



TANZANIA



A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2019



Photo: TUCIA

ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The government of Tanzania has integrated the SDGs into its national planning by including them into the Tanzania Development Vision 2025 and the Long-term Perspective plan (LTPP) 2011/12-2025/26. Funding for the implementation of Agenda 2030 is foreseen in the Second Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP II) 2016/17-2020/21.

The Ministry of Finance and Planning, the National Bureau of Statistics, the Planning Commission, the President’s Office Regional Administration and the Poverty Eradication Program oversee the implementation of the SDGs. To ensure transparency, a parliamentary group on the implementation of the SDGs has been created. The Tanzanian government is working on all SDGs prioritised by trade unions (SDGs 1, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16) to a certain extent.

Trade unions are informed about the implementation of the SDGs through Progress Reports produced by the National Bureau of Statistics. However, while the government claims to have put in place a consultation mechanism for civil society, trade unions were not invited to take part in it. The government has further organised an awareness-raising workshop on the SDGs, but this failed to include community and non-state stakeholders. While trade unions discuss issues directly related to SDG 8 within the framework of the tripartite social dialogue, this is not officially part of the SDG consultation process.

Trade unions report that the national budgeting process has been aligned with Agenda 2030. However, only 68 per cent of the FYDP II refers directly to SDG objectives.

TRANSPARENCY



Irregular access to limited information

CONSULTATION



There are information sessions but no interaction.

SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There is no involvement of social partners by the national government on an SDG national plan definition and implementation.



IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

Given its placement as one of the countries with the lowest human development index in the world (HDI of 0.538 in 2017, 154th place), enormous challenges remain for Tanzania to reach the SDG objectives.

49.1 per cent of the Tanzanian population was living under the international poverty threshold in 2011, indicating that **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)** was far from being reached. While this is an improvement of nearly 11 per cent points compared to 2007, it is still a shockingly high number. At 67 per cent, the proportion of the working poor (workers living on under US\$3.1 per day) is also extremely high, a challenge compounded by the drop in wages and purchasing power caused by inflation. In addition, levels of social protection coverage are very low, with social security covering less than 1 per cent of the entire population, and about 6.5 per cent of the formally employed population – suggesting that the achievement of **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)** is still far off. In 2014, 17.3 per cent of the budget was allocated to spending on essential services such as social protection, health and education. While there have been some increases in budgetary spending on health in the past years, these have been a result of foreign-funded development spending.

With regard to **target 5.5 (ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life)**, women spend more than three times more time than men on unpaid domestic activities and care. They are also less likely to be employed in waged labour (50 per cent) as compared to men (77 per cent). Much progress remains to be made on **target 5.5 (ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life)**, as between 2010-17, only 11.9 per cent of women over 25 had completed at least some form of secondary education.

There are serious concerns about Tanzania being able to meet the targets set by

SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all). Target 8.3 (support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of MSMEs) is particularly worrying, as in 2014, 71.8 per cent of the population (68.3 per cent of men and 76.1 per cent of women) worked in informal employment outside of agriculture. In addition, in 2017, 83.5 per cent of work in Tanzania was classified as precarious or vulnerable. Furthermore, 36.8 per cent of workers were low paid, with women more likely to be affected (42.3 per cent) than men (31.3 per cent). Underemployment stood at 13.7 per cent in 2014, suggesting that achieving **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all)** is still far off. NEET indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** were particularly high for women (19 per cent), although young men were also affected (10.6 per cent). Indicators for **target 8.7 (eradicate forced labour and the worst forms of child labour)** show that 23.2 per cent of children were engaged in child labour in 2014. **Target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)** requires attention, as in 2016, 21 cases of violations of labour rights were reported, 18 in law and three in practice. Furthermore, trade union density decreased in 2015, standing at 24.3 per cent, 1 per cent point less than in 2014.

Wide disparities in wealth distribution are a challenge to reaching **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**. In 2011, the share of the top 10 per cent of income earners in Tanzania accounted for 31 per cent of overall GDP, while the bottom 20 per cent of income earners accounted for 7.4 per cent of GDP.

The ITUC Global Rights Index suggests that there are systematic violations of trade union rights in Tanzania, impeding the achievement of **target 16.10 (ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements)**.

WHERE TO NEXT? TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The Trade Union Congress of Tanzania calls on the Tanzanian government to:

- Establish a national platform for consultations with civil society and ensure that stakeholders such as trade unions, NGOs, CBOs, local communities and indigenous people have a say in policy formulation, implementation and other key decision-making process regarding the SDGs.
- Identify national-level policies with a direct link to the implementation of the SDGs and ensure their integration through awareness raising and communication to all levels of government, with consideration of timeframe, feasibility, and sustainability of implementation.
- Ensure that all sectors, ministries and local authorities include SDG targets into their strategic plans.



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