

Productive Social Safety Net for Vulnerable Households



Project full name:
Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF)

Priority:
Strengthening state institutions

Phase I:
2020 - 2023

SDC contribution:
CHF 15'800'000

Total phase budget:
USD 650 million

Implementing Partner:
TASAF

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Project Overview

Over the past decade, Tanzania has experienced above average economic growth of 7% per year for Mainland and 6% for Zanzibar, making the country one of the stronger economic performers in Sub-Saharan Africa. However, this growth has not translated to poverty reduction due to unequal distribution of wealth and rapid population growth, resulting in an increase in the absolute number of people living in poverty. Approximately 21.3 million people live below the national poverty line¹.

To address this vulnerability to poverty, the Government of Tanzania has set up a comprehensive safety net programme to assist vulnerable and marginalized households to have access to income, health services and education. The Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) was set-up in 2000 to make a collaborative effort towards poverty reduction.

Since its establishment, TASAF has seen an evolution of its services. The 1st TASAF programme (2000-2005) provided access to social services and assisted food insecure households in rural and peri-urban areas. The 2nd programme (2005-2010) provided additional income to vulnerable households in rural and urban areas in support of the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (MKUKUTA) as well as the Millennium Development Goals, piloting cash transfer to households in three districts.

The 3rd programme aims to comprehensively address the needs of vulnerable people. The initial Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN I) (2012-2018) provided an unconditional

cash transfer to food insecure households, a conditional cash transfer for the provision of education and health care to children in vulnerable households and a public works sub-component.

PSSN II (2019-2023) focuses on enhancing livelihoods to allow TASAF recipients to graduate out of the programme through small business development and financial inclusion schemes. Switzerland will use its expertise in skills development, small enterprise fostering and professional training to design and implement this new component.

Swiss support to PSSN II is aligned with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation's objectives for engagement in Social Protection - to reduce poverty and inequality, and to promote gender equality.

Overall Goal

To contribute to the protection of 100,000 vulnerable and marginalized people from social and economic exclusion and at the same time empower them economically and socially.

Expected Outcomes

- Expanded coverage:** To reach approximately 100,000 vulnerable and marginalized people with cash transfers, public works and livelihoods support programmes.
- Skills transfer:** To provide Swiss expertise in designing the new livelihood enhancement component of the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN)
- Policy dialogue:** To engage Swiss expertise in the social protection policy dialogue to promote a rights based approach through the universal access strategy.

Beneficiaries

- Approximately 100,000 poor and vulnerable people
- President's Office (Mainland), Second Vice President's Office (Zanzibar)
- Ministry of Finance and Planning
- President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government

September 2021

¹ The World Bank, 2019.