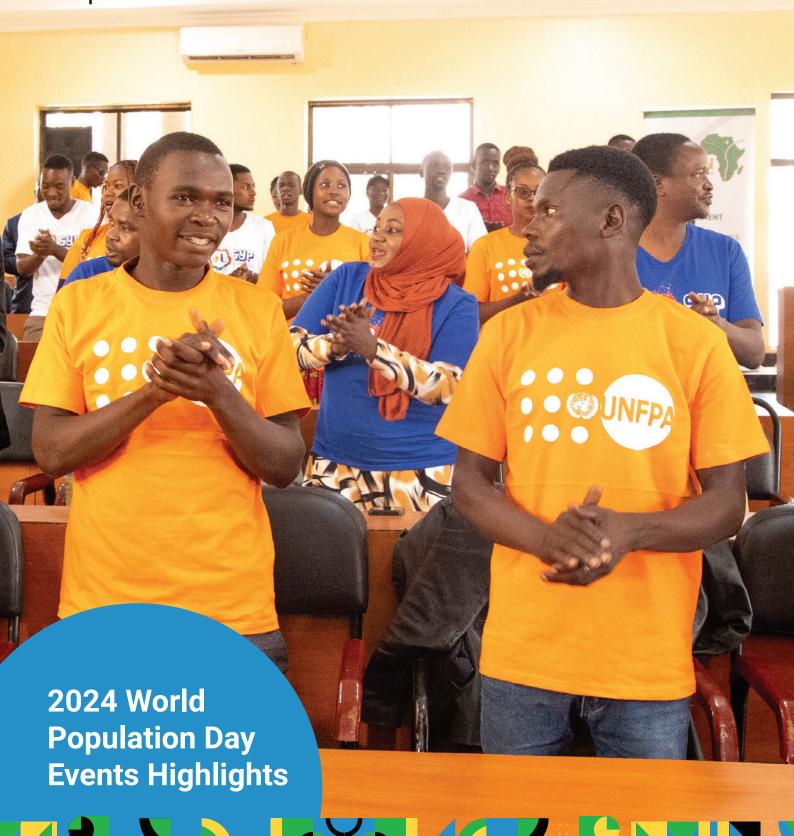






Embracing the power of inclusive data towards a resilient and equitable future for all





Our collective future depends on how we think about and respond to the ties between population and development. The theory of quantity-quality trade-off underscores the importance of addressing this issue as it hypothesizes that large families, with limited resources, may struggle to invest adequately in each child's well-being, potentially impacting their quality of life.

Mark Bryan Schreiner
UNFPA Representative
United Republic of Tanzania



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## Embracing the power of inclusive data towards a resilient and equitable future for all

The world observes World Population Day on July 11th each year with the goal of increasing awareness and understanding of population issues within the development plans of various countries. This commemoration originated after the global population reached five billion on July 11, 1989. The day was established by the United Nations Development Program in 1989 and officially recognized by the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution No. 45/216 in December 1990.

The primary aim is to enhance consciousness about population-related matters, such as their impacts on the environment and development. The inaugural World Population Day celebration took place on July 11, 1990, with participation from 90 UN Member Countries. Since then, governments, in partnership with UNFPA offices, businesses, and civil society organizations, have continued to mark this significant day.

Tanzania, as a UN member state, has actively observed World Population Day, with recent celebrations being held in the Manyara region in 2022 and the Southern Region - Unguja (Zanzibar) in 2023. During the Manyara event, key issues highlighted included the urgency to tackle gender-based violence and offer entrepreneurial training for youth. In Zanzibar, the focus was on enhancing healthcare services, especially for women.

In 2024, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in collaboration with other stakeholders, commemorated World Population Day in the Geita region to spotlight population issues within the country. The Guest of Honor for this year's commemoration was the Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Planning and Investment), Hon. Stanslaus Nyongo.

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# Kupanga, Nikuchagua: Unlocking the Power of Tanzania's Human Capital



## Opinion Editorial on the occasion of World Population Day 2024

Tanzania's population has been on a consistent upward growth trajectory since the first census in 1967. Over the past 55 years, the population has grown from 12.3 million people to 61.7 million in 2022. This growth, primarily fueled by high fertility rates, presents a double-edged sword for the nation; potential challenges in the absence of strategic investments - or opportunities for propelling the country towards achieving its national development aspirations.

Tanzania's population is projected to double in just 22 years, reaching approximately 123.4 million people by 2044, at the current growth rate of 3.2%. This rapid growth can bring both opportunity and formidable challenges; straining resources, hampering economic progress, and exacerbating the dependency ratio – currently standing at 87 dependents per 100 working-age individuals. This places an immense burden on the economy and social services, diverting resources from crucial investments that could spur job creation and overall development.

Our collective future depends on how we think about and respond to the ties between population and development. The theory of quantity-quality trade-off underscores the importance of addressing this issue as it hypothesizes that larger families, with limited resources, may struggle to invest adequately in each child's well-being, potentially impacting their quality of life. This highlights the imperative for strategic and focused interventions in education, healthcare, and family planning, ensuring that the nation's human capital is nurtured and empowered.

However, Tanzania's rapidly growing population also presents a golden opportunity. With 60% of the population comprising young people under 24 years, the nation's youthful demographic can trigger a demographic dividend - a period of accelerated economic growth resulting from a larger workforce and increased productivity. But demographic dividend is not automatic; it necessitates building human capital through deliberate investments in employment, education, and health to be realized.

In 1969, the founding father of Tanzania, Julius Kambarage Nyerere, famously proclaimed "Kupanga ni Kuchagua", a Kiswahili phrase meaning "to plan is to choose". This profound statement underscores the critical role of strategic planning in shaping a nation's future. Tanzania remains committed to making strategic investments in its people - with the ongoing development of the Tanzania National Vision 2050 offering a unique chance to prioritize investments in human capital that will ensure the country reaps bountiful dividends for future years to come.

By equipping young people with quality education and relevant skills, Tanzania can cultivate a productive workforce that drives innovation and economic advancement. Additionally, creating a conducive environment for job creation and entrepreneurship is essential to absorb the growing labor force and reduce unemployment.

Improving healthcare and family planning services is equally important. By empowering women and couples with reproductive choices and ensuring access to quality healthcare, Tanzania can lower fertility rates and improve maternal and child health outcomes, ultimately contributing to a healthier and more prosperous society. According to the World Bank's recent Tanzania Economic Update 20, shifting to a low fertility scenario could lift six million people out of poverty by 2050. Unlocking the power of gender equality is another key pillar. Too often, women are sidelined from decision-making. Empowering women and girls through education, economic opportunities, and social participation not only enhances their well-being but also fosters inclusive and sustainable development.

Addressing the challenges and seizing the opportunities presented by Tanzania's growing population necessitates a multi-faceted approach. At the community level, improving access to healthcare, especially reproductive health services, and raising awareness about family planning are crucial steps. Evidence indicates that every \$1 invested in family planning, can save governments up to \$6.

At the policy and decision-making level, a comprehensive understanding of population dynamics and their impact on the economy and quality of life is paramount. Crafting policies that promote sustainable development, prioritize human capital investment, and address gender disparities is essential. When a population has access to quality healthcare, ongoing education, gender equality, women's empowerment, and the ability to contribute to economic growth, substantial national economic benefits can be realized, leading to the achievement of a demographic dividend.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, collaborates with the Government and partners to invest in the nation's youth, particularly to enhance their health and education. Catalyzing the development of optimal human capital will unlock Tanzania's full potential, paving the way for sustainable growth and prosperity.

Amidst a rapidly growing population, Tanzania's prosperous future is intertwined with the decisions made today. Striking a delicate balance between quantity and quality, investing in human capital, and embracing a multi-sectoral approach can transform Tanzania's demographic landscape into a powerful engine for sustainable development.

The possibilities for tomorrow are limitless, and Tanzania's choices today will shape its destiny.

**Mark Bryan Schreiner** 

UNFPA Representative, United Republic of Tanzania





#### **World Population Day 2024 pre-event activities**

On July 8, 2024, as part of the pre-activities for World Population Day 2024, a series of events were held at 'Uwanja wa AIC' Mlimani near Mkapa Primary School, Katoro Township, Geita District Council. These events were organized by UNFPA partners, the Geita Region Government, Geita District Council, AfriyAN Marie Stopes and the Katoro community.

#### The activities included:

- 1. **Health Services:** Provision of health services including HIV testing and family planning services targeted at the youth.
- 2. Entrepreneurship Education: A session on entrepreneurship education for the youth, focusing on how to start a business and methods to sustain it after establishment. This session was attended by 30 people.
- 3. **Katoro Derby:** A football match between two girls' teams, Katoro Princess and Ludete Princess. The match concluded with Katoro Princess winning 4-0. Each team consisted of 16 adolescent girls and young women (AGYW).



## Countries and societies must champion data collection that counts people as they are, in all their complexity.

Individuals are experts in their own experiences. Empowering people, especially those left behind, to share their full stories and selves in data collection is key to a more resilient and equitable future for all. Fortunately, we see more countries are adopting an inclusive approach to data collection. Tanzania involved persons with disabilities in their 2022 census design;



### **World Population Day 2024 Youth Dialogue**

On July 09, 2024, we had a Youth dialogue in Geita town, an AfriYAN led initiative, as a pre activity. The dialogue was officiated by Zanzibar Planning Commission and adjourned by Geita Regional Administrative Secretary

The session aimed to establish a platform for young people to learn, strengthen networks, and share knowledge, skills, and experiences among themselves. Inspire youth-led initiatives and actions on ICPD@30, SRHR, GBV, and youth leadership. Bring youth closer to development partners, government, research institutions, grant makers, and the private sector to participate in dialogues on youth affairs. The Youth Dialogue in Geita town covered some crucial topics relevant to both national and global development:

- 1. (UNFPA led) ICPD and Youth in Tanzania: Shaping the Future: Focused on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) program of action (POA) and how it specifically applies to Tanzania's youth population. It has explored issues such as Tanzania as Youthful Nation with citation from PHC2022 results, reproductive health, gender equality, youth empowerment, and the role of young people in shaping Tanzania's future in line with ICPD principles.
- 2. (NPC led) The Process of the Development of Tanzania Vision 2050: Tanzania Vision 2050 is a strategic development plan that outlines the country's long-term goals and aspirations for sustainable development. Discussing this topic involved understanding the vision-setting process, its objectives, and how it aims to address current and future challenges faced by Tanzanian youth. This includes economic development, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and technological advancements, youth involvement and empowerment. This informed young people about their roles in shaping policies, programs, and initiatives that affect their lives and the future of their communities.
- **3. The Dialogue.** The panel discussions on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Young People, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Young People, and ICT with Young People delved into critical issues affecting youth today.

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## State pledges demographic statistics accessibility for citizens' prosperity

The government will continue to ensure accessibility of accurate demographic statistics to bring citizens' prosperity through various strategies to be entailed in the 2050 National Development Vision (NDV).

The Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Planning and Investment) Stanslaus Nyongo said when officiating the World Population Day yesterday that the use of precise population statistics has helped the government to execute a number of development projects, which are currently stimulating the country's economic growth.

The World Population Day was nationally marked in Geita Region. He said the government has been able to execute a number of development project through the National Development Vision, which ends in 2025.

He mentioned some of major projects as the construction of hospitals, flyovers, roads, bridges, schools and many other in various areas in the country. Mr Nyongo said this year, the day is being observed, with the theme "Embracing the power of inclusive data towards a resilient and equitable

"Under the current National Development Vision, the government has been able to execute various development projects in water, health infrastructure, energy, education and many other sectors."

Hon. Stanslaus Nyongo, The Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Planning and Investment)



future for all" which emphasises the importance of inclusive data collection to ensure that everyone is fairly represented in population counts, regardless of background, nationality, geography, or socioeconomic standing.

"We cannot have effective policies and programs to bring about sustainable and equitable development for people without reliable data," Mr Nyongo said. The deputy minister added that it is through demographic statistics the government understands the needs of the society, identify people's challenges and address them. "The government has successfully managed to execute various project through NDV. It is through NDV, and accurate demographic statistics, the government has been able to address challenges in the health, water, education, aviation and many other sectors," he noted.

Mr Nyongo asked Tanzanians to fully participate in giving views ahead of the writing the 2050 NDV. "We are already in the process of preparing a 2050 National Development Vision that will carry the dreams and hopes of Tanzanians for many years to come, the government is therefore asking and inviting you to give out your views," he said. He urged civil society organisations to encourage citizens to turn out in number to participate in the process.

On his part, Geita Regional Commissioner, Mr Martin Shigella commended President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan for her efforts to improve wellbeing of Tanzanians in various areas including health, education, water and many others. Regarding the region's rapid population growth, which stands at 5.4 per cent, the RC said the growing economy and the good climate of doing business in the region have been attracting many people in the region.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Assistant Representative, Dr Majaliwa Marwa, emphasized on the importance of inclusive data systems to ensure no one is left behind.

On the same note, UNFPA had a priviledge opportunity to launch its flagship report the state of world population titled, Interwoven Lives, Threads of Hope: Ending inequalities in sexual and reproductive health and rights. In it, we show that, yes, inequalities are widening. Human reproduction is being politicized. The rights of women, girls and gender diverse people are the subject of increasing pushback. Yet we can, and we must, push forward – together – because that is what works.

Our report shows how investing in sexual and reproductive health benefits all of us. We have every reason to act – for human rights, for gender equality, for justice and for the world's bottom line. Our strength, our resilience comes not from any individual strand but from the collective, interwoven whole. The way forward, how we proceed and succeed, is by working together.

"One important reason, our report shows, is that we have not prioritized reaching those furthest behind. We see, for example, that barriers to health care fell fastest for women who are more affluent, educated and privileged. When we look at ethnic disparities, we see that the groups that have benefitted the most are those that had the fewest barriers to begin with".

Dr. Majaliwa Marwa, UNFPA Assistant Representative, United Republic of Tanzania.



In a world of uncertainty and upheaval, we can achieve a peaceful and prosperous future by building resilient systems and societies using evidence-based solutions and reliable, inclusive data.



UNFPA's flagship report shows there has been tremendous progress in delivering sexual and reproductive health over the last 30 years; much of it made possible by increased availability of data and analysis, enabling better planning and monitoring.



Yet the report also shows that the most marginalized communities are being excluded from progress. In fact, inequality in health care access is growing, both within countries and between countries.



In an increasingly unpredictable world – with rapid population growth in some places, rapid ageing in others, and climate change, conflict and crises everywhere – reliable population data is more important than ever, and must be used to reach and respond to the needs of those who have been left behind.

World Population Day 2024 is a moment to ask who is still going uncounted and why – and what this costs individuals, societies and our global efforts to leave no one behind. It is also a moment for all of us to commit to doing more to ensure that our data systems capture the full range of human diversity so that everyone is seen, can exercise their human rights and can reach their full potential.

Thirty years on from Cairo, there's much to be celebrated but still much work to be done. People may be hard to reach, but no one is unreachable. To realize the rights and choices of those pushed to the margins of our societies, we have to count them – because everyone counts. Our rich human tapestry is only as strong as the weakest thread. When data and other systems work for those on the margins, they work for everyone. This is how we accelerate progress for all.

Tanzania's population has been on a consistent upward growth trajectory since the first census in 1967. Over a 55 year period, the population has grown from 12.3 million people in 1967 to 61.7 million in 2022. This growth, primarily fuelled by high fertility rates, presents a double-edged sword for the nation; potential challenges in the absence of strategic investments - or opportunities for propelling the country towards achieving its national development aspirations.

At the current population growth rate of 3.2%, Tanzania's population is projected to double in just 22 years, reaching approximately 123.4 million people by 2044. This could pose significant challenges, as a rapidly growing population strains resources, hinders economic progress, and exacerbates the dependency ratio – currently 87 dependents per 100 working-age individuals. This places an immense burden on the economy and social services, diverting resources from crucial investments that could spur job creation and overall development.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, continues to work with Government and partners, including to invest in Tanzania's young people particularly in their health and education. Catalyzing the creation of optimal human capital will ultimately pave the way for Tanzania to reap the rewards of the demographic dividend.

The possibilities for tomorrow are infinite. Tanzania's prosperous future is intrinsically linked to choices made today amidst a rapidly growing population. By striking a delicate balance between quantity and quality, investing in human capital, and adopting a multi-sectoral approach, Tanzania can transform its demographic landscape into a powerful engine for sustainable development.





## UNFPA calls for steady action to realize development in highly populated areas

UNFPA has identified Geita region as one of the areas with high population growth rate in Tanzania calling for steady actions to achieve sustainable development. UNFPA Population and Development Analyst, Ramadhani Hangwa made the remarks in Geita ahead of the World Population Day marked nationally in Geita region. He said that the region has about 2.9 million people out of 61 million countrywide and Geita stands at 5.4% annual population growth. Planning Officer from Zanzibar Planning Commission, Umrat Suleman, said that there must be collective efforts to address various challenges including fighting maternal deaths. – *All media* 

## State pledges demographic statistics accessibility for citizens prosperity

The government will continue to ensure accessibility of accurate demographic statistics to bring citizen's prosperity through various strategies to be entailed in the National Development Vision 2050. The Deputy Minister of the State in the President's Office Planning and Investment, Stanslaus Nyongo said when officiating the World Population Day yesterday in Geita region. He said the use of precise population statistics has helped the government execute several development projects which are stimulating economic growth. UNFPA Assistant Representative, Majaliwa Marwa, emphasized the importance of inclusive data systems to ensure no one is left behind. – *All media* 

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Daily News | July 12, 2024

## State pledges demographic statistics accessibility for citizens' prosperity

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The World Population Day was rationally marked in Gerta

He said the government has here able to execute a transfer of development project through the National Development Vision, which ends in 2025.

Under the current National Development Vision, the government has been able to execute various development projects in water, health infrastructure, energy, education and many other sectors," he noted.

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On his part, Gota Regional Commissioner, Mr Martin Shi-Mr Nycapa ested Tanzanius gella commended President De Sania Sulubs Howard & forts to improve wellbein DESIGN TO THE REAL PROPERTY. health education, water to

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The United Nation non Fund (UNFPA) Representative. Dr Marwa, emphasized or portance of inclusive day to ensure no one is left b LOCAL FEATURES

#### **Revisiting World Population Day** 2024 with 'Kupanga ni Kuchagua'



## **UNFPA** calls for steady actions to realise development in highly populated areas

From YOHANA SHIDA

THE United Nations Popula-THE United Nations Popula-tion Organisation (UNFPA) has identified Geita region as one of the areas with high population growth rate in Tan-zania calling for steady actions to achieve sustainable devel-

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Population and Development Analyst from UNFPA,
Mr Ramadhani Hangwa made

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Mr Hangwa said that the region has about 2.9 million people out of 61 million countrywide, where the rate of population growth nationally is 3.2 percent per year. He said Geita stands at 54 percent aemual population growth.

The average number of children for a woman in Geita including fighting maternal

must be collective efforts to address various challenges including fighting maternal

Making of the Marie Stops Tanzania Organisation, Mr Oscar Kimaro said that they are collaborating with the gov emment to achieve the goal of sustainable development. "In the normal interpreta-

tion of those figures, it has been very difficult for the government to provide travel services related to health and various social services."

The Head of Decision

The The Guardian | July 12, 2024

## World Population Day 2024: Unlocking the power of Tanzania's human capital



#### The Citizen | July 12, 2024

THE CITIZEN

#### OPINION & ANALYSIS 7

## Unlocking the power of Tanzania's human capital



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Tanzania's population is proected to double in just 22 years, reaching 123.4 million by 2044

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UNFPA Tanzania 🐡 @UNFPATanzania - Jul 11

"To go uncounted is to be made invisible and, as a result, left unserved." — 
@Atayeshe

See @UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem's statement as w celebrate #WorldPopulationDay: unf.pa/wod24

#GlobalGoals

66

For humanity to progress, people must be counted, wherever they are and whoever they are – in all their diversity. .



UNFPA Tanzania

 $\slash\hspace{-0.6em}$  Our collective future depends on how we think about & respond to the ties between population and development.

Mupanga, Nikuchagua: Unlocking the Power of Tanzania's Human Capital

Op-Ed on the occasion of World Population Day 2024

Read more ¶

#UNTZ



Dr. Natalia Kanem /she/her/ella/ and 9 others

UNFPA Tanzania © @UNFPATanzania · Jul 11

Tanzania's Deputy Minister for Planning & Investment led the 
#WorldPopulation Day celebration & launched the 2024 @UNFPA #SWOP 
Report in Gelta ...

Honorable Stanslus Nyongo, emphasized the use of evidence-based data to ensure people are at the heart of its development agenda.



Mark Bryan Schreiner ■ and 4 others

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UNFPA Tanzania 💸 @UNFPATanzania · Jul 12
Media are a crucial partner in forwarding the #ICPD30 agenda.

On this #WorldPopulationDay, thanks to the @TheGuardianTzO1
Newspaper for publishing a great OPe-d on Kupanga Nikuchagua:
"unlocking the power of Tanzania's human capital" by @MarkB Schreiner
@UNEPA Rep in Tanzania



Dr. Natalia Kanem /she/her/ella/ and 9 others

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口土



Mark Bryan Schreiner 🔤 and 4 others

See the joint statement by @UNFPA, @WHO, @UNICEF, @UNAIDS and

GlobalGoals

Promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights is not only the right thing to do – it is also the smart thing to do.



# Ensuring Rights and Choices for all



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