



TANZANIA

A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGS

#HLPF2023

WORKERS DEMAND A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT FOR RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

WORKERS NEED DURABLE RESPONSES TO MULTIPLE CRISES

Tanzania's response to the Covid-19 pandemic was not initially strong. The existing social and health program was predominantly oriented towards a rural population and failed to reach households in the informal urban economy which were the most vulnerable to the virus. However, since the swearing-in of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, renewed efforts saw the country make headway in its efforts to contain the pandemic, notably through an increased number of vaccinations.

To tackle food insecurity and address its vulnerability to unpredictable events, Tanzania has been working with the World Bank, which has approved new funding for Eastern and Southern African countries for this purpose. A salary raise for public employees was introduced in 2022, after a seven-year freeze. 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\$18 bn 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) is 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 national and global development goals and targets; it also coordinates the implementation of the SDGs. Line ministries are responsible for integrating the SDGs into their respective policy areas. The National Bureau of Statistics is mandated to mainstream SDG indicators and collect data to monitor the implementation progress of SDGs at a national level.

Trade unions have observed that government reporting mechanisms on SDG implementation remain inadequate. This is exemplified by the absence of a multi-stakeholder platform for effective consultation between civil society and the government on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. 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 the 2030 Agenda is discussed in the context of social dialogue. As LESCO is both the tripartite and the 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, rather than solely 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



IS THE (DECENT) WORK GETTING DONE?

With regards to **SDG 1**, 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 decreased from 69.3 per cent in 1991 to 44.9 per cent in 2018, it remains high. In 2022, 47.6 per cent of the country's workers and their families lived on less than US\$1.90 per person per day. Trade unions report that rising inflation has eroded workers' purchasing power. 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 that received social assistance cash benefits increased from seven per cent in 2019 to 37.8 per cent in 2021. Still, indicators on **target 1.a (spending on essential services)** show that in 2018, only 3.3 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was spent on social protection.

On **SDG 5**, 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 more time per day on unpaid work (16 per cent of the day) than men (four 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, in both these cases, the figures remain below parity levels.

Significant improvements remain to be made on **SDG 8**. 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, affecting 77.2 per cent of men and 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, at 2.8 per cent (1.9 per cent for men and 3.7 per cent for women), was relatively low in 2020. However, underemployment was high,

reaching 14.7 per cent in 2019. NEET indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** stood at 14.3 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 of concern, and show that 22.8 per cent of children were engaged in child labour in 2014, including through 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 2017, 25 violations of labour rights were noted – 19 in law and six in practice.

On **SDG 10** 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 have a minimum wage for public and private sector employees. On **target 10.7 (migration and mobility)**, social partners are involved in a dialogue on legislation around labour migration in Tanzania.

On **SDG 13** 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**, Tanzania is far from achieving **target 16.10 (protect fundamental freedoms)**, as it is noted as systematically violating workers' rights in the ITUC Global Rights Index.



TRADE UNIONS ASK THAT NO-ONE IS LEFT BEHIND

Trade unions call on the Tanzanian government to:

- Establish regular and transparent reporting mechanisms on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for civil society and social partners.
- Establish 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.
- Formulate 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, and measures to address occupational segregation. Encourage employer policies that promote gender equality in the workplace, such as flexible working arrangements and measures to address sexual harassment.
- Implement international labour standards, including freedom of association, collective bargaining and social dialogue.
- Ensure significant mobilisation of resources to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.



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