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GENDER AND YOUTH TANZANIA

Youth under 15 years of age comprise 45 percent of Tanzania’s population of over 53 million people (UN Population Division, 2015). At the current growth rate, Tanzania’s population is projected to reach 70 million by 2025. Despite these numbers, women and youth are among the most marginalized and underutilized Tanzanian citizens. Within this context, USAID works to enable gender equality and empower women and youth, as the two groups play a key role in the progress and growth of Tanzania. Tanzanian females and youth must have greater access to and control over resources, opportunities, and decision-making power in order to sustainably reduce extreme poverty, build healthy communities, and promote inclusive growth.

USAID/Tanzania’s gender equality and youth inclusion project, or *Tumaini* (“Hope” in Kiswahili), serves the critical unifying role of integrating gender equality, women’s empowerment, and youth inclusion across a broad range of USAID activities. USAID’s activities in these areas focus on strengthening the national-level enabling environment for women and youth, increasing the promotion of women’s equality and youth inclusion at the local government and community levels, and ensuring that Tanzanian women and youth are healthier, better educated, and more productive. *Tumaini* encompasses activities focused on youth empowerment in agriculture, providing friendly and accessible health services, ensuring girls enroll in and complete secondary school, and integrating human rights and social inclusion programming.

PHOTO CREDIT: USAID

GENDER AND YOUTH OVERVIEW

MAJOR PARTNERS

- Women in Law and Development Africa
- UN Women
- Africare
- FHI360
- World Education, Inc.
- PACT, Inc.
- EngenderHealth
- International Youth Foundation
- International Institute for Education
- UNICEF

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Nationwide

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CHALLENGES

The Government of Tanzania has adopted policies that advance gender equality and youth inclusion in a supportive enabling environment. The legal and regulatory framework and the sector-specific policies of government ministries and independent departments, however, have yet to be aligned with these policies. Furthermore, amending the Age of Marriage Act to increase the minimum age for females to marry to 18 remains a critical point of action. There is also a need for well-trained parliamentarians, policy analysts, researchers, and civil society organizations in order to ensure successful female- and youth-positive legal reforms and policies.

IMPACT

USAID integrates gender equality, women's empowerment, and youth inclusion across all of its activities, enabling public policy dialogue and advocacy in support of gender and youth-positive policies and services. Recent highlights include:

- USAID launched the *Waache Wasome* ("Let them Learn") project in 2017 to increase adolescent girls' enrollment and retention in secondary school. Interventions will empower out-of-school girls to create and achieve goals for their future and address the social norms and economic barriers that constrain their ability to remain and excel in school.
- USAID's work with Women in Law and Development in Africa has provided legal aid and gender-based violence services for 8,470 citizens to date, in addition to improving referral systems for gender-based violence and violence against children in three districts.
- USAID also supported the Women's Leadership and Political Participation Project implemented by the United Nations Fund for Women, which worked to increase female participation in political party structures, practices, and electoral processes. These efforts trained over 1,200 women, youth, and people with disabilities in civic leadership; of these, 713 ran for office and 72 were nominated as candidates in 2015.