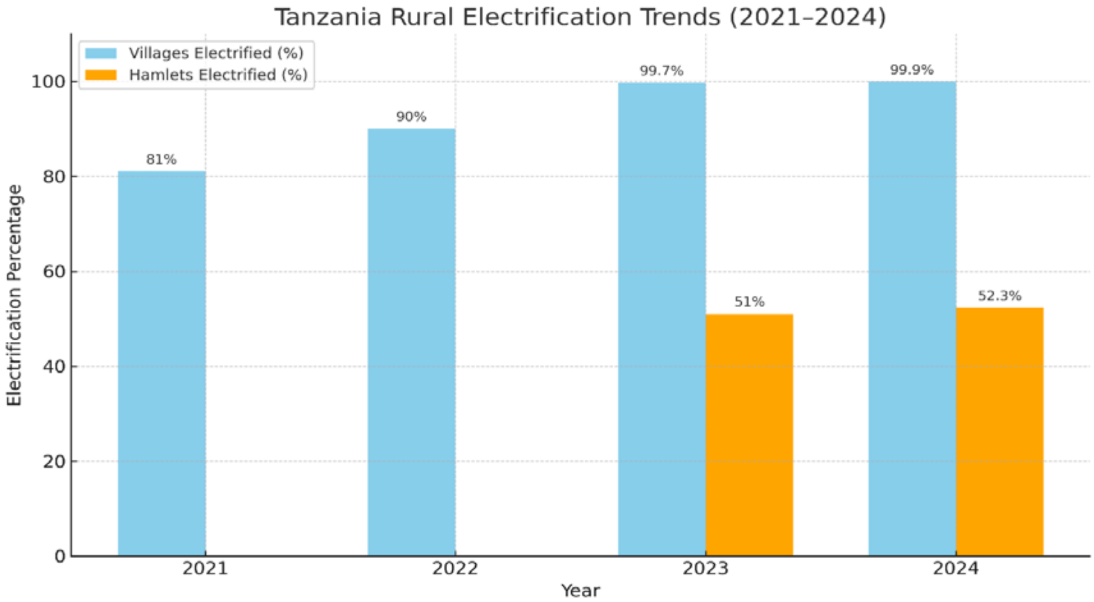
1.2.2.4 Strengthening urban-rural linkages to maximise productivity

Strengthening urban-rural linkages is crucial for maximising productivity because it fosters balanced and sustainable regional development, ensuring that both urban and rural areas benefit from each other's strengths. This approach enhances economic growth, food security and overall well-being by optimising resource allocation, promoting diversified economic opportunities and improving infrastructure and access to services. Reporting on how the government of Tanzania has strengthened urban rural linkages to maximise productivity, infrastructure and connectivity in terms of rural electrification, rural hamlet access and non-farm employment indicators have been used.

Starting with energy access, Tanzania has had remarkable progress in energy access, from a mere 14 per cent national coverage in 2011 to 46 per cent in 2022. This is one of the fastest expansion rates in Sub-Saharan Africa. The surge is a direct result of initiatives taken under the country's National Rural Electrification Program (NREP). Recognising the stark disparity between urban (73.2%) and rural (24.5%) electrification, the Tanzanian government's REA, Ministry of Energy, Tanzania Electric Supply Company and key sector institutions have set an ambitious goal of universal access by 2030. There has been vivid expansions under Tanzania Rural Electrification Expansion Program (TREEP Phase II) and Tanzania Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Transformation (ASCENT TZ programs), connecting schools, clinics, and businesses, (REA, 2025) and (World Bank, 2024).

Reporting on Tanzania Rural Electrification Progress (2022–2024), key Milestones are as follows; in mid-2023, approximately 99.7 per cent of Tanzania's 12,318 villages (12,278 villages) were connected to the national grid with 51 per cent of 64,359 hamlets electrified (32,827 hamlets) and by end of 2024, village electrification reach increased to 99.9 per cent (12,301 villages). While 52.3 per cent of hamlets (33,657) were connected, only about 0.1 per cent of villages (7) remained unconnected at year-end 2024, with plans to finalise rural electrification in 2025. Figure 42 shows the trend of rural electrification from 2021 to 2024.

Figure 42: Tanzania rural electrification trends (2021-2024)



Source: REA and World Bank, 2025

Similarly, the World Bank is supporting the expansion of energy access through initiatives like the multi-phase Tanzania Rural Electrification Expansion Programme (TREEP); Programme for results and Tanzania Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Transformation (ASCENT TZ) Programme. The first phase of TREEP, approved in 2016, received US $ 209 million in International Development Association (IDA) funding, followed by an additional US 341 million in 2022.

The objective of ASCENT TZ, a $300 million program, also financed by IDA, is to accelerate access. To date, TREEP has connected nearly 8 million people, over 1,600 healthcare facilities, close to 6,500 educational institutions, and more than 16,000 businesses to the grid. ASCENT TZ, launched in 2023, has already connected an additional 750,000 people.

Generally, rural electrification enabled better healthcare, education, and enterprise creation in rural locales (e.g., schools use lights, clinics more functional hence fostering urban- rural linkages while at the same time improving living standards of the rural people.

On the other hand, a robust road network plays a crucial role in strengthening urban-rural linkages, which in turn maximises productivity by facilitating the efficient flow of goods, people, and information between urban and rural areas. Improved road infrastructure reduces transportation costs, minimises produce damage, and enhances access to markets, labour, and services, ultimately boosting agricultural productivity and overall economic activity.

Correspondingly, rural road networks are very vital with respect to urban- rural linkage as they provide market access for small rural enterprises and perishable goods, reducing spoilage and transport time; and thus, cost.

While precise kilometre counts post-2022 are not available, there is a previous scale-up of rural roads under World Bank IDA programs, enhancing access for over 22 million rural residents and reducing transport costs in 2022 (World Bank, 2024).

Similarly, the Tanzania Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) plays a crucial role in strengthening urban-rural linkages by maximising productivity and economic growth. By providing efficient and reliable transportation, the SGR facilitates the movement of goods, people, and information between urban centres and rural areas, fostering economic activity and improving livelihoods.

In respect to this, there is a $3.1 billion Standard-Gauge Railway (Dar–Dodoma, 541 km) launched in August 2024, with extensions toward Mwanza and Kigoma to boost regional trade, the Tanzania Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) plays a crucial role in promoting rural-urban linkages by enhancing connectivity, facilitating trade, and fostering economic growth in both rural and urban areas. The SGR improves transportation efficiency, reduces travel times, and lowers logistics costs, thereby stimulating economic activity and creating opportunities for businesses and individuals in rural communities to connect with urban centres.

Reporting progress on non-farm activities, they play a crucial role in strengthening urban-rural linkages with urban labour and market systems and maximising productivity by diversifying rural livelihoods, increasing income, and fostering economic growth. These activities, including manufacturing, trade, services, and construction, can complement agricultural production and create a more resilient and prosperous rural economy.

As of 2020, according to the World Bank and Helgi Library, agriculture accounted for 64.9 per cent of total employment and in 2021, according to NBS, agriculture’s share declined to 61.1 per cent. Detailed disaggregated data for 2022 is not publicly available. Based on downward agricultural trends and increasing services/manufacturing, it's reasonable to approximate non-farm share near 39 per cent in 2022, assuming continuation of the structural shift observed in 2021. Therefore, this means that the non-farm sector grew from an estimated 35.1 per cent of employment in 2020 to nearly 38.9 per cent in 2021, reflecting gradual movement from agriculture into services and manufacturing.

Generally, the Tanzanian economy between 2020 and 2024 clearly trended away from agriculture dominance toward services, finance and insurance, tourism and industry. Formal employment and urban services have expanded, although most workers still remain informal even in nonfarm sectors. Finance and insurance became a major GDP contributor, while tourism rebounded strongly post pandemic. Industrial growth, including steel manufacturing, shows rising value addition and export potential beyond traditional agriculture.

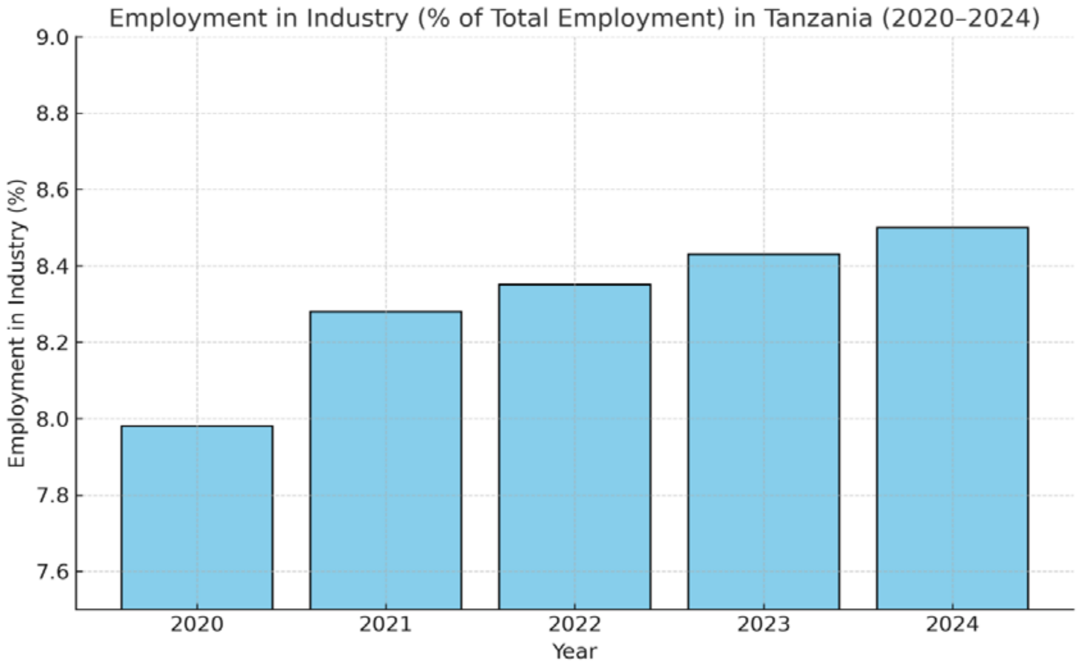
With regards to value chain connectivity, farmers in peri-urban areas all over the country continue leveraging rural finance institutions to market produce in urban centres bolstering rural enterprise viability. It has also been documented that electrification of schools, clinics, and water pumps in rural locations supports agricultural productivity and quality of life, reinforcing linkage-driven productivity gains.

Reporting on infrastructure and service delivery progress, in June 2022, the World Bank launched the Tanzania Cities Transforming Infrastructure and Competitiveness (TACTIC) project a USD 278 million IDA credit to improve urban infrastructure, connectivity, and access to markets in secondary cities. Over five million residents, especially the urban poor are expected to benefit through improved economic opportunities and reduced travel costs (World Bank, 2024).

Last but not least, there are country efforts in investment, industries and trade. The government has continued with efforts to motivate and attract investment in the country by reviewing various policies including enacting the Tanzania Investment Act of 2022, strengthening the enabling environment for investment and participating in various investment conferences held locally and internationally. As a result of these efforts, various achievements have been attained including: registration of 240 new projects (89 domestic, 94 foreigners and 57 joint ventures) from July, 2022 to March, 2023 as compared to 206 projects during the same period in 2021/22. These projects are expected to invest a total of 4,387.17 million US Dollars and create 39,245 employments.

While official employment share data for 2024 is not yet released by NBS or the World Bank, Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) indicators offer same insights into manufacturing job creation. For instance, as of January 2023, new manufacturing jobs created via registration/investment were 567 jobs. However, as of January 2024 jobs created surged to 3,584, marking a 5.5 times increase annually. Similarly, from the World Bank; the World Development Indicators (Employment in Industry as percentage of total employment) progress is as follows: in 2020, manufacturing/industry employment stood at 7.98 per cent, 2021 it increased to 8.28 per cent, in 2022 it rose further to 8.35 per cent and in 2023 it reached 8.43 per cent as shown in Figure 43.

Figure 43: Employment in industry (share of total employment) in Tanzania (2020-2024)



Source: World Bank, 2025

Although direct official values for 2024 and 2025 are not yet reported, Tanzania's Five-Year Development Plan III (FYDP III 2020/21–2025/26) targeted by 2025/26, to increasing manufacturing's share of total employment from 6.8 per cent to 12.8 per cent, as part of broader industrialisation goals. While the actual year-by-year figures are not released, the overall goal suggests an upward trajectory possibly reaching around 9–10 per cent in 2024, moving toward the 12.8 per cent target by 2025/26 as shown in Figure 44.

Figure 44: Manufacturing employment as share of total employment in Tanzania (2020-2025)

Source: World Bank modelled ILO estimates and Projected based on FYDP III target

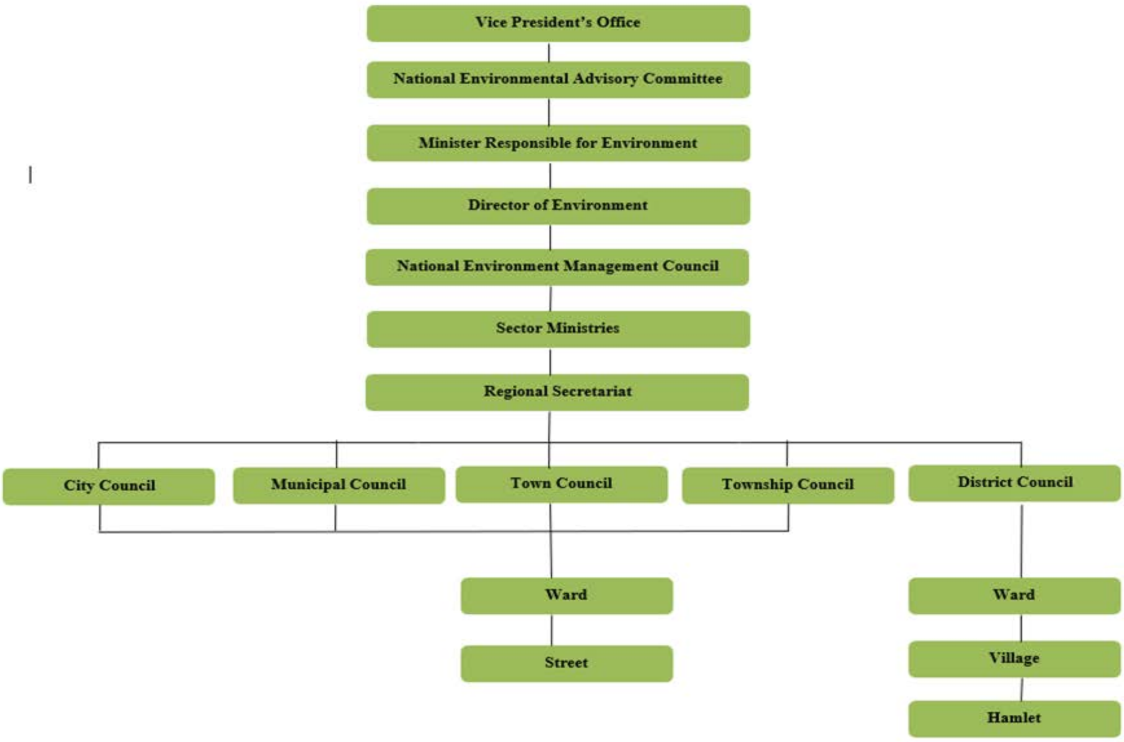
Figure 44, indicates that there is a gradual upward trend. This implies that manufacturing employment share has risen from under 8 per cent in 2020 to approximately 8.43 per cent in 2023. There are also ambitious targets presented by dotted lines: this means that the government's plan aims for a dramatic rise to 12.8 per cent by 2025/26, signalling strong policy emphasis on industrial job creation. And last but not the least, these ambitions align with Tanzania's policies for instance policy on broader industrialisation and export orientation under FYDP III.

1.3 Environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development

Addressing the complexity of environmental challenges requires coordinated and collaborative efforts from multiple stakeholders. In line with this understanding, initiatives have been undertaken at global, regional, national, and local levels to promote environmental sustainability and safeguard the planet for the present and future generations.

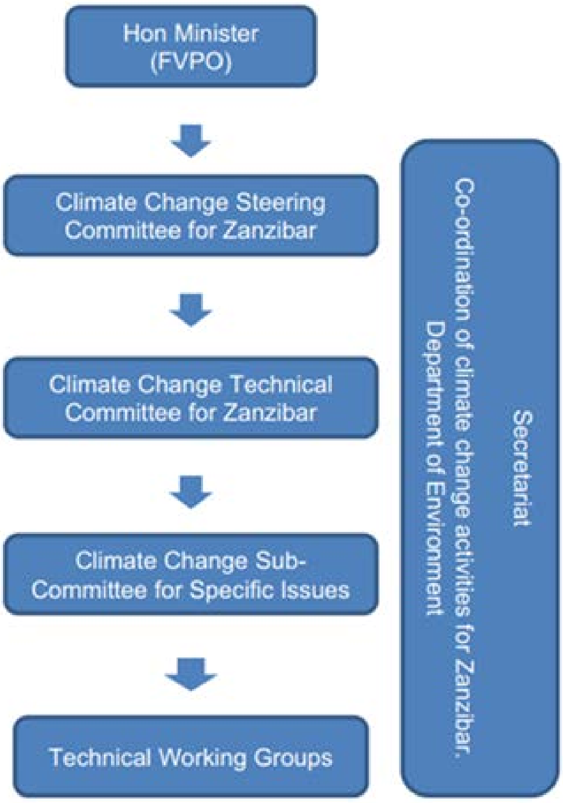
As a member of the United Nations (UN), Tanzania has aligned itself with these global efforts by implementing international environmental agreements while also advancing its own strategies to tackle domestic environmental challenges, particularly those related to climate change and variability. To support the effective implementation of these initiatives, the government has established institutional arrangements. In Mainland Tanzania, climate related issues are addressed within a broader institutional framework established under the Environmental Management Act No. 20 of 2004, as illustrated in Figure 45. On the other hand, Zanzibar (Tanzania Island) has developed a specific institutional setup for managing climate change, as shown in Figure 46.

Figure 45: Institutional framework for environmental management, Mainland Tanzania



Source: The Environmental Management Act No. 20 of 2004

Figure 46: Zanzibar climate change governance



Source: Zanzibar Climate Change Strategy (2014)

1.3.1 Resilient and adaptive urban development

1.3.1.1 Systems for natural and human-made disasters reduction

The 4th National Environmental Status Report (2024) indicates that more than 70 per cent of natural disasters in Tanzania are associated with climate change. These disasters, such as droughts, flash floods, sea level rise, strong winds, and shifting precipitation patterns, have had severe economic consequences. In the last five years, approximately 270,000 people were affected. Flash flooding for instance, has increased significantly between 2019 and 2023. While only two flood incidents were recorded in 2019, the number rose to seven by 2022. By 2023, floods had impacted 29,376 individuals across 16 regions with the Lake Zone regions, Kagera, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Mara, Dodoma, Morogoro, and Tabora, reporting more frequent flooding than other areas.

In addition to flash floods, landslides have become more common, particularly in highland regions such as Geita, Njombe, Kilimanjaro, Mwanza, and Manyara. In 2021, landslides in Same District (Kilimanjaro) affected 119 people. In Hanang District (Manyara), landslides resulted in 89 deaths, 139 injuries, and impacted over 1,500 people. Figure 47 below presents the number of individuals affected by flooding and landslides from 2018 to 2023.

Drought is another natural disaster that continues to severely affect Tanzania, with its impacts intensified by climate change. It primarily affects agricultural communities, both farmers and pastoralists, undermining the economy and contributing to food insecurity; among other consequences. In 2021 for instance, drought led to an 8.1 per cent decline in the production of major food crops compared to the 2019 levels. Additionally, between 2018 and 2022, recurring droughts caused the death of approximately 700,000 livestock in the regions of Arusha and Manyara. These persistent dry spells have also contributed to nomadic pastoralism, placing additional pressure on the environment (the 4th National Environmental Status Report, 2024).

Figure 47: Number of people affected by flooding and landslides (2018-2023)

Source: The Fourth National Environmental Status Report, August 2024

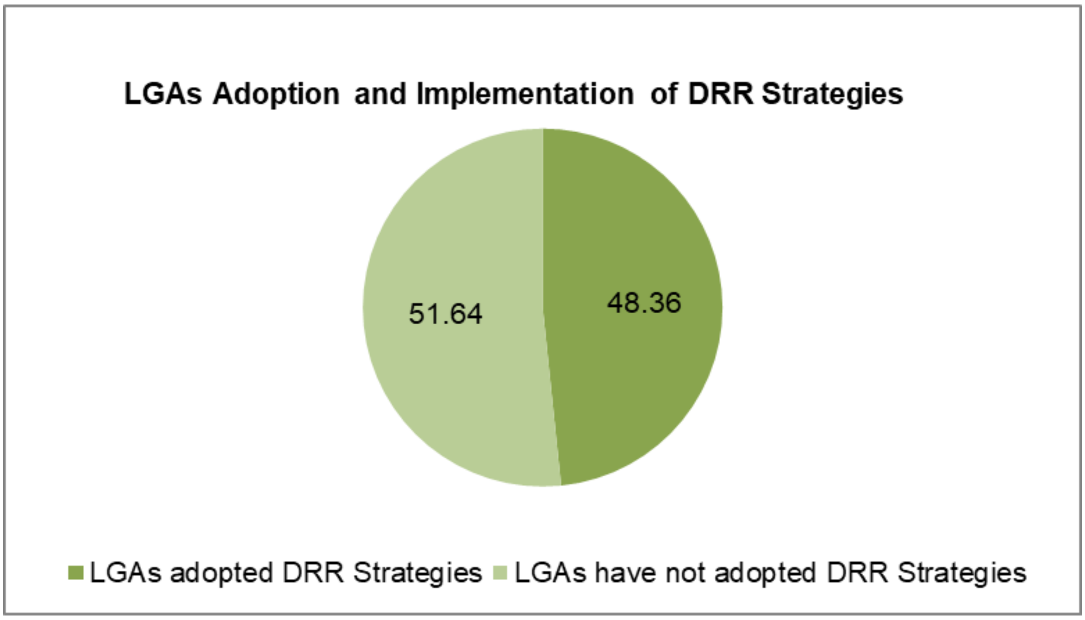
Figure 48: Effects of disasters on road infrastructure, Lindi-Dar es Salaam highway

Source: Tanzania Media, 2025

In response to the growing rate of disasters, the government undertook initiatives to strengthen the disaster management efforts at both national and local levels. In Mainland Tanzania, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) leads Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) initiatives developing frameworks, strategies and plans such as the Tanzania Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (TEPRP) and the National Disaster Management Strategy (2022–2027). These instruments emphasize integrating DRR into national development planning and budgeting across critical sectors, including health, infrastructure, education, agriculture, and natural resources. Further reinforcing this agenda, the Disaster Management Act No. 7 of 2015 established the Disaster Management Agency and Disaster Management Fund, with operational guidelines provided under the 2016 Disaster Management Regulations.

Zanzibar, on the other hand, DRR efforts are coordinated by the Second Vice President's Office in accordance with the Zanzibar Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2015. This legal framework enables the integration of DRR into sectorial planning and budgeting across all sectors in Zanzibar. According to the President's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), altogether, 89 out of 184 local government authorities (approximately 48.36 per cent) have adopted and implemented local DRR strategies in alignment with the national frameworks (Figure 49).

Figure 49: Proportion of LGAs adoption and implementation of DRR strategies



Source: President's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government, 2022

However, despite the existence of these policies and institutional mechanisms, Tanzania continues to face challenges in fully achieving its disaster risk reduction objectives. A key obstacle is limited funding. While international climate finance provides some support, domestic budget allocations for climate adaptation remain insufficient. Moreover, coordination across sectors and administrative levels is also fragmented. Both the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank observed that climate governance among ministries and local authorities lacks cohesion, and the integration of DRR into sectorial plans and public investment strategies remains weak. Furthermore, urban areas, in particular, face challenges in updating their planning systems.

However, recently, the government revised the 2007 Urban Planning Guidelines and developed new Guidelines and Standards for the Preparation and Implementation of Urban Planning Schemes (2025) that requires incorporation of DRR and climate related issues into spatial planning. In addition, persistent data and capacity gaps, along with overlapping local jurisdictions that hinder coordinated resilience efforts, are being addressed through on-going maintenance and construction activities, despite financial constraints. Collectively, despite the efforts made, these financial, institutional, technical, and governance related barriers continue to hinder Tanzania's progress from policy formulation to effective disaster risk reduction in practice.

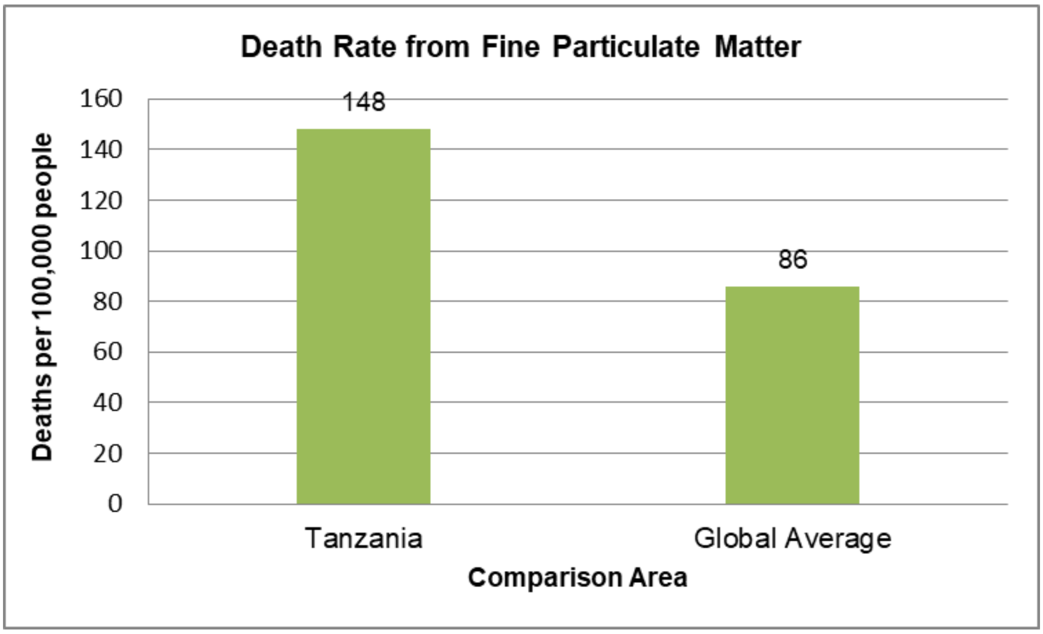
Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that nearly everyone in the world (99 per cent) is exposed to air pollution levels that put them at risk of health problems such as heart disease, stroke, chronic respiratory illnesses, cancer, and pneumonia. Some of the highlighted common air pollutants include sulphur dioxide (SO_2), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), ground-level ozone (O_3), hydrocarbons, and fine particulate matter (PM); sourced from fossil fuels, emissions from motor vehicles, industrial production, improper waste disposal, as well as unsustainable agricultural, livestock, and mining practices. In households, air pollution mainly comes from the use of fuels such as firewood, charcoal, coal, and kerosene, used for cooking and lighting. Reported in the 4th National Environmental Status Report 2024, global studies link the presence of fine particulate matter (PM) in the air and premature deaths. Close ties have also been established between fine particles and health conditions such as lung cancer, diabetes, and preterm births.

In Tanzania, air pollution contributed to an estimated 305,900 cases of diseases and disabilities in 2019, an increase of 38,000 cases compared to 267,900 in 2010. According to the 2019 Global Burden of Disease Study, over 46,000 deaths in the country were linked to fine particulate matter (PM), translating to 148 deaths per 100,000 people (Figure 50). This rate is significantly higher than the global average of 86 per 100,000. Among these, 15 per cent of the air pollution related deaths occurred in children under five, while 17 per cent were in adults over 70. With the rapid growth of industrialization and urbanization, the health impacts of air pollution are expected to worsen if effective and timely interventions are not implemented.

The same study also found a notable decline in deaths caused by household air pollution, from 213.84 per 100,000 people in 1990 to 126.79 in 2019. These deaths were mainly linked to respiratory infections, neonatal conditions, heart disease, chronic respiratory illnesses, and diabetes. To address the challenges of air pollution and its impacts on human health, the Tanzanian government has introduced several measures including enforcing the Environmental Management Act, Chapter 191, and its related regulations, which focuses on controlling emissions from industries and vehicles. The government also promotes the use of clean energy, supports sustainable public transport, and raises awareness about the health risks of air pollution. Additionally, there are on-going efforts to encourage the use of clean cooking energy at the household level.

Figure 50: Average death rate from fine particulate matter



Source: Global Burden of Disease Study, 2019

1.3.1.2 Infrastructure for building quality urban resilience

Tanzania has made significant progress in developing a multi-hazard early warning system to help protect her people from disasters such as flash floods, droughts, storms and sea level rise. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) steers these efforts at the national level supported by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) which is responsible for providing weather forecasts and warnings. In June 2024, the country launched a National Emergency Operations and Communication Centre (EOCC) in Dodoma under the African Union's Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System (AMHEWAS) initiative. The centre serves as the first national situation room under the AMHEWAS network, integrating real time data and historical disaster information to enhance early warning systems and facilitate rapid response. Moreover, Tanzania is also part of the global Early Warnings for All initiatives, whose objective is to improve weather monitoring technology, communication tools, and local capacity.

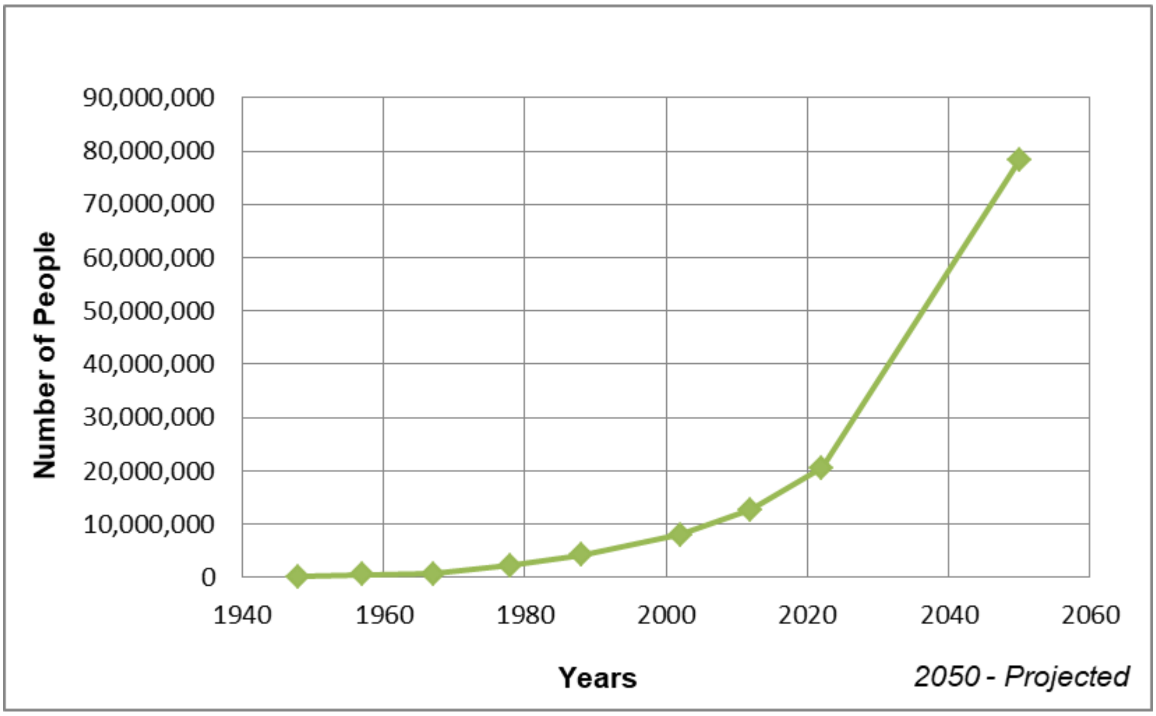
To disseminate early warnings, TMA utilises multiple channels such as radio, television, mobile phones (via SMS and cell broadcasts), and social media. This communication is often carried out in collaboration with mobile network operators and the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA). Additionally, community based initiatives like Developing Risk Awareness through Joint Action (DARAJA), Community Water Watch (CWW), ward disaster committees, and local mapping efforts, play a crucial role in enhancing awareness and strengthening community understanding of weather alerts.

1.3.1.3 Spatial planning for building quality urban resilience

Urban population exposed to climate threats

According to the national population census data, Tanzania's urban population has grown significantly over the decades, rising from 180,000 people in 1948 to 504,300 in 1957. By 1967, the urban population had increased to 686,000. This number grew substantially to 2,260,000 in 1978, and by 1988, 4,247,272 people were living in urban areas, out of a total national population of 22,533,000. In 2002, the urban population reached 7,944,000, representing 23.1 per cent of the total population of 34,569,000. By 2012, this figure rose to 12,701,238, accounting for 29.1 per cent of the national population of 43,625,354. Most recently, in 2022, 20,613,420 people or 34.9 per cent of the country's 59,851,347 citizens were living in urban areas. The 2022 report from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) projects that the country's population will reach 114,468,274 by the year 2050. Of this total, an estimated 68.4 per cent, equivalent to 78,296,299 people, are expected to reside in urban areas.

Figure 51: Urban population growth from 1948 to 2050



Source: National Bureau of Statistics, 2024

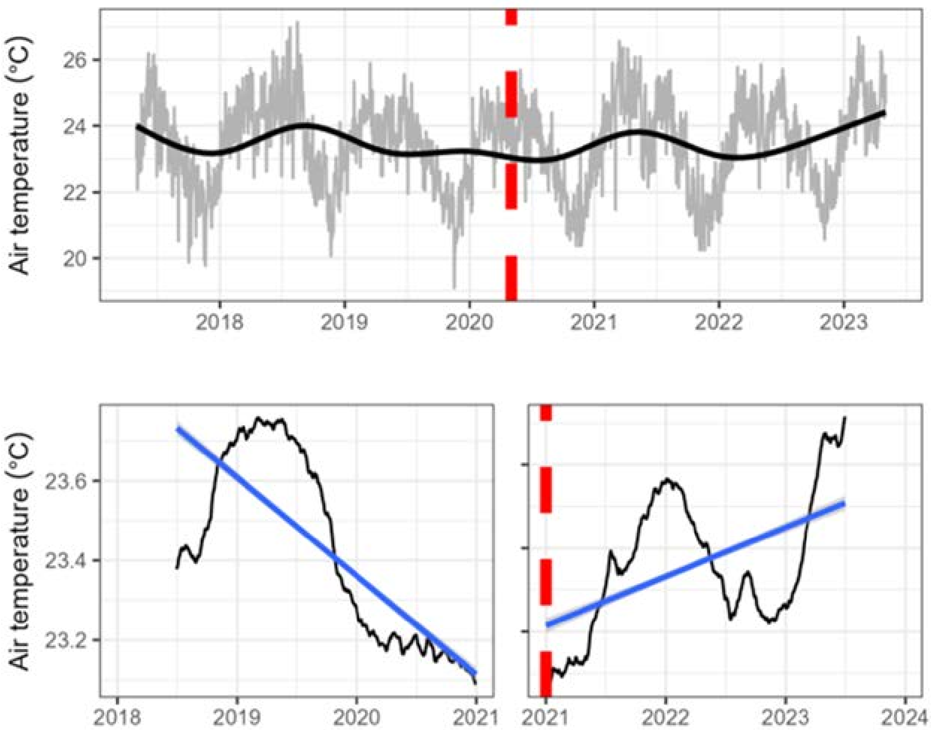
As highlighted by the NCCRS (2021–2026), a large portion of Tanzania's urban population lives in informal or unplanned settlements. These areas often lack basic services and infrastructure such as roads, clean and safe water, sanitation, and storm water drainage systems. Many of these settlements are also located in high risk areas such as steep slopes, floodplains, riverbanks, and near dumpsites, making residents more vulnerable to climate related hazards and disasters. In a repetitive cycle, rapid population growth has further worsened the situation resulting into overuse of natural resources, poor waste management, rising demand for energy etc., all of which contribute to climate change.

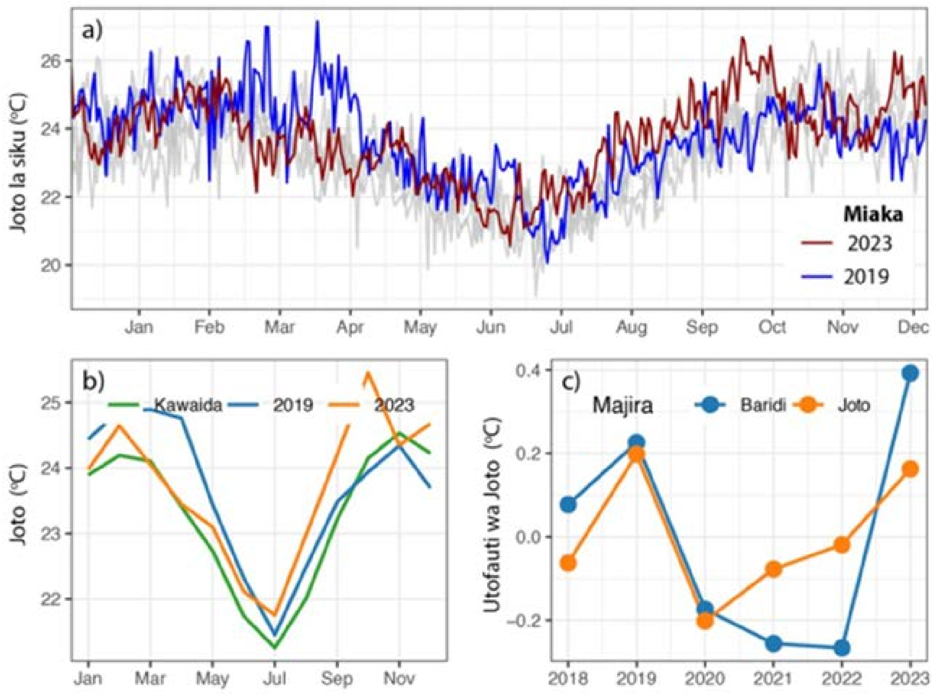
The urban heat island effect

According to the 4th National Environmental Status Report 2024, the average temperature in Tanzania increased from 0.7°C to 1.1°C by the year 2023, compared to the global average temperature rise of 1.1°C to 1.4°C during the same period. Between 2018 and 2023, temperature changes varied across different regions of the country (Figure 52). For example, regions like Dar es Salaam experienced significant temperature increases, while others such as Iringa recorded a decrease in temperature, and Tabora showed no noticeable change.

Trends also indicated that night-time temperatures have been rising more rapidly than daytime temperatures. Overall, there has been a clear upward trend in temperature across the country over the past four years (2019–2023), compared to the earlier period of 2014–2019. In Zanzibar, future temperature projections suggest an increase of 1.5 to 2°C by the 2050s (2045–2065) and between 2 to 4°C by the 2090s (2081–2100), relative to the baseline period of 1961–2000 (ZCCS, 2014).

Figure 52: Daily temperature trends from 2018 to 2023





Source: The Fourth National Environmental Status Report, August 2024

To address the challenges outlined above and mitigate the broader impacts of climate change, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has prioritised a range of urban planning initiatives. These include development of new planned urban areas, upgrading of informal settlements, preparation of land use and master plans, and enforcement of laws related to urban development and climate resilience. By 2025, the government had introduced two key planning documents to guide urban planning, design, and development control: the Guidelines and Standards for Preparation and Implementation of Urban Planning Schemes (2025), and the Guidelines for Spatial Development Control (2025). Additionally, the government enacted the Building Codes Regulation (2025) which provides procedures and standards for integrating green spaces, promoting green building practices, and encouraging the use of renewable energy technologies.

Other initiatives include integration of nature based solutions into land use planning, promotion of sustainable transport, and development of environmentally sound infrastructure. The country is also scaling up programmes such as eco-smart villages to support resilient, affordable, and sustainable housing. Furthermore, the government is in the process of preparing a National Strategy for Solid Waste Management, which aims, among other goals, to promote circular economy practices such as recycling and reusing waste as a key component in building climate resilient urban centres.

1.3.1.4 Resources for adaptation actions for building quality urban resilience

The NCCRS (2021–2026), identifies Tanzania as highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. These impacts include unpredictable seasonal patterns, frequent and prolonged droughts, flash floods, strong winds, and sea level rise leading to saltwater intrusion. The earlier National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS 2012) estimated that climate change costs the country around 1–2 per cent of its GDP annually. A study by the Stockholm Environment Institute (2010) projected that building climate resilience and adaptive capacity would require about USD 100–150 million per year. Additionally, implementing Tanzania's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) is expected to cost around USD 14 billion.

Tanzania is eligible for most international climate financing sources and has received support from major multilateral sources, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Adaptation Fund (AF), the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), and the Green Climate Fund (GCF). However, despite global increases in climate finance, Tanzania continues to face difficulties in accessing sufficient funding to support key adaptation and mitigation efforts across sectors. In response, the country is now exploring alternative financing avenues, including the development of guidelines and regulations to facilitate access to carbon credit funding.

At the local level, the government has introduced the Local Climate Finance Initiative (LCFI) (2019), which enables Local Government Authorities (LGAs) to directly access and manage climate funds aimed at building resilient communities and economies. The LCFI uses a country led mechanism to channel climate finance from various sources to the local level. For instance, in carbon trading, LGAs collaborate with approved project developers to conserve forests under recognised land use frameworks such as Village Forest Reserves or Wildlife Management Areas.

Under the 2022 and 2023 carbon trading guidelines and regulations, LGAs act as managing authorities, securing Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) from communities and overseeing project implementation. Once projects are registered and verified for emission reductions, they generate carbon credits that can be sold on the voluntary market. The gained revenue is then shared among stakeholders where communities receive 61 per cent, developers 31 per cent, and LGAs 8 per cent. To effectively participate, LGAs must ensure legal land designation, align with national climate targets (NDCs), and uphold transparent benefit sharing practices with the local communities.

Generally, according to the PO-RALG, only 54 out of 184 local government authorities, about 29 per cent, have budget allocations specifically dedicated to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

1.3.2 Climate change mitigation

Like many countries around the world, Tanzania is increasingly experiencing the impacts of climate change and variability, particularly in key economic sectors such as transport, health, agriculture, fisheries, natural resources, and tourism. According to the 4th National Environmental Status Report 2024, the country has faced a series of extreme weather events over the past five years, including shifts in rainfall patterns, rising temperatures during typically cooler seasons, floods, droughts, wildfires, and storms. These events have disrupted production systems and intensified pressure on natural resources and ecosystems.

In response, the government has implemented a range of strategic measures to build national capacity for climate adaptation and mitigation. These include; the National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS) (2021–2026), the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) (2021), the National Disaster Management Plan (2019), the National Fisheries Sector Master Plan (2021/22–2036/37), and the National Environmental Conservation and Management Master Plan (2022–2032). The NCCRS, for instance, addresses adaptation, mitigation, and cross-cutting interventions, enabling Tanzania to confront climate change impacts comprehensively. It also recognises the potential for more rapid and complex climate shifts, which could have long-term consequences for socio-economic development, environmental sustainability, and key production systems. In light of these challenges, the government remains committed to strengthening resilience, enhancing adaptive capacity, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions to safeguard both its people and the ecosystems.

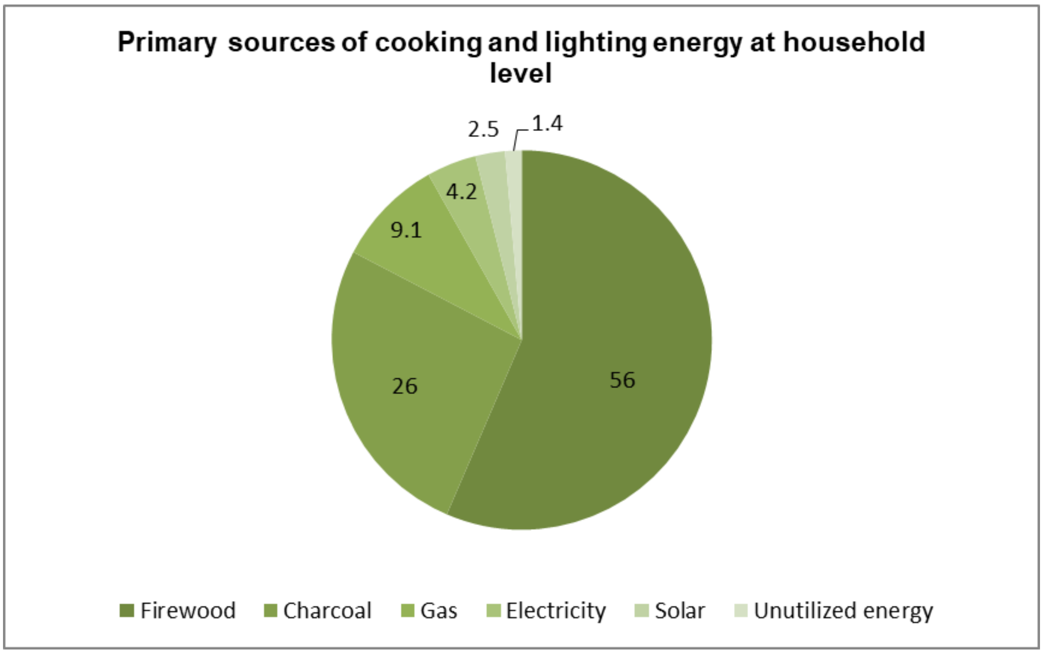
1.3.2.1 Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

Global statistics indicate that the primary driver of climate change is the combustion of fossil fuels used to power industrial machinery and systems, accounting for more than 75 per cent of the total global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In comparison, agriculture, forestry, and other land uses (AFOLU) contribute approximately 20–25 per cent of global emissions. According to the UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2023, developed nations, particularly the United States (US) and the European Union (EU) are the largest emitters, responsible for nearly one third of global emissions between 1850 and 2021. Conversely, low income economies such as Tanzania contribute only about 4 per cent of global GHG emissions, mainly from fossil fuel use and land based activities, including agriculture, forestry, and land use change.

In the case of Tanzania, AFOLU is the dominant source of GHG emissions. Between 2000 and 2005, these sectors accounted for roughly two thirds of the country's total emissions. By 2021, estimates show that AFOLU, particularly land use and forestry activities under the Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF) category contributed approximately 77 per cent of Tanzania's total emissions. This contribution is largely attributed to unsustainable land use practices such as widespread deforestation and forest burning which release significant amounts of carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), and nitrous oxide (N_2O) (4th National Environmental Status Report, 2024).

Overall, the LULUCF sector remains the leading contributor to GHG emissions in the country, primarily due to high deforestation rates. A major underlying factor is the heavy reliance on biomass for cooking energy. About 82 per cent of the population depends on firewood and charcoal, with 56 per cent using firewood and 26 per cent using charcoal (NBS, 2022).

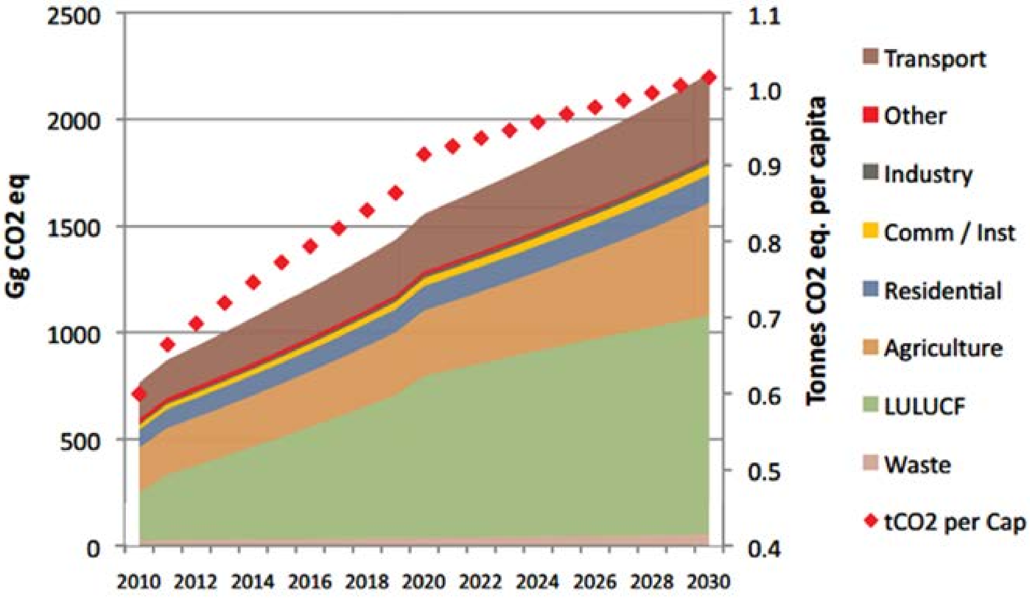
Figure 53: Proportions of fuel use leading to GHG emissions in Tanzania



Source: National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), 2022

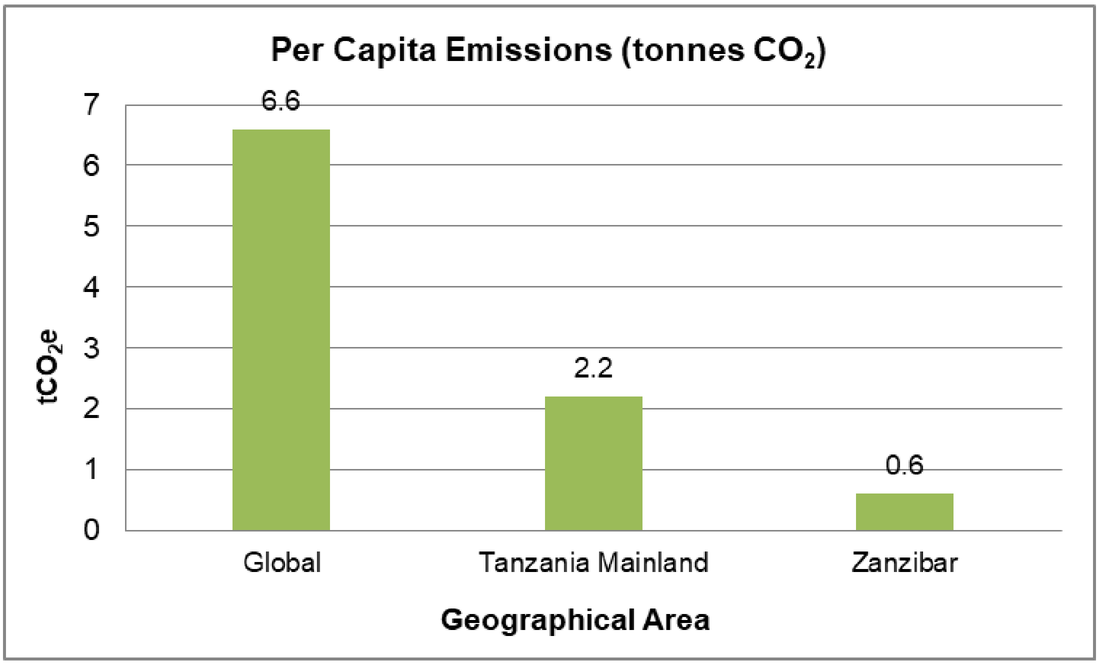
As stated in the 4th National Environmental Status Report 2024, Tanzania’s GHG emissions reflect global trends. While the global average per capita emissions are estimated at 6.6 tonnes of CO_2 (tCO_2e), Tanzania's per capita emissions are much lower, at approximately 2.2 tCO_2e per person per year. In Zanzibar, emissions are even lower, at around 0.6 tCO_2e per capita, but are projected to rise by 190 per cent over the next 20 years (ZCCS, 2014). Overall, Tanzania’s GHG emission levels remain consistent with those of many low income developing countries as of 2023. Figure 54 presents projections of GHG emissions in Tanzania Island (Zanzibar).

Figure 54: Projects of GHG emissions in Zanzibar



Source: Zanzibar Climate Change Strategy, 2014

Figure 55: Comparison of per capita emissions at global and national levels



Source: ZCCS, 2014 & the Forth National Environment Status Report, 2024

Conclusively, both the ZCCS (2014) and the NCCRS (2021–2026) outline low-carbon development opportunities aimed at addressing GHG emissions in the country. These strategies propose measures that not only reduce emissions but also support the country's broader development goals. While some increase in emissions may be inevitable to support economic growth, there are viable pathways to pursue a lower-carbon development trajectory that aligns with sustainable development objectives. The strategies highlight and evaluate several of such options, including expanding activities under the Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) program, promoting the use of clean household energy, developing renewable electricity sources, reducing deforestation, advancing climate-smart agriculture, encouraging sustainable tourism, and enhancing natural resource management.

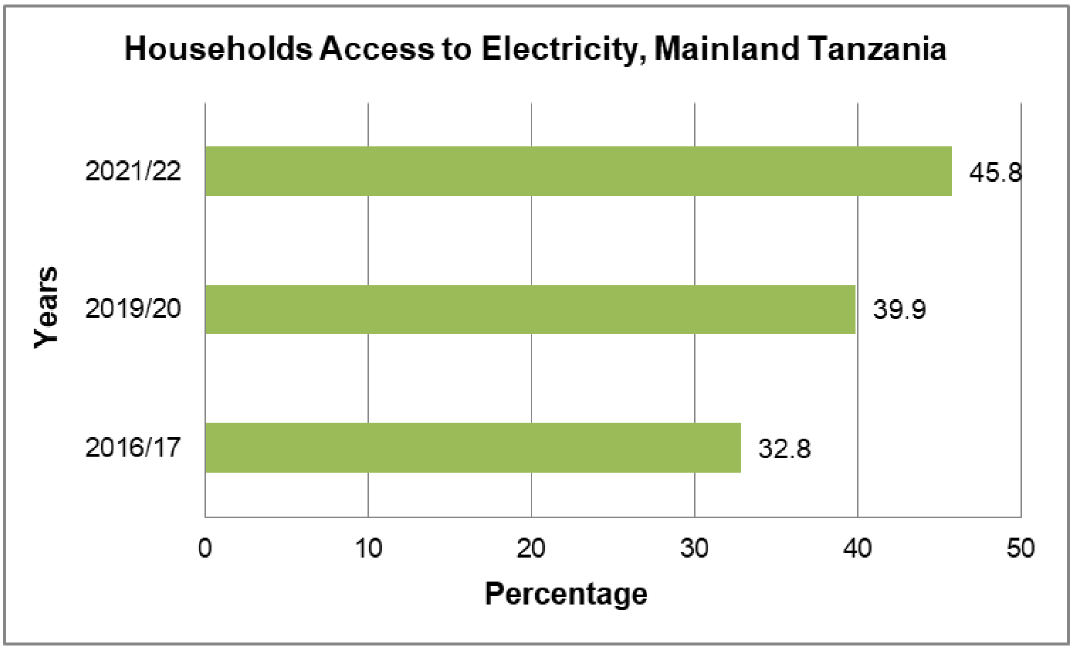
1.3.2.2 Promotion of renewable energy

According to Tanzania’s 2015 Energy Policy, the country's primary sources of energy include biomass (85 per cent), petroleum products (9.3 per cent), electricity (4.5 per cent), and a combined 1.2 per cent from coal and other renewable energy sources. Over 80 per cent of the biomass energy is consumed in rural areas, where heavy reliance contributes significantly to deforestation. Compounding this is climate change, affecting rainfall and temperature patterns, posing further challenges to energy generation and distribution across all sources.

Globally, access to electricity goes beyond basic lighting. It should be able to enable the use of essential appliances for everyday living, education, communication, and small-scale economic activities. Under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 7.1.1, access to electricity is defined as the ability to provide lighting for at least four hours during the day and one hour at night through reliable sources such as national grids, mini-grids, or solar systems. As the UN aims to achieve universal electricity access by 2030, as of 2021, around 91 per cent of the global population has access to electricity. However, Sub-Saharan Africa significantly lagged behind, with only about 48 per cent coverage (International Energy Agency, 2022).

Tanzania has made notable progress in expanding access to modern electricity, particularly from renewable sources. Key interventions include national grid extensions, promotion of off-grid solutions, and the adoption of solar technologies. According to the 2021/22 Impact of Access to Sustainable Energy Survey (IASES), conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in collaboration with Statistics Norway, the proportion of households in Mainland Tanzania with electricity access rose from 32.8 per cent in 2016/17 to 39.9 per cent in 2019/20, and further to 45.8 per cent in 2021/22 (NBS, 2023). This growth reflects the impact of targeted policy instruments such as the 2015 National Energy Policy, the Third Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP III), and the 2020 Power System Master Plan, all of which emphasize improved energy access through both grid and off-grid renewable sources.

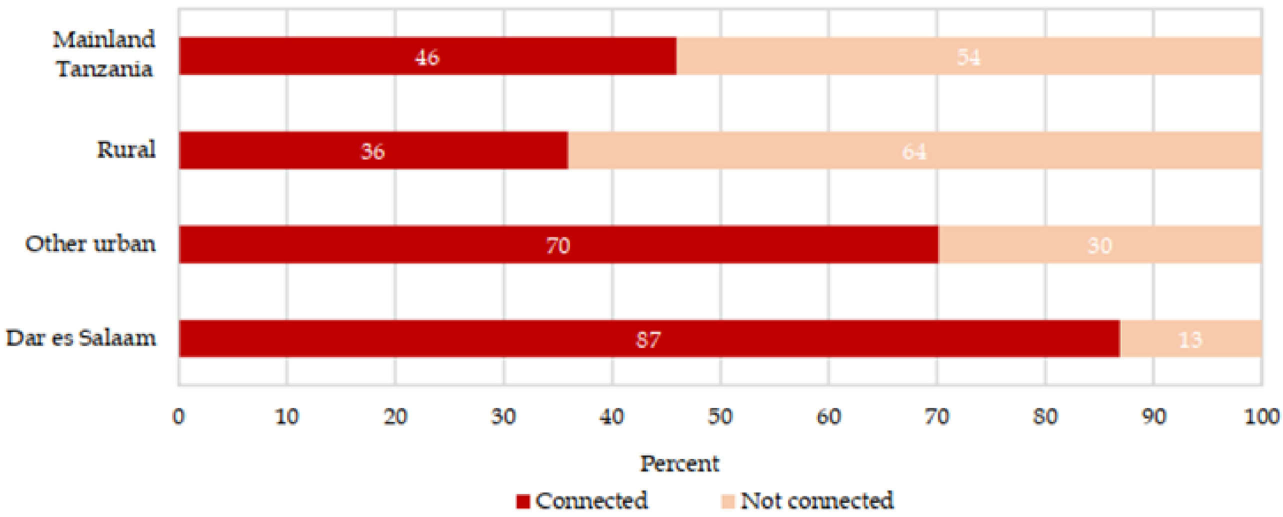
Figure 56: Households connected to electricity in Mainland Tanzania (2016-2022)



Source: Rural Energy Agency, 2020 & National Bureau of Statistics, 2023

Urban areas demonstrate greater connectivity, with Dar es Salaam leading at 87 per cent of households connected to electricity, followed by other urban areas at 70 per cent. In contrast, rural areas lag behind, with only 36 per cent of households connected. Nevertheless, 72 per cent of all households now reside in communities with some level of grid infrastructure, indicating substantial improvements in national energy infrastructure. Solar technologies, in particular, have played a key role in rural electrification where approximately 55 per cent of electrified rural households rely on solar home systems, mini-grids, or solar lanterns. This shift not only helps bridge the rural-urban energy gap, but also aligns Tanzania with global best practices in decentralized renewable energy adoption.

Figure 57: Share of households living in communities with access to electricity by area, Mainland Tanzania



Source: Impact of Access to Sustainable Energy Survey (IASES 2021/22)

Currently, approximately 40 per cent of Tanzania's electricity is generated from hydropower. However, this source remains vulnerable to climatic change and variability. Over the past four decades, frequent and prolonged droughts have severely impacted water availability, reducing hydropower generation capacity. The Mtera Hydroelectric Power Dam, for example, has experienced significant water level fluctuations due to both increased siltation and extended dry spells. A critical instance occurred in October 2015, when a severe drought nearly brought operations at the dam to a halt, resulting in widespread power shortages. Conversely, extreme rainfall events have at times pushed the dam's water levels beyond safe thresholds, threatening its structure.

Access to modern renewable energy for cooking

According to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 7.1.2, access to modern renewable energy for cooking refers to the use of clean and efficient energy sources such as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), biogas, electricity, or advanced biomass stoves that comply with internationally recognised standards for efficiency, health, and safety. Access to these technologies is vital for reducing indoor air pollution, improving health outcomes, and addressing gender inequality in energy access, as women and children are disproportionately affected by traditional cooking practices.

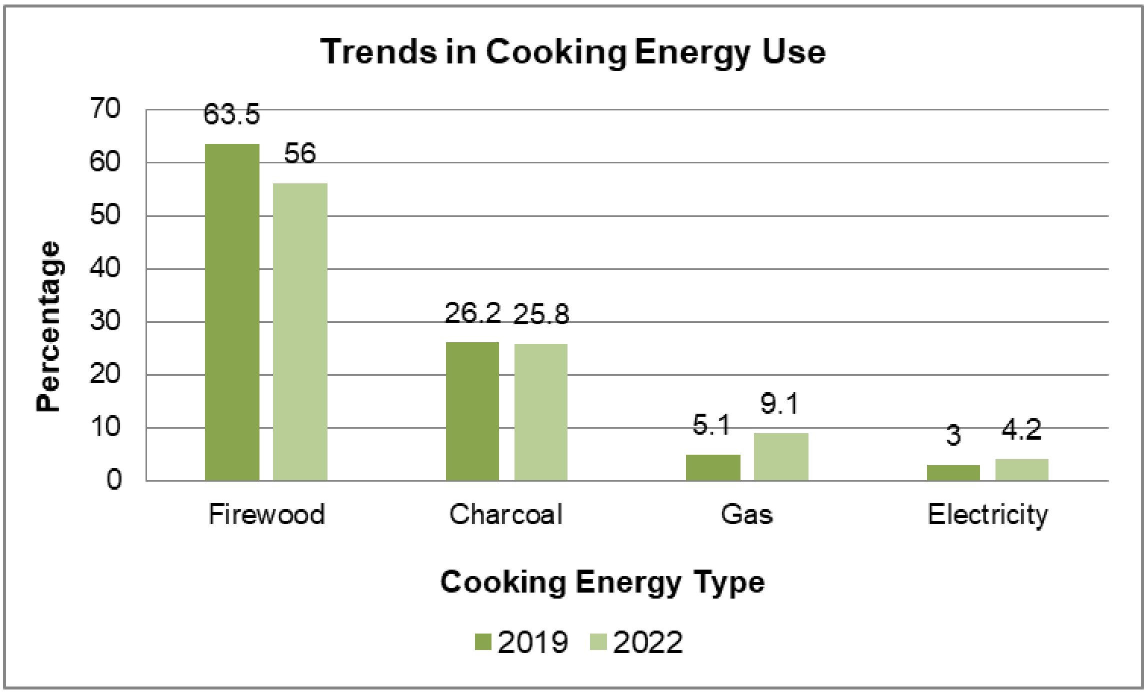
Globally, progress has been made in the adoption of clean cooking fuels. As reported by the IEA (2022), approximately 69 per cent of the global population used clean cooking fuels by 2020. However, Sub-Saharan Africa continues to fall behind, with only 17 per cent of its population having access to such fuels. Tanzania reflects this regional trend, where despite various efforts to promote the transition to modern renewable energy for cooking, progress has been slow and marked by significant urban-rural disparities. Data from the 2021/22 Impact of Access to Sustainable Energy Survey (IASES) reveal that most Tanzanian households still depend on traditional biomass fuels. Nationwide, 67 per cent of households rely primarily on firewood for cooking, while 25 per cent use charcoal. This continued dependence on inefficient and health-hazardous fuels is especially prevalent in rural areas, where access to modern alternatives remains limited.

In contrast, urban centres, particularly larger cities, have shown more substantial adoption of modern cooking technologies. Dar es Salaam, for instance, presents 34 per cent of households using LPG and 1 per cent using electricity for cooking. However, charcoal still dominates with 59 per cent of households relying on it, and firewood accounting for 6 per cent. Other urban areas show similar patterns with 14 per cent of households using LPG, 2 per cent using electricity, while 70 per cent continue to rely on charcoal. This disparity becomes even more evident in rural areas where 88 per cent of households use firewood, only 2 per cent use LPG, and electricity use for cooking is virtually non-existent. These figures underscore the infrastructural, economic, and behavioural challenges impeding the adoption of clean cooking energy in rural areas.

To address these energy challenges, Tanzania has undertaken several strategic initiatives aligned with global frameworks such as the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) agenda. One notable effort is the Tanzania Rural Electrification Expansion Project (TREEP), launched in 2016 and implemented by the Rural Energy Agency (REA). TREEP aims to expand access to modern energy services in rural areas and contribute to climate change mitigation. By December 2024, over 85 per cent of villages in Mainland Tanzania had been connected to the national electricity grid (REA, 2025).

Progress has also been noted in shifting household energy consumption toward cleaner sources. According to the 4th National Environment Status Report (2024), the use of clean cooking energy has increased over recent years. In 2019, cooking energy distribution was 63.5 per cent firewood, 26.2 per cent charcoal, 5.1 per cent gas, and 3.0 per cent electricity. By 2022, this had shifted to 56 per cent firewood, 25.8 per cent charcoal, 9.1 per cent gas, and 4.2 per cent electricity, indicating a gradual but meaningful transition away from traditional biomass fuels.

Figure 58: Progress in the shift toward clean cooking energy (2019-2022)



Source: The Forth National Environment Status Report, 2024

1.3.2.3 Adoption of smart-cities approach

In alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to sustainable cities and climate action (SDG 11 and SDG 13), Tanzania has taken several strategic steps to adopt a smart-cities approach. This transition involves multi-stakeholder collaboration across government institutions, the private sector, civil society, and international development partners.

Spatial planning for smarter urban growth

Spatial planning has been a key mechanism for Tanzania's smart cities agenda. Comprehensive urban development plans, the Dar es Salaam City Master Plan (2016–2036) and the Dodoma Integrated and Sustainable Transport (DIST) Project (2025–2030), among other examples, are designed to guide the growth of urban areas through integrated land use, infrastructure, and mobility planning. These plans prioritize the development of sustainable transport networks that promote walking, cycling, and public transit access, while also incorporating open spaces and improved waste management systems to mitigate climate-related risks such as the urban heat island effect and pollution.

A flagship initiative under this strategy was the Msimbazi Opportunity Plan (MOP), launched in 2019 by the President's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government in collaboration with the World Bank and UK-Aid. The plan aimed at strengthening resilience within the Msimbazi River Basin by restoring natural ecosystems through the development of flood attenuation infrastructure, rehabilitation of wetlands, reforestation, and the conversion of floodplains into safe, multifunctional public spaces (Msimbazi Opportunity Plan, Executive Summary, 2019).

Smart and sustainable mobility

Tanzania has made significant progress in modernizing urban mobility systems to reduce emissions and traffic congestion. A notable example is the Dar es Salaam Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), launched in 2016. This system utilises digital tools for route optimisation, real-time passenger information, and mobile fare payments, providing a reliable and climate-aligned mode of mass transit that helps reduce vehicular emissions and improve commuter efficiency (Dar es Salaam Rapid Transit Agency (DART), 2025).

Similarly, the on-going Tanzania Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) Project demonstrates a commitment to low-carbon transport infrastructure. Spanning approximately 2,561 kilometres, the SGR upon its completion will connect key urban and economic zones including Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Dodoma, Tabora, Mwanza, and Kigoma, and extending toward regional neighbours—Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (Figure 59). Powered by electricity and capable of speeds up to 160 km/h, the SGR will enhance freight capacity, reducing travel time, and shifting dependency away from road transport, ultimately contributing to lower greenhouse gas emissions and increased regional connectivity (Tanzania Railways Corporation, 2025).

Figure 59: Modern transit systems as catalysts for smart urban development in Tanzania

Source: TanzaniaInvest, 2024

Digitally-enabled urban governance

Digital platforms have played a transformative role in urban governance and service delivery. Systems like e-Ardhi (formerly known as ILMIS—Integrated Land Management Information System) have digitised land administration processes, enabling efficient land registration, tenure documentation, and property data management. These platforms improve transparency, reduce risks of corruption, and support data-driven urban planning.

Additionally, community-driven innovations such as Ramani Huria, a collaborative mapping initiative in Dar es Salaam, empower local residents and students to map flood-prone settlements. By utilizing OpenStreetMap, drone imagery, drainage mapping, and GIS tools, Ramani Huria enhances flood preparedness and supports more inclusive and evidence-based urban planning.

Advancing clean and renewable energy in cities

Tanzania continues to make efforts in integrating clean and renewable energy into its urban infrastructure. The use of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems for public lighting and the increased adoption of electricity and gas for cooking in urban areas like Dar es Salaam contribute significantly to reducing the carbon footprint of cities. These efforts support the transition toward a green urban economy and are critical to minimising the environmental impacts of urbanisation.

Conclusively, through the integrated efforts of spatial planning, sustainable mobility, digital innovation, and the adoption of clean energy, Tanzania is steadily advancing toward the smart cities approach in support of the SDGs. These initiatives not only enhance urban efficiency and resilience, but also ensure more inclusive, climate-resilient, and liveable cities for future generations.

1.3.3 Biodiversity and ecosystem conservation

Aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems are increasingly impacted by climate change, with effects such as recurring droughts, deforestation, rising sea levels, and other indirect effects. In Tanzania, the degradation of ecosystems and the loss of biodiversity are largely driven by land degradation, which is influenced by both climate change and unsustainable human activities such as urban sprawl, overgrazing, deforestation, and poor agricultural practices. As a result, natural resources continue to decline in both quality and quantity. For example, in 2023, it was reported that native forest species like the Itigi thickets are at risk of extinction, primarily due to deforestation, invasive species, and the spread of unsustainable farming (the 4th National Environmental Status Report, 2024).

1.3.3.1 Waste reduction, reuse and recycling

Solid waste management

Recent data on solid waste generation shows that the country produces approximately 12.1 to 17.4 million tonnes of solid waste each year. This equates to about 0.66 to 0.95 kilograms per person per day, or roughly 241 to 347 kilograms per person annually. The composition of this solid waste is primarily organic, with food waste accounting for 37 per cent and garden/tree waste 30 per cent. Other components include paper (11 per cent), ash (8 per cent), plastics (7 per cent), glass (4 per cent), textiles (2 per cent), and metals and tins (1 per cent). Additional waste types, though smaller in volume, include electronic waste (about 0.5 per cent of total annual waste), as well as used lead-acid batteries and discarded tires.

Households are the largest contributors to solid waste, generating around 75 per cent of the total. Other significant sources include industries and commercial areas (20 per cent), markets (3.5 per cent), institutions (0.5 per cent), and street or roadside waste (0.5 per cent). In this context, it is estimated that between 50 and 70 per cent of the total solid waste produced is biodegradable. Table 12 below indicates the generation and distribution of solid waste in the major cities and towns.

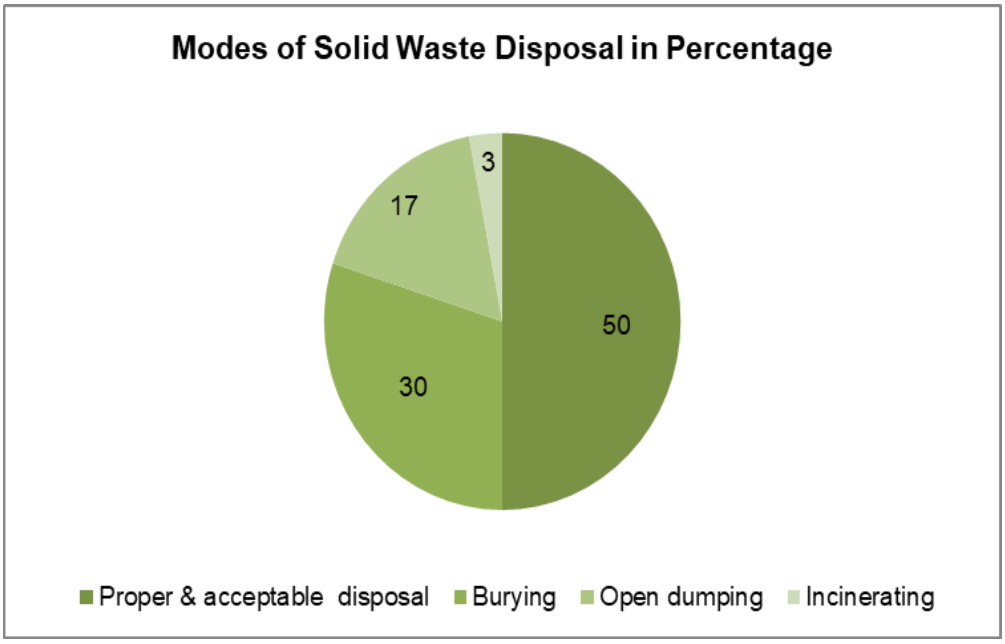
Table 12: Solid waste generation and its distribution in selected cities and towns

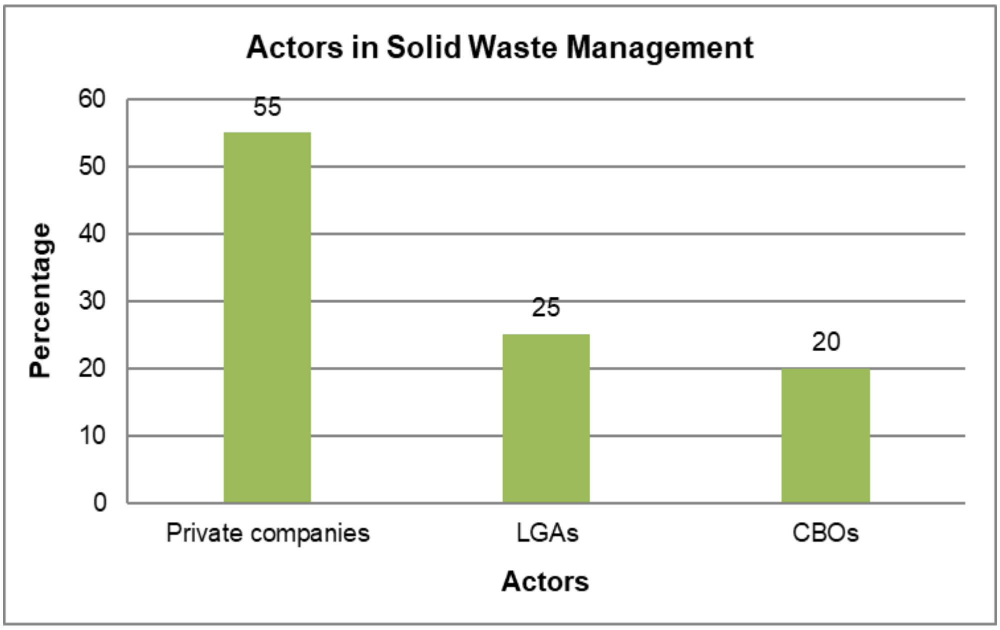
City	Generation (Tonnes/day)	Biodegradable (%)	Paper (%)	Glass (%)	Plastic (%)	Metal (%)	Others (%)
Arusha	338	56	9	4	18	2	11
Dar es Salaam	9000	44.5	12	9	22	0.5	12
Mbeya	380.57	79.58	3.01	2.34	5.36	3.24	6.47
Moshi	214.4	73.44	0.33	1.69	2.66	0.13	21.75
Dodoma	362	68	9	3	7	2	11
Tanga	217	17	9.10	4.31	11.23	9.49	3.91
Mwanza	357	60	5	5	10	0.2	19.8

Source: The Vice President’s Office, 2024

According to the Fourth National Environmental Status Report (2024), on average, only about 50 per cent of the generated solid waste is collected and disposed of in an environmentally acceptable manner. An estimated 30 per cent is buried, 17 per cent is indiscriminately dumped into the environment, and the remaining 3 per cent is incinerated. The key actors in solid waste management include private companies (55 per cent), Local Government Authorities (25 per cent), and Community Based Organizations (20 per cent). Urban municipal councils are responsible for collecting the largest proportion of solid waste, whereas district councils generally have lower collection rates. Generally, the efficiency of waste collection, transportation, and safe disposal varies considerably across different areas.

Figure 60: Modes and actors of solid waste disposal and management in Tanzania





Source: The Fourth National Environmental Status Report, August 2024

Regarding solid waste segregation, reports indicate that source-level separation remains minimal, particularly at the household level. Data from the 2022 National Population and Housing Census reveal that household level segregation is still low, with Katavi Region recording the highest rate at 26.69 per cent while Dar es Salaam ranks the lowest at just 3.71 per cent. Consequently, the majority of solid waste is collected in an unsorted, mixed form.

Recycling in the country is also largely informal, with only an estimated 5–10 per cent of solid waste being recycled (Table 13). Commonly recycled materials include plastics, paper, scrap metal, aluminium cans, and glass bottles. These efforts contribute to broader strategies for improving solid waste management and minimizing landfill use. For example, in 2023 alone, 262 companies and 87 individuals were registered to support the collection and export of approximately 268,500 tonnes of hazardous waste, including scrap metal, electronic waste, and waste oil.

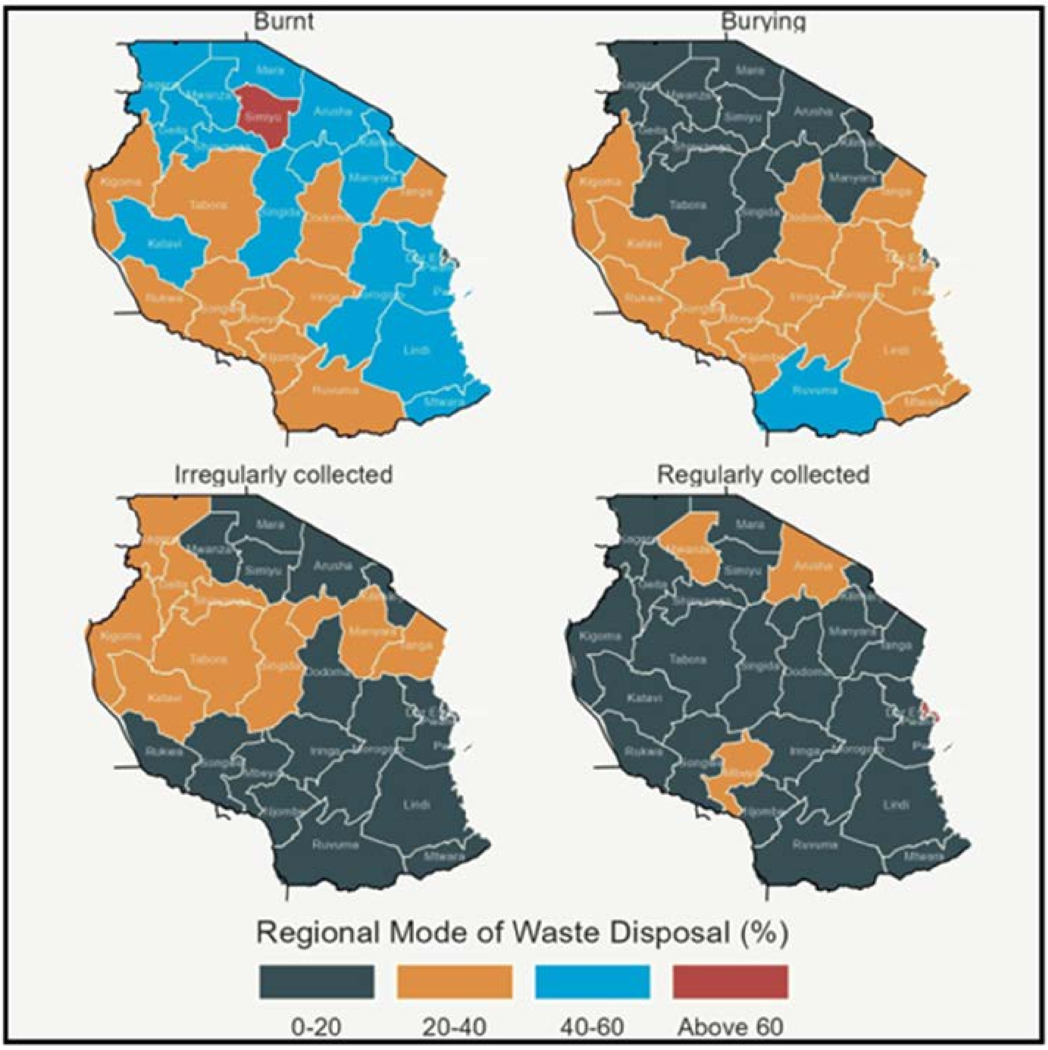
Table 13: Proportion of waste recycling in Tanzania

Type of Waste	Unit	Generation in 2022	Generation in 2023	Recycling Rate (%)
Plastic	Tonnes	150,000	165,000	20–30
Paper products	Tonnes	400,000	420,000	20–30
Electronic waste	Tonnes	250,000	300,000	5–10
Waste oil	Litres	25,000,000	20,000,000	115
Used batteries	Tonnes	10,000	13,000	20–30
Scrap metal	Tonnes	250,000	320,000	30–50

Source: National Environment Management Council, 2024

In Tanzania, it is estimated that over 90 per cent of solid waste is improperly disposed of. The main disposal methods include burning (incinerating), burying, irregular collection, and regular collection (Figure 61). To enhance solid waste management, the government has implemented several measures, including formulation and enactment of policies, laws, and regulations such as the Environmental Management Act (2004) and the Electronic Waste Management Regulations (2021). Additionally, the government has promoted public awareness campaigns, banned the importation and use of single-use plastic bags since 2019, and provided financial and innovation incentives to support waste recycling and reuse initiatives. The involvement of non-state actors in delivering solid waste management services has also been encouraged.

Figure 61: Modes of solid waste disposal in the country



Source: The Fourth National Environmental Status Report, August 2024

Wastewater management

According to the 4th National Environmental Status Report (2024), the country generates approximately 119 million litres of wastewater annually, equating to an average of 120 to 180 litres per person per day. The primary sources of this wastewater include households, institutions, commercial establishments, industries, and stormwater runoff.

As of 2023, 11 out of the 26 urban water authorities had established wastewater infrastructure, totalling 1,411.42 kilometres, an increase from 892.4 kilometres in 2019. In most municipalities, wastewater stabilization ponds (oxidation ponds) are the predominant treatment method, generally situated 10 to 30 kilometres from the sources of wastewater. A good example is the Vingunguti ponds in Dar es Salaam, located about 30 kilometres from densely populated areas such as Tegeta and Kimara.

Currently, only about 7.5 per cent of the urban population is connected to centralized sewer networks. To enhance the management of wastewater, the government has constructed 21 new wastewater treatment ponds in underserved areas and improved the existing systems through procurement and deployment of vacuum trucks for sludge collection and disposal.

1.3.3.2 Management of urban coastal areas

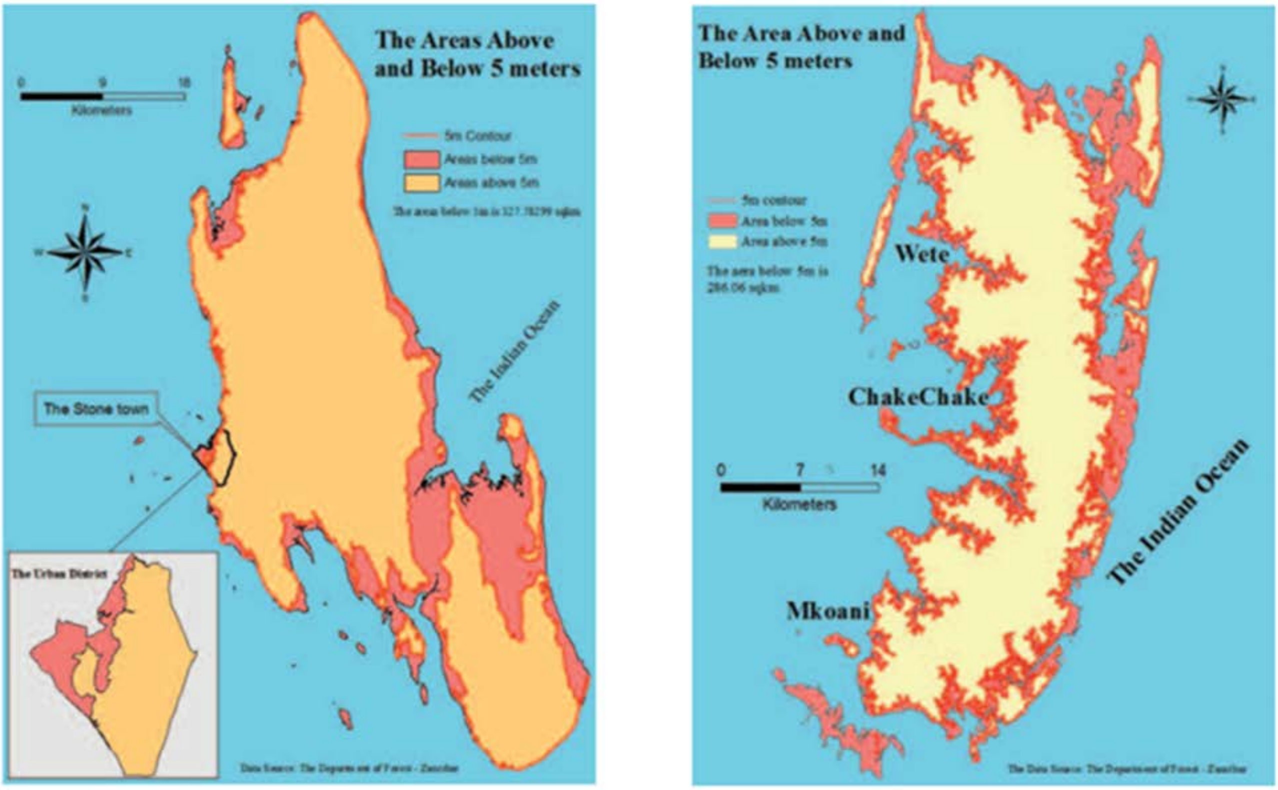
Climate change, combined with unsustainable human activities, has led to the degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems, reducing their ability to provide essential services and benefits. Climate change related impacts on these ecosystems include coastal erosion, rising sea levels, damage to coastal infrastructure and human settlements, saltwater intrusion into freshwater wells, and the deterioration of mangroves and coral reefs. Human induced pressures entail increased sedimentation from land-based activities, destruction of mangrove forests for charcoal production, construction, and boat building, as well as marine and coastal pollution. Additional threats include degradation from unplanned settlements and the construction of hotels along the coast, environmental damage caused by improper use of agrochemicals and fertilizers, and declining marine biodiversity due to unsustainable fishing practices. Figure 62 shows destruction of coral reefs in the coastal areas of Tanzania. The picture on top shows healthy corals while the one at the bottom shows bleached corals.

Figure 62: Destruction of coral reefs in Tanzania

Source: National Climate Change Response Strategy (2021-2026)

In Zanzibar (Tanzania Island), sea level rise is a major concern. Consistent with global projections, sea levels are expected to rise by 0.2 to 1.0 meters over the next century. This rise poses significant risks to many low lying areas across the islands (ZCCS, 2014). Figure 63 below shows areas that are prone to see level rise in the Islands of Unguja and Pemba. Around 20 per cent of Unguja and 30 per cent of Pemba are in the coastal lower elevation zone and highly vulnerable to see level rise.

Figure 63: Areas vulnerable to sea level rise in Unguja and Pemba Islands, Zanzibar



Source: Zanzibar Climate Change Strategy (2014) & Watkiss et al, 2012

Recognising the socio-economic value of coastal and marine ecosystems, particularly their role in supporting livelihoods and conserving biodiversity, the government, in collaboration with various stakeholders, has implemented several initiatives to ensure their sustainable use and management. A key milestone was the adoption of the National Integrated Coastal Environment Management Strategy (NICEMS) in 2003 which provided a policy framework for guiding the sustainable development of coastal and marine areas. In response to emerging challenges such as climate change and unsustainable human activities, the government has, in recent years, intensified its efforts through the introduction of various instruments, including the Environmental Management (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) Regulations, 2024, the Marine Spatial Planning and Blue Economy Policy Integration (2023–2034), the National Environmental Master Plan for Strategic Interventions (2022–2032), and the National Action Plan for Conservation of Marine Turtles (2024–2029).

1.3.3.3 Management of natural resources in urban areas

Tanzania covers an estimated total area of 948,740 square kilometres, of which 886,990 square kilometres is land. The Mainland accounts for 946,270 square kilometres, while Zanzibar comprises 2,470 square kilometres. In addition, 59,280 square kilometres consist of water bodies, including a marine territory extending up to 200 nautical miles into the Indian Ocean (National Land Policy 1995 (2023 Edition).

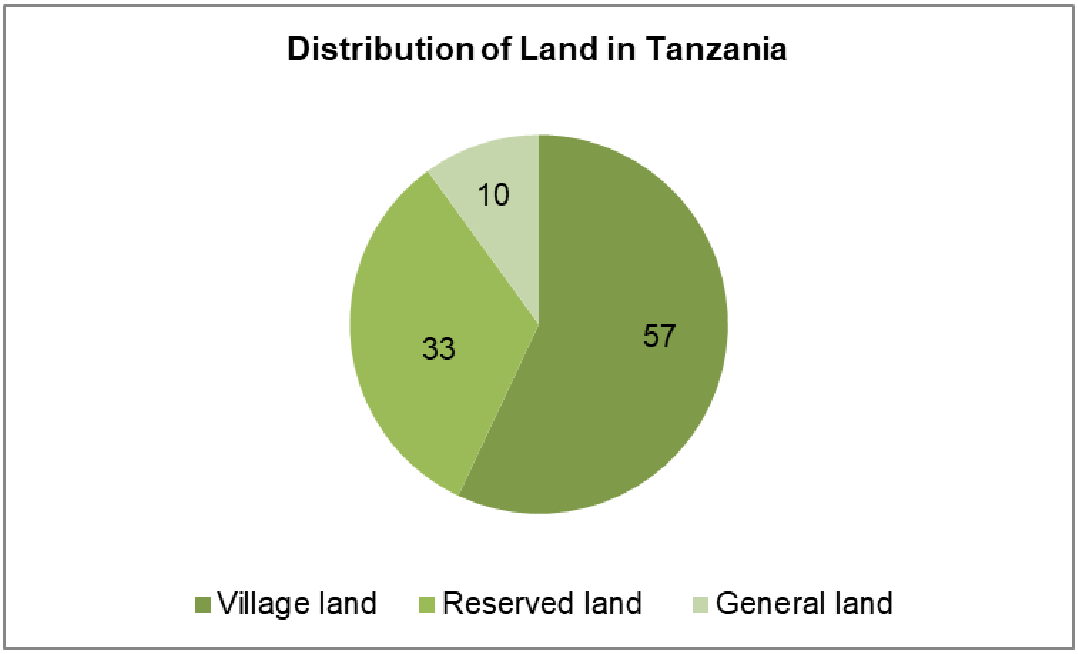
In response to the increasing concerns over ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss, largely attributed to climate change and unsustainable human activities, Tanzania has made significant progress in conserving ecologically important areas to promote environmental sustainability. For example, indicated in the National Environmental Conservation Policy (2021), between 2014 and 2021, a total of 1,213 water resources were identified and conserved. Among these, 133 were demarcated, and 18 were officially gazetted as protected water sources.

Further advancing its conservation agenda, in 2025, Tanzania expanded its marine protection efforts by declaring two new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) around Pemba Island, covering over 1,300 square kilometres. These MPAs play a critical role of safeguarding marine ecosystems, including coral reefs, seagrass beds, and mangrove forests, which serve as vital habitats for endangered species such as sharks and rays.

Land in Tanzania is generally classified into three main categories as defined in the National Land Policy of 1995 (2023 Edition): Village Land, comprising approximately 57 per cent of the total land area, Reserved Land, accounting for about 33 per cent, and General Land, which constitutes around 10 per cent. Reserved Land is specifically allocated for the protection of natural resources and ecosystems, including forests, national parks, wildlife reserves, game-controlled areas, and wetlands, marine reserves, open spaces, and water source systems. Figure 64 below illustrates the proportion of reserved land (protected areas) in Tanzania.

Collectively, these efforts reflect Tanzania's commitment to international frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA), reinforcing its role in advancing global environmental sustainability.

Figure 64: Proportion of reserved land (protected areas) in Tanzania



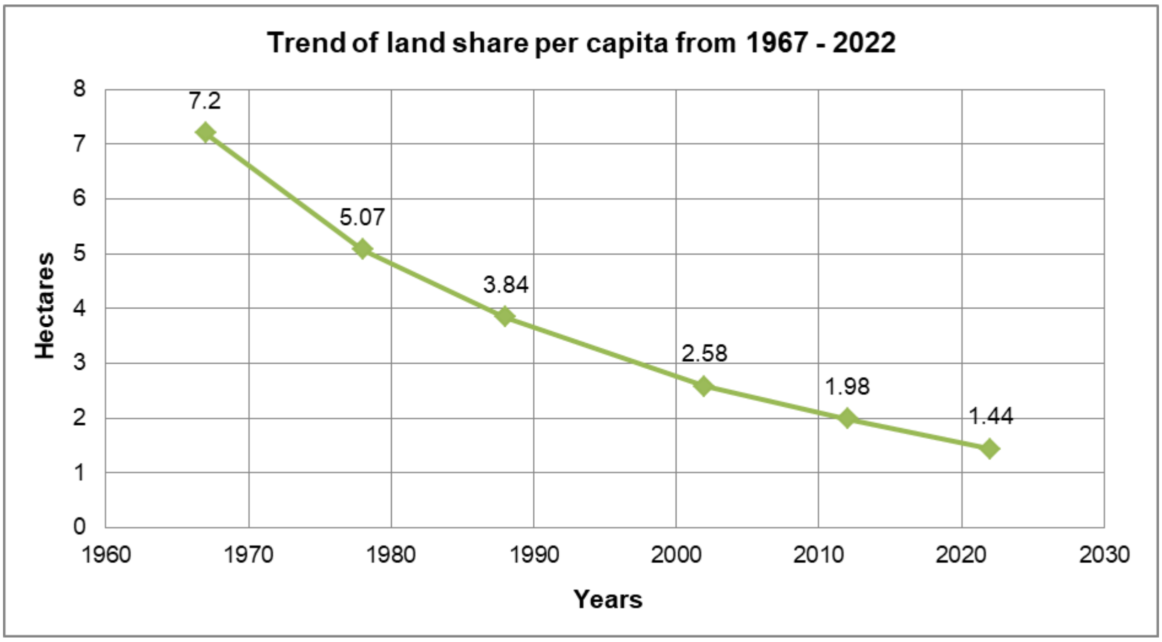
Source: The National Land Policy of 1995 (2023 Edition)

1.3.3.4 Minimisation of urban sprawl and loss of biodiversity

Statistics show that Tanzania's urban population has expanded dramatically over the decades, growing from 180,000 people in 1948 to 20,613,420 people, representing 34.9 per cent of the total population by 2022. A report published that same year by NBS projects that by 2050; approximately 68.4 per cent of the entire population (equivalent to 78,296,299 people) will reside in urban areas.

This rapid growth of population, combined with accelerating urbanisation, has significantly reduced the average amount of land available per person, commonly referred to as land share per capita. According to data from the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development (MLHHSD), assuming equal distribution, the average urban land share per person was approximately 7.2 hectares in 1967. This steadily declined to 5.07 hectares in 1978, 3.84 hectares in 1988, 2.58 hectares in 2002, 1.98 hectares in 2012, and further dropped to just 1.44 hectares per person by 2022 (Figure 65). If this trend continues, planning and allocation of land or plots in emerging urban areas will become unsustainable by 2050, as no surplus land will remain within current urban boundaries for individual allocation. Meanwhile, Zanzibar also faces intense land pressure, with an average population density of 530 people per square kilometre, comparable to the highest national population densities in Africa (ZCCS, 2014).

Figure 65: Land share per capita from 1967 to 2022



Source: Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, 2025

Rapid urbanization in Tanzania has brought several key challenges, including urban sprawl, growing number of informal settlements, encroachment of water catchment and other protected areas, the urban heat island effect due to increased built up areas, overexploitation of natural resources, pollution, and loss of biodiversity.

In response to these negative externalities, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has taken various measures to manage urbanisation and protect biodiversity. Among those efforts is the development and implementation of 28 city master plans, including the Dodoma National Capital Master Plan (2019–2039), Dar es Salaam Master Plan (2016–2036), Arusha City Master Plan (2015–2035), and the Mbeya City Master Plan (2019–2039). Additionally, the government has focused on land use planning, surveying, titling, and regularisation of informal settlements to promote orderly urban development. To further manage urbanisation and mitigate its impacts, the government is preparing to implement a land readjustment initiative known as the Urban Redevelopment Planning Programme – Tanzania (2026–2030), intended to be carried out in 111 areas across 24 regions, covering approximately 24,309 hectares in eligible cities, towns, and municipalities targeted for urban renewal and redevelopment.

PART TWO

2.1 Effective implementation

Tanzania has made notable progress in the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) by strengthening its urban governance structures and developing supportive policies and legal framework that promotes inclusive, participatory, and accountable urban management. The government, through the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development (MLHHSD), has enhanced spatial development planning by preparing, approving and implementing general planning schemes, detail Planning Schemes and settlements regularization initiatives to address challenges of informal urban expansion. Tanzania has leveraged both domestic revenues and external sources, including support from development partners and private sector to fund urban infrastructure and services. The country also has invested in capacity development to local authorities and urban planning professionals through training, technical assistance, and knowledge-sharing platforms. Use of technology and innovation has also been advanced by the adoption of digital land information systems, GIS-based planning tools, and smart city pilot initiatives to improve service delivery, land management, and evidence-based decision-making. All these efforts reflect strong national commitment to sustainable, inclusive, and resilient urban development as it aligns with the NUA vision. This part shows how Tanzania has effectively implemented the NUA from 2002 to June 2025.

2.1.1 Building the urban governance structure: establishing a supportive framework

Tanzania has operationalised supportive urban governance framework by strengthening institutional mandates, fiscal autonomy, legal instruments, technical capacity, participatory processes, and gender inclusion: In managing urbanisation in the country, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development (MLHHSD) develops urban development policies, laws, regulations and guidelines while the Presidents' Office Local Government and Regional Administration(PO-RALG) facilitates implementations of the urban planning policies on the ground through Local Government Authorities (LGA's). The following sections provide details through which urban governance operates.

2.1.1.1 Decentralisation of responsibilities to sub-national and local governance

Tanzania has a long history of decentralisation and administration through local governments from independence era to the present day. Decentralisation was fundamentally adhered to shifts power, control, responsibility, resources, and accountability from central to local levels. The government initiated the D by D Policy in 1998 which marked the beginning of ambitious local government reform programs. D by D has laid out an institutional framework for the devolution of functional responsibilities and discretionary powers of planning, budgeting, administration and organisation of service delivery. In the urban management process, urban local government authorities have maintained a subordinate role to the central for most functions.

Similarly, existing laws since then, the Local Government (Urban Authorities) Act No. 8 of 1982 and the Local Government (District Authorities) Act No. 9 of 1982 provided a foundation for the decentralisation of urban planning, management, and service delivery responsibilities to Local Government Authorities (LGAs) (URT, 1982a; URT, 1982b). In addition, the existing Urban Planning Act cap 355 has reshaped urban land use planning systems in the country and entrusted the urban local authorities to undertake such functions.

At the regional and district levels, the government has strengthened administrative structures, including Full councils with elected councillors, ward development committees, and street-level (Mtaa) governance systems. These decentralized institutions have enabled community participation in decision-making and service delivery, as envisioned in the Local Government Acts (URT, 1982a; URT, 1982b).

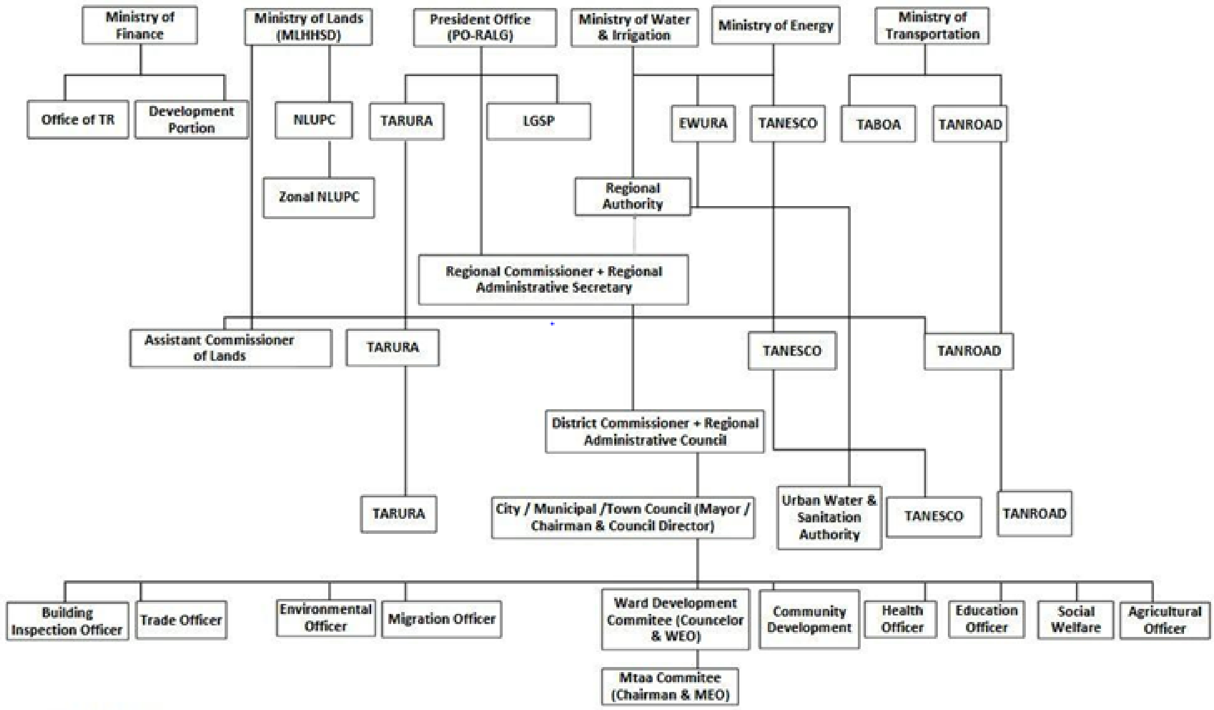
Organisation structure and related coordination from central to local government

The government has assigned its central responsibilities of overall strategic direction, set up of the national policy priorities and ratification of major legislation to the Central Executive Authorities including the President’s Office and Cabinet. The Cabinet decisions are binding on all government arms. Under the Cabinet, there is a suite of sectorial ministries developed to issue sector-specific policies, standards and guidelines. Under these ministries are several agencies such as the Tanzania Meteorological Authority, and the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA), Tanzania Electricity Supply Cooperation (TANESCO) to mention a few which contribute to urban development and management. These Bodies prepare sector plans, draft regulations and allocate budget envelopes to LGAs in line with national objectives.

The Ministry under, President’s Office–Regional Administration & Local Government (PO-RALG) is established to consolidate fiscal ceilings and policy directives from all ministries, issuing grant formulas and circulars that govern LGA operations. It monitors compliance with national standards, approves LGA plans, and channels conditional and unconditional transfers to councils. It monitors compliance with national standards, approves LGA plans, and channels conditional and unconditional transfers to councils.

As of 2023/24 audit cycle, there were 184 LGAs nationwide legally mandated to prepare local development plans, levy specified local taxes, and manage primary education, health, water, sanitation and local roads. There are Sub-council units under each LGA namely wards, Mitaa (urban sub-wards) and villages. Ward Development Committees and Village Councils serve as local forums for participatory planning and oversight. Figure 66 shows the country's organisation structures and the link to urban governance.

Figure 66: Organisation structure linkage from central to local government



Source: PO-RALG, 2022

2.1.1.2 Linking urban policies to finance mechanisms and budget

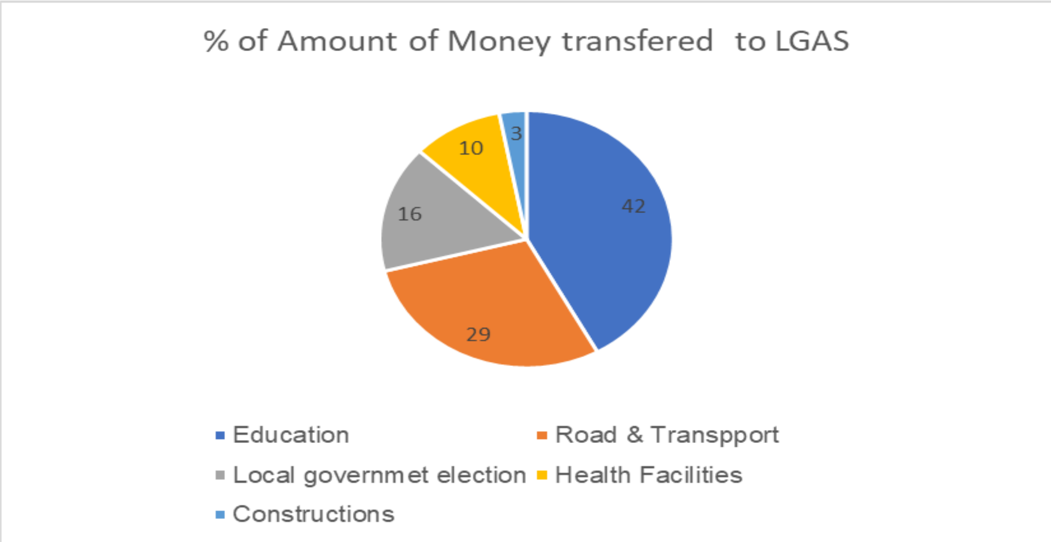
Tanzania has pursued integrated urban policies by linking planning to public budgets. For example, in 2010sTanzania's Mainland Local Government Reform Programme shifted viable revenue sources to local councils and introduced a formula based grant system (now the Local Government Development Grant (LGDG). This performance based grant links infrastructure funding to planning and governance. For the programme to be effectively monitored, the government has set planning and financial management benchmarks for the local government to qualify to receive LGDG funds. Among the efforts made by the Government is to amend some acts to enable ease and smoothness of fund transfers and management processes.

Under the LGDG system, each council is requires to meet "minimum conditions and performance measures" in planning, budgeting and governance. By 202, this system covered almost all districts in Tanzania mainland. Similarly, the Regional Administration Authority Act 1998 of Zanzibar (amended) now formalizes transfers and local revenue-raising. Section 34 of the Act tasks local councils to collect service fees and allows the Finance Minister to allocate additional funds to towns. This was intended to "build local government capacity and establish a sound financial base" for urban services.

On other hand, budget sharing and priorities from the central government to local government shows a strong mechanism in service delivery to meet the development goals of the country and nation. Local Government Authorities (LGAs) in Tanzania receive over 90% of their budgets through transfers from the central government, with only 10–15% generated from local sources such as property tax, business licenses, and service levies (PO-RALG, 2024). Although LGAs have legal authority to determine their development priorities, their fiscal autonomy remains limited due to conditional grants and centrally defined budget ceilings.

To improve financial independence, the government introduced the Local Government Revenue Collection Information System (LGRCIS) and e-payment platforms, which have improved revenue collection and transparency (URT, 2019). For the year 2024/2025, the government transferred a total of TZS. 1,594.28 Billion for some urgently and prioritised need such as education, road and transportation infrastructure, coordination and oversight of local governments election to local Authorities as part of the funds from the Local Government Development Grant (LGDG) (PO-RALG, 2024) in the ratio described in Figure 67.

Figure 67: Funding from central government to LGAs, financial year 2024/25



Source: URT, 2024

2.1.1.3 Legal and policy frameworks for enhancing implementation of urban policies

The governance structure for urban planning in Tanzania operates under a decentralized system. The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development (MLHHSD) leads the formulation of land and urban development policies, prepares spatial plans, and establishes technical standards for urban planning. The President's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) plays a vital coordinating role between central and local government institutions, ensuring that urban plans are aligned with national goals and implemented effectively by Local Government Authorities (LGAs). Urban planning and implementation responsibilities are devolved to LGAs, which include city, municipal, town, and district councils. These local institutions are empowered to develop, approve, and enforce urban plans and enact by-laws through their elected councils. Their mandates are further supported by Regional Secretariats that facilitate coordination between central government and LGAs. Additionally, the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) and urban planning committees contribute technical guidance and oversight.

To guide the planning process at all spatial scales, The National Human Settlements Development Policy (2000) under review remains a key guiding document in promoting orderly urban and rural settlements. It encourages participatory planning, adequate shelter, access to services, and environmental sustainability. Several national development frameworks support urban planning priorities. The Five-Year Development Plan III (2021–2026) emphasizes investment in urban infrastructure, improved land administration, housing development, and sustainable service delivery. The National Land Policy 1995 (R.E 2023) and National Transport Policy also provide policy direction to integrate urban mobility, land use, and economic development.

The legal framework regulating urban development is anchored in several major laws. The Urban Planning Act No. 8 of 2007 is the principal legislation governing urban planning and land use management in Tanzania. It provides for the preparation, approval, implementation, and enforcement of general planning schemes, detailed planning schemes (DPS), and zoning regulations. It also sets the framework for participatory planning processes, public consultation, and the establishment of planning authorities.

In a complement to the aforementioned Acts, also the Land Use Planning Act Cap 116 was enacted to govern planning in rural areas and supports the interface between urban and peri-urban development. The Local Government (District Authorities and Urban Authorities) Acts of 1982 grant LGAs the authority to enact by-laws, manage land and services, and enforce development control measures within their jurisdictions. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania enacted the Town Planners Registration Act No. 7 of 2007 which introduced registration of Town planners and Town planning firms that undertake private land use planning work and expounds implementation of PPP policies in the country.

Land ownership and registration are governed by the Land Act No. 4 of 1999 and the Village Land Act No. 5 of 1999, which categorise land into general, reserved, and village lands. These laws establish tenure security, land allocation, dispute resolution, and compensation mechanisms. The Environmental Management Act No. 20 of 2004 ensures that environmental assessments are incorporated into planning and infrastructure development, and guides cities in maintaining ecological balance amid urban growth.

To support planning and service delivery, Tanzania has developed a range of national, regional, and local planning instruments. These include the National Land Use Framework Plan, Regional Spatial Development Frameworks, Urban Master Plans, Strategic Urban Development Plans, and Village Land Use Plans. At the local level, LGAs prepare Detailed Planning Schemes (DPS) and regularization plans to improve land tenure and infrastructure provision in unplanned settlement.

Urban development financing in Tanzania is largely reliant on central government transfers to LGAs, which comes in the form of conditional and unconditional grants. Development partners such as the World Bank, African Development Bank, and UN-Habitat support urban projects and planning initiatives through programmes like the Urban Local Government Strengthening Programme (ULGSP) and the Tanzania Strategic Cities Project (TSCP), TACTIC and LTIP to mention a few. Local governments are authorised to collect revenue from property taxes, business licenses and service levies.

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) are emerging as a viable alternative financing model, especially in urban transport, housing, and waste management sectors. Legal provisions such as the Public Finance Act (2001) and the Public Procurement Act (2011) establish procedures for financial accountability, procurement, and project monitoring. The Local Government Finances Act (1982) further mandates LGAs to prepare and implement their budgets while adhering to the principles of fiscal discipline and transparency.

Tanzania is gradually adopting an evidence-based approach to urban planning, incorporating data and spatial analysis into decision-making processes. The National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) facilitates the integration of mapping, land information, and planning datasets across ministries and LGAs. The Integrated Land Management Information System (ILMIS) supports digitised land registration, helping reduce disputes and improve land use monitoring. Cities like Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, and Arusha have GIS units that are actively engaged in preparing plans, zoning regulations, and land audits.

These systems enable planners to model population growth, simulate infrastructure needs, and visualise land development patterns. The use of Participatory GIS (PGIS) in informal settlements and village land use planning empowers communities to engage in shaping their environments. Academic Institutions such as Ardhi University and the University of Dar es Salaam, along with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), play a key role in research and data provision. For example, the Greater Dodoma Master Plan (2019–2039) was developed using empirical data including population forecasts, environmental risk assessments, and traffic flow analysis.

Nonetheless, the use of digital planning tools is limited to major urban centres, with smaller towns still reliant on manual systems. There is also a shortage of trained personnel to interpret and apply data in the planning process. Bridging this capacity gap is critical to mainstreaming evidence-based planning across all LGAs. Incorporating community engagement into planning remains central to the NUA and Tanzanian frameworks. Mechanisms such as Ward development committees, *Mtaa* (neighbourhood) assemblies, and village councils support bottom-up planning and enhance transparency and accountability. However, participatory planning processes are often constrained by limited budgets, technical know-how, and weak integration of local inputs into final plans.

Generally, the country has made significant progress in aligning its governance structures with the objectives of the New Urban Agenda. The country's policy and legal frameworks provide a strong foundation for guiding urban development. Decentralisation has empowered LGAs to lead implementation, and emerging spatial planning tools offer opportunities for more data-driven and participatory approaches.

2.1.1.4 Building capacity for sub-national and local governments to implement local and metropolitan multi-level governance

Tanzania has systematically equipped sub-national and local authorities to enact the New Urban Agenda's multilevel governance commitments. Under the leadership of the President's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government (PO□RALG), and in partnership with the Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT) and sector ministries, over 1,200 regional and municipal planners, councillors, and technical officers have been trained in GIS, participatory planning, and fiscal management since 2022 to 2025. The Improved Opportunities and Obstacles to Development (Improved O&OD) tool, rolled out to all 184 Local Government Authorities (LGAs), has institutionalised community-driven ward -level consultations—drawing in youth, women, and vulnerable groups—to co-create spatial plans that reflect local priorities. These capacity-building and participatory mechanisms, together with clarified intergovernmental roles defined by PO- RALG, have strengthened LGA autonomy and coordination.

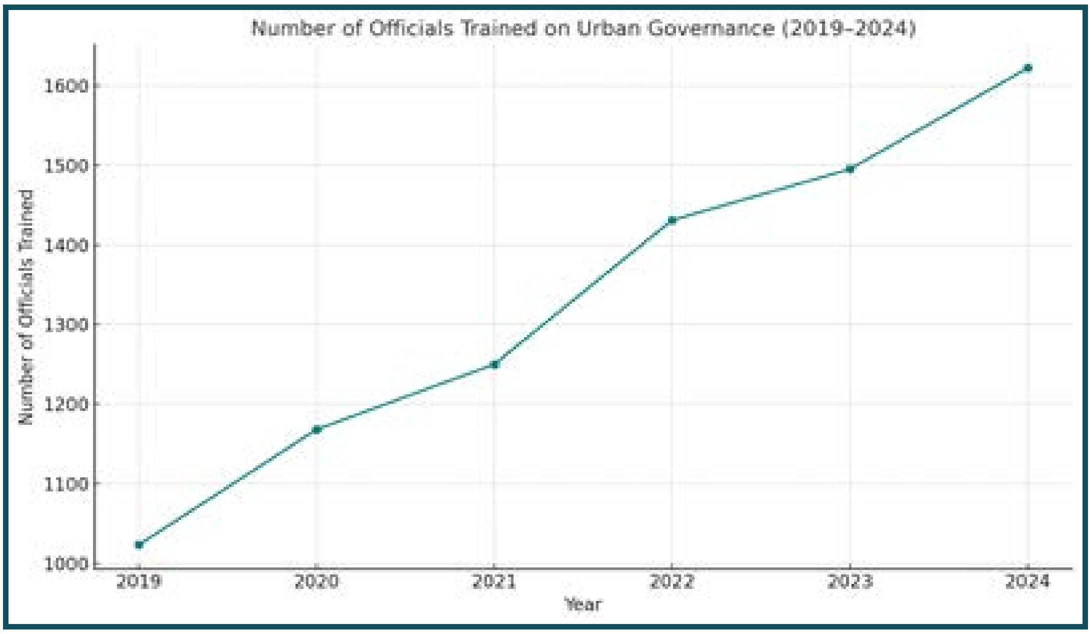
Moreover, Tanzania has invested in sub-national capacities and multilevel coordination. On the Mainland, the performance-linked LGDG program (see above) itself acts as a capacity tool: it has "gone a long way in fostering efficiency and effectiveness enhancing the performance capacity of local governments" Councils to expand infrastructure and services by accessing these grants, but only after achieving good financial management, participatory budgeting and transparency targets. In Zanzibar, complementary efforts have focused on data and tools. Notably, a 2023–24 pilot by the Tony Blair Institute and Planet Labs trained more than 50 government officials in geographic information systems and satellite mapping. A GIS consultant was outsourced in the Zanzibar Planning Commission and dozens of technical workshops were held (involving ministries of Health, Finance, etc.), to apply geospatial data in planning (coastal erosion, urban growth, etc.). Likewise, in May 2025 UNFPA (with the EU) launched a high-level DEGURBA workshop in Dar es Salaam to institutionalise new urban data standards nationally (Table 13). These initiatives (data systems, training, new spatial tools) expressly aim at building professional skills and analytical capacity in local/regional governments, so that planning and budgeting can be more evidence based (Figure 68).

Table 14: Number of officials trained on local governance (2019-2024)

Year	Number of Officials Trained
2019	1,023
2020	1,168
2021	1,250
2022	1,431
2023	1,495
2024	1,622

Source: PO-RALG Annual Training Report, 2024

Figure 68: Number of officials trained on urban governance (2019-2024)



Source: PO-RALG Annual Training Report, 2024

2.1.1.5 Participatory age and gender responsive approaches to urban policies and planning

Tanzania's framework mandates community input at the neighbourhood level. Under the Local Government (Urban Authorities) Act, each city/town is divided into mitaa (neighborhoods), which hold bimonthly meetings and elect six member committees (at least two women) to advise on local development. In the past five years the government has strengthened these offices by appointing Executive officers to ensure follow-up on council and mtaa decisions. On the other hand, Zanzibar has emphasized multi-stakeholder dialogue. In late 2021 UN-Habitat and the Zanzibar Lands Commission organized validation workshops in each region (Unguja and Pemba) that involved115 participants from government, NGOs, civil society and academia. Participants reviewed urban-rural linkage analyses and "gave additional reviews and recommendations on policy, projects, and possible initiatives" feeding directly into the draft Zanzibar Urban Policy. This process, invoking NUA's "no one and no place behind" vision, exemplifies an age and gender-inclusive approach: stakeholders were asked to consider the needs of women, youth and marginalised groups, and sessions were structured with small focus groups for open dialogues.

Moreover, the study discovered that recent healthcare perception results show 68% of respondents expressing satisfaction with government efforts in basic healthcare service provision (two in three citizens citing positive performance—an experience-proximate sectorial proxy) UN habitat, 2024. Local authority case evidence (Mbeya City Council field survey) reports high affirmative satisfaction indicators (e.g., 87.7% agree/strongly agree service performed right first time; majority perceive courtesy and reliability), illustrating variability and potential higher satisfaction pockets when service process quality is strong (Table 15). A broader multi-service academic study found an average 42.8 per cent satisfaction versus 41.2 per cent dissatisfaction across 16 examined public services, underscoring cross -sector heterogeneity and a sizable neutrality/dissatisfaction share that the composite UMF-68 must capture.

Studies on citizen participation and service quality indicate dissatisfaction correlates with perceived weak participatory channels and responsiveness—highlighting governance process factors influencing experience satisfaction.

Table 15: Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services

Year	Source & Question Proxy	% Satisfied / Approving
2018	Byaro, Citizen's Satisfaction with Public Services & Willingness to Pay Taxes in Tanzania (IRDP Brief) – Average satisfaction across 16 public services	42.8% satisfied
2019 (survey R7/2018 data published 2019)	Afrobarometer Dispatch AD271 Public service delivery in Tanzania: Fewer problems and bribes, improved satisfaction	Improved satisfaction cited across health, water, electricity, education vs 2014; dispatch reports declines in problems/delays/bribe-paying and increased approval of gov't performance; numeric sector results in PDF (see source).
~2023 (reported)	UNDP Integrated SDG Insights (Target 16.6) – "Approx. 54.7% of the population expresses satisfaction with the public services they receive."	54.7% satisfied
2024 (Jun-Jul fieldwork, R10)	Afrobarometer Round 10 Summary of Results – % saying gov't handling Fairly well + Very well (approval) of basic service sectors: Health 68.1%, Education 80.6%, Water & Sanitation 64.1%, Electricity 68.4%. Simple unweighted average composite 70.3% shown in chart (for indicative trend only).	64-81% sector approvals; composite 70.3%

2.1.1.6 Women participation and representation in governance

The 2000 amended Local Government Act and related laws introduced affirmative quotas: women must occupy at least one-third of seats on each District Council and one quarter of seats on all township or village councils. In practice, women's representation has exceeded these targets. For example, in the 2020/21 Parliament women held about 36–38% of seats (148 of 392 in Dec 2024), marking one of the highest shares in Africa. Similarly, about 30–40 per cent of cabinet ministers have been women in recent years. In Zanzibar's own legislature, a special Women's Twibuka unit reserves half the seats for women's candidates. Beyond quotas, both Mainland and Zanzibar governments have supported women's leadership programs and gender-sensitive planning units (UN Women, 2024)

Women's representation in local government has improved due to affirmative action measures provided by the Local Government (District Authorities and Urban Authorities) Acts. By 2025, women held 36.8 per cent of councillor seats in LGAs and 41.5 per cent of leadership positions in Mitaa committees, exceeding the constitutional quota of one-third representation (UN Women Tanzania, 2025). National efforts, such as leadership mentorship programmes supported by the Ministry of Community Development and UN Women, have empowered women to participate actively in local decision-making.

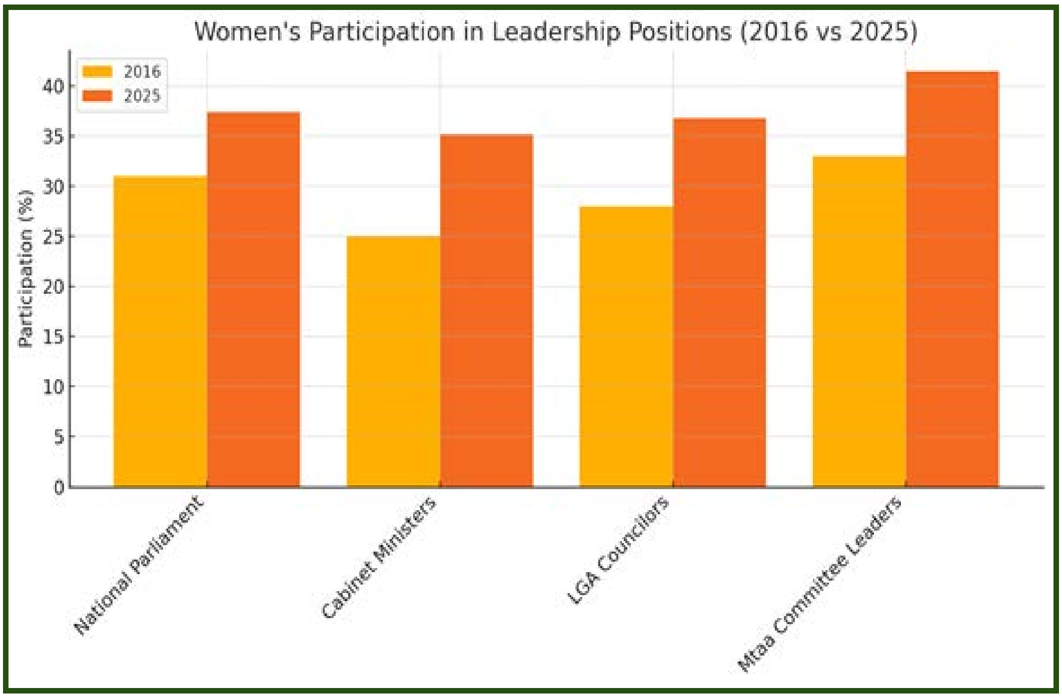
Gender and diversity representation in public institutions and government has seen progressive growth (Table 16 and Figure 69). As of 2025, women hold 37.4 per cent of parliamentary seats, 35.2 per cent of ministerial positions, and 36.8 per cent of local councillor seats (UN Women Tanzania, 2025). Efforts are also being made to include youth and persons with disabilities, with targeted recruitment in LGAs and civil service reforms to ensure inclusivity. For instance, 10 per cent of new recruits in LGAs in 2024 were under the age of 30, and the Public Service Recruitment Secretariat has implemented guidelines to promote equitable hiring practices.

Table 16: Growth in women's participation in leadership position (2016-2025)

Position	2016	2025
National Parliament	31%	37.4%
Cabinet Ministers	25%	35.2%
LGA Councillors	28%	36.8%
Mtaa Committee Leaders	33%	41.5%

Source: UN Women Tanzania, 2025

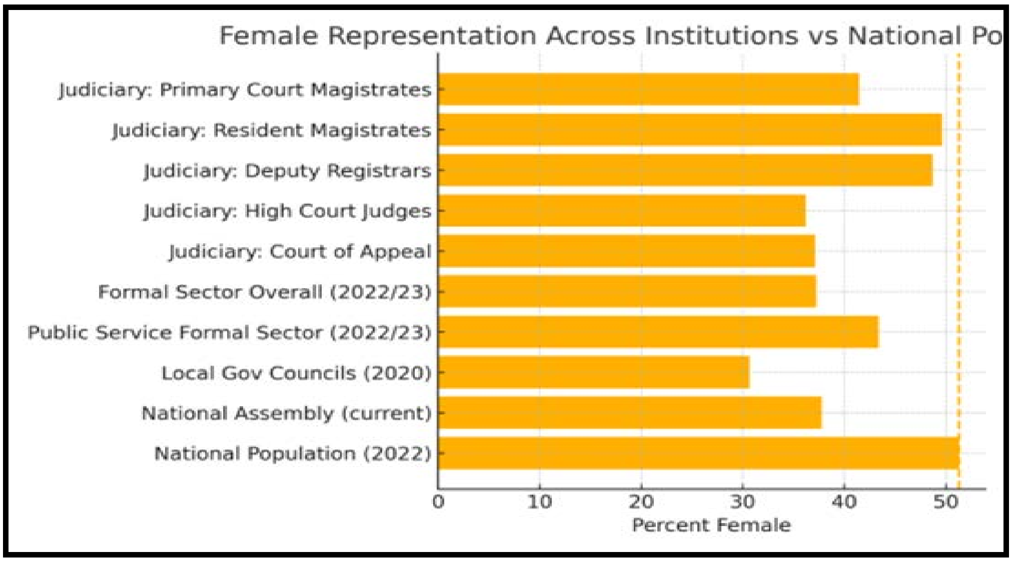
Figure 69: Women's participation in leadership positions (2016-2025)



Source: UN Women Tanzania, 2025

As of the 2022 Population and Housing Census (PHC), women constitute 51.3 per cent of the national population. In contrast, women hold 37.8 per cent of seats in the National Assembly, 30.7 per cent of elected local government seats,and 43.4 per cent of positions in the public component of the formal sector workforce. Female representation varies widely across levels of the judiciary: 37 per cent in the Court of Appeal, 36 per cent among High Court judges, 49 per cent among Deputy Registrars, parity (≈50%) among Resident Magistrates, and 41 per cent among Primary Court Magistrates for example (Figure 70). Youth (15–35) account for 34.5 per cent of the population but 66.7 per cent of regular employees in the formal sector, underscoring how Tanzania's labour market is heavily youth-driven. Persons with disabilities made up about 9.3 per cent of the population aged 70 years and above at the last full disability enumeration (2012 PHC); yet they represent only 0.4 per cent of regular formal-sector employees overall (0.7% in the public sector; 0.3% in the private sector).

Figure 70: Female representation across selected institutions relative to national population share (dashed line)



Source: UN Women, 2024

On the other hand, the 2022/23 EES enumerated 3,717,980 formal-sector employees in the United Republic of Tanzania: 2,577,534 (69.3%) in the private sector and 1,140,446 (30.7%) in the public sector. Women constitute 37.3 per cent of all formal-sector employees. In the public sector specifically (central & local government plus parastatal organisations), women account for 43.4 per cent of employees (494,803 of 1,140,446). Female share is slightly higher in central and local government (43.8%) than in parastatal (37.0%).

Age structure: Youth (15–35) make up 66.7% of regular formal-sector employees, compared with 34.5% of the national population. Casual employment is even more youth-concentrated at 86.2%. The formal sector therefore draws disproportionately from younger cohorts relative to their population weight. Persons with Disabilities (PWD): Among regular formal-sector employees, 14,890 individuals self-identified as having a disability (0.4% of regular employees). Public employers account for 7,682 PWD (0.7%), nearly double the prevalence observed in the private sector (7,208; 0.3%). Men comprise 8,511 (57.2%) and women 6,379 (42.8%) of PWD employees.

2.1.2 Planning and Managing of Urban Spatial Development

Tanzania has made significant strides in strengthening the planning and management of its cities and towns. At the national level, the government has reinforced urban policy and legal frameworks. The Human Settlements Development Policy (2000) under review and Urban Planning Act (2007) establish a hierarchical planning system (cities, municipalities, town councils, districts) and oblige planning authorities to oversee land use and development within their jurisdictions. In 2016, amendments to the ministerial functions act mandated the President's Office – Regional and Local Government (PO-RALG) to draft a comprehensive National Urban Policy. These reforms are backed by a National Spatial Development Strategy (NSDS) and regional spatial plans (completed in 2014–15) that provide an evidence-based territorial framework. All major cities now have up-to-date spatial plans and hazard maps. For example, Tanzania reports that 100% of its six largest cities have climate and earthquake hazard maps integrated into their general and detailed planning schemes. In short, Tanzania has built a solid policy foundation and mapping infrastructure to guide balanced and risk-aware urban growth.

The government has pursued compact, connected and coordinated (3Cs) urban development to harness agglomeration economies (e.g. scale economies in infrastructure and clustering of industries). In line with this vision, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development (MLHHSD) has overseen the preparation and approval of numerous General Planning Schemes (Master Plans) for cities, municipalities and towns (Table 17). The government reports approving 28 General Planning Schemes for urban authorities since the New Urban Agenda was adopted. These plans incorporate compact growth (higher densities and mixed uses), connected infrastructure, and coordinated governance across jurisdictions. Currently, the government has achieved the following in urban spatial planning.

Table 17: Key achievements in urban spatial planning, Tanzania (2016-2025)

Indicator	Achieved value
National urban policy	National Land policy 1995 revised (RE 2023)
General planning schemes approved	28 master plans (cities & towns)
Informal settlements regularised (Mitaa)	2,256 Mitaa (streets/ sub-wards)
Number of parcels planned in regularisation	2,774,540 parcels (housing properties)
Total Number of surveyed parcels in the country (Rural and Urban)	6,102,025 land parcels
Total number of issued tittles (secured tenure) in the country	4,059,609 Tittles

Source: MLHHSD, 2025

2.1.2.1 Integrated and balance territorial development policies

Tanzania's legal and policy framework has reinforced territorial planning across administrative levels. The Urban Planning Act (2007) establishes a hierarchy of planning authorities (City, Municipal, Town, and District councils) responsible for land use in their jurisdictions. This law is supported by higher-level policies (e.g. the 2000 Human Settlements Policy) and development plans: The Second National Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP II, 2016/17–2020/21) and FYDP III (2021/22–2025/26) emphasise on urban and industrial development as national priorities. In 2019 the government, with partners, launched the "Urbanisation Road-map" for an urban development policy, laying groundwork for a future National Urban Policy. This road-map highlights coordinated land surveying, tenure upgrading, land zoning, and infrastructure provision as core to urban strategy. During 2019–2025, related reforms have included ongoing process of developing Land Commission which shall integrate land use, infrastructure and fiscal policies to harness urban agglomeration benefits.

Considering the country's population which grew to 61.7 million in 2022, with an average national population density of about 70 persons per km²; however, the spatial pattern is highly uneven: Dar es Salaam averaged ~3,865 persons/km², Mwanza ~391, while low-density regions such as Lindi (~18) and Katavi (~25) illustrate the country's vast settlement contrasts. In Zanzibar, Mjini Magharibi reached ~3,883 persons/km². Nationally, 34.9% of the population now lives in urban areas (up roughly five percentage points over the last intercensal period), sharpening pressure on serviced land, infrastructure, and housing in fast-urbanising corridors.

Principally, land-use mix is an integral to the planning and management of urban spatial development, ensuring that residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational functions coexist in a balanced and sustainable way. Under the National Land-Use Framework Plan (2013–2033), the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development (MLHHSD) requires each municipality's Physical Development Scheme (PDS) to designate mixed-use zones, where permitted land-use categories overlap to promote walkability, reduce commuting times, and foster economic diversification. For example, Dar es Salaam's 2019–2024 Master Plan predesigned key corridors—such as Ubungo and Kimara—as mixed-use growth nodes, combining housing, small-scale industry, and green public spaces that serve both local residents and businesses.

Attaining the publicly accessible to residents (on-line) on urban plans and designs in between 2018 and 2025, Tanzania made remarkable progress in enhancing online public access to urban plans and designs through the Integrated Land Management Information System (ILMIS) and the TAUSI Portal (Table 18). ILMIS, piloted in Dar es Salaam in 2018, integrated cadastral surveying, land registration, town planning, and parcel valuation into a centralised platform, and by 2024 it had expanded to 23 regions and 96 district land offices, enabling citizens to access land titles, cadastral maps, and plot data online. The government aims for ILMIS to achieve full coverage across 26 regions and 184 Local Government Authorities (LGAs) by 2025 Similarly, the TAUSI Portal, launched in 2023 under PO-RALG/TAMISEMI, offers municipal-level online services including building permit applications, plot allocations, planning certificates, and levy payments. By 2024, TAUSI had extended to 185 LGAs, promoting transparency and efficiency in urban development processes tausi.tamisemi.go.tz).

Furthermore, Tanzania's 2024–2034 Digital Economy Strategic Framework introduced interconnected systems—such as e-WATUMISHI, PEPMIS, PIPMIS, e-MREJESHO, and HRA—which enhance data integration between ILMIS and TAUSI, and plans to develop a national geo-portal, digital base maps, and postcode systems while expanding e-services to all LGAs by 2029 (URT, 2025).The broader e-government transformation, particularly in 2024, saw the introduction of systems such as e-WATUMISHI, PEPMIS, PIPMIS, e-MREJESHO, and HRA, which collectively strengthen public service management and transparency. These systems support ILMIS and TAUSI by ensuring interoperability and enhanced access to urban development and land-use information at all administrative levels. Additionally, the Digital Economy Strategic Framework (2024–2034) outlines a roadmap to consolidate digital land services by finalizing ILMIS rollout, creating a national geo-portal, digitising base maps, and implementing systems like TAUSI and TeRMIS across all LGAs by 2029. These efforts underscore Tanzania's commitment to guaranteeing that citizens, regardless of their location, can access urban plans and designs online at all times, fostering transparency and efficient urban governance (URT,2025).

Table 18: Digital urban planning and technology launch trend (2018-2025+)

Year	ILMIS rollout	TAUSI platform	E-GOV / other systems
2018	Pilot in Dar es Salaam (1 region)	—	—
2020	Expansion to new regions/districts	—	—
2023	~23 regions; fewer districts	Initial launch in municipal councils	—
2024	23 regions, 96 district offices up and running	TAUSI live in 185 LGAs	E-Systems launched supporting ILMIS/TAUSI
2025	Projected full coverage: 26 regions, 184 LGAs	Available across most urban LGAs	Integration and geo-portal development

Source: E- Government Annual Report, 2025

2.1.2.2 Integration of housing into urban development plans

In housing integration into urban plans substantial progress has been made on both mainland Tanzania and in Zanzibar. Key to this progress has been the collaboration between public institutions such as the National Housing Corporation (NHC), Tanzania Building Agency (TBA), and Watumishi Housing Investment (WHI), all working under the oversight of the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development (MLHHSD) and Ministry of Works.

The MLHHSD and LGAs set aside lands for housing Institutions. The NHC, for example, has played a central role by delivering over 5,399 housing units between 2019/20 and 2023/24, with 3,206 units already completed and distributed to beneficiaries, at a cumulative value of TZS. 659.5 billion (Business Insider Tanzania, 2024). Its landmark "Samia Housing Scheme," launched in 2023, aims to construct 5,000 affordable housing units across major cities, focusing on low and middle-income households (The Citizen, 2024). The agency has also aligned its projects with urban planning policies, including the Dar es Salaam Strategic Development Framework (2022) and the Dodoma Master Plan through developments like the Iyumbu Satellite Centre.

Additionally, the Tanzania Building Agency (TBA) has contributed to the integration of housing into planned urban environments by developing residential estates for public servants in line with government relocation and decentralization strategies. TBA housing schemes in rapidly growing cities such as Dodoma, Arusha, and Mbeya have included the construction of planned neighbourhoods with supporting infrastructure such as roads, water, and electricity—demonstrating a comprehensive approach to urban housing (MLHHSD, 2022). Similarly, Watumishi Housing Investment (WHI) has focused on providing affordable housing for public sector employees through its "Watumishi Housing Estates," integrating these developments into the physical layout of growing urban centres and ensuring access to utilities and transport networks. For instance, WHI projects in Dar es Salaam, Kibaha, and Morogoro have adopted mixed-use planning models that support residential and commercial use, aligning with sustainable urban development principles (WHI, 2023).

On Zanzibar, the updated Stone Town Master Plan has incorporated housing within heritage-sensitive zones, balancing conservation needs with urban residential expansion. Meanwhile, the strategic designation of mixed-use and residential zones in the Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar Master Plans reflects a deliberate effort to integrate housing into broader urban growth corridors. Legal and institutional reforms have strengthened these efforts, including the 2025 amendment of the National Housing Corporation Act, which enhanced NHC governance structures and operational efficiency (Daily News, 2025). Financially, increased revenues for NHC—from TZS 125 billion in 2019 to TZS 189 billion in 2024—alongside pre-tax profits of TZS 235 billion, have enabled reinvestment in housing infrastructure and planning alignment (URT, 2024).

2.1.2.3 Inclusion of culture as a priority component of urban planning

Tanzania has demonstrated significant success in mainstreaming culture as a central pillar of urban planning in both Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar. The Urban Planning Act (Cap. 355) and the Antiquities Act of 1979 legally require local planning authorities to identify and preserve sites of cultural, historical, or architectural significance and to engage the Director of Antiquities during plan formulation (URT, 2007; URT, 1979). These provisions have led to the integration of gazetted heritage sites into general and detailed urban plans. For example, the Dar es Salaam Strategic Development Framework (SDF) 2022 designated Cultural Heritage Zones to protect historic buildings and areas within the city (MLHHSD, 2022). Similarly, the updated Stone Town Conservation and Development Master Plan in Zanzibar reinforce cultural preservation through strict planning controls over its UNESCO World Heritage Site (SMZ, 2020).

Furthermore, the Mwanza City Council, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, launched the “Lake City Arts Quarter” in 2023, aiming to integrate creative industries into urban regeneration, providing space for artists and cultural exchange (NBS, 2023). Stakeholder participation has also been a cornerstone of this approach, with planning workshops involving the National Arts Council and local artisans contributing to culture-sensitive land-use planning. These efforts collectively reflect Tanzania’s commitment to cultural inclusion in urban development and align with Goal 11.4 of the SDGs and the NUA, which call for strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard cultural and natural heritage (UN-Habitat, 2020).

2.1.2.4 Implementation of planned urban extensions, infill, renewal and land readjustments

Guided by the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development (MLHHSD), the country has made notable progress in Urban Extension, Infill Development, Urban Renewal and Regeneration, and Land Readjustment through adopted planning tools that address rapid urban growth, infrastructure deficits, and informal settlements. In terms of Planned Urban Extension, various urban master plans and detailed planning schemes have been prepared to guide orderly city growth. For instance, the Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Development Plan, implemented with support from the World Bank and MLHHSD, has extended infrastructure services to peri-urban areas such as Mbezi, Kisarawe II, and Kinyerezi, helping reduce uncoordinated sprawl (MLHHSD, 2021). Infill development has been actively promoted in cities such as Arusha and Dodoma, where vacant or underutilized urban parcels have been targeted for densification to reduce land consumption and infrastructure costs (NBS, 2022).

Urban Renewal and Regeneration efforts have also gained momentum. In Dar es Salaam, the Tanzania Buildings Agency (TBA) and the National Housing Corporation (NHC) have implemented regeneration projects in areas such as Magomeni, where dilapidated public housing has been replaced with higher-density, mixed-use developments to better utilise land and improve housing quality (NHC, 2023). Similarly, in Mwanza and Mbeya, regeneration projects have improved inner-city housing and market facilities. Zanzibar has undertaken notable urban regeneration through the Stone Town Conservation and Development Authority (STCDA), which led the restoration of historical infrastructure and creation of urban heritage zones, in alignment with the revised Stone Town Master Plan (STCDA, 2022). These efforts help balance preservation with tourism and urban development needs.

Land readjustment has been integrated into Tanzania's urban planning processes, particularly through participatory planning in peri-urban settlements where informal layouts are upgraded with community involvement. Projects like the 20,000 plots initiative in Dar es Salaam exemplify land readjustment by reorganising land for infrastructure provision while preserving landowner rights (MLHHSD, 2019). Moreover, Dodoma's urban expansion has included land pooling and reconfiguration mechanisms in areas such as Nzuguni and Iyumbu, allowing infrastructure provision before formal titling.

Overall, Tanzania's multi-level implementation of the NUA—evident in master planning, public-private redevelopment, cultural preservation, and participatory upgrading—illustrates effective urban transformation, though challenges remain in scaling efforts and securing financing. Continued integration of data from institutions such as NBS, MLHHSD, and NHC remains critical to guide evidence-based urban development strategies.

2.1.2.5 Capacity building for urban planners at all government levels

Tanzania has made notable progress in strengthening its urban planning capacity under the New Urban Agenda, transforming a critical skills gap into a steadily growing professional workforce. Since 2011, Tanzania has steadily closed its urban-planning capacity gap, but remains well below global norms. The 2022 Population and Housing Census reported a national population of 61.7 million, 34.9 per cent of whom live in urban areas (≈21.5million residents) UN-Habitat, Word Bank 2024.

As of mid-2025, the Planners Registration Board counted over 500 accredited urban planners, yielding roughly 2.3 planners per 100,000 urban inhabitants—up from 1.2 per 100,000 in 2011 and 1.3 per 100,000 in 2020 (National Planning Commission, 2020). By contrast, the UN-Habitat New Urban Agenda Monitoring Framework notes that high-capacity planning systems average 63 urban planners per 100,000 populations worldwide, while sub-Saharan Africa averages approximately 3 planners per 100,000

Complementing these academic efforts, MLHHSD, had trained about 340 professionals in lands and urban planning in which (female 121, male 219) long term and short term trained (2021-2025). The World Bank's Town Planning Programme has delivered 25 nationwide workshops (2019–2024), equipping over 400 municipal officers with practical skills in master-plan development, GIS mapping, and stakeholder facilitation. The Embedded Expert Planner Initiative has further reinforced local councils by seconding senior specialists to 30 district and municipal authorities, providing on-site coaching in zoning enforcement, plan drafting, and community outreach.

Moreover, the Town Planners Registration Board (TPRB) in Tanzania has undertaken several key initiatives to strengthen the capacity of town planners and enhance professional standards across the country. As the regulatory body mandated under the Town Planners Registration Act (Cap. 426), TPRB has actively organized continuous professional development (CPD) programs, including workshops, seminars, and annual conferences to keep registered planners up-to-date with evolving urban planning trends, technologies, and policies. These efforts aim to improve competence in areas such as land use planning, GIS applications, climate-resilient planning, and urban governance. Additionally, TPRB has collaborated with academic institutions like Ardhi University to ensure curriculum alignment with national development goals and urbanization challenges. The Board also conducts periodic assessments and re-registration procedures to ensure professional integrity and compliance with planning ethics. As of 2024, TPRB had registered 520 professional planners and 101 planning firms, reflecting a growing workforce equipped to support sustainable urban development in Tanzania. Through these interventions, the Board plays a pivotal role in advancing planning capacity in line with the goals of Tanzania's National Urban Development Framework and the New Urban Agenda.

2.1.2.6 Strengthening small and intermediate cities and towns

Tanzania has explicitly increased focus on secondary cities and towns to achieve balanced urbanization. National strategies now recognize that under 1m towns drive growth: for instance, policy guidance highlights strengthening small cities as regional hubs. The DEGURBA classification supports this by identifying fast-gr owing towns (e.g. Kahama, Mbeya) for upgrading.

Planners are using this data to advocate formally for granting municipal status to such areas. Unlocking greater local planning powers and funding.

a) New master plans have been prepared for intermediate cities: e.g. Arusha's 2035 Master Plan includes expanded growth zones and industrial parks outside the city core. Mbeya and Iringa have instituted local development authorities to coordinate peri-urban expansion.
b) Local Economic Development Units are active in councils (e.g. Tanga, Shinyanga), promoting cluster development that links towns with rural agriculture (e.g. Shinyanga's sisal and sunflower hubs) , and

c) By strengthening smaller cities, Tanzania aims to make urban growth more inclusive, smart and safe. Several researches have been done in analysing the Perceptions of Safety of People Walking Alone After Dark in Tanzania, Twaweza's "Are We Safe?" research aligned with Afro barometer data, found that about 45% of Tanzanians said they felt unsafe walking in their neighbourhoods over the past year, suggesting fewer than 55% feel safe in this context.

Sagaci Research (Jan 2021 online poll) placed only ~31% of Tanzanian respondents reporting they feel safe walking alone at night, significantly lower than many other African countries surveyed (e.g. ~50% in Ghana and Ethiopia) and well below the global average of 69% from Gallup 2018. Gender based, according to the OECD's SIGI Country Report on Tanzania, about half of Tanzanian women report feeling unsafe walking alone at night in their neighbourhoods. The exact combined proportion of women who feel unsafe is approximately 50%, implying fewer than half feel safe. Though official data for men wasn't provided in the publicly accessible summary, it underscores a substantial gender gap, with women less likely to feel secure walking alone after dark.

2.1.2.7 Promote Sustainable Multimodal public transport systems including non-motorized Options

Tanzania has rolled out major green transport projects linking to spatial plans. Chief among these is Dar es Salaam's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. Phase I (opened 2016) and Phase II (completed by 2023) together cover key city axes with dedicated bus lanes and terminal hubs. A World Bank report highlights that the BRT immediately "slashed travel times": a typical 20 km trip fell from 3 hours to 45 minutes. This modal shift has reduced private-car use and emissions, providing affordable, reliable service for over 8 million residents. Phases 3–5 are currently under construction to extend the network north and south. The 2024 network is projected to carry nearly a million commuters daily, demonstrating Tanzania's leadership in low-emission urban mobility.

Cycling and walking are also being integrated into transport planning. iRAP safety audits of Dar's BRT corridors found that planned designs will dramatically improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists. For example, the new BRT routes include widened sidewalks, signalized crossings, and dedicated bike lanes. One report notes the upgraded network is "likely to reduce risk for all road users, particularly bicyclists and pedestrians" as many street segments move to 3- or 4-star safety ratings. Complementary projects in smaller cities are underway: Arusha now has 30 km of marked bicycle lanes in its ring road master plan, and Mbeya's city plan reserves space for pedestrian paths in all new subdivisions.

a) Public transport improvements: In addition to Dar's BRT, smaller cities are investing in mass transit studies. Mwanza and Dodoma are exploring city bus systems, and Zanzibar City is piloting electric minibus routes. All major urban centres have rolled out improved bus stops and passenger shelters linked to spatial plans.

b) Non-motorized transport (NMT): National guidelines now require new road projects to include pedestrian/bike lanes. The Kilimanjaro City Council (Arusha) installed over 5 km of sidewalks in 2022 as part of its Transport Master Plan; and
c) Integrated planning: Land use and transport are coordinated: e.g. the 2021 Dodoma City Master Plan aligned high-density zones with future bus terminals, and Dar's BRT terminals are sited next to planned mixed-use neighbourhoods.

These transport investments are explicitly tied to urban planning goals. The Tanzanian government notes that investing "heavily in public transport is going to lead to approximately 900,000 people coming into work every day by public transport," reflecting the integrated approach.

Road safety, Death rate due to road traffic injuries and government Interventions to ensure road safety:

Over the past three years, the Government of Tanzania has pursued a multi-pronged road-safety strategy to bring down the nation's traffic-injury toll. In August 2020 it became the first country worldwide to adopt the UN Road Safety Collaboration's "Ten-Step Plan" for safer infrastructure, through which hazardous road segments are identified, audited, and upgraded to meet international safety standards.

More recently, the Ministry of Works launched a three-year National Road Safety Plan on Aug 28, 2024 which aligned with the Safe System Approach—to strengthen speed management, enforce helmet and seat-belt laws, curb drunk and unlicensed driving, and improve vehicle-safety inspections (iRAP, 2024). At the same time, the Tanzania Traffic Police have expanded mobile checkpoints and "sobriety courts," intensified patrols on accident-hot-spots, and trained hundreds of officers in modern enforcement techniques. Complementing these measures are nationwide public-awareness campaigns—covering 30 km/h "vulnerable user" zones, pedestrian-safety education in schools, and radio broadcasts in rural areas—to shift driver behaviour and protect non-motorized road usersTogether, these legislative, engineering, enforcement, and educational interventions form the backbone of Tanzania's drive to reduce road-traffic deaths under the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety.

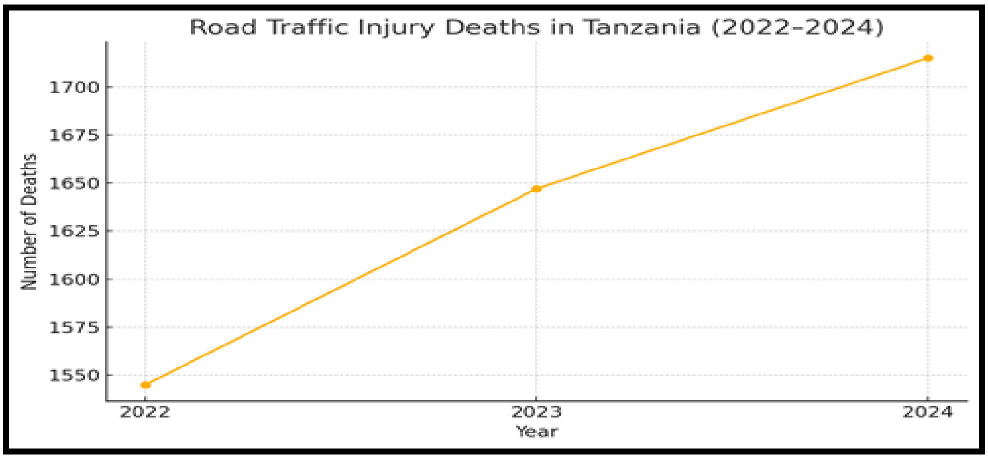
Despite the effort, challenges due to speed carelessness of drivers, ignoring of road sign and others had led to increase in reported death rate due to traffic injuries in the past three years are as follows (Table 19 and Figure 71);

Table 19: Number of road traffic deaths in Tanzania (2022-2024)

Year	Number of Deaths
2022	1 545
2023	1 647
2024	1 715

Source: Tanzania Police Force, Traffic Division; Ministry of Home Affairs Reports, 2024

Figure 71: Road traffic injury deaths in Tanzania (2022-2024)



Source: Tanzania Police Force, Traffic Division; Ministry of Home Affairs Reports, 2024

2.1.3 Mobilization of Financial Resources

2.1.3.1 Developing financing framework for implementing the New Urban Agenda at all levels

Tanzania is implementing urban development projects by using revenues from different sources including the central government, local governments, private sector, multilateral and bilateral institutions/countries. This has been possible due to availability of supportive finance framework. During the reporting time, a number of financial legislations that have an impact on the mobilisation of revenues have been enacted and/or amended. They include**:**

- The Public Finance Act 2001, (Revised in 2020) and its subsidiary legislations (The Public Finance Regulations, 2001, (amended in 2022), define in detail the roles, functions and responsibilities in management of government revenue and expenditure.

- The Budget Act 2015 (Revised in 2020) and its subsidiary legislations (the Budget Regulations, 2015 and the Budget (Amendment) Regulations, 2025 define in detail the national budget process, principles of fiscal management, plan and budget guidelines, management of revenues, oversight of subsections and public entities and to provide for other related matters.
- The Public Procurement Act, 2023 emphasizes the increased preference for local bidders and locally produced or extracted goods and mandates the use of the National e-Procurement System of Tanzania (NeST) for all procurement processes.
- The Local Government Finance Act, Cap. 290 (Revised 2023) makes provision for sources of revenues such as grants, own-sources and loans and the management of funds of local government authorities.
- The Local Government Authorities (Rating) Act, Cap.289 (Revised in 2023) enables urban, district and township authorities to impose and collect rates.
- The Public – Private- Partnership Act (amended in 2023) provides the legal framework for public- private-private partnerships (PPPs) involving collaboration between government and private entities to finance build, and operate public infrastructure projects in the country.

Achievements

As a result of available supportive financial framework, Tanzania has continued to receive funds from multilateral development partners including but not limited to the World Bank, EU, Global Fund, JICA, KOICA, GiZ, UNCDF, SIDA, UNDP, UNFPA and AfDB for implementation of urban development projects. Examples of on-going projects funded by development partners include: Dar es Salaam Rapid Transport project- DART (Phase 3&4) funded by the World Bank; Tanzania Cities Transforming Infrastructure and Competitiveness (TACTIC) Project funded by World Bank and; Dodoma (Tanzania's Capital) city outer ring road (110.2km) construction project funded by The African Development Bank & African Growing Together Fund.

Challenges

Despite the available supportive financial framework, the challenge, however, is that there is no single entity to administer the implementation and coordination of the New Urban Agenda in Tanzania as further highlighted in section 2.1.4.2 of the report**.**

2.1.3.2 Mobilization of own source revenues of local and regional governments

There are 184 local government authorities (LGAs) in Mainland Tanzania grouped as rural and urban LGAs. The urban LGAs are further grouped into town councils, municipal councils and city councils. As of June, 2025, there were 18 town councils, 22 municipal councils and 6 city councils. At the regional level, the Regional Secretariat (RS) headed by Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) acts as a linking body between the central government and LGAs in the districts and councils.

Own-source revenues have been an important source of funding to bridge the gap of revenue from central transfers in service provision in LGAs. The Local Government Finance Act, Cap. 290 Revised 2019 empowers local government authorities to impose levy taxes, licenses, fees, fines, and penalties for own source revenues

Achievements
There has been a positive trend in collection of own-source revenues of both rural and urban LGAs for the past three consecutive years. The revenue increased from TZS 891.84 billion (2%) in the financial year 2021/2022 to TSZ 1. 23Trilion (8%) in 2023/2024 (Table 20). The improvement was attributed to the LGAs' enhanced ability to exploit revenue potentials (NAO, 2025).

Table 20: Trend of own source collection against budget of LGAs (2020/21-2023/24)

Financial Year	Approved Budget (TZS) (A)	Actual Collection (TSZ) (B)	Variance (TZS) C=(B-A)	Variance (%) C/A
2023/24	1,143,871,207,000	1,231,616,905,758	87,745,698,758	8%
2022/23	911,863,338,484	912,123,865,087	260,526,603	0.03%
2021/22	873,898,493,691	891,836,133,308	17,937,639,617	2%
2020/21	822,375,950,562	769,422,329,061	(52,953,621,501)	(6)
2019/20	759,907,423,938	709,573,567,541	(50,333,856,397)	(7)

Source**:** National Audit Office, 2025

This trend is reflected in urban authorities whereby own source revenues of major six (6) cities in the country increased from TZS **169,024,521,947 Billion in** the financial year 2020/2021 to TSZ **253,716,884,851** Billion in 2023/2024, equal to an increase of 50.1% (Table 21).

Table 21: Trend of own source collection in major 6 cities (2020/21-2023/24)

No	City	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
1	Dar es Salaam	67,097,566,846	75,270,992,619	81,745,700,578	111,723,301,516
2	Mbeya	16,318,549,145	15,228,194,185	18,648,211,662	20,000,114,193
3	Arusha	17,701,002,151	24,331,733,680	32,919,056,767	33,420,465,612
4	Dodoma	38,406,658,444	45,108,955,937	44,460,194,023	51,460,463,713
5	Mwanza	15,997,653,787	17,678,952,700	19,599,512,497	20,998,515,483
6	Tanga	13,503,091,574	17,391,716,079	17,897,019,035	16,114,024,334
	Total	**169,024,521,947**	**195,010,545,200**	**215,269,694,562**	**253,716,884,851**

Source: PO-RALG Budget Speech, 2024/25

Challenges

Apart from improvement in collection of own-source revenues of both rural and urban LGAs, some LGAs still struggle to meet their targets. For example, in the financial year 2023/24, 110 LGAs (60.4%) exceeded their collection targets by TZS 155.39 billion, while 72 LGAs (39.6%) could not meet their collections targets by TZS 74.82 billion.

Further, there is over- dependence on central government transfers for more than 90% for all LGAs, thus limiting investment choices by the LGAs. This calls for more additional innovative and alternative sources of revenues to LGAs.

2.1.3.3 Formulation of coherent, reliable and accountable systems of financial transfers from national to sub national and local governments

Central government transfers represent the major revenue source for local government authorities in Tanzania. There are two major categories of transfers: (i) Recurrent Block Grant and (ii) Development funds. Recurrent block grants are allocated for recurrent expenditures, including personnel costs (salaries) and other charges (OC) while development funds are for discretionary expenditures and sector-specific investments.

Achievements

The recurrent grants released increased by TZS 588.47 billion from TZS 5.20 trillion in 2022/23 to TZS 5.79 trillion in 2023/24, representing an 11% increase while the development grants released increased by TZS 125.20billion from TZS 2.4 trillion in

2022/2023 to TZS 2.62 trillion in 2023/24, equal to an increase of 9% (NAO, 2025) as indicated Table 22.

Table 22: Trend of recurrent and development grants to LGAs (2020/21-2023/24)

Financial Year	Recurrent grants (TZS)	Development grants (TSZ)
2023/24	5,794,362,070,001	2,615,803,422,409
2022/23	5,205,891,865,384	2,400,603,575,491
2021/22	4,807,125,959,060	2,714,583,117,025
2020/21	4,760,974,162,598	1,031,777,503,255
Total	**20,568,354,057,043**	**8,762,767,618,180**

Source: National Audit Office, 2025

The Government usually releases development grants subject to general or specific conditions, limitations or exceptions as it may impose to any urban authority relating to the development or maintenance of any services within its area.

Challenges

Despite an increase in central transfers to LGAs, generally, there is under- release of the approved development grants budget. In the financial year 2023/24, for example, the approved development grants budget for the President Office- Regional Administration and Local Governments (PO-RALG), Regional Secretariats (RSs), and LGAs was TZ 2.82 trillion but the actual release was TZS 2.62 trillion, resulting in an under-release of TZS 199.94 billion, representing 7% shortfall (Table 23).

Table 23: Development grants released to PO-RALG, RSs and LGAs against budget in past five years (2020/21-2023/24)

Financial Year	Approved Budget (TZS) (A)	Actual releases (TZS) (B)	Variance (TZS) C=(B-A)	Performance (%)=B/A *100
2023/24	2,815,742,007,891	2,615,803,422,409	(199,938,585,482)	93
2022/23	3,268,975,965,527	2,400,603,575,491	(868,372,390,036)	73
2021/22	3,336,433,680,816	2,714,583,117,025	(621,850,563,791)	81
2020/21	1,597,103,108,111	1,031,777,503,255	(565,325,604,856)	65
2019/20	1,516,298,099,316	907,147,459,961	(609,150,639,355)	60

Source: National Audit Office, 2025

2.1.4 Capacity development and enhanced knowledge-sharing

This section explains different ways through which the government have attempted to capacitate existing public institutions i.e. ministries, local authorities and agencies in achieving sustainable urban development.

2.1.4.1 Expanding opportunities for city to city cooperation and fostering exchanges of urban solutions and mutual learning

A number of organs or bodies play a critical role in fostering exchanges of urban solutions and mutual learning in Tanzania. They include:

The Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform (TSDP)

Founded in April 2015, TSDP is a civil society platform which facilitates the coordination of civil society organizations in Tanzania to engage and play an active role in the implementation, follow-up, review and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals. TSDP comprises diverse civil society organizations from grassroots organizations to international non-governmental organizations with representation from different constituencies. The platform is part of the Africa Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (AMGOS).

During the reporting time, the Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform has worked with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania in different aspects relating to the implementation, monitoring and reporting of SDGs, including:

- Tanzania's 2023 Voluntary National Review (VRN) Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
- Tanzania Civil Society Report on the Sustainable Development Goals, 2023);
- Five Year Development Plan III 2021/22-2025/26 (Popular version, 2022) ;
- Capacity Needs Assessment for the Implementation of SDGs in the context of FYDP III;

The Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT)

Established in 1982, ALAT provides a forum for local authorities country wide, whereby political and executive leaders from cities, municipals, town and district councils get opportunity to discuss experiences, achievements and challenges they face in their day to day duties and responsibilities. General and sector-specific reports including urban planning and management issues are presented during the meetings which are held annually.

Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI)

Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI) is the national support NGO formed by Tanzanians with a desire of providing technical and financial assistance to the community living in informal settlements. CCI supports community to organize themselves through a network of saving schemes known as Tanzania Federation for Urban Poor (TFUP). Then, through the federation, CCI supports the community to create a platform for community and government officials to work together in a number of programs including Land, Housing and Shelter; Climate change issues; Water provision; Sanitation; Solid Waste Collection, HIV and Aids and Energy.

Currently the Federation is working in 8 cities of Tanzania which are Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mara, Arusha, Tanga and Zanzibar with 17,000 members. Examples of projects implemented by CCI in collaboration with the Tanzania Federation for the Urban Poor in Temeke Municipality, Dar es Salaam include the following:

- **The Housing Project in Chamazi**, which provides affordable and sustainable housing solutions for vulnerable communities. Currently, there are 89 houses at different stages of completion, with 50 families residing in them. The houses are equipped with a sewage system, with each set of 10 houses connected to a septic tank that delivers the sewage to a decentralized wastewater treatment plant.
- **The Biogas and Simplified sewerage System Project in Mji Mpya, Mnyamani**, which addresses sustainable energy production and sanitation challenges through biogas technology. Currently, the project comprises nine 'routes' of sewerage system through the settlement, connecting 300 houses.

Tanzania Urban Resilience Program (TURP)

Tanzania Urban Resilience Program (July 2016 -January 2023) was established with a financial support from a partnership between the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the World Bank with the aim of finding practical solutions to climate and disaster-related changes facing Tanzanian cities. It specifically focused on strategic solutions to the lack of risk data and information, inadequate urban and land use planning systems, and lack of appropriate infrastructure.

TURP has supported local and national governments to strengthen their ability to prepare for, respond to, and adapt to a changing climate and withstand and rapidly recover from shocks. The work started in urban flood resilience predominantly in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar, and later on expanded to secondary cities, including Mwanza, Tanga, Morogoro, Tabora, Kahama, Geita, Kigoma, Kagera, and Sumbawanga.

Furthermore, TURP created a knowledge platform for university students to train in digital skills and urban resilience through the university partnership program including the universities in Tanzania (UDSM, ARU, SUA, MoCU and SUZA); The Tanzania government office which (ICT Commission) and; The international universities (University of Turku, Twente University and University of Netherlands).

International conferences and forums

Tanzania has continued to participate in various international conferences and forums aimed at building relationships and exchanging experiences in urban and housing development and management. Between 2022 and early 2025, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development coordinated Tanzania's participation in 24 international conferences, the latest ones including the following:

- The 5th Meeting of African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service and Administration, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization (AUSTC No.8) held in Tunis, Republic of Tunisia, from 18th to 20th December 2024,
- UNIDO Conference on Innovation in Addressing the Challenges of Future Cities held on 9th -11th October, 2024 in Vienna, Austria;
- The 12th World Urban Conference organized by the UN-Habitat in collaboration with the Government of Egypt with the aim of accelerating the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development, held in Cairo from 4th to 8th November, 2024;
- African Cities Forum Meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 4th to 6th September, 2024 and;
- Africa Conference on Building Resilient and Sustainable Cities held in Dar es Salaam on 26th to 27th February, 2025.

2.1.4.2 Enhancing the capacity of all levels of government to implement and monitor the New Urban Agenda

The New Urban Agenda in Tanzania is implemented within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There is no single comprehensive legislation to administer the implementation and coordination of SDGs. Therefore, the implementation of SDGs is governed by legislation under the respective sector ministries (NAO, 2023). Further, the SDGs are mainstreamed into the National Five-Year Development Plans with the recent ones including the Second National Five-Year Development Plan (2016/17- 2020/21 and the Third National Five-Year Development Plan (2021/22-2025/26).

The responsibility of overseeing and coordinating implementation of the SDGs in Mainland Tanzania is with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) which coordinates overall Government business, and the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP). In Zanzibar, SDGs coordination is operationalized under the President's Office, Planning Commission. Other key players include all the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Local Government Authorities (LGAs) and the non-state stakeholders.

The key players involved in the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda are the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Ministry of Lands, Human Settlements, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and Development and Presidents Office Regional Administrations and Local Governments (PO-RALG). The Ministry of Finance and Planning core functions are revenue collection and expenditure control; formulation and implementation of fiscal, monetary and public private partnership policies and strategies; mobilization and management of external resources and management of public assets and investments.

The core functions of the Ministry of Lands, Human Settlements and Development in relation to the implementation of new urban agenda is to coordinate, monitor and provide support to other ministries and LGAs in implementation of all land related activities. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), as the statistics custodian agency is responsible for producing and coordinating the availability of data within the National Statistical System (NSS) for monitoring national, regional and global development agendas including SDGs. The NBS provides the Tanzania in Figures booklet annually which provides aggregated data and contains information from various Official Statistical Publications compiled by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), and other Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

The PO-RALG oversees the implementation of all activities discharged by RSs and LGAs. As the coordination ministry at the lower level of local government authorities, it is a link between sector ministries, Regional Secretariats and LGAs. The LGAs in turn are responsible for providing progress reports on the implementation and achievements of the planned activities and outputs to the PO-RALG.

Apart from the government machinery, the Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform (TSDP) as explained in section 2.1.4.1 of this report facilitates the coordination of civil society organizations in Tanzania to engage and play an active role in the implementation, follow-up, review and monitoring of SDGs in general including activities related to the New Urban Agenda.

2.1.4.3 Access and support of adequate higher level education in support of professional association for built environment

The successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda depends on, among other critical areas, trainings related to urban development and management. The Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) has grouped academic programmes related to the built environment into Architecture and Planning cluster as illustrated in Table 24.

Table 24: **Academic programmes in Architecture and Planning Cluster**

Cluster	Disciplines	Programmes
Architecture and Planning	Architecture	1. BSc. Architecture
		2. BSc. Building Surveying
		3. Bachelor of Technology in Architecture
	Interior Design	1. BSc. Interior Design
	Landscaping	1. BSc. Landscape Architecture
	Building Economics	1. BSc. Building Economics
	Planning	1. BSc. Regional Development Planning
		2. BSc. Urban and Regional Planning
		3. BSc. Housing and Infrastructure Planning
		4. Bachelor of Rural Development

Source: The Tanzania Commission for Universities, 2025

Between academic year 2021 and 2024, a total of 2,395 students graduated (from Certificates to PhDs) in Higher Education Institutions in the field of Architecture and Planning, including 1321 Male (55%) and 1074 Female (45%) (Table 25).

Table 25: Graduates in university institutions in the field of Architecture and Planning 2020-2024

Academic year	Male	Female	Total
2024	289	309	598
2023	384	265	649
2022	344	277	621
2021	304	223	527
Total	**1321**	**1074**	**2395**

Source: Tanzania Commission for Universities (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)

Education in Architecture and Urban Planning disciplines is primarily offered by Ardhi University. Apart from Ardhi University, other institutions offering education related to built environment include the Institute of Rural Development Planning and Mbeya University of Science and Technology. Additionally, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development runs two institutes namely Ardhi Institute Morogoro (ARIMO) which offers Basic Technician Certificate and Diploma in Geometrics, GIS, Urban and Regional Planning and Ardhi Institute Tabora (ARITA) which offers Basic Certificates and Diploma in Land Management and Valuation and Cartography.. All these institutions play a crucial role in implementing the new urban agenda through research, education and practical application of sustainable urban development strategies

Meanwhile, the Government through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) is implementing The Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) Project funded by the World Bank with a budget of US$425 million. The project which started in 2021 and is scheduled to end in 2026 aims at strengthening the learning environments and labour market alignment of programmes in the priority area and the management of the higher education system. The 14 priority areas are: (i) engineering and technology; (ii) ICT; (iii) material sciences; (iv) health sciences; (v) urban and environmental engineering and technology; (vi) renewable energy; (vii) water resources; (viii) climate change; (ix) agriculture and agribusiness; (x) wildlife conservation; (xi) tourism and hospitality; (xii) academic industry linkages; (xiii) humanities; and (xiv) education. As of June 2025, implementation of the project, notably construction of 16 campuses of higher learning institutions, was at different stages country wide.

2.1.5 Information Technology and Innovation

Information technology and innovation have remained pivotal to achieving the New Urban Agenda (NUA) objectives in Tanzania. The government has recognized that digital transformation is not only a tool for enhancing service delivery and urban management but also a critical enabler of inclusive development, economic competitiveness, and climate resilience. From 2022 to 2025, concerted efforts were undertaken to expand digital infrastructure, deploy smart systems in land and urban management, and foster digital inclusion across all population groups and geographical regions.

2.1.5.1 Develop user-friendly, participatory data and digital platforms through e-governance

During the 2022–2025 implementation period, Tanzania made significant progress in advancing digital transformation in urban governance by scaling up e-governance systems and participatory platforms aimed at enhancing transparency, efficiency, and citizen engagement in public service delivery. The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology intensified efforts to mainstream ICT across all levels of public administration, supporting a more integrated and responsive governance framework.

The National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB) has expanded steadily from approximately 8,300 kilometres in 2021 to over 13,800 kilometres by mid-2025, progressing toward its 16,280-kilometer national target. Currently, the network covers 78% of districts (109 out of 139), with all planned service delivery points finalised, significantly boosting broadband connectivity across mainland Tanzania Source: Ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology, 2025).

A key milestone in this expansion has been the extension of the fiber-optic network to link all regional capitals and several international border points, effectively connecting Tanzania to neighbouring countries and global internet gateways. The NICTBB now underpins a broad range of digital services—including e-government platforms, digital financial systems, online education, and healthcare delivery—positioning it as a cornerstone of Tanzania's digital transformation agenda and a critical enabler for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

The expansion significantly improved internet connectivity in regional urban centres and emerging towns. Mobile network coverage reached over 97% of the population, while 4G services were extended beyond major cities into secondary urban areas. Complementing this effort, Zanzibar established its own regional ICT backbone connection, linking Unguja and Pemba to the mainland and international digital infrastructure.

The e-Mrejesho system, an interactive digital platform, enabled citizens to submit, track, and receive feedback on complaints or service-related queries through web and mobile applications. Serving as a communication bridge between the public and government authorities, e-Mrejesho allowed citizens to directly address concerns to the appropriate authorities and monitor the resolution process. At the same time, responsible institutions could efficiently manage, respond to, and close complaints, fostering transparency and accountability.

These digital platforms strengthened feedback loops between city governments and urban residents, particularly empowering women and youth in informal settlements to engage with urban governance processes.

2.1.5.2 Expand deployment of frontier technologies and innovations to enhance shared prosperity of cities and regions

Tanzania has emerged as a regional leader in leveraging cutting-edge digital technologies to enhance public service delivery and foster inclusive urban development. The country has cultivated a vibrant innovation ecosystem that brings together research institutions, start-ups, and multilateral partners to address pressing urban challenges (UONGOZI Institute, 2024; UNCDF, 2023; TULab/ESRF, 2019).

At the heart of this transformation are specialized innovation hubs/think tanks like the Tanzania Urbanization Laboratory (TULab), which bridges policy research with practical solutions for sustainable urban growth. Similarly, academic institutions have strengthened this ecosystem through platforms such as the UDSM-ICT Incubator Centre and Tanzania Data Lab (dLab), which are building critical local capacity in data analytics, mobile applications, and civic technology.

According to the 2024 Tanzania Start-up Ecosystem Report by the Tanzania Start-up Association (TSA), the country is home to 842 active start-ups, reflecting a 25.26% growth in the ecosystem. Dar es Salaam continues to serve as the dominant hub, hosting approximately 66.56% of these ventures, while emerging start up clusters are gaining traction in other major urban centres. The sector also exhibits strong diversification across key verticals, with start-ups operating in a wide range of industries. The top five sectors by concentration of start-ups are:

a) Software as a Service (SaaS) represents 19.92% of start-ups in the ecosystem.
b) AgriTech accounts for 19.17%, reflecting a strong focus on agriculture-driven innovation.
c) E-commerce and retail tech make up 10.15% of the total, supporting urban consumer needs.
d) HealthTech represents 9.21%, offering tech solutions for health service delivery in urban and peri-urban areas; and
e) FinTech comprises 8.83%, enabling digital financial services and inclusion.

(Source:www.tanzaniainvest.com/economy)

These figures underscore the diverse and impact-oriented focus of Tanzanian start-ups.

While global economic headwinds led to a funding decline from $80 million in 2022 to $25 million in 2023, the sector's job creation impact grew substantially - start-ups generated 112,119 new jobs, marking a 20.17% year-on-year increase. This underscores their vital role in Tanzania's employment landscape.

Complementing these domestic efforts, international partnerships like the Africa Urban Lab and UNDP Tanzania Accelerator Lab are piloting innovative approaches to informal settlement mapping, service delivery optimization, and urban climate resilience. Together, these interconnected initiatives are laying the digital foundations for smarter, more sustainable, and inclusive cities across Tanzania.

The convergence of home-grown innovation and strategic partnerships positions Tanzania to harness digital transformation as a powerful accelerator of its urban development goals, even as it navigates the challenges of fluctuating investment climates and rapid urbanization pressures.

Key Takeaways:

a) Robust innovation ecosystem supporting urban solutions
b) Start-up sector showing resilience despite funding fluctuations
c) Strong job creation demonstrating economic impact
d) Strategic partnerships enhancing local innovation capacity and
e) Digital transformation as key enabler of sustainable urbanisation

2.1.5.3 Implement digital tools, including geospatial information systems, to improve urban and territorial planning, land administration, and access to urban services

Between 2022 and 2025, Tanzania made significant advancements in digital governance through the strategic deployment of geospatial technologies and integrated digital platforms. These innovations were central to improving land administration, urban planning, and public service delivery across the country.

The government first piloted the Integrated Land Management Information System (ILMIS) in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma, establishing a digital foundation for land records and transactions. Building on this progress, the Ministry of Lands launched e-Ardhi, a transformative platform designed to modernize land administration services. e-Ardhi allows for online applications, ownership verification, and real-time tracking of land transactions. Seamlessly integrated with ILMIS, it provides users with intuitive web and mobile interfaces, reducing bureaucratic delays, enhancing transparency, and minimizing opportunities for corruption.

To further extend digital service delivery to the local level, the government introduced the TAUSI Portal in April 2023 under the President’s Office – Regional Administration and

Local Government (TAMISEMI). TAUSI is a unified taxpayer platform that simplifies interactions between citizens, businesses, and Local Government Authorities (LGAs). It offers online services for business license applications, building permits, rental transactions, land services, and the payment of service levies and property taxes—eliminating the need for in-person visits.

TAUSI features a suite of self-service tools, including license applications, levy payments, land plot registrations, property tax management, and facilitation of land sale transactions. For LGAs, it automates revenue collection, issues digital receipts, and manages taxpayer records, resulting in improved efficiency, accountability, and compliance.

Together, e-Ardhi and TAUSI represent an integrated approach to digital governance in Tanzania. They support the national agenda to digitize service delivery, strengthen local government systems, and improve urban and territorial planning outcomes.

By mid-2025, e-Ardhi had been fully deployed in 12 regions—covering approximately 46% of mainland Tanzania—including key urban centres such as Dodoma, Arusha, Mwanza, and Mbeya. This rollout marked a significant milestone in expanding public access to land services. Citizens can now access town planning documents, cadastral survey plans, and land ownership records remotely through digital platforms that were once only accessible in person.

At the same time, TAUSI has played a pivotal role in transforming how local governments engage with taxpayers, driving efficiency and transparency in revenue collection and service provision. Ongoing efforts aim to scale both platforms nationwide, ensuring that all urban landowners benefit from seamless, transparent, and technology-enabled services.

Complementing these digital platforms, Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) have become institutionalised within local government operations, delivering a wide range of planning and governance benefits, including:

a) Enhanced accuracy in plot allocation and housing regularisation;
b) Improved identification of vulnerable populations for targeted interventions;
c) A strengthened evidence base for district and regional planning;
d) Increased transparency and accountability in land administration;
e) Boosted revenue collection from land-related fees; and
f) A measurable reduction in land tenure disputes.

Collectively, these digital tools are building a more resilient, efficient, and transparent urban development framework. Their integration into routine planning and governance processes ensures that their impact will continue to grow, setting new benchmarks for urban and territorial governance in Tanzania.

2.1.5.4 Build capacities at all levels of government to effectively monitor the implementation of urban development policies

Effective monitoring of urban development policies forms the cornerstone of Tanzania's efforts to achieve both the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Recognizing this imperative, the Government of Tanzania made substantial investments between 2022 and 2026 to build institutional capacities for tracking, evaluating, and improving urban policy implementation across all levels of government.

A key priority during this period was strengthening institutional capacity by equipping government authorities with digital tools and technical expertise. Through collaborative initiatives led by the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, PO-RALG, and Ardhi University, more than 30 central and local government officials received specialized training in GIS applications, remote sensing, data analytics, and ICT governance.

These efforts were complemented by updates to training curricula, which now integrate emerging priorities such as SDG monitoring, smart city development, and performance-based planning frameworks—all aimed at promoting more evidence-based and data-driven decision-making.

In total, 340 staff (121 women and 219 men) from the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development benefited from both short- and long-term training programs, conducted domestically and internationally between 2021 and 2025 (Source: MLHHSD, 2025).

While these efforts significantly advanced monitoring capabilities at regional and municipal levels, implementation challenges persist. A notable digital skills gap remains at ward and village administrative levels, constraining the potential for community-driven data collection and grassroots monitoring - critical components for ensuring truly inclusive urban development. This disparity highlights the need for targeted interventions to bridge the last-mile capacity divide as Tanzania continues its urban transformation journey.

2.1.5.5 Strengthen all levels of government and civil society in the collection, dis-aggregation, and analysis of data

During the 2022–2026 implementation periods, Tanzania placed strong emphasis on strengthening urban data systems, with a focus on inclusion, transparency, and data disaggregation to inform equitable and evidence-based urban development. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), in collaboration with PO-RALG, led efforts to harmonize urban datasets and generate disaggregated indicators related to housing, energy, mobility, and access to basic services, with data categorized by gender, age, disability status, and geographic location (NBS, 2022; PO-RALG Annual Report, 2023).

To complement these institutional efforts, civil society organizations (CSOs) were actively engaged in community mapping initiatives, particularly in informal settlements, where official data remains scarce or outdated. Organizations such as Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT), Ardhi University, and various local NGOs contributed technical capacity and grassroots coordination, producing spatial datasets to inform planning at the local level (HOT Tanzania, 2023).

These multi-stakeholder partnerships significantly enhanced the credibility, coverage, and granularity of urban data, enabling more targeted urban planning, resource allocation, and service delivery across the country.

Despite these achievements, Tanzania continues to face persistent challenges related to technological capacity, particularly in terms of absorbing, adapting, and scaling emerging digital innovations. In response, the government is actively pursuing international partnerships, technology transfer arrangements, and joint innovation programmes aimed at strengthening national capabilities and accelerating the digital transformation of land administration and urban governance systems (Ministry of Lands, 2024).

2.2 Conclusion and strategic ways forward

This section provides general conclusion and proposed strategic ways forward in the key thematic areas analysed, discussed and presented in this report as the Tanzania National Urbanization Agenda implementation progress as follows:

a. For Sustainable urban development for social inclusion and ending poverty

Tanzania's continued efforts to promote sustainable urban development have laid a strong foundation for inclusive growth and poverty reduction. Through investments in basic services, affordable housing, gender-responsive planning, and targeted support for vulnerable groups, progress is being made toward building cities that leave no one behind. However, accelerating the pace of urban transformation requires deeper integration of social inclusion strategies into urban policy, stronger institutional coordination, and sustained investment in pro-poor infrastructure. Going forward, a rights-based, people-cantered urban development approach especially for youth, women, and persons with disabilities will be critical in achieving the goals of the National Urban Agenda and the broader national development frameworks through the following strategic ways:

- **Improve tenure security:** Through strengthening ILMIS and e-ardhi systems, regularization of informal settlement, planning and land surveying.
- **Expand access to affordable housing finance**: By scaling up TMRC-backed

mortgages, and incentivizing micro-finance housing loans for low-income populations.

- **Strengthen local urban planning capacities:** By Providing technical and financial support to LGAs for land-use planning, zoning enforcement, and infrastructure development; and
- **Investment in socio-economic infrastructure**: Continued investment into social economic infrastructure (health and education facilities, railways, ports and roads) which will have a notable impact on social and economic development.

b. For sustainable and inclusive urban prosperities and opportunities for all

Tanzania's implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) between 2020 and 2024 marks meaningful progress toward building sustainable, inclusive, and economically vibrant urban centres. The country has recorded gains in expanding access to electricity, reducing permit bottlenecks, and promoting enterprise development through targeted financial and regulatory reforms. Informal sector support, youth empowerment programs, and modest gains in industrial employment underscore the government's commitment to inclusive prosperity.

However, persistent challenges such as limited urban job absorption for youth and women, continued informal dominance in urban employment, and uneven regional progress highlight the need for stronger coordination, urban data systems, and localized implementation strategies. To fully realise the transformative potential of the urban economy, Tanzania must adopt a more ambitious, integrated, and participatory urban development approach through the following strategic ways:

- **Promote equity across cities and regions**: Address disparities by investing in lagging secondary cities, supporting decentralized urban growth, and aligning regional policies with national urban goals.
- **Foster multi-stakeholder partnerships:** Deepen collaboration with civil society, academia, the private sector, and development partners in designing and financing sustainable urban solutions.
- **Enhance data and monitoring systems**: Establish dis-aggregated urban datasets by city, age, sex, disability to facilitate tracking of NUA indicators and inform evidence-based policy making and urban investments.
- **Accelerate inclusive job creation**: Scale up youth and women-targeted programs, support micro and small urban enterprises, and link urban job creation to spatial planning and industrial zones.
- **Formalize and support the informal economy:** Provide enabling environments for informal workers including access to land and tenure rights, infrastructure provision to support their businesses, entrepreneurial skills training and access to financial services; and
- **Promote equity across cities and regions:** Address disparities by investing in

lagging secondary cities, supporting decentralized urban growth, and aligning regional policies with national urban goals.

c. For Environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development

Tanzania has made significant progress in promoting environmental sustainability and resilient urban development, as reflected in improvements in modern infrastructure and the introduction of supportive policy frameworks. However, rapid urban population growth and climate variability remain persistent challenges that pose considerable risks. In response to these on-going pressures, the government is actively pursuing targeted initiatives to enhance urban resilience and advance sustainable environmental management nationwide. The following are some of the strategic measures put in place;

- **Strengthen policy implementation**: Operationalize the 2021 National Environmental Policy to guide urban development planning, infrastructure design, and environmental safeguards in cities.
- **Review and enforce legal frameworks:** Conduct a review and strengthen enforcement of the Environmental Management Act, Cap. 191 to ensure alignment with current urban environmental challenges and climate resilience needs.
- **Implement long-term planning instruments**: Advance the implementation of the National Environmental Conservation and Management Master Plan (2022–2032) to provide a strategic roadmap for sustainable urban ecosystems.
- **Promote clean energy transition in public institutions:** Enforce the ban on the use of firewood and charcoal in public institutions serving more than 100 people, promoting the shift toward the use of clean energy.
- **Scale up urban greening initiatives:** Accelerate the National Tree Planting Campaign, targeting the planting of 1.5 million trees annually per local government authority to enhance urban carbon sinks, mitigate heat islands, and restore degraded landscapes.
- **Develop and regulate urban carbon markets:** Establish frameworks to coordinate and regulate carbon trading, enabling cities to benefit from climate financing and carbon offset mechanisms.
- **Enhance environmental and climate literacy:** Implement sustained public education campaigns on environmental conservation, management and climate change.
- **Uphold environmental agreements and standards:** Facilitate the implementation of national and regional environmental management agreements such as the Paris Agreement and the SDGs.
- **Promote biodiversity in urban planning**: Develop and implement the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2025–2030) with a focus on integrating biodiversity corridors and nature-based solutions into urban settings.
- **Support the blue economy in coastal cities**: Implement the National Blue

Economy Strategy (2024–2034) with targeted actions to promote sustainable coastal urban development, marine conservation, and circular economy practices; and

- **Invest in environmental research and innovation**: Implement the National Environmental Research Agenda to generate evidence-based solutions for climate resilience, pollution control, sustainable urban growth and other environment-related issues.

d. For effective implementation

Tanzania has made notable progress in the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) by strengthening its urban governance structures and developing supportive policies and legal framework that promotes inclusive, participatory, and accountable urban management. Tanzania has leveraged both domestic revenues and external sources, including support from development partners andprivate sector to fund urban infrastructure and services. The country has also invested incapacity development to local authorities and urban planning professionals through training, technical assistance, and knowledge-sharing platforms. Furthermore, use of technology and innovation has also been advanced by the adoption of digital land information systems, GIS-based planning tools, and smart city pilot initiatives to improve service delivery, land management, and evidence-based decision-making.

However, much need to be done to make effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Therefore, the following have been highlighted as strategic way forward:

- **Strengthen City-Level Implementation Capacity:** Equip urban local governments with financial, technical, and institutional capacity to deliver services, enforce plans, and implement NUA-aligned projects effectively.
- **Strengthen institutional coordination:** Harmonize roles among the Ministry, Local government authorities (LGAs), and other urban planning institutions.
- **Enhance urban planning, monitoring, and land management**: By updating urban master plans as per need and integrating digital tools like GIS, remote sensing, and big data analytics.
- **Capacity-building programs:** Continue to conduct capacity building programs to increase the number of professional urban planners and technical experts who can integrate the new technology to ensure that urban planning is inclusive, sustainable, and aligned with the New Urban Agenda's goals
- **Strengthen implementation and monitoring of the New Urban Agenda:** Formulate a single entity to administer the implementation and coordination of the New Urban Agenda in the country.
- **Improve revenues of Local Government Authorities:** Reduce over-dependence of LGAs on central government transfers by identifying potential sources of revenue and venture into new sources within their areas of jurisdiction

while the central Government should release recurrent and development funds to LGAs as per the approved budget to implement the planned activities.

- **Enhance city-to-city knowledge sharing:** Revive the Tanzania Cities Network (TACINE) and expand its scope by including Municipalities and Towns as well.
- **Expand Urban Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity:** Accelerate deployment of fiber-optic networks, Smart Street lighting, and public Wi-Fi in urban centres, especially underserved informal settlements to **i**mprove access to e-services, support smart city systems, and bridge the digital divide. An Indicator will be the percentage of urban population with broadband access; digital infrastructure coverage by city.
- **Strengthen Innovation Hubs, Tech Incubators & Urban Digital Labs:** Support establishment and scaling of city-based innovation ecosystems through public–private–academic partnerships to foster local solutions for housing, transport, waste, and jobs. This will be measured by the number of tech incubators/start-ups supported in urban areas.
- **Digitize Urban Governance and Public Service Delivery:** Scale up use of ICT and GIS for development control, building permits, revenue collection, and land management. This will enhance transparency, speed up approvals, and reduce corruption. Indicators will be average time to access urban services and percentage of urban permits issued digitally.
- **Promote Digital Skills and Urban Tech Literacy:** By integrating digital and entrepreneurial training in TVET and local youth programs, particularly for women and marginalized groups to build up a tech-enabled workforce and empower youth-led innovation. This will be measured by a number of youth trained in digital skills by urban region.
- **Establish a National Urban Digital Innovation Strategy**: Create a multi-stakeholder roadmap aligning city tech initiatives with national digital transformation goals to ensure coordination across ministries, LGAs, academia, and private sector. Indicators will be adoption of a strategy and level of budget alignment for urban innovation.
- Use Data and Smart Technologies for Evidence-Based Urban Planning: Leverage urban data platforms, satellite imagery, and AI to monitor slum upgrading, urban sprawl, and service delivery to enable predictive urban planning and climate-smart cities. This will be measured by percentage of urban authorities using real-time data for planning decisions**.**

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