

Gender Profile: Tanzania



General

Total male population under age 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 11,173,655
Total female population under age 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 10,962,186

Total male population over age 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 13,553,042
Total female population over age 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 13,950,255

Health

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births (2010) (CIA, 2015): 460
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2014) (CIA, 2015): 43.74

Under-five mortality rate for males: NA
Under-five mortality rate for females: NA

Births attended by a skilled health professional (2010) (WHO, 2014b): 48.9%

Prevalence of HIV among males aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 4.8%
Prevalence of HIV among females aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 6.8%

Life expectancy for men (2012) (WHO, 2014a): 59
Life expectancy for women (2012) (WHO, 2014a): 63

Education

Male youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (2010) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 76.49%
Female youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (2010) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 72.77%

Male adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2010) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 75.47%
Female adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2010) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 60.75%

Male adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2008) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015):
98.03%

Female adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2008) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015):
97.63%

Male gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015):
37.30%

Female gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015):
32.63%

Male gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 5.07%
Female gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 2.77%

Graduates from tertiary education who are female (1999) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 22.3%

Students enrolled in engineering, construction and manufacturing tertiary education programs who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 21.9%

Teachers in primary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 51.6

Teachers in secondary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 28.2%

Teachers in tertiary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 29.8%

Economic Activity

Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 90%

Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 87%

Men who have an account in a formal financial institution (World Economic Forum, 2013): 21%

Women who have an account in a formal financial institution (World Economic Forum, 2013): 14%

Decision-Making

Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (World Bank, 2014): 36%

Human Rights

Girls married before 15 (2013) (Girls Not Brides, 2015): 7%

Females married between 15 and 19 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 28%

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2012): 43.6%

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner or a nonpartner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2012): 45.4%

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Gender Gaps

Health

- Traditional attitudes hinder women's decision-making abilities about their health. The 2010 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey, which collected information from currently married women, found that

only 15.3% of women made decisions mainly on their own about their health care, versus 45% who made them jointly with their husband, and 38.1% whose husband alone made these decisions. The same survey found that 57.7% of these women's husbands were the sole decision makers about household expenses, while only 31.9% made the decisions jointly with their husband, and 6.9% mostly on their own (NBS & ICF Macro, 2011, p. 248). Thus, many women are not empowered and/or lack the resources to access health care.

- According to a 2010 UNICEF report, the previous fifteen years had witnessed no progress in reducing maternal mortality rates (p. 3).

Education

- Approximately a quarter of Tanzanians believe that boys' education is more important than girls' (UNICEF, 2010, p. 28).

Economic

- Women frequently must work long hours as agricultural labourers but often do not receive a fair share of the rewards. For example, one 2013 report found that 50% of rural women in Tanzania are agricultural workers who have no rights to ownership over the land they work or any say in how the land is used (IPP Media, 2013).
- On average, women earn only 68% of what men earn for performing similar work (World Economic Forum, 2013, p. 354)

Decision-Making

- A quota system allotting women 20% of seats in the national parliament was implemented in 2000. However, this has been insufficient to shift the political atmosphere in women's favour, and the manner in which women are allotted seats in parliament impacts their negotiating power. A 2003 academic study on women and politics in Tanzania offered the following illustrative examples: "[W]hen the Speaker of the House made a sexist joke in order to defend his position on the board of a telephone company, no female MP dared to protest, only civil society actors challenged him and demanded that he apologize to the women of Tanzania, which he did. In addition, some MPs have been trivializing the debate on HIV/AIDS as an issue concerning the female dress code, for example, without protest from female MPs. When a female civil society activist was brought before a parliamentary committee for what appeared to be an interrogation for having the audacity to challenge the sexual behaviour of MPs in the era of HIV/AIDS, female members of parliament did not object" (International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, 2003, p. 4).

Human Rights

- According to the 2010 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS), 39% of women aged 15–49 had experienced physical violence since age 15, and almost 33% in the same age category had experienced physical violence in the previous 12 months (National Bureau of Statistics & ICF Macro, 2011, p. 269). Twenty per cent of women in that age group reported having experienced sexual violence (p. 272).

- The 2010 TDHS also found the prevalence of female genital mutilation (FGM) to be about 15%. Some ethnic groups, including the Maasai, conduct FGM on girls aged 10 to 15 (Human Rights Watch, 2014, p. 57; National Bureau of Statistics & ICF Macro, 2011, p. 295).
- In ethnic groups that practice FGM, “a girl who has not undergone FGM may be socially ostracized and referred to as ‘rubbish’ or ‘useless’”; her dowry is also lower (Human Rights Watch, 2014, p. 22).
- Human Rights Watch (2014) has documented cases of girls as young as seven being married.

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