

NBS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO: 55

DATE: DECEMBER, 2019



NBS: "A ONE-STOP CENTRE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN TANZANIA."



Editorial Board



Dr. Albina Chuwa
Statistician General

Members



Deogratias Simba



Said Ameir



Emmanuel Ghula



Andrew Punjila



Hadija I. Abdul

Be Honest in Answering Survey and Census Questions, urges Statistician General



Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa talking with residents of Muungano, Forest Ward in Mbeya city during a high level supervision of EAUSS II.

Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa has urged the public to be honest by providing appropriate responses to survey and census questions if Tanzania is to produce quality statistics.

She said production of statistics is a collective process and in order to be able to produce quality statistics it calls for everyone to play their part accordingly.

“Responsibility of the public, according to Statistics Act No. 9 of 2015, is to accord cooperation to data collectors from National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) by providing honest and correct answers during interviews,” she insisted.

Dr. Chuwa told Iringa and Mbeya residents that correct, clear and honest answers was all that it takes to come up with quality statistics, which-

then portrays real situation, and as such enabling the government to make evidence-based decisions in its planning and executing development goals.

Statistician General made the remarks during a high level supervision tour of the on-going 2019 Energy Access--and Use Situation Survey II (EAUSS) in Iringa and Mbeya regions.

She assured the public that information collected from individuals or households in the Survey would be treated as confidential as stipulated in the Statistics Act No. 9 of 2015 and shall not be disclosed to anyone who is not a party to the Survey.

Dr. Chuwa told Iringa and Mbeya residents that the aim of EAUSS II was to update the national and regional statistics on energy access and use for proper planning and decision making at various levels.

She added that these statistics would show the progress made in improving accessibility of--

energy and studying the benefits and impact towards improving livelihood of Tanzanians especially of the rural population.

She told them that apart from the energy survey, NBS was currently conducting other surveys including Feed the Future Endline Survey- a programme supported by the US government through USAID and Accelerated Water and Sanitation for All Programme Phase II which is implemented in Iringa and Mufindi district councils in collaboration with UNICEF.

Phase II which is implemented in Iringa and Mufindi district councils in collaboration with

The Statistician General told Iringa and Mbeya residents that in February, 2020, Tanzania expects to conduct the National Sample Census of Agriculture and urged them to be ready and effectively participate.

In Mbeya, Dr. Chuwa addressed residents of Muungano, Forest Ward in the city and Ilaji Village of Mahongole Ward in Mbarali District Council whereas in Iringa, she visited Uhominyi Village in Image Ward in Kilolo District and Mtili Village in Mtili Ward, Mufindi District.



Residents of Uhominyi village, Image ward in Kilolo district listen to Statistician General (not in the picture) when she visited the village to inspect 2019 Energy Access and Use Situation Survey II (EAUSS).

Make Appropriate Use of Statistics in Policy Formulation and Decision Making, Minister Bashungwa Urges



Industry and Trade Minister Innocent Bashungwa speaks during the launching of the 2018 Tanzania Mainland Poverty Assessment Report prepared by World Bank.

The Government has emphasised the importance of appropriate use of statistics in planning and formulation of development plans as well as in monitoring of their implementation.

Industry and Trade Minister Innocent Bashungwa made the remarks when he was launching the 2018 Tanzania Mainland Poverty Assessment Report at Morena Hotel, Dodoma.

He noted that results of the-

report were very significant for policy and decision makers, project coordinators and other stakeholders therefore it was necessary that they apply the guidance and advice given there-in in executing their duties.

Minister Bashungwa stressed that understanding of magnitude of problem of poverty is very fundamental as it allows the country to address it in a more strategic way, which can lead to positive-

results.

He, therefore, commended stakeholders, particularly, Word Bank for producing the very key report that summarizes a comprehensive analysis of poverty and inequality in Tanzania and also identifies some priority actions to address poverty situation in the country.

“It very important for all regional and district commissioners as well as district directors, as we are-

heading towards 2025 to use these results as measuring tools of what they have achieved in implementing the country's Development Vision 2025," said Minister Bashungwa.

Indeed, he said the results were useful as they will also be used to monitor and evaluate implementation of regional and global development goals.

Meanwhile, the government has reiterated its commitment to reduce poverty and that more efforts are being made to ensure pro-poor programmes are properly formulated and effectively implemented to yield the intended results.

The Industry and Trade Minister told the gathering at the launching of the 2018 Tanzania Mainland Poverty Assessment Report that the government would continue implementing fiscal measures which ensure stable economy.

The report shows positive trends in poverty reduction in the country, this is thanks to efforts being made by the government in collaboration with its development partners towards poverty reduction.

He insisted that poverty reduction is a cross-cutting issue which calls for collective and coordinated efforts from all economic as well as social sectors.

According to the report, food poverty has constantly been decreasing from 22 percent in 1991/92 to 19 percent in 2000/01, 17 percent in 2007, and 10 percent in 2011/12 to eight percent in 2017/18.

The reduction, he noted was due to government efforts to improve and strengthen access to social services, namely, clean and safe water, education and health as well as improving infrastructure such roads and communication.

He added that "the--

government will continue its efforts to improve agriculture, livestock and fishing sectors to guarantee the country with food security," he said.

Minister Bashungwa challenged all the players to make use of various opportunities provided by the government and other stakeholders through various economic initiatives targeting to improving living standards at individual and household levels.

He noted that the results have brought new impetus to the government and its stakeholders to take more actions in poverty reduction efforts.

Tanzania Mainland Poverty Report of 2018 analysed poverty indicators in relation to GDP, social services, people benefiting from TASAF and results of various national policies. It also shows priority areas in addressing poverty reduction especially in line with SDG goal number one "no poverty beyond 2030".

Prioritise Investment in Human Capital Development to Sustain Poverty Reduction, Says World Bank Country Director

The Country Director of World Bank, Ms. Bella Bird, has urged Tanzania to prioritise and sustain investment in human capital in order to sustain poverty reduction.

Wrapping up discussion on the 2019 Tanzania Mainland Poverty Report during the dissemination meeting held at Morena Hotel in Dodoma, Ms. Bella Bird emphasised that “Prioritising and sustaining investment in human capital development is doable and that investment will bring Tanzania way ahead of its peers”

She told participants to the meeting that Tanzania needs to borrow a leaf from the experiences of countries like South Korea and Singapore where they invested heavily in human capital development and “now they are reaping the fruits”.

The World Bank country director noted that when one looks at countries on top of human capital index will see that was what they have done by making “human capital investment absolutely core objective and you can see their commitment”.

“They invested year after year, decade after decade from 1000 days, pre-school, and primary, secondary, tertiary to labour--

skills,” and stressed that what we see today in those countries is a result of such commitment to human development.

On Demographic Dividend

The World Bank country director revealed that for Tanzania to attain transition to middle income economy, it must realise the importance of demographic dividend.

She said there is no single country in the world which made successful and sustained transition to middle income economy without achieving that point.

She pointed out that one has to look at five years ahead in Tanzania or during the next poverty report and what it would say about the number of the poor.

“Do they (the poor) increase in absolute terms or is it the opposite? Has poverty reduction come down? Has economic growth become more inclusive?” Ms. Bella Bird posed the questions and insisted that it was very important for one to think along those lines.

She added that when it comes to policy recommendation and fundamentally the demographic--



World Bank Country Director Ms Bella Bird addresses the gathering during the launching of the 2018 Tanzania Mainland Poverty Assessment Report held at Morena Dodoma

dividend has to be addressed if we are to reduce the number of the poor.

On Agriculture

The World Bank Country Director said she concurs with those who believe that future jobs and inclusive growth in Tanzania lies in agri-business as transformations that are taking place lead to that.

“The face of the sector is changing towards agri-business and I am still asking myself why we call it agriculture instead of agri-business because agriculture, industry and services are connected,” she argued.

Ms. Bella Bird noted that there are many young people who are beginning to invest in the agriculture sector and bringing innovations into it, adding: “If these young people are given seed funds, they can bring knowledge, get access to technology which will steer progress in sector”.

She acknowledged the contribution of government efforts to open the rural areas through better infrastructure and rural electrification.

“The facilitation, which is required, like rural energy, is under way, the changes which are made in terms of rural access and-



Parts of participants at the launching of the 2018 Tanzania Mainland Poverty Assessment Report listen to speeches

access to finance make the sector attractive,” she explained.

Ms. Bella Bird, however, noted that the single big challenge currently facing rural farmers remained access to financial facilities which she admitted that in spite of many efforts being made but still the question lies on how best financial inclusion could be beneficial to the targeted population.

“The question is still which successful models can be appropriate to ensure financial inclusion. Tanzania is making much progress; think about mobile money and what it is doing in terms of financing and facilitating business,” concluded

World Bank Country Director.

On TASAF

On the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) programme, she remarked that the initiative has made a difference in poverty reduction and added that without TASAF scheme, the numbers would be 2 percent higher.

“It is an extraordinary project and World Bank is proud to be Tanzania’s partner in TASAF project. The Bank is pleased to approve 450 million USD fund to continue with the project benefitting the poor,” Ms Bird noted.

Why Tanzania Should Improve Environment Climate in the Agriculture Sector

As agriculture is becoming the future of jobs and growth in Tanzania, it is recommended that the government should take deliberate measures create a more attractive environment to speed up transformation taking place in the sector.

Dr. Jehovanness Aikaeli from University of Dar es Salaam, Department of Economics, argued that it was hightime investment environment in agriculture sector should be made more attractive and supportive to farmers and other actors in the sector for it to--

contribute more effectively not only in growth but also in poverty reduction.

In a panel discussion that was followed by the launching of the 2019 Tanzania Mainland Poverty Report, the university don asserted that it was high time for the government to reintroduce agriculture guarantees that would help attract more formal institutions to the sector.

Dr. Aikaeli further argued that while setting up financial services for the sector was very important, what was more--

significant was how to provide the means to access those resources.

He added that the sector should no longer be treated as being subsistent but its commercial aspect should be given an impetus through mechanisation to improve productivity for it to play its role in poverty reduction among the rural poor.

He emphasised on the importance of creating linkages between the industrial and agriculture sectors to achieve sustainability and productivity.

“What sort of industries are we building today? Do they create forward and backward linkages with agriculture sector and service industry?” He posed the questions urging policy and decision makers to candidly respond to them as they go about making plans and decisions.

The university don emphasised the importance of formulating more pro-poor policies and actions to help increase momentum in poverty reduction in the country.

“Increase skills and knowledge in agriculture should be part and parcel of poverty reduction as most poor rely on the sector,” he observed.



Parts of participants at the launching of the 2018 Tanzania Mainland Poverty Assessment Report listen to speeches

Poverty Reduction Programmes should also Target the Urban Poor

It is high time programmes aimed at pushing for poverty reduction in Tanzania were also directed at the urban poor just like what is being given to their rural counterparts.

Mr. Geoffrey Kirenga, who is the CEO of the Centre of Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania, said rapid growth of urban population increases the number of poor people in urban areas, hence, poverty reduction measures should also focus on these the urban poor in the same manner as their rural counterparts.

“We continue seeing new urban centres with large populations that were before rural, therefore, poverty reduction programmes should also target the urban poor to empower them by making as productive as possible,” he insisted.

Mr. Kirenga was speaking during a panel discussion which came immediately after the launching of the 2019 Tanzania Mainland--

Poverty Report at Morena Hotel in Dodoma city.

He said agriculture sector was currently experiencing rapid transformations due to increased involvement of medium-sized enterprises in the sector.

He told the audience that the sector was not only benefiting from the capital injected by those enterprises but the skills, knowledge and experience they brought with them.

“The rural farmers are now accessing the skills, knowledge and experience brought by these medium-sized companies as well as that brought by individuals from urban areas who are now targeting the sector,” he explained.

Mr. Kirenga added that for the first time medium-sized companies were producing significant amounts of wealth produced in the agriculture sector and added that about 40 percent of what is being produced in the country comes from--

those enterprises.

He elaborated that those entrepreneurs operating in rural settings, whether in production or service, were effectively touching rural population of whom majority are poor.

In this regard, Mr. Kirenga noted that these transformations provide more opportunities for the rural poor to improve their lives and reduce poverty.

As for the Poverty report, the CEO of Centre of Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania, observed that it was very crucial as it contains key information and data which provide a good basis to make informed decisions.

Why Quality and Relevant Education Remains Key to Poverty Reduction

Providing high quality and relevant education is very important if the country is to succeed in its efforts to reduce poverty.

Prof. Herme Moshia of the School of Education of University of Dar es Salaam said a time had come, therefore, for the government to realise the significance of involving all partners in improving the education sector.

During a panel discussion that followed the launching of the 2019 Mainland Tanzania Poverty Report, Prof. Moshia emphasised that the government, private sector and partners should sit together to deliberate on this important sector to ensure quality and relevant education is provided to children in the country.

“Thorough investment is needed in terms of human resources, facilities and equipment in order to realise aspects of quality and relevant education,” Prof. Moshia observed.

He emphasised the importance of vocational and technical education, which he said was critical as the country was currently pushing for industrialisation.



Discussing the 2018 Tanzania Mainland Poverty Assessment Report at Morona Hotel. Panelists left to right are Mr. Ringo Iringo, Mr. Geoffrey Kirenga, Dr. Jehovanness Aikaeli, Mr. Felix Mlaki (moderator), Professor Moshia and Ms. Phillipine Mmari.

“We should not just look at traditional industries but rather industries that are relevant to our economy,” he said adding that education must empower people in terms of skills and knowledge to transform the society.

The renowned professor in education added that admitting all children in school is one important step, however, he noted that this must be coupled with corresponding investment in human resources and equipment short of which would make it difficult to provide quality and relevant education needed to take the country out of poverty.

Meanwhile, the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) Unified--

Registry of Beneficiaries manager, Ms. Phillipine Mmari told the meeting that her institution’s approach to poverty reduction was multi-sectoral.

She said TASAF’s task was to help people break the poverty circle through various interventions and that was why they worked closely with other sectors like education and health.

“We presuppose that an educated person is in a better position when it comes to cutting poverty, therefore, when someone in the household is educated he/she helps others and when more and more household members get educated, they increase the chance of reducing poverty in that household,” Ms. Mmari explained.

December Inflation Rate Stagnates at 3.8 Percent

The inflation rate for December, 2019 has stagnated at 3.8 percent as it was recorded in November, 2019.

Addressing members of the media in Dodoma, the Acting Director of Population Census and Social Statistics, Mrs. Ruth Minja, attributed the stagnation to the speed of price change for commodities in December which remained the same as that recorded in November, 2019.

She said the overall index increased to 117.10 in December, 2019 from 116.39 recorded in November, 2019. The increase of the overall index was attributed to the price increase for food and non food items.

Mrs. Minja listed some food items that contributed to increase of overall index as maize grains, which increased by 2.8 percent, maize flour by 4.8 percent, wheat flour by 1.2 percent, sorghum grain by 4.2 percent, sorghum flour by 2.7 percent, meat by 1.2 percent, vegetables by 2.2 percent, beans by 2.3 percent and cassava by 2.8 percent.

On the other hand, she pointed out some of the non-food items that contributed to such increase as including footwear for women which increased by 1.5 percent,--

maintenance and repairs of private saloon cars by 3.0 percent, kitchen and domestic utensils by 1.3 percent, personal care such as hair dressing for women by 1.1 percent and school bags by 2.3 percent.

The acting Director noted that the overall Consumer Price Index for commodities remained stable over the whole period from January to December, 2019 from 113.38 in January, 2019 to 117.10 in December, 2019.

She added that the movement

resulted into a relatively stable inflation rate over the same period recording the lowest inflation rate of 3.0 percent in January and February, 2019 and the highest inflation rate of 3.8 percent in November and December, 2019.

The annual average inflation rate in 2019 (from January to December, 2019) decreased to 3.4 percent from 3.5 percent recorded in 2018 (from January to December, 2018) while the annual average inflation rate for food items increased to 4.3 percent in 2019 from 3.7 percent in 2018.



Members of the press during CPI release for the month of December, 2019 held at NBS conference hall, Dodoma

Thank you NBS, Says World Bank Country Director



World Bank country Director Ms Bella Bird at the launching of 2018 Mainland Poverty report where she praised the national statistics office for its professionalism and integrity.

The Country Director of the World Bank, Ms. Bella Bird, expressed her appreciation and that of the Bretton Woods institution to the national statistics office for its readiness to cooperate with development partners, including World Bank, and praised it maintaining professionalism in all dealings.

“I thank NBS for the huge collaboration. They are really-

scientists, they know numbers and handle them well. They understand methodologies and they invest and learn; and there are some people of great skills and integrity in the office,” Ms. Bella Bird asserted.

She expressed optimism that NBS will continue collaborating with stakeholders including development partners, civil-

societies and private sector to see what other insights the report can provide so as to keep Tanzania growing and increase prosperity of its people.

Ms. Bella Bird said she was happy to hear that NBS was going to put the dataset open so researchers would access, question and test them and look them from different angles to get new and important insights into this very important topic.

Skills-gap a Real Challenge in Tanzania, Reveals Tanzania Private Sector Foundation Official

Low skill levels demonstrated by a number of graduates joining the private sector have continued to cause uneasiness within the sector.

Mr. Ringo Iringo from the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) said whereas some graduates lacked employment skills, there are those who simply preferred being employed to self-employment.

Mr. Iringo revealed this before participants during the dissemination meeting of the 2019 Tanzania Mainland--

Poverty Report that even those who graduated in agriculture did not show interest in joining the sector but opted for something else.

He said: "One would expect a graduate in agriculture would be working in the sector but most of them shy away from it because of lack of incentives and instead they end up doing totally different things other than what they studied, hence depriving the sector of the needed skills."

Discussing Mainland Tanzania 2019 Poverty Report at Morena Hotel in Dodoma,--

Mr. Iringo pointed out that the report mirrors how our society is economically transforming, shows the potential and the capacity Tanzanians possesses.

He said the private sector, including agriculture, holds a special place in poverty reduction drive hence the country should give special focus to it.

As for the development of the sector, he noted that in spite of huge investments made by the government to improve rural infrastructure, still farmers continued to face the usual challenges of lack of post-harvest facilities for proper storage, including of perishable produce, and markets.

"In many towns one will see heaps of perishable products like mangoes, tomatoes just rotting away. This really disappoints farmers," he said and called for necessary support to agriculture so as the country pushes for poverty reduction efforts among the rural poor.

He added that his institution provided various support to farmers and others in the sector to ensure they obtain all the necessary support including finding suitable markets for their products.



Part of World Bank and NBS staff at the launching of Tanzania Mainland Poverty Report held at Morena, Dodoma

Positive Poverty Reduction Trends Reflect Government's Efforts towards Addressing the Challenge, Notes Tanzania's Statistician General



Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa speaks at the launching of the 2018 Tanzania Mainland Poverty Report held at Morena hotel, Dodoma

Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa has said the positive trends in poverty reduction in the country reflect incredible efforts aimed at addressing poverty being made by the fifth phase government in collaboration with various stakeholders including development partners.

Dr. Chuwa said the poverty assessment report, which used mainly the 2017-18 Household Budget Survey, conducted by the National Bureau of--

Statistics (NBS) has added value to the survey's data and helped to produce a more comprehensive study of poverty situation on the county.

Statistician General thanked World Bank for the report and promised to upload onto NBS website so many stakeholders would access it and use it for making analyses.

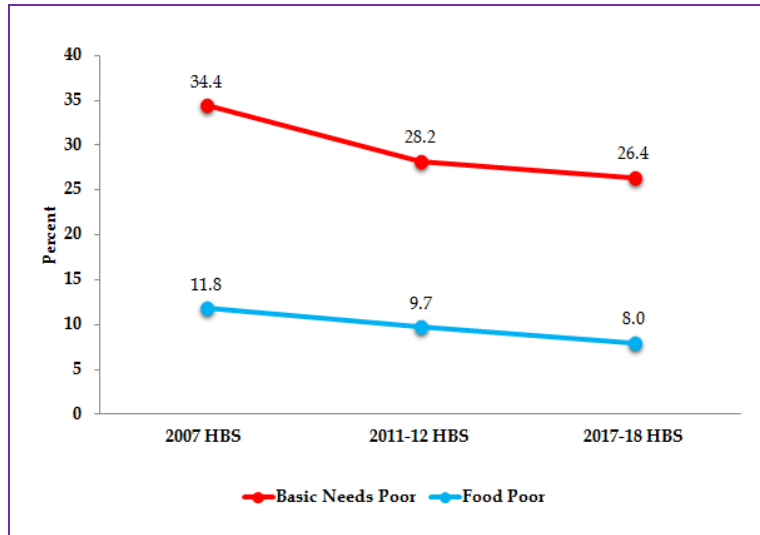
Dr. Chuwa commended--

existing partnership between the national statistics office with World Bank, UN-Women, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and other development partners, which she said was built under strong foundation of trust and mutual understanding.

"It is a special partnership which has brought incredible results that have put Tanzania top of the tops in statistics domain in the continent," she noted.

World Bank Report: Poverty Levels Have Declined during the Decade, but Recently the Pace Has Slowed Down

The basic needs poverty has declined from 28.2 percent in 2011-12 HBS to 26.4 percent in the 2017-18 HBS. Similarly, the food poverty declined from 9.7 percent in 2011-12 to 8.0 percent in 2017-18



World Bank Report on Poverty situation in Tanzania shows that the levels have been falling during the last decade, however, recently the pace has slowed down.

The report, which was launched at Morena Hotel in Dodoma by the Minister for Industry and Trade, Mr. Innocent Bashungwa, shows that despite the slow-down of the pace of poverty levels falling, generally the quality of life in the country has improved.

According to the report, poverty declined at a faster pace between 2007 and 2012 than before, during the period, statistics shows that poverty decline averaged 1 percentage point a year while the total reduction since has been--

been 28.2 to 26.4 percent.

The report says gradual improvement in living conditions and human capital helped to reduce poverty and listed various indicators which mark such improvement.

Increased access to electricity, safe drinking water; access to basic and improved sanitation; better access to roads, markets, and public transportation also helped to account for the rise in household living standards.

The report also pointed out at raised ownership of modern assets, ownership of traditional goods has declined and human development outcomes, particularly in education--

have also improved.

However, the report shows poverty reduction has not been responsive to Tanzania's remarkable economic growth, and inequality has worsened over time.

Slow progress in poverty reduction therefore has pushed up the number of poor people, leaving a noticeable share of the population still at risk of at least transitory poverty.

"Because the population grew faster than poverty was reduced in 2018, about 14 million Tanzanians lived in poverty, up from 13 million in 2007 and 12 million in 2012," the World Bank Report shows.

NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



Student Samwel Charles Kazungu from St. Peter Claver Secondary School of Dodoma receives from Minister for Finance and Planning Honorable Dr. Philip Mpango certificate and Tanzania Shillings 300,000 after emerging the First Best Winner of Secondary School Essay Competition for 2019 African Statistics Day celebration.



Finance Minister Dr. Philip Mpango, presents certificate and Tanzania Shillings 200,000 to student Newman Weston from Salesian Seminary Secondary School of Dodoma, who emerged the Second Winner of Secondary School Essay Competition for the 2019 African Statistics Day celebration.

NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



Finance Minister Dr. Mpango presents certificate and Tanzania Shillings 100,000 to student Hellena Lyimo of Tambaza Secondary School, who emerged the Third Winner of the Secondary School Essay competition.



The Minister for Finance and Planning Honorable Dr. Philip Mpango presents certificate and Tanzania Shillings 300,000 to Daniel Samson of NUKTA AFRICA- a data driven Kiswahili news site who scooped the First winner of Journalism Excellency Award.

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)

Website: www.nbs.go.tz

Twitter: NBSTanzania

Face book: National Bureau of Statistics

*For comments and suggestions
please contact:*

*Statistician General,
National Bureau of Statistics,
Jakaya Kiwete road,
P. O. Box 2683,
Dodoma.*

Tel: +255 26 – 2963822

Fax: +255 26 - 2963828

E-mail: sg@nbs.go.tz