

# **SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND GENDER INDEX (SIGI)**

**DOCUMENTATION OF GOOD AND PROMISING  
PRACTICES FROM THE SIGI STUDY AS THEY  
RELATE TO TANZANIA**



## INTRODUCTION

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The documentation of good and promising practices from the SIGI study will act as a guide to further gender equality in Tanzania. A comprehensive strategy must include legal reforms, healthcare efforts, capacity-building programs, and data-driven policies. In addition to addressing current issues, these practices help advance the general objective of establishing

a society where men and women have equal access to resources, opportunities, and rights. The lessons from SIGI act as a beacon directing Tanzania toward a more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous future as it continues its journey towards gender equality. The following good and promising practices have been documented in the SIGI report;

## PROGRAMMES AND SERVICES SUPPORTING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO LABOUR MARKETS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES IN TANZANIA

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Tanzania has implemented infrastructure programmes to reduce women's time burden of domestic work and increase their productivity and livelihoods. These include the Rural Electrification Programme, which aims to electrify all villages in Tanzania by 2021 and the development of road networks by the Tanzania Rural Roads Agency. The latter seeks to facilitate women's transportation and access to marketplaces outside their communities.

Another important step in promoting women's economic involvement is the Public Procurement Act of 2011, amended in 2016. The clause designating thirty per cent of the total amount of services purchased for the benefit of women and youth guarantees a focused endeavour to improve economic prospects for women. Affirmative action of this type helps create a more diverse economy. The Public Procurement Act of 2011 (amended in 2016) directly supports women's economic activity by foreseeing an allocation of 30 per cent of total procured services for women and youth.

Specific economic groups receive support: the Zanzibar Economic Empowerment Fund (ZEEF), for example, provides financial support, entrepreneurship and marketing training for women-run vegetable and fruit projects.

Entrepreneurship among women is fostered throughout the country, for example, via the Zanzibar Technology of Business Incubation Centre launched in 2015. Since its establishment, a total of 1 117 youths, the majority of whom are girls, have been trained in bakery skills, entrepreneurship,

preparation of business plans, agro-processing and the preparation of soap, resulting in 40 business companies. In Mainland Tanzania, 449 vocational training centres have been established to enhance entrepreneurial and business skills. Vocational Training and Focal Development Colleges have also been established to enhance the education and skills of youth, including adolescent girls.

# PROMOTING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES

The **2018 Local Government Authority Financial Act** amendment aims to ensure women's financial inclusion and access to credit. Specifically, the newly added Section 37A requires all local government authorities to set aside 10 per cent of their revenue collection to fund interest-free loans for women (4 per cent), youth (4 per cent) and persons with disabilities (2 per cent).

In Zanzibar, **the ZEEF provides soft loans to women entrepreneurs**. In Mainland Tanzania, the Women Development Fund offers soft loans to women. The government's contribution to the fund increased from TZS 3.4 billion (EUR 1.3 million) in 2014 to TZS 16.3 billion (EUR 6.2 million) in 2018.

The **Market Infrastructure, Value Addition and Rural Finance (MIVARF) programme** was implemented nationwide to enhance access to formal financial services for Mainland Tanzania's and Zanzibar's rural population. Under the programme, participants are provided with agricultural processing machines, equipment and training, and capacity building on agricultural or value chain issues.<sup>1</sup>

Specific economic groupings, such as women engaged in vegetable and fruit ventures, receive help through initiatives like the **Zanzibar Economic Empowerment Fund (ZEEF)**. This initiative promotes long-term economic empowerment for women by giving them training in marketing and business in addition to cash support.

The **Zanzibar Technology of Business Incubation Centre** is one of the efforts to encourage women to become entrepreneurs. Since opening in 2015, this centre has taught over a thousand young people, mostly girls, various skills, including baking methods, entrepreneurship, business plans, agro-processing, and soap-making. Forty businesses

have been established due to the influence, demonstrating the effectiveness of empowering young women via skill development and business training.

Tanzania's mainland has also made notable progress, setting up **449 centres for vocational training to improve business and entrepreneurial abilities**. These facilities support the education and skill-building of young people, especially teenage girls, in conjunction with Vocational Training and Focal Development Colleges. Tanzania is creating an environment that enables women and girls to actively participate in economic activities and contribute to the nation's overall development by emphasising vocational training and skill enhancement.

Tanzania's **2018 Local Government Authority Financial Act change** is evidence of the country's dedication to improving women's financial inclusion and credit availability. In accordance with Section 37A, interest-free loans must be funded by all local government bodies using 10 per cent of their revenue collection, with a particular emphasis on women (4 per cent), youth (4 per cent), and people with disabilities (2 per cent). This focused strategy enables underrepresented groups to participate in entrepreneurship and advance economic growth by ensuring they can access financial resources.

The **Zanzibar Economic Empowerment Fund (ZEEF) is a key player in Zanzibar**, helping women entrepreneurs by offering them soft loans. These loans give women the financial assistance they need to launch or grow their enterprises. On the mainland, the Women Devt. Fund offers soft loans to women with a similar goal. Remarkably, from TZS 3.4 billion (EUR 1.3 million) in 2014 to TZS 16.3 billion (EUR 6.2 million) in 2018, the government's contribution to this fund has grown dramatically. The

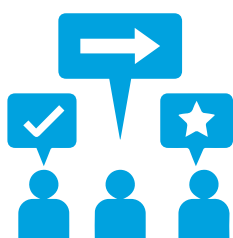
<sup>1</sup> Government of Tanzania. 2019. "Country Report on the Review and Progress made in Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action – Beijing +25." Accessed? <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/64/National-reviews/United-Republic-of-Tanzania-en.pdf>.

government's acknowledgement of the significance of facilitating women's economic empowerment through lending that is both accessible and cheap is demonstrated by this enhanced financial allocation.

Financial inclusion is further enhanced by the **Market Infrastructure, Value Addition, and Rural Finance (MIVARF) program**, which is being implemented in Zanzibar and on Tanzania's mainland. This program aims to give rural residents better access to formal financial

services. In addition to training, equipment, and agricultural processing machinery, program participants receive capacity-building support on value chain and agricultural concerns. The MIVARF initiative intends to increase agricultural output and contribute to the general economic growth of both Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar by meeting the financial requirements of rural populations. Together, these programs show Tanzania's proactive efforts to advance equitable development and give women economic leverage.

## Social norms



1. Since 2015, i.e., for over five years, the **“Land Tenure Activity” program** has been implemented in Tanzania's southern agricultural region to create stronger customary land rights and address the documentation gap on land. With the help of a digital mobile application, the participating district land offices demarcated land parcels and registered land certificates (certificates of customary right of occupancy). Results of the program evaluation show success in increasing women's tenure security, alongside decreased concerns about land grabbing and land boundary disputes (Persha and Patterson-Stein, 2021).
2. Launched in 2020, the **“Scaling Up Family Planning Programme”** will be implemented over five years in Zanzibar and Mainland Tanzania to strengthen existing structures' capacity to provide integrated sexual and reproductive health services. To this end, the implementing NGO EngenderHealth partners with the Tanzanian Government to provide training to public healthcare providers, train healthcare workers on post-abortion care services, support health facilities to effectively allocate resources and train service providers on gender-transformative approaches (EngenderHealth, 2020).
3. Since 2009, Uzikwasa, a civil society organisation, implements **behaviour change campaigns** in coastal Tanzania to reduce intimate partner violence. An evaluation of the programme showed that the awareness-raising campaigns, workshops, and training for community leaders resulted in behaviour change at the individual and community levels. The intervention provoked a change in attitudes and behaviour among women and girls, mostly concerning knowledge about their rights and that violence is not justified. At the same time, men reported lower levels of use of violence as they learnt about what is classified as violence and its harmful effects. A general change of mind was reported from blaming the victim towards blaming the perpetrator. Community leaders play a significant role in encouraging the reporting of violent incidents and supporting victims/survivors (Lees, Marchant and Desmond, 2019).
4. MenEngage Africa (MEA), a MenEngage Global Alliance regional network, comprises 22 country networks spread across Africa, representing more than 300 NGOs working at the grassroots, national and regional levels. MEA members, including MenEngage Tanzania, work to **promote positive masculinities and women's and children's rights** while addressing issues such as gender-based violence, sexual abuse and child abuse by working directly with men and boys. MenEngage Tanzania creates an important community of practice and space for exchange among its 29 member groups and organisations (MenEngage, n.d).
5. The “Lake Zone Youth Empowerment” programme supports marginalised young people, especially adolescent girls and mothers,

to **improve their employment opportunities.**

The programme seeks to address and challenge negative attitudes towards adolescent mothers to reduce stigma and social isolation within communities. During focus group discussions, participants are encouraged to identify their “life aspirations.” Capacity development programmes, workshops, seminars, apprenticeships and outreach schemes are implemented to help the participants develop relevant skills, gain confidence and become valued community members (VSO, n.d).

6. The WARIDI project (2016–2021) was a five-year project implemented in the Wami-Ruvu and Rufiji River basins in Tanzania, which aimed

to promote, among other things, **women’s participation in water-related decision-making.** The project’s Uplifting Women’s Participation in Water-Related Decision-Making initiative specifically aimed to change social norms in this area and included the training of Community Facilitation Teams (CFTs) composed of three women and three men. The training of these CFTs was critical as they were tasked with facilitating sessions with community leaders and with community groups, as well as community-wide sessions on topics related to gendered social norms to change these and support women’s voice in water-related governance (Eaton et al., 2021).

## Child marriage<sup>2</sup>



Child marriage has been incorporated into Tanzania’s and Zanzibar’s national action plans as a priority area to end violence against women and children. Over the past five years, several programmes have been implemented to prevent and end child, early and forced marriage:

- A **national dialogue** was organised to discuss the challenges of child marriage, adolescent pregnancy and FGM/C, resulting in the development of a national awareness-raising campaign.
- **Training** was conducted on preparing regional strategy campaigns, including ending child marriage.
- **Advocacy campaigns** lasting over two weeks were conducted in the Chamwino district of Dodoma to promote positive norms and values and address gender inequalities.
- In 2017 and 2018, **awareness-raising campaigns** targeting child marriage and adolescent pregnancy involved 7 409 children, 97 teachers, 1 800 parents, 100 decision-makers and 78 religious leaders.
- The **national educational curriculum was reviewed** to incorporate human rights issues, ethics, corruption, entrepreneurship and reproductive health rights.

## Education



Drawing from the results of a SIGI study, promising practices in Tanzanian education concerning gender equality involve a **multimodal strategy meant to rectify inequalities and provide an**

**inclusive learning environment.** Creating and implementing **gender-sensitive education policies** adapted to Tanzania’s unique issues is one essential tactic. To ensure equitable access for all genders, these policies should focus on removing sociocultural obstacles that could impede females’ education. One important component that stands out is **community engagement, which promotes the active participation of parents, local authorities, and**

2 Ibid.

**communities** to dispel gender stereotypes and increase awareness of the value of education for girls. Interventions should also address socioeconomic barriers, providing scholarships or financial help to ease financial burdens that disproportionately affect girls.

**Gender-sensitive teaching strategies and inclusive classroom environments** are made possible by teacher training and professional development programs, which are essential components of this framework. Establishing secure and welcoming learning environments devoid of prejudice and violence against women is crucial to fostering an atmosphere that supports fair education. Another advised course of action is funding early childhood education programs, which help establish gender equality from the beginning of a

child's educational journey. Furthermore, it is imperative to establish monitoring and evaluation to measure the impact of gender-sensitive policies, ascertain their efficacy, and pinpoint opportunities for improvement.

An essential component of the plan is **promoting girls' involvement in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) disciplines**. This seeks to dispel gender norms and offer equal possibilities in fields historically controlled by one gender. To build a comprehensive and long-lasting strategy for attaining gender equality in Tanzanian education, government institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and local communities must work together to implement these promising approaches successfully.

## Healthcare Equality



In Tanzania, **forming alliances with women's organisations, community health workers, and local leaders has assisted in identifying needs, removing cultural obstacles, and fostering community trust**. Education campaigns about the value of family planning and maternal health have helped to shift social norms and create an atmosphere that supports women's reproductive rights.

**Increasing the availability of maternal health services in Tanzania's rural communities** is an example of a promising approach within the larger context of healthcare equity. This strategy ensures that women have equal access to necessary healthcare services, which advances gender equality while simultaneously lowering maternal mortality rates by addressing the unique difficulties experienced by expectant mothers in rural areas. This illustration highlights the significance of customising treatments to the particular requirements of various groups, recognising that a one-size-fits-all strategy is inadequate to advance gender equity and healthcare equality.

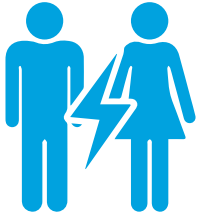
## Political Participation



Creating programs that offer **networking opportunities, leadership development, and mentoring** only to women who want to go into politics has helped these women become more confident and skilled politicians. This strategy not only gives women the resources they need to participate in politics effectively but also dispels myths and conventional gender roles that could deter women from pursuing political careers.



## Women and girls' physical autonomy



### Programmes and services related to violence against women and girls in Tanzania<sup>3</sup>

Over the last five years, Tanzania has prioritized the **creation and strengthening of services for victims/survivors of gender-based violence**. The government has **established reporting mechanisms to facilitate victims/survivors' access to justice and services**. For example:

- In 2013, the government **set up a toll-free helpline for children (116)** to provide advice and support and to facilitate the reporting of violence against women and children. The hotline is accessible across all networks in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar and responds to about 3,500 calls per day from women and girls at risk of violence, as well as community members reporting abuse (UN, 2021[5]).

Services dedicated to supporting survivors/victims and their families have been strengthened:

- Between 2014 and 2019, the number of **One-Stop Centres** providing comprehensive essential services such as medical care, psychological support and legal assistance for survivors increased from 1 to 13. The centres are located in both Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar

- **Protection committees** are local-level coordination bodies that handle referrals and enhance collaboration among the health, justice, education and social sectors better to support women and children at risk of violence. These bodies also play a significant role in implementing the National Plan of Action to End Violence against Women and Children.
- The Tanzania Police Force has set up **Police Gender and Children Desks** to address barriers to justice for women and children. These desks aim to build a more supportive reporting environment. As of 2018, desks had been formally established in 420 police stations.

The government has also launched **awareness-raising activities** to shift attitudes and practices related to violence against women and girls. For instance:

- Over the 2017-18 period, the government developed and led campaigns addressing adolescent pregnancy and child marriage, engaging with children, teachers, parents, decision-makers and religious leaders.
- The government also developed and disseminated a **toolkit for teachers** aimed at ending the use of violent disciplinary action. The toolkit was disseminated to 1 539 teachers in Kusini and Kaskazini.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, with the support of UN Women, communications materials on the pandemic and violence against women were spread through radio and television. In the context of this partnership, protocols were also developed to aid service providers in screening for violence against women and children.

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3 Ibid.



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