

TANZANIA

POPULATION IN 2016

55.572.201

SIZE

945,087 KM²

HDI RANKING 2016

151/188

INEQUALITY ADJUSTED HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX 2016

0,396

GENDER INEQUALITY INDEX 2016

0,544

CIVIC SPACE (CIVICUS MONITOR 2017)

OBSTRUCTED

HDI - Human Development Index and its components, ranks countries by HDI value and details the values of the three HDI components: longevity, education and income.

IHDI - Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index - IHDI looks beyond the average achievements of a country in longevity, education and income to show how these achievements are distributed among its residents. An IHDI value can be interpreted as the level of human development when inequality is accounted for.

GDI - Gender Development Index, measures disparities on the HDI by gender. The table contains HDI values estimated separately for women and men; the ratio of which is the GDI value. The closer the ratio is to 1, the smaller the gap between women and men.

Civic space - The CIVICUS monitor assigns each country a rating on civic space based on constant analysis of multiple streams of data on civic space. The rating is open, narrowed, obstructed, repressed or closed. <https://monitor.civicus.org/Ratings>

Introduction

The United Republic of Tanzania is an East African nation within the African Great Lakes region. Parts of the country are in Southern Africa. It is surrounded by eight countries and has a long coastline along the eastern border, hugging the Indian Ocean. Tanzania's population is diverse, comprising several ethnic, linguistic and religious groups. The population is growing rapidly at 2.7% per annum.

Women constitute 51.3% of the population with the vast majority (70%) residing in the rural areas.

The number of registered civil society organisations (CSOs) in 2013 stood at 19,489. The number of active CSOs however is estimated to be much smaller (2013 CSO Sustainability Index for Sub-Saharan Africa).⁶

Space for civil society is shrinking. This is due to the state limiting freedom of speech, association and assembly in a manner not witnessed in other places in recent years. While acutely affecting the Voice target groups, it has also raised the alarm within civil society, creating new opportunities and an impetus for collaboration – to remain relevant and legitimate – in advancing the advocacy issues of their constituents.

The fear of reprisal from the state has considerably affected the ability of mainstream civil society organisations to accommodate and include the concerns of the most marginalised groups in society particularly the LGBTI community. LGBTI organisations and groups hence operate on the margins of society, in secrecy and in isolation.

Despite these growing concerns, pockets of opportunity are opening up through initiatives such as the 'Leave No One Behind' campaign that promotes the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Tanzania. Through a multi-stakeholder national platform, a monitoring framework has been established with government for the implementation of the SDGs. This initiative may provide new opportunities for the Voice target groups to further their advocacy agenda and ensure their inclusion in national policy processes.

Voice in Tanzania is managed by Hivos and will include all five-target groups. Organisations from any geographic area will be eligible to apply for a grant.

State of affairs

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI)

Social and political attitudes are very hostile towards LGBTI people in Tanzania. Sexual minorities face widespread discrimination, which limits their access to health care, housing, employment and justice. Tanzania criminalises consensual same sex practices and relationships, especially among men. In March 2014, a Member of Parliament proposed a bill to strengthen these laws, saying that the existing ones were inadequate and there was a need to punish people who 'induce others' to become gay or 'promote' homosexuality. In recent years, several high profile politicians and religious leaders have attacked the LGBTI community or those affiliated with it, which, in turn, has fuelled and legitimised the media and public to do the same.

LGBTI activists have been singled out and arrested for debauchery, branded 'prostitutes' and 'vagrants' and charged with being commercial sex workers under Section 176(a) of the Penal Code. Many have been assaulted by law enforcement agencies, detained for lengthy periods of time and denied bail. While existing legislation specifically outlaws homosexuality, there is no recognition of people who identify as transgender or intersex, which further marginalises

⁶ Olungurumwa, O. (2016). The shrinking space of civil society in Tanzania.

them. Most media reporting has focussed on gay men in light of widespread public condemnation while limited attention has been afforded to lesbians or other sexual minorities.

'Mainstream' organisations working on LGBTI issues and rights are targeted by the political establishment for promoting homosexuality which they feel is tarnishing their image and reputation. The most recent example of this occurred in August 2016 when the Deputy Minister of Health stormed the offices of a well-known health organisation to inspect compliance of the recent ban on the importation and sale of lubricants. Others have been issued letters of intention to be deregistered on the grounds that they promote homosexuality through their health-rights projects. LGBTI groups in Tanzania cannot register as independent and legal civil society organisations. Consequently, many cannot operate legitimately or partake in recognisable platforms to address pertinent policy issues. LGBTI people commonly experience stigma in the workplace and in educational institutions. Forced eviction by house owners, loss of employment and discrimination from taking part in learning activities are common forms of exclusion.

Women facing exploitation, abuse and/or violence

The basic poverty rate in Tanzania is 34% and women are over-represented among the very poor, putting them at severe risk of exploitation and abuse. Customs like female genital cutting are still prevalent increasing women's experiences of coercion and extortion.

While female participation in both formal and informal employment has increased over the last two decades (2.2% between 2001 and 2006, ILFS, 2014), the conditions under which women engage in these new economic opportunities remain oppressive with limited remedies to protect them from abuse and exploitation.⁷ Besides gaining decent employment, women also experience marginalisation in accessing and controlling productive resources including land. Women own only 19% of registered land in Tanzania while the size of their plots is usually half of that of their male counterparts. In most rural settings where land is communally owned, women are unable to access any land as they lose such rights to ownership to their husbands and/or male siblings.⁸

Women's participation in the higher levels of public office as well in the democratic decision making institutions at national and local levels has been boosted by initiatives such as the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (MKUKUTA), reaching a target of 30%.⁹

People living with Disabilities

The 2008 Disability Survey estimates that 6% of the Tanzanian population is living with a disability. The illiteracy rate among people living with disabilities is 48%, compared to 25% among able-bodied people. In ethnic minority communities such as the Maasai, disability is considered to be an abomination. Children with disabilities are invisible and denied basic services (such as health and education), consequently leading to higher infant mortality rates among children with disabilities.¹⁰

People living with disabilities experience notable challenges in the workplace, either through discrimination or inaccessible work environments, costing the government \$480 million every year – 3.76% of the country's GDP.

⁷ In an interview with the Mwanza Gender Desk coordinator, it was reported that the desk finds it difficult to readily attend to women reported to have engaged in sex work even when they are victims of violence as sex work is itself considered illegal.

⁸ Osorio, M., Percic, M. & Di Battista, F. (2014). Gender Inequalities in Rural Employment in Tanzania Mainland.

⁹ Rehmattullah, S. (2010). Gender Analysis to inform the Oxfam Country Strategy.

¹⁰ Feinstein (2014) explains: "Life for a Maasai with a disability is particularly problematic. Throughout history there has been a practice of killing and hiding mentally and physically impaired people. The Alaskan Inuits, the Woggeo of New Guinea, and the Maasai Tribe of Africa have routinely rid themselves of what they considered to be a burden to their community."

Within government, there are some people living with disabilities in higher political positions. Nevertheless, this is confined to urban areas and within central government; in rural areas, there are still high levels of marginalisation and exclusion from employment.

Age-discriminated vulnerable groups

In Tanzania, life expectancy has grown from 43 years in 1960 to over 60 years in 2012. Over three million Tanzanians – or over 6% of the total population – are aged 60 and above. This number is expected to grow to 8.3 million people by 2050. This rapidly expanding group is also unfortunately more vulnerable than the rest of the population. Not only are elders poorer (by about 7%), but they are also more prone to disability (15.5% compared to 2.4% for those aged between 20 and 59. According to the International Labour Organisation, 73% of elders (aged over 65) were still active on the labour market in Tanzania, against 55% in Kenya.

Most elderly people live in villages and, in some parts of Tanzania, there have been reports of the killing of elderly women who were accused of witchcraft. The number is as high as 2,585 between 2004 and 2009 and stood at 630 in 2013, according to the Legal and Human Rights Centre. Old people are represented through elderly peoples' councils spread across the country, culminating in a national forum through which engagement and active policy debate with the government is pursued. The elderly peoples' forums are very active in engaging with local government authorities where some receive significant recognition. Recent policy reforms have offered an opportunity for old people to access medical health care freely.¹¹

The Law of the Child (2009)¹² No. 21 classifies children as those under the age of 18 years. On the other hand, the 2007 National Policy for Youth Development¹³ identifies youth as those between the ages of 15 and 35 years who constitute over 35% of the population and 65% of the labour force in the country.

With a rapidly growing urban population, Tanzania's towns and cities are becoming increasingly young as many young people migrate from rural Tanzania in pursuit of better economic opportunities. With a limited industrial economy, most young people engage in petty trade, transportation and in the hospitality industry in urban areas. Most of these jobs do not provide decent working conditions and often lead to violations of their rights.

As a result of declining opportunities for economic prosperity in the rural areas, the rate of human trafficking is also on the rise in Tanzania with many young men and women trafficked across towns and cities to undertake potentially exploitative work. In some cases, young people opt for sex work to complement the meagre income earned from petty jobs in the urban centres. Consequently, this leads to a higher risk of HIV infections among young people. In addition, this option exposes them to stigma from the community and the worst forms of abuse at the hands of law enforcement officers.

Tanzania records one of the highest child marriage prevalence rates in the world.¹⁴ On average, almost 40% of girls will be married before their 18th birthday. About 37% of women aged 20-24 were married/in unions before age 18. A 4% decline since 2004 (41%) has been noted according to the Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS 2012).¹⁵

There is no structure or coordinating mechanism to allow the youth to engage in strategic policy with the government despite the 2007 policy commitment to establish a National Youth Council. In March 2015, the parliament passed the act for the establishment of this Council¹⁶ but little progress has been recorded thus far.

11 Daily News . (2012). Free Medical Care for the Elderly.

12 United Republic of Tanzania. (2009). Law of the Child Act.

13 United Republic of Tanzania. (2007). National Youth Development Policy.

14 United Nations Fund for Population. (2014). Child Marriage Fact Sheet.

15 United Republic of Tanzania. (2012). Tanzania Demographic and Health survey.

16 Daily News. (2015). Tanzania: House Passes Youth Council of Tanzania Bill. Available at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201504020335.html>

Indigenous groups and ethnic minorities

Tanzania is a multi-ethnic society made up of over 125 different communities. Four of these communities – the Hadzabe, the Akie, the Maasai and the Barabaig – identify themselves and have been recognised by various international instruments and some national policies as 'indigenous peoples'.

Incidents of violent violations of human rights are regularly reported including periodic conflicts with other communities. Discrimination is rife as is inhumane and degrading treatment and punishment by state institutions (police, etc.). Northern Tanzania (Arusha and Manyara regions), serve as home to most of the indigenous communities. The Maasai however are present in at least 15 districts across the country.

Indigenous peoples face many obstacles in political participation at the local and national levels, due to a lack of education, their mobile lifestyle, and discrimination. The move towards increased de-centralisation has opened new opportunities for the communities to engage in governance. However, despite the safeguards provided through a quota system in local government, women remain highly invisible.

Indigenous people have protested against land alienation and have filed numerous lawsuits with limited success. The passing of the Wildlife Conservation Act in 2009 has made it increasingly easy for the government to appropriate their lands. Indigenous communities often find themselves at the centre of intensive competing interests between agriculture, conservation and commercial hunting. The loss of ancestral lands, the fragmentation of rangelands and the restrictions to their mobility are, together with climate change and investments into extractive industries, undermining and irretrievably shifting the indigenous peoples' livelihood systems.

A major area of dispute is the granting of hunting licences (going back to 1992) to Otterlo Business Corporation Ltd (OBC), registered in the United Arab Emirates. In July 2009, the government evicted Loliondo residents from the area used for hunting by OBC. It is estimated that about 200 Maasai homesteads were burned, resulting in the loss of property including cattle and other livestock. It is alleged that up to 20,000 residents of Loliondo were impacted and up to 50,000 head of livestock were displaced from grazing and water sources.

Influencing and learning agenda

For more effective advocacy by the Voice target groups, it is important to strengthen:

- The need and access to more credible data/accurate statistics on the demographics of the elderly, violence against children, access to justice for women, etc.;
- Forging partnerships beyond the traditional civil society groups in order to transform social attitudes towards the Voice target groups. Working in collaboration trade unions, the private sector and self-help groups, for example, can provide space for innovation within Voice;
- Working with mainstream organisations as a means to channel the concerns and for building legitimacy across the civil society spectrum;
- Working with national accountability institutions will build legitimacy, for example, the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance which has oversight responsibility to hold government to account for its conduct with respect to broad and specific human rights concerns;
- Use of international agreements such as the Universal Periodic Review, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. These instruments have provided useful opportunities for civil society to come together to hold government accountable against agreed standards. Civil society participation in the monitoring of Tanzania's commitment under such instruments has, so far, been very weak, which calls for more collective action;
- Working with others from similar contexts can help build resilience and skills necessary to advance the target groups' advocacy priorities. For example, the LGBTI community in

Tanzania can learn from their counterparts in Uganda, who have faced political onslaught and managed to build resilience and deploy strategic advocacy approaches;

- Working with relevant government ministries is critical to achieving policy and/or legal reform and to influence the implementation of these policies. Local government is much closer to the constituency and thus central for measuring results at the grassroots level.

Engaging civil society

The overall capacity of civil society in Tanzania is fragile as most operate as informal movements. Those that are formal (with registration) struggle with organisational development issues and weak management skills.

Solidarity within the sector is limited to opportune moments and events as opposed to having a long-term strategic and sustained approach. LGBTI organisations and groups, in particular, also struggle to get support from mainstream organisations for fear of reprisal from the state.

The Voice target groups have established varying approaches to surviving the current context and avoiding state intrusion into their civic space.

In most cases, civil society organisations and leaders have chosen to negotiate their space with the state in order to retain their existence.

In other cases, litigation has been the preferred means for countering the overbearing role of the state in regulating civic space, for example, the ban of the Women's Council and the intention to deregister CHESA, an LGBTI friendly organisation. Both could be seen as potential grantees under the Voice Sudden Opportunity grant window.

