RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT
THE YOUTH-LED DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

YOUTH IN TANZANIA TODAY:
THE REPORT 2012/13
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The aim of this report is to provide data on young people and perspectives from young people to enable us all to have a more informed picture of young people's lives including their status, needs, and interests.

Our report is inspired by our values:

- **We are who we serve**
  This report has been designed, researched, and written with young people and young professionals.

- **We are 100% professional**
  This report provides credible data on young people using qualitative and quantitative research.

- **We bring voices to the table**
  This report contains the views and perspectives of a range of young people, male, female, unemployed, employed, urban, rural and many other diversities.

- **We are in it together**
  This report was developed with participation from a wide range of national partners in government, civil society, donors and companies through design, research, and validation.

**We give thanks**

We thank everyone who took part in this study for their creativity, hard work, and commitment. This is your report and you should feel proud of what you have achieved.

We have endless gratitude for the young researchers involved in developing and executing this research.

This report has been produced with support from the Embassy of Sweden to whom we are grateful for their commitment to promoting the youth agenda in Tanzania.

To the sixty plus local and national stakeholders who took part in this study we thank you for your input. This includes Ministry of Information, Youth, Culture and Sports, local government authorities. We also thank UNFPA, UNWOMEN, CIDA, CAMFED, UNICEF, Femina HIP, Tamasha, and ILO for feeding into the study design and validation process.

Special thanks go to Kennedy Dulu and Francis Omondi for working with Restless Development to conduct this study. From the Restless Development team we need to thank Chitungu Said, Dilhani Wijeyesekera, Oscar Kimaro and Julie Bell for their countless reviews and feedback.

A final thank you to Laura Meloney and Daryll Bell for designing and producing the report.

**INTRODUCTION:** Impressions from the director

**Young people will change the world. Yet in nearly every society, they are an untapped asset.**

Today more than 50% of the global population is under 25, that's 3.5 billion young people!

**Young Africans are more literate than their parents' generation, yet more likely to be un-employed.**

The biggest youth population rises are expected in the Global South. Within three generations, 41% of the world’s youth will be African, adding 163 million potential workers to the world’s labour force by 2020 [1]. However, today they make up 60% of the unemployed [2]. 36% of girls from some of the poorest communities across the world still do not get a secondary education, and young people account for 40% of all new adult (15+) HIV infections [3].

**But what does this mean for Tanzania?**

Today, we are experiencing a child bulge with 45% of the population under 15 [4]. It is becoming a youth bulge (with a higher than average youth population ratio) and is expected to last for the next thirty years due to high fertility rates coupled with declining child mortality.

There are currently 900,000 young people entering the job market in Tanzania every year, with only 4% successfully completing secondary level education [1]. This figure is expected to rise. Yet only 50–60,000 new jobs are expected to be created in the formal sector each year [5].

As citizens, activists, NGOs, donors, governments and companies, we have a window of opportunity to prepare for this demographic shift, to learn from countries where youth bulges have occurred, and to address the core challenges facing young people in Tanzania.

**It is a unique and time-bound opportunity that requires us to act.**

Through careful planning and action it could contribute to a ‘demographic dividend’. This is only possible if the child and youth population is fully developed through education and skills tailored to society’s needs, family planning leading to smaller families and child spacing, and improved health. When these conditions are fostered it can result in a larger and more productive labor force of working age that can deliver for the country for longer.

This could be a tipping point for development, but we must create a role for young people in this process. With major development processes under way including the drafting of a new constitution, national elections, and the Post MDG Framework, now is the time.

Dilhani Wijeyesekera
Director, Restless Development Tanzania
Universally ‘youth’ is a transition period between childhood and adulthood. However, the definition of youth can vary across countries because of different political, socio-economic, and cultural underpinnings. The United Nations defines a youth as a person whose age ranges from 15-24 [9].

As an agency we work with young people across a broad age range of 10-35, depending on the specific needs of target groups and the nature of the programme.

The team at Restless Development Tanzania is excited to deliver to you the second annual State of the Youth report. Information in this report is portrayed under three youth lenses:

> livelihoods and employment
> sexual reproductive health and rights
> policy and civic involvement

The goal of this publication is to help others gain an understanding of the state of the youth in Tanzania to stimulate and facilitate better planning and programming with and for young people. This report brings the youth perspectives to the table.

Similar to the previous State of the Youth study, we maintained our youth-lead approach where youths were responsible for designing, implementing, and analysing the study and its data. This serves to improve the skills of young researchers in Tanzania.

The most significant change from last year is its size and scope. This year, our State of the Youth research included a two-fold increase in the number of regions (from the original four to seven, see map below) and twice the number of participants and researchers. It involved using multiple data collection methods such as focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and individual surveys. The study used both qualitative and quantitative research techniques. Regions were purposively selected to ensure coverage of all zones of mainland Tanzania including a random selection of districts and one urban and one rural ward in every district of the study.

The target group was a mix of young people in and out of school in urban and rural settings aged 15-29, with a strong focus on engaging with minority populations and young women and girls. The study utilized a variety of media platforms to involve more people.

- 1037 young people surveyed (61% young women, 10% young people with disabilities)
- 224 young people took part in focus group discussions
- 64 local and national stakeholders took part in key informant interviews

The definition of youth is greatly contested globally and nationally, the age range of 15 - 29 was selected as a mid-point between the upper age of 24 and 35 respectively from the UN and government of Tanzania.
In Tanzania some progress has been seen against key development indicators including increase in the stated GDP per capita, expansion of access to mobile phones, and gains in HIV knowledge levels amongst youth. Universal access to primary education also continues to rise. However, the quality of education is a concern reflected by a high pupil/teacher ratio of 48/1 in 2011 and a low pass rate of 53.5% at the primary level [8]. Furthermore Tanzania’s ranking on the human development index has dropped by three points indicating increasing levels of inequality.

The population remains mainly rural (74%) and youthful (66% under 25). The age dependency ratio for Tanzania between 2007 and 2011 is 92 per working age population. This is higher than some of its neighbours in East Africa, for example, Kenya’s is 82 and Rwanda’s is 83 [7].

The policy environment is positive, although progress needs to be made to ensure policy is implemented. This includes: increased budget support, greater coordination within the youth sector, and linkages between sub-sector youth forums across different ministries.


**MDG progress on youth linked targets**

**MDG 2**
“**Achieve Universal Primary Education**”
Net attendance ratio in primary education: 77.4 (80.1 female)

**MDG 3**
“**Promote Gender Equality & Empower Women**”
Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education: data no available
Ratio of literate women to men aged 15 – 24: data not available

**MDG 5**
“**Improve Maternal Health**”
Adolescent birth rate aged 15 – 19: 67.1

**MDG 6**
“**Combat HIV/AIDS and Other Diseases**”
HIV prevalence 15 – 24 years old: 2.0 (2.7 female)% 15 – 24 years old with correct knowledge of HIV and AIDS: 43.4 (40.1 female) [10]

**MDG 8**
“**Develop a Global Partnership for Development**”
% of youth among unemployed: 53 [8]

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*Age dependency ratio is the proportion of people in a population who are younger than 15 and older than 64 when compared to the working age population aged (15-64).
The adoption of the Mkukuta II (National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty II) by the Tanzanian government in 2007 seeks to promote the advancement of youth, recognising that:

“Young people make up the largest part of the labour-force . . . rural women face even greater obstacles in gaining paid employment and other means of livelihood, as such the strategy emphasizes the provision of productive and decent employment for women and youth as the principal route to ending poverty.” [5]

Employment has been prioritised with the establishment of the Tanzania Employment Agency in 2008 to address high unemployment, yet in 2012 unemployment was back to the 2007 rate of 11.7%, after a decrease to 10.7% in 2010.

Despite policy initiatives, investment in youth development remains limited with the Ministry of Youth receiving only 0.01% of the national budget in 2012/2013.

Employment continues to be a challenge for Tanzanian youth. Despite increasing levels of education, unemployment among State of the Youth respondents is 50%, over four times higher than the national rate of 11.7%. Regional analysis indicated higher rates of unemployment and no alternative sources of income for participants in Dar Es Salaam.

The situation is tougher for women and girls. 57% of unemployed State of the Youth participants were female, and likely to be unpaid for their work. According to the World Bank (2013), about 75% of employed youths are active in the agriculture sector, and only 6.7% hold public sector wage jobs. Though 89% of women in Tanzania are working, more than 53% are not being paid and of the 30% (approximately) receiving cash earnings, 17% have no say on expenditures being made [8].

Agriculture offers employment to almost half of the employed State of the Youth participants, while another third are self-employed in commerce, yet focus group discussions reveal low youth interest in these sectors. Youth report that there are no contracts or benefits, the infrastructure for improvement is weak, and productivity (and therefore salary) is too variable. Interviewed stakeholders attribute the low youth interest in agriculture to a lack of support, the use of traditional equipment, and the fact that very few youth own land.

Education among Tanzanian youth is improving, especially primary education enrolment rates and women’s education. A comparison to figures from the National Bureau of Statistics shows that the number of female State of the Youth participants with no education is three times lower than the national average. Young men are also enjoying better education than in the past, with 30% educated to secondary level or higher compared to a national average of 23%. However, it is clear that there are low numbers of students making it through secondary school and into further education (see figure 4). In fact, the results of 2012/13 indicate that only 34.5% of students passed the form four examination [11].

Education levels among State of the Youth respondents

![Education levels among State of the Youth respondents](chart)

The survey data indicate that employment potential for youths without education is mainly in the private traditional agriculture sector. For those who did not complete primary education, 84.8% are employed in private traditional agriculture, 4.45% in the private informal sector, 7.5% in housework duties, and 3.33% in NGOs, Government, parastatal, among others [8].

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““A youth in Dar es Salaam is more than 6 times (13%) more likely to be unemployed than a rural youth,”
Jacques Morrisett, World Bank

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“We need to change the mindsets of young people on how they perceive agriculture. They find it boring, tedious and dirty, for the uneducated. We can do this through providing practical skills to young people to do agriculture as a business, use of interactive and entertainment type of programs such as radio programs on agriculture since TV does not reach most youth in the rural areas.”

Femina, Dar es Salaam
The mining and tourism sectors offer high potential for youth employment in particular regions, but key informants and youth participants report unmet potential. In tourism, young people are employed mainly in positions with low pay and responsibility and both youth and stakeholders observe that profits often bypass the communities, going instead to large tour operators from outside the region.

We employ almost 50% of young people; however they work mostly as porters, security guards and cooks or curio sellers. Just look at how hard young people work to sustain their livelihoods… leaders should develop an environment of trust in young people to create space for them to take up leadership opportunities.  

Tour operator, Arusha

The mining sector is expanding throughout Tanzania but is not offering the opportunities, either for youth or older Tanzanians that might be expected. Instead earnings are being exported, while local exploitation is inhibited by conflict and a lack of support for small scale miners.

The government has been promising to empower small miners, but these are empty and insignificant. Because of the little recognition of government of small miners, they do not actively contribute to development. Conflicts always arise between government and miners, since they want to own their places of operations.

CBO representative, Arusha

Mismatches between employer needs and youth expectations are limiting young people’s ability to enter wage employment. In a 2012 study on matching alumni skills with the private sector employment needs revealed that the private sector requires youth with the following skills: leadership, communication, interpersonal, computer, problem solving and report writing. The same study found that these skills are often not provided within the Tanzanian education system and young people don’t recognise their importance.

Two important policies that help promote the voices of Tanzanian youth are the 2006 National Population Policy and the 2007 Youth Development Policy. The former recognizes young people as a special group of priority if growth and employment issues are to be addressed. The policy seeks to promote youth participation in decision making to facilitate youth access to valuable resources for self-reliance and to promote the rights of youth in general. The latter looks to support youths’ affairs and provisions the government would provide to them.

An important commitment a country can make for its future economic, social and political progress, as well as stability, is to invest in the growth and development needs of young people (8). Young people are today’s as well as tomorrow’s wage earners and entrepreneurs, educators and innovators, health professionals, political and civic leaders and are vital to economic growth and wellbeing.

ON OUR VOICE: Our knowledge and participation in decision making

Two important policies that help promote the voices of Tanzanian youth are the 2006 National Population Policy and the 2007 Youth Development Policy. The former recognizes young people as a special group of priority if growth and employment issues are to be addressed. The policy seeks to promote youth participation in decision making to facilitate youth access to valuable resources for self-reliance and to promote the rights of youth in general. The latter looks to support youths’ affairs and provisions the government would provide to them.

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Knowledge on national policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law and order</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural roads</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>43.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privatization</td>
<td>40.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-corruption</td>
<td>45.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS control</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mkukuta</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local government reform</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 6: Self-reported knowledge from respondents regarding national policies

Literacy and knowledge regarding government and policy among the respondents varies. The top three policies able to be listed by participants were HIV/AIDS control, Mkukuta II, and Anti-corruption (Figure 6). However, nearly 21% of the respondents could not list a policy familiar to them and 40% of participants did not know their village chairperson. Access to information regarding village budgets and governmental policies was primarily dependent on the region. Similarly, rural participants were less aware of governmental policies and their rights compared to urban participants.
Active participation in local government has increased since the introduction of the multiparty system in elections; young people are starting to participate in local and national governance movements. Our data found that 27% of youth are participating in meetings with local government or take action on public issues (figure 7).

The constitutional review offers an opportunity for young Tanzanians to have a voice in determining the future of their nation. Our data suggests that youth recognise this opportunity, with 26% of respondents saying they’ve contributed to the constitutional review process. 16% of respondents reported attending consultation sessions run by the Constitutional Review Commission while 12%, mainly from Dar es Salaam and Dodoma, made contributions through social media. Youth participation in governance will also climb with active involvement from the start of the process.

Participation in the constitutional review ranges from just 13% among participants from Arusha to 49% in Dar es Salaam. In areas where participation in the constitutional review process was low, youth attributed this to a lack of information on the process, insufficient knowledge of the current constitution and a sense that their views would not be considered.

“Since we are not even aware of the current constitution it would be hard to give views on the new one.”
Youth participant, Kahama

THE NEXT ELECTIONS

Youth participants articulated the changes they would like to see in the new constitution, including equal development of all regions not just those with resources, and mandatory safeguarding of youth within the Bill of Rights.

Youth participation in the 2015 election will depend on a number of factors, according to youth respondents. At the time of the survey, approximately 60% of respondents intended to vote, ranging from 38% in Arusha to over 70% in Rukwa and Ruvuma. Less female respondents were planning to vote (56%) than males (65%).

“Young people participated in large numbers in community policing in Ujewa project, because they were involved in the planning and engaged in seminars through their groups.”
Ward Executive Officer, Sumbawanga

“What was your reason for not voting?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I was too young to vote</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was not registered</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There was nobody worthy of voting</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There was violence</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My vote does not matter</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I had political justification for not voting</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was impeded from voting</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was not informed about the elections</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was not interested</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 8: Reported reasons among respondents for not voting in the last election.

Figure 7: Self-reported participation from year 2012 in any meeting with Government or Local Authority in order to discuss or take action regarding local public issues.

Figure 9: Participation of youth respondents in the constitutional review by region.

Figure 10: How youth respondents participated in the constitutional review.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION
Over half of the respondents say exercising their right to vote is a key motivator for participating in the elections. To a lesser extent, respondents will be motivated by their belief that youth can generate change, having preferred candidates and/or good contestants and the promise of a reduction in violence and electoral malpractice. Violence and electoral malpractice were identified as the main factors which will stop youth participants from voting.

“In Kisarawe, young people registered as members of a political party, went to the village and told the village leaders that we want to take over the leadership but you remain as our advisers. They took all the leadership positions and the elders provide them with advice ... youth and elders are in harmony.”

Tamasha, Zawiya

Conflict between young people and community structures was acknowledged to exist across all of the surveyed regions, with 42% of respondents reporting conflict in their communities. Conflict with authorities is also experienced on an individual level, with 16% of respondents stating that they’ve been in conflict with the law.

The most common sources of conflict in youth participants’ communities are land and resources. 70% of respondents reported conflicts over land ownership in their communities while in Shinyanga, 92% of respondents reported conflict over mining. In Arusha, conflicts over grazing and farming land and boundaries are common. The exception was Dar es Salaam, where disputes with authorities who exercise power was the most commonly reported.

Regional variations were evident during data SRHR analysis, with self-reported knowledge of SRHR highest in Dar es Salaam and lowest in Arusha. In Mtowambu ward in Arusha region, no respondents had heard of either SRH services or SRH rights while in Msongola ward in Dar es Salaam, 86% of respondents had heard of SRH services and 50% had heard of SRH rights.

Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) remains an important agenda item for Tanzania, and especially for Tanzanian youth. The 2011–2015 National Adolescent Reproductive Health Strategy is one of the deliberate efforts put in place to implement the policy. The strategy seeks to contribute to improvement of sexual and reproductive health status of adolescents and their general wellbeing[11]. Figure 14 below shows that 59% of respondents indicated they have heard of sexual reproductive health (SRH) services, while 44% indicated they have heard of SRH rights.
Access to SRH services is shown in Figure 14. Most respondents have accessed services with both SRH-counseling and HIV-counseling utilised by over half the respondents. Access to family planning services and STI testing and treatment is lower, with around a third of respondents using these services. Our data show female respondents reporting greater utilisation of SRH services, particularly family planning (accessed by 39% female and 32% male respondents) and HIV-counseling and testing (accessed by 57% and 51% male respondents).

Most young men associate family planning and sexual health as an issue for women not men.
Youth focus group participant, Sumbawanga, Rukwa

Challenges to accessing services and exercising rights are depicted in figures 15 and 16. Our data shows that youth access to SRH services is restricted by cost; availability of medication, doctors and equipment and rudeness/uncooperativeness of health staff. Confidence, poverty and corruption present the greatest challenges to exercising sexual rights among respondents.

Intergenerational discussions on SRH remain a challenge for many respondents. While 31% say they have spoken to their parents about SRH and rights, more than half reported that fear of parental/guardian reactions is a barrier to having these conversations.

Risk perceptions were low, with only 35% of respondents considering themselves at risk of acquiring STIs, including HIV. Participating youth mentioned peer pressure and monetary needs as the main reasons to ignore advice about SRH, despite the high incidence of HIV and other STIs.
CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A critical aim of the study is to support youth sector stakeholders, from government, civil society, private sector, and development partners, to better understand young people’s interests, priorities, and constraints. It also aims to enable young people to better understand their own lives, and to make better choices for themselves and society as a whole.

As such this section of the report highlights the major findings, and recommendations to support better planning, programming, youth engagement, and policy development.

THE CONCLUSIONS

ON EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOODS:

- Although education levels tend to be higher in urban areas, we are seeing evidence of young people being more likely to be unemployed or under-employed.

- In rural areas, competition for key resources including land access is a core constraint in livelihoods development.

ON CIVIC PARTICIPATION:

- Low education and apathy are likely to impact on young people’s engagement in major political and development processes.

- Social hierarchies are likely to prevent young people from equitably accessing opportunities to take part of local governance and decision making.

- Resource access and accountability (natural and financial) are resulting in conflict between highly marginalized groups in society and local decision makers.

ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS:

- Access to youth friendly health treatment services is still significantly low compared to access to information and counselling.

- Structural constraints are hindering behaviour change amongst young people as they are not confident to discuss and seek advice from key influencers who have power in their communities, parents (in the home), and religious and local leaders (in the community).

- Fewer men than women are accessing or participating in services indicating that programmes may not be suitably adapted to ensure men’s engagement (without hindering women and girls access to the same).

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

ON EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOODS:

- Tailored livelihoods and employment programmes which address young people’s access (including legal constraints) to land and resources is essential to meeting young people’s needs.

- School based curriculums which prepare young people for the work place to build a higher hard and soft skilled future labour force is critical for growth and development planning.

- Consolidation of sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention programming for young people to better target structural drivers which deter safe practices including service and treatment access, and focus on influencers.

- Strengthening in school and out of school youth participation so young people better understand how government operates, policies are formulated, and how to engage.

- Youth-adult partnerships must be a core priority in all programming.

- Transparency mechanisms, particularly on local resource access, must be integrated into future planning to ensure positive engagement between citizens and duty bearers.

- Coordination of the youth sector via the responsible line ministry to ensure better awareness, planning, and joint programming on agencies focused on youth development.

- Engagement of diverse groups of young people directly in policy making and review on issues that concern them to ensure they are recognized as an asset and not only as a target.
REFERENCES


RESOURCES

Tanzania Census 2012
Most recent national survey of the population and households in Tanzania

Tanzania Demographic Health Survey 2010
Eighth national survey assessing population health indicators across the country

Tanzania HIV/AIDS and Malaria Indicator Survey 2011-12
Third national data survey covering mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar

www.unfpa.org/publicadolescents
This website provides an overview of UNFPA policies and programmes as they relate to young people including research, case studies, factsheets and policy frameworks

www.worldwants2015.org
This platform is devoted to the post-2015 framework jointly hosted by the United Nations and Civil Society to provide current information on the process, consultations and opportunities to take part in the global conversation on post-2015

www.youthpolicy.org
A global community and knowledge base on youth policy and youth development from around the world

www.restlessdevelopment.org/resource
A resource page with links to a number of studies, evaluations, toolkits, and reports related to youth development from around the world

www.facebook.com/restlessdev
www.sautiyavijanatz.wordpress.com/
Youth forums for young people to discuss and share knowledge on issues affecting their lives.

About Restless Development Tanzania

The youth-led development agency – everything we do is led by and through young people (www.restlessdevelopment.org). And because we are who we serve, we place young people at the forefront of change and development, empowering them to take a leadership role in addressing the most urgent issues facing their country and the world.

Based on our 20 years of experience, it is this award winning youth-led approach – the source of our expertise and credibility – that lends our strength and creativity in bringing the nuance, perspective and life to this pivotal assessment of young people’s lives in Tanzania.

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