



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

Editorial Board



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More Efforts Needed to Address HIV/AIDS Challenges

Regional authorities and district councils have been directed to critically discuss within their respective HIV/AIDS committees, the report on the Tanzania HIV Impact Survey (THIS) of 2016-2017 in order to understand the real situation of the epidemic in their respective localities.

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Coordination, Labour, Employment, Youth and Disabled, Ms. Jenista Mhagama, issued the directive when she was officiating at the launch of the report at TAKWIMU House in Dodoma.

“The results will guide the authorities on what remedial measures are to be taken to halt new infections as well as improving and extending more services to people living with HIV,” she said.

She asserted that resources must be allocated to facilitate implementation of plans and programmes and reports must also be submitted to TACAIDS



Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office responsible for Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Coordination, Labour, Employment, Youth and Disabled Jenista Mhagama emphasizing a point during the launching of Tanzania HIV Impact Survey 2016-2017 (THIS 2016-2017) Report at NBS office grounds in Dodoma

and ZAC as well as to the two ministries of health.

“All HIV/AIDS plans and programmes must now take into consideration these new results and be implemented with immediate effect,” the Minister emphasized.

The report of the Tanzania HIV Impact Survey (THIS) 2016-2017 shows progress Tanzania was making towards controlling the HIV epidemic and opportunities to further strengthen the response.

The survey report shows men have

lower awareness of their HIV status compared to women and have lower linkage to treatment and viral load suppression.

She told stakeholders attending the launch that the government initiated the Furaha Yangu campaign in June 2018 in order to promote voluntary testing among males and general population. This was based on the fact that more women (56 percent) than men (44 percent) had come forth for testing.

The report further revealed that more than half a million people living with HIV in Tanzania were unaware of their HIV status.

Therefore, the minister directed that special efforts were to be made and comprehensive programmes were to be formulated to reach HIV-positive people who were yet to be diagnosed and hence were not receiving life-saving treatment.

“We have to focus our and plans on those areas in which we are not doing well, and in--

particular we need to target men and convince them to show up for testing,” she said.

Minister Mhagama revealed that the report shows that there was a positive trend in curbing new infections which show that annual HIV incidences have dropped from 80,000 in 2012 to approximately 72,000 in 2017.

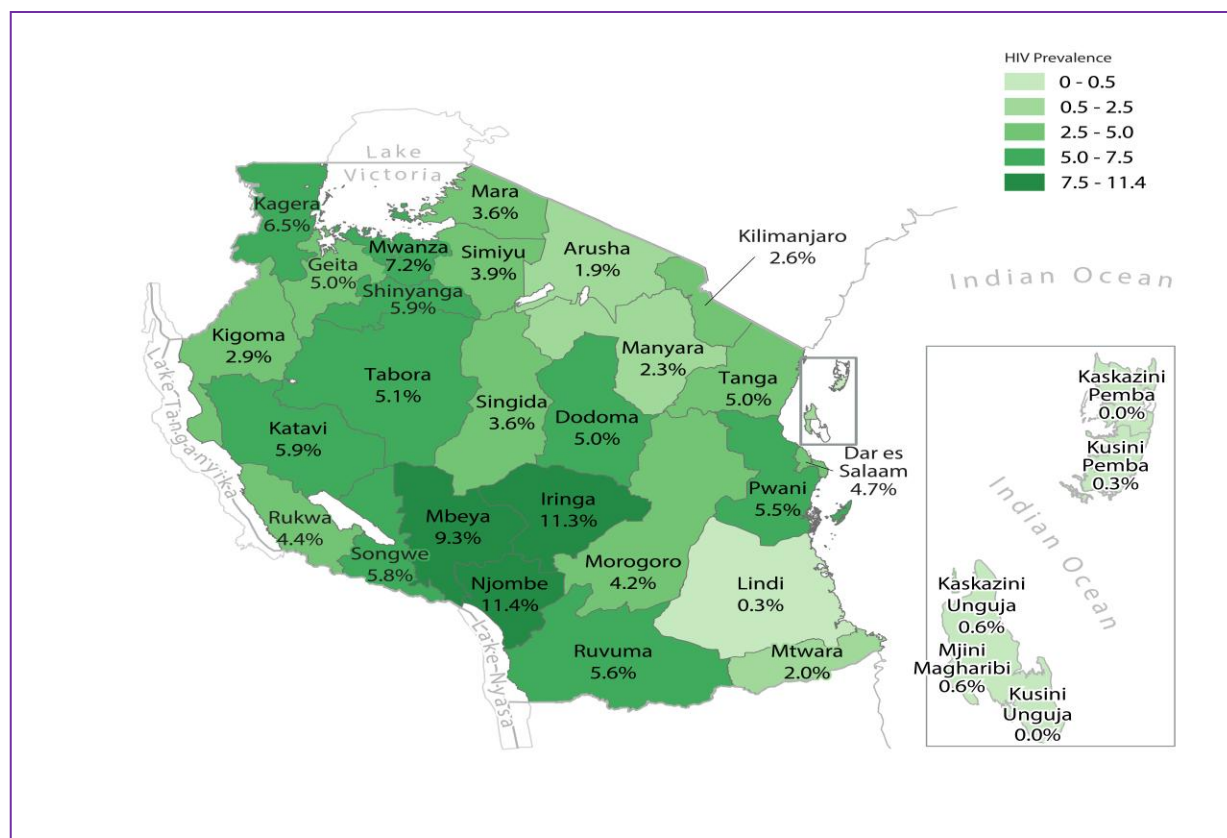
Likewise, she said, whereas the current HIV prevalence among adults aged 15-64 years in the country is 5.0 percent—that is 6.5 percent among women and 3.5 percent among men-- deaths from HIV/AIDS have--

dropped from 70,000 in 2010 to 32,000 in 2017.

She noted that stigma and discrimination were still persistent to people living with HIV, therefore, derailing efforts to reduce HIV infection and hamper many people to access HIV services.

“The findings showed that among adults aged 15 years and above, 25.6% had discriminatory attitudes towards people living with HIV and it is higher in the rural settings by 31 percent than in urban which is 17 percent,” she explained.

HIV prevalence among adults aged 15 years and older, by region, THIS 2016-2017



Pan African Statistics Project Conducts Capacity Building Training for NBS



National accounts statistics expert from Addis Ababa-based Pan African Statistics (PAS) project Mr. Bernd Struck (first left) stressing a point during national account statistics training held at NBS offices in Dodoma.

The Pan African Statistics Programme (PAS) has conducted a special training on national accounts statistics to National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) members of staff.

Speaking with our reporter during the training held at NBS offices in Dodoma, PAS expert Bernd Struck said the training was part of the project's technical assistance--

to member states to build capacity in managing and compilation of national accounts statistics.

He said the four-day training only focused on three areas, namely, Supply and Use Tables, Institutional Sector Accounts and Regional Accounts "which were on the NBS agenda".

He explained that national--

accounts are done according to international standards, rules and guidelines, hence, the importance of these types of training in order to make the country produce quality national accounts statistics.

"For your readers and others who are unfamiliar with this subject, it is wise to inform them that there are set standards, rules and guidelines governing compilation of--

national accounts which make them internationally acceptable,” he said.

During the training he said trainees were taken through presentations, practicals and discussion on “how we are doing in Tanzania and how it is done in accordance with the international standards”.

He noted that national accounts statisticians did not only produce statistics but were mainly users of economic statistics in their bid to produce national account statistics.

“A national account is basically between producers and users of economic statistics. We, at national accounts, do not produce data because we don’t conduct surveys nor census but we use those data collected by our colleagues. These include economic statistics like trade, agriculture and tourism.

He noted that training on national accounts statistics is not an easy task because they are complicated, particularly, for those who are new to the subject.

Regarding the team he worked with, Mr. Struck said that “With a mix of beginners and--

experienced ones it was somehow difficult for me to strike the right balance so that I would not be too boring for experienced ones and not too difficult to beginners but as you can see the programme is going on well and interests both categories”.

Mr. Bernd Struck, who is a key expert of PAS programme, said his mission to Tanzania serves to also learn the country’s experience from previous projects and further assess needs for assistance in those areas.

European Union-funded programme was to improve the production and dissemination of quality statistics in Africa, and to support the African Union (AU) members in strengthening their institutional capacity to provide comparable official statistics.

These comparable statistics are needed to support and strengthen integration process in Africa and measure African progress towards global goals.

The main objective of the--



Souvenir Photograph! Trainees to the four-day capacity building training workshop on national accounts statistics with their trainer Mr. Bernd Struck (third left) from PAS project. Fourth left is Manager of NBS National Account Department Daniel Masolwa.

We Have Moved Further in Investigating HIV/AIDS, says Statistician General

Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa said Tanzania HIV impact Survey of 2016-2017 (THIS 2016-2017) was the first national HIV survey that covered populations of all ages and investigated more indicators that were not part of the three surveys conducted previously in the country.

“It was a more comprehensive survey which has produced more data and that makes it different from the three--

previous surveys we conducted,” she noted.

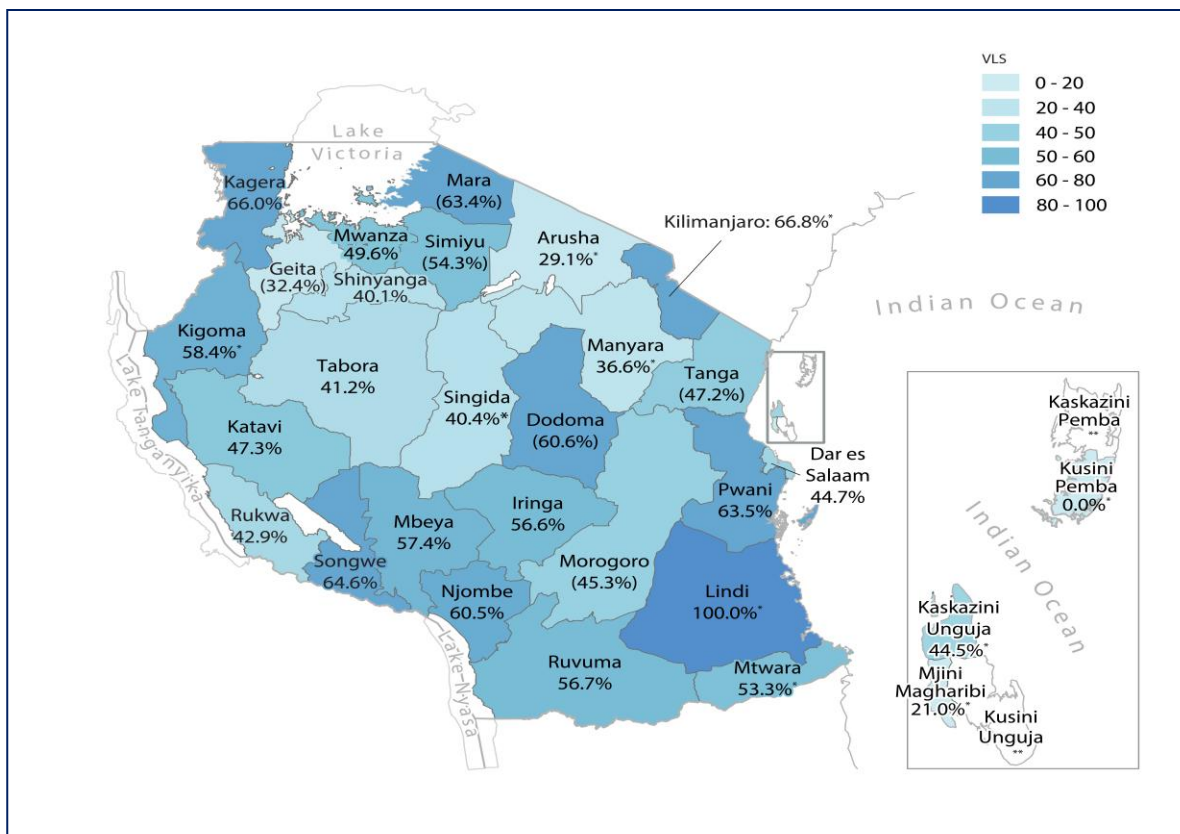
She informed stakeholders at the launching of the report that among additional indicators were HIV incidence, CD4 T-cell count, viral load (VL) suppression (VLS), antiretroviral (ARV) drug resistance and presence of ARV drugs in the blood.

“The survey also investigated HIV prevalence--

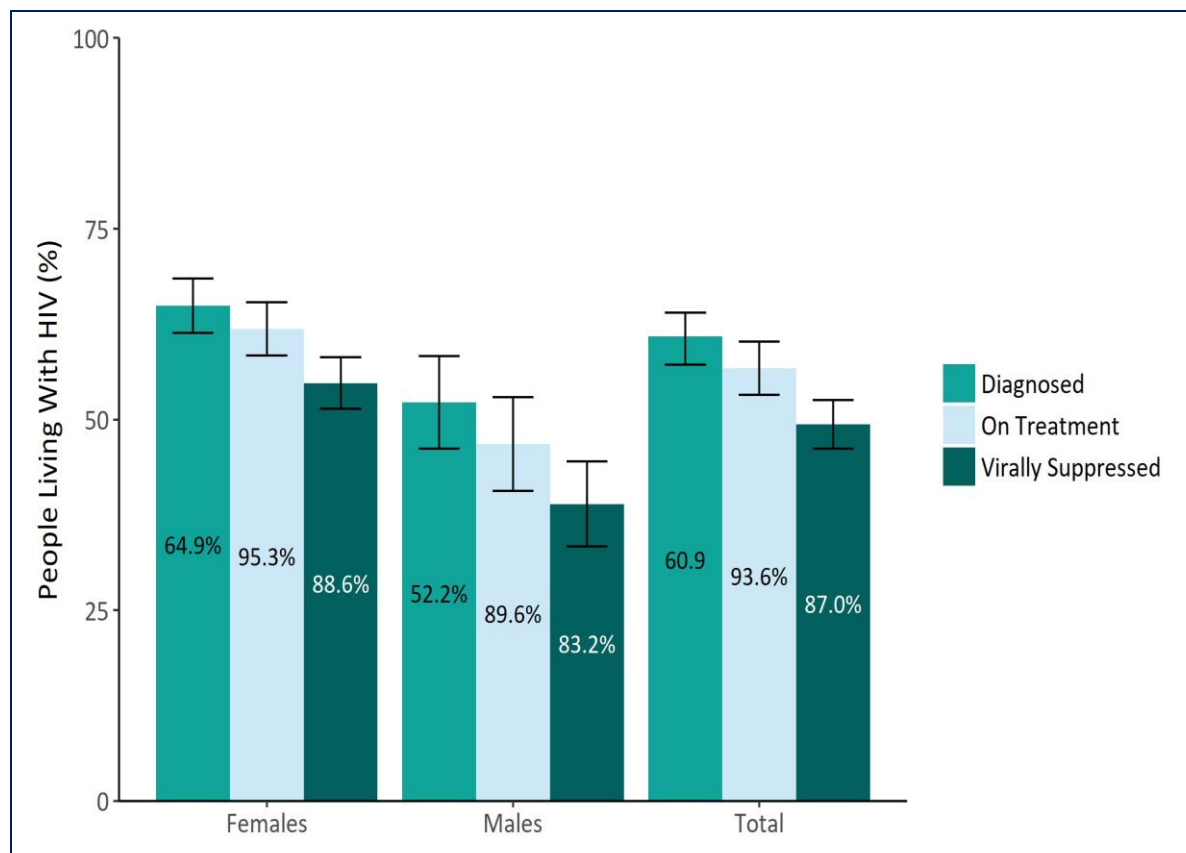
among children aged 0-9 years, early adolescent children aged 10-14 years, and elders aged 50 years and older; and the prevalence of syphilis, acute or chronic hepatitis B, and past or current hepatitis C,” Dr. Chuwa added.

Statistician General was optimistic that the results will be used in planning, policy formulation; and monitoring and evaluation of

A Viral load suppression (<1000 copies/mL) among HIV-positive adults aged 15 years and older, by region, THIS 2016-2017



Adult 90-90-90 (adjusted for laboratory antiretroviral data)¹ among adults aged 15 years and older), THIS 2016-2017



HIV/AIDS programmes and projects.

“These are the results which all of us here were eagerly waiting for! Now the ball is in our court to make use of them in our various projects and plans which are geared towards freeing our country from HIV/AIDS,” she said.

Dr. Chuwa thanked President’s Office–Regional Administration and Local Government, Ministries responsible for health in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar for allowing their staff

participate in field data collection as interviewers.

She also expressed appreciation to all field staffs who participated in implementing the survey, community and local leaders, head of households selected in the survey and the media fraternity for playing their part which made the survey a success.

“These results we are releasing today are the product of our collective efforts and we should all be proud of it.

It can always be done if we play our parts,” she said and thanked development partners for their technical and financial support.

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Dr. Chuwa.

Hon Mukasa: Parliament Has a Vital Role to Play in Fighting Against HIV/AIDS



Chairperson of Parliamentary Committee on HIV/AIDS Hon. Oscar Mukasa speaking during the launching of Tanzania HIV Impact Survey 2016-2017 (THIS 2016-2017) Report where he stressed the important role National Assembly can play in fighting against the scourge.

Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Aids Oscar Mukasa has underscored the importance of Members of Parliament (MPs) in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Tanzania.

In his statement during the launching of the Tanzania HIV Impact Survey 2016-2017 (THIS 2016-2017) held at TAKWIMU House in Dodoma, Hon. Mukasa said that he was--

grateful to see the role that Parliament can play in the national efforts to rid our country of the HIV/AIDS scourge is recognized.

He insisted that MPs are among key stakeholders in the realisation of national targets set to address HIV/AIDS pandemic, which are to achieve Zero New Infections, reduce AIDS related deaths; and get rid of stigma and discrimination--

against people living with HIV/AIDS.

The chairperson said it was imperative that the launched results must be available to members of assembly for them to have a clear understanding of the pandemic in the country.

Hon Mukasa noted that although survey's results showed that "we have made big progress" but he added that it was no secret that there was still so much work to do.

"At the national assembly, our decisions are evidence-based, therefore these statistics will guide us in our decision making when it comes to issues related to HIV/AIDS pandemic," he said.

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US Agency: Saving Lives through Public Health Impact Is Our Core Mission

The United States-based Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has vowed to continue supporting health sector in Tanzania to save lives as that is its fundamental mission.

Speaking during the launching of the Tanzania HIV Indicator Survey 2016-2017 held in Dodoma, Dr. George Ngemela, from CDC said statistics produced from the survey were very critical as they helped stakeholders undertake what they were supposed to do more efficiently.

“Surveys such as the Tanzania HIV Impact Survey allow us to harness the power of data for greater insights on where to focus our collective efforts and resources going forward,” he said, adding that by doing so “ultimately helps save more lives”.

The survey was conducted with funding from the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and technical assistance through the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and ICAP at Columbia University.

Dr. Ngemela informed guest of honour and invited guests that Tanzania was one of the 13 PEPFAR-supported countries implementing new national--

population-based impact surveys, which, he said “provide critical information on the state of the HIV epidemic and response in countries affected by the disease”.

The CDC representative noted that whilst previously conducted facility-based sentinel surveillance and population-based studies have provided useful knowledge regarding Tanzania’s HIV epidemic and HIV-control efforts but information critical to understand the current status of the epidemic and guide future interventions was limited.

To address that limitation, Dr. Ngemela said THIS 2016-2017 focused on directly measuring key biological endpoints, such as new HIV infections within the last year and viral load (VL) in a nationally representative sample of the population which provides direct estimates of HIV-infection risk and burden.

“It also provides estimates of the effectiveness and population-level impact of the prevention, care, and treatment interventions implemented in the country and progress toward the achievement of the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets,” he added.



Dr. George Ngemela from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) makes a statement on behalf of PEPFAR during the launching of Tanzania HIV Impact Survey 2016-2017 (THIS 2016-2017) Report. In his statement, he reiterated CDC’s continued support to health sector to save lives as that is center’s fundamental mission.

Statistics Authority is Fortunate to Have Experts from PAS, Observes an Official

The Acting Director of the Department of Economic Statistics, Mr. Daniel Masolwa, has expressed National Bureau of Statistics' appreciations to PAS for supporting Tanzania in strengthening its capacity in producing quality statistics.

He observed that the training on national accounts statistics had come at an opportune time because the department had just recruited new staff who "were in much need of such training".

"We recently welcomed new staff in our department so we have both new and experienced staff undergoing this course hence it has benefited us all... the mission has come at a right time," he said.

He said Tanzania was fortunate to have an expert like Mr. Struck who has gathered vast experience from both Europe and Africa in the area.

"National account is a very complicated subject, and has very few experts, and much less for those who have both European and African--

experience. Not every expert in this area can be helpful to developing countries," he observed.

He added that African countries were facing different challenges therefore not every national accounts expert can rightly train Africans in this field hence it was an honour to get Mr. Struck who has vast experience within the African environment.

On the importance of the training, Mr. Masolwa noted that having well-trained experts in national accounts are very crucial because national accounts statistics is key/basis of various development and economic indicators.

"With national accounts statistics, it is where we measure or determine debt sustainability, development expenditure, targets of tax collections, evaluate economic growth over time and determine per capita income, which is one of the SDG indicators for a middle income economy," he explained.

He added that with national account statistics, the country--

can measure or determine the size of the economy and can also identify contributions of every sector to the economy hence providing guidance to policy and decision-makers to take appropriate measures to address various economic challenges.

"This training has added value in overall production of quality statistics but in particular has strengthen our capacity at national accounts department," Mr. Masolwa insisted.

"National account is a very complicated subject, and has very few experts, and much less for those who have both European and African experience. Not every expert in this area can be helpful to developing countries" Said Mr. Masolwa

Tanzania Commends U.S Government

The government of the United Republic of Tanzania has commended its United States counterpart and other development partners for their financial and technical support that enabled implementation of the Tanzania HIV Impact Survey (THIS) 2016-2017.

Speaking during the launch of the survey report, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Coordination, Labour, Employment, Youth and Disabled, Ms. Jenista Mhagama, said the government was impressed with the support from the United States government in various development programmes including the implementation of the survey.

“Our special thanks should go to the United States government for its financial and technical support which facilitated this survey from the very beginning until its launch today,” she said.

The survey, which cost a total of Tshs. 12 billion was financed through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR with Centers--

for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) while ICAP from the Columbia University provided technical support.

The minister expressed government's readiness to continue working with government of the United States of America and other development partners and she was optimistic to see more collaboration with them in future undertakings.

“The People and government of the United Republic of Tanzania thank you for your generosity and it is our sincere hope that you will continue working with us in the fight against HIV/AIDS and other health challenges to the end,” she said.

THIS 2016-2017 was jointly conducted by the Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS), Zanzibar AIDS Commission (ZAC), under the Prime Minister's Office and Zanzibar's Second Vice President's Office respectively; Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children;--

Ministry of Health of Zanzibar; National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and Office of the Chief Government Statistician (OCGS) in collaboration with U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and ICAP of the Columbia University and U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Therefore, these results should be taken as a challenge in the nation's effort to reduce the incidences of new HIV infections and eradication of HIV transmission from mother to child. Reduce the transmission of Hepatitis B and C and other HIV associated infections.

“Understandably, we all have to work together towards achieving the desired levels so that we save lives of our people especially children under 14 years old, pregnant women and economically active population,” she noted.

April Inflation Rate Up By 0.1 Percent

Inflation Rate for April, 2019 has slightly increased to 3.2 percent from 3.1 percent recorded a month earlier.

Releasing the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the month of April, 2019 during a press conference held at NBS offices in Dodoma, the Director of Statistical Operations, Mr. Irenius Ruyobya, said the increase was caused by the increase of the speed of price change for commodities in April, 2019 compared to the speed of the price change recorded in March, 2019.

“The CPI for April, 2019 has slightly increased to 3.2 percent from 3.1 percent recorded a month before; this caused the overall index to increase to 116.82 in April, 2019 from 116.23 recorded in March, 2019,” he said and added that the increase of the overall index was mainly attributed to the price increase for both food and non-food items.

Mr. Ruyobya mentioned some food items which contributed to such increase as rice which increased by 1.1 percent, maize flour by 1.4 percent, sardines by 4.4 percent, fruits by 2.8 percent, peas by 4.2 percent, round potatoes by 1.5 percent, fresh cassava by 4.1 percent and sweet potatoes by 2.1--



Director of Statistical Operations Irenius Ruyobya talking to the media during release of April, 2019 Consumer Price Index (CPI) at NBS conference hall, Dodoma

percent.

At the same time, he said non-food items that contributed to such increase were diesel, which increased by 3.2 percent, second hand garments for men by 1.1 percent, maintenance and repair of sewage systems by 2.6 percent and dental services by 1.8 percent.

The National Statistics Office director informed the press that inflation rate for food and non-alcoholic beverages for April, 2019 also has increased to 0.9-

percent from 0.1 percent recorded in March, 2019 whereas inflation rate for food consumed at home and away from home for April, 2019 increased to 2.7 percent from 2.0 percent recorded a month earlier.

According to Mr. Ruyobya however, inflation rate, which excludes food and energy in April, 2019, slightly eased to 3.6 percent from 3.7 percent recorded in March, 2019 while the 12 month index change for non-food products in April, 2019 decreased to 5.3 percent from 5.7 percent recorded a month earlier.

Survey Results Demonstrate Importance of Data-Driven Programmes in Addressing HIV Problem, says TACAIDS Chief



TACAIDS Executive Director Dr. Leonard Maboko addressing National Dissemination meeting of the 2016/17 Tanzania HIV Indicator Survey Report held at NBS office grounds Dodoma. Far right is Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for the Disabled, Ms. Stella Ikupa.

The Executive Director of the Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS), Dr. Leonard Maboko, has said that the results of the Tanzania HIV Impact Survey (THIS) 2016-2017 demonstrate the importance of providing innovative, data-driven prevention, care and treatment for HIV.

Dr. Maboko was speaking during the launch of the report which took place at the National Bureau of Statistics Office (NBS) grounds in Dodoma.

He added that the report highlighted key areas for--

improvement, particularly the need to increase the coverage of HIV testing among adult men, youth, and young women.

The TACAIDS boss informed stakeholders who attended the event that the report showed the progress Tanzania was making towards controlling the HIV epidemic and opportunities to further strengthen the response.

Dr. Maboko thanked the National Bureau of Statistics and Office of Chief Government Statistician for--

guiding the implementation of the survey until the launch of the report and pledged to the two national statistics offices to continue working with TACAIDS during dissemination of the results to various stakeholders.

“Having received the report, our main task ahead is to disseminate the findings to various stakeholders and we will still be working with NBS and OCGS in that respect,” Dr. Maboko insisted.

The TACAIDS Executive Director said the survey findings provided “a blueprint to guide HIV policies and programmes in the country moving forward,” and therefore urged stakeholders to make use of the findings to synchronise their HIV programmes towards achieving the global target of 90-90-90.

The report launch was officiated by the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Coordination, Labour, Employment, Youth and Disabled, Ms. Jenista Mhagama.

Tanzania's 2018/19 National Sample Census of Agriculture in the Offing

Preparations for the 2018/19 National Sample Census of Agriculture (NSCA) are in full gear as household listing operations is going on in all regions across Tanzania as per the schedule.

According to the Manager of Agriculture Statistics Department in the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Mr. Titus Mwisomba, the operation is taking place in all 2,820 selected enumeration areas (EAs) in both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

He said of the 2,820 selected EAs, 2,670 EAs are on the Mainland and the remaining are in Zanzibar. Mr. Mwisomba added that 2,560 are in rural areas and the remaining 260 EAs are in urban areas.

The manager informed NBS Newsletter that the listing exercise, which commenced on the 16 April will take approximately two months to complete.

Scheduled to start in October 2019, the 2018/19 NSCA will collect detailed data on crop--

production, crop marketing, crop storage, livestock production, fish farming, and some of the poverty indicators.

Mr. Mwisomba said that this year's census is large in its scope and coverage as it will provide data that can be disaggregated at district level and thus allow comparisons with the 2007/08 National Sample Census of Agriculture.

The census is implemented by NBS in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture as well as other Agricultural Sector Lead Ministries (ASLMs), with financial support from the United States government through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and technical support from US Department of Agriculture-National Agriculture Statistics Service (USDA-NAS).

In the process of enhancing the quality of the data, the Statistician General, Dr. Albina Chuwa, made an impromptu supervisory visit in Arusha and Moshi accompanied by respective regional statistics managers.

A team from USDA comprised of Mr. Mark Miller and Ms. Sarah Hoffman also visited Pemba Mnazi in Kigamboni District, Dar es Salaam Region on the 17 April, 2019 to witness the listing exercise.

The 2018/19 census will be the fifth to be carried out in Tanzania. The first one was conducted in 1971/72, the second in 1993/94 and 1994/95, the third was conducted in 2002/03 and the fourth was conducted in 2007/08.

Agriculture is an important sector of the Tanzanian economy in terms of food production, job creation, production of raw materials for industries, and generation of foreign exchange.

According to 2017 Tanzania Economic Survey, the agricultural sector contributed about 30.1 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



NBS acting director of Directorate of Finance, Administration and Marketing Andrew Ulindula make a statement on behalf of the Statistician General during the launching of Tanzania HIV Impact Survey 2016-2017 (THIS 2016-2017) Report.



Mr. Bernd Struck (left), national account expert, from Pan African Statistics (PAS) project with NBS staff during capacity building training on national accounts statistics.

NBS PICTORIAL NEWS



Quality control! Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa (right) made an impromptu visit to inspect preparation of October scheduled 2018-2019 National Sample Census of Agriculture (NSCA). Here she listens to interview between data collector Mariam Masangi (left) and Ms. Ashura Athumani (centre) during listing exercise at Sokoni ward, Moshi municipality in Kilimanjaro region



Part of invitees at the launching of Tanzania HIV Impact Survey 2016-2017 (THIS 2016-2017) Report listening to guest of honour's speech (not in the picture).

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)

VISION

To become a one-stop centre for official statistics in Tanzania.

MISSION

To produce quality official statistics and services that meet needs of national and international stakeholders for evidence based planning and decision making.

*For comments and suggestions
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