




TANZANIA

A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2024

WORKERS DEMAND A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT

WORKERS NEED DURABLE RESPONSES TO MULTIPLE CRISES

Tanzania's response to the Covid-19 pandemic was not initially strong. As existing social and health programming was predominantly oriented towards a rural population, it failed to reach the households in the informal urban economy which were most vulnerable to the virus. However, the government has since made significant efforts to ensure that the majority of the population was reached with its' vaccination efforts.

To tackle food insecurity and address vulnerability to unpredictable events, Tanzania has been working with the World Bank. A salary raise for public employees was introduced and the private sector minimum wage was increased in 2022. In addition, the Tanzania Social Action Fund's Productive Social Safety Net program aims to increase income and consumption, improve the ability to cope with shocks, and enhance and protect the human capital of children among extremely poor populations.

Tanzania has agreed a National Climate Change Response Strategy for 2021-2026, which aims to enhance national resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change. In 2022, the president unveiled a plan to invest US\$18bn in renewable power generation.

ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

Tanzania mainstreamed the SDGs into its national policy frameworks, including the national development plan and monitoring and evaluation systems. Its current UN Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP II, 2022-2026) and National Five-year Development Plan (2021/22-2025/25) are anchored in the SDGs, with a focus on supporting the most vulnerable communities. The Ministry of Finance and Planning is responsible for identifying and mobilising resources for the implementation of the national and global development goals and targets. As of 2023, the implementation of the SDGs is coordinated by the President's Office Planning Commission (POPC). Line ministries are responsible for integrating the SDGs into their respective policy areas. The National Bureau of Statistics is mandated to mainstream SDGs indicators and collect data for monitoring the implementation progress of SDGs at the national level.

Trade unions share that while there is some transparency in the decision-making process, the government's reporting mechanisms on SDGs implementation are not yet fully adequate. There is a lack of a multi-stakeholder platform for consultations between civil society and the government on the implementation of Agenda 2030. Trade unions are, however, able to provide input towards the implementation of the SDGs through their participation within the Labour, Economic and Social Council (LESCO), where Agenda 2030 is discussed in the context of social dialogue. As LESCO is the tripartite plus advisory body consulted by the Ministry of Labour on measures to promote economic growth, social security, economic and social policy, trade unions can provide input relevant to a broad range of SDG goals, not only on SDG 8.

TRANSPARENCY



Irregular access to limited information.

CONSULTATION



There are information sessions but no interaction.

SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There are contributions agreed and submitted jointly by social partners to the national government.



IS THE (DECENT) WORK GETTING DONE?

With regards to **SDG 1 (no poverty)**, indicators for **target 1.1 (eradicating extreme poverty)** show that Tanzania was one of countries with the lowest human development index (HDI) in the world, standing at 0.549 in 2021. While the proportion of the population living below the extreme poverty line has reduced from 69.3 per cent in 1991 to 44.9 per cent in 2018, it remains high. In 2023, 42.1 per cent of the country's workers and their families lived on less than 2.15 US dollars per person per day. With regards to **target 1.3 (nationally appropriate social protection systems)**, in 2021, only 14 per cent of the population benefitted from any type of social security benefit. However, the proportion of the poor population receiving a social assistance cash benefit increased from 7 per cent in 2019 to 37.8 per cent in 2021. Still, indicators on **target 1.a.2 (spending on essential services)** show that in 2020, only 1.7 per cent of GDP was spent on social protection and 1.6 per cent on health.

On **SDG 5 (gender equality)**, further efforts are required to reach the objective set by **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work)**, as in 2014, women spent four times as much time per day on unpaid work (16 per cent of the day) as men (4 per cent). With regards to **target 5.5 (women's full and effective participation)**, the proportion of seats held by women in parliament increased from 22.2 per cent in 2000 to 37.4 per cent in 2023 and the proportion of women in senior and middle management positions increased from 11.7 per cent in 2001 to 27.9 per cent in 2020. However, trade unions report that while capacity building for gender mainstreaming is listed as a budgetary priority, it is continuously under resourced.

Significant improvements remain to be made on **SDG 8 (decent work)**. Progress on target 8.3 (support decent job creation) is urgently needed, as informal employment accounted for 82.4 per cent of employment outside of agriculture (for 77.2 per cent of men and for 88.1 per cent of women) in 2020. Additionally, the rate of vulnerable employment stood at 81.9 per cent in 2021. On **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all)**, the unemployment rate of those over 25 stood at 2.4 per cent (1.5 per cent for men and 3.3 per cent for women) in 2020, relatively low. However, underemployment was high, at 13.3 per cent for the over 25s in 2022. NEET indicators for **target**

8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training) stood at 14.4 per cent in 2020 – much higher for young women (19.3 per cent) than for men (9.1 per cent). Indicators for **target 8.7 (eradicate forced labour and the worst forms of child labour)** are concerning, showing that 22.8 per cent of children engaged in child labour in 2014, including in forced labour in mining, quarrying, and domestic work, as well as performing dangerous tasks in agriculture. With regards to **target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)**, the number of trained labour inspectors is likely insufficient and unable to cover the large informal workforce. In 2020, 22 violations of labour rights were noted – 20 in law and two in practice.

On **SDG 10 (reduced inequalities)** and **target 10.4 (progressively achieve greater equality)**, in 2018, 10 per cent of the highest income earners controlled 33.1 per cent of GDP, while the lowest 20 per cent controlled 6.9 per cent of GDP. However, some progress can be reported, as the labour share of GDP increased from 27.2 per cent in 2010 to 53.3 per cent in 2020. Furthermore, both mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar raised the minimum wage for public and private sector employees in 2022. On target 10.7 (migration and mobility), social partners are involved in a dialogue on legislation around labour migration in Tanzania.

On **SDG 13 (climate action)** and **target 13.2 (integrate climate change measures into policies)**, trade unions warn that despite stated plans, governance challenges impede Tanzania's ability to enforce climate-related policies as there is weak coordination between levels of government, limited scientific and policy information, and insufficient capacity and resources.

On **SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions)**, Tanzania is far off reaching **target 16.10 (protect fundamental freedoms)**, as workers' rights are systematically violated.

TRADE UNION ASKS TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Trade unions call on the Tanzanian government to:

- Establish a regular and transparent reporting mechanism on the implementation of Agenda 2030 for civil society and social partners.
- Put in place a multi-stakeholder platform on the SDGs that involves all civil society stakeholders.
- Put in place development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation.
- Establish comprehensive national employment policy frameworks, built upon the principle of policy coherence for development.
- Involve trade unions in the development of national policies on minimum living wages, as well as in the monitoring and evaluation of these policies.
- Adopt policies that promote gender equality in employment, such as equal pay for work of equal value, measures to address occupational segregation, address sexual harassment and flexible working arrangements.
- Implement international labour standards, including freedom of association, collective bargaining and social dialogue. Ratify ILO conventions 102 and on minimum standards in social security and 189 on domestic workers.
- Ensure significant mobilisation of resources to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.



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