



Vijana Inspiring Foundation (VIF)

Census and Youth Participation in Decision Making-Report

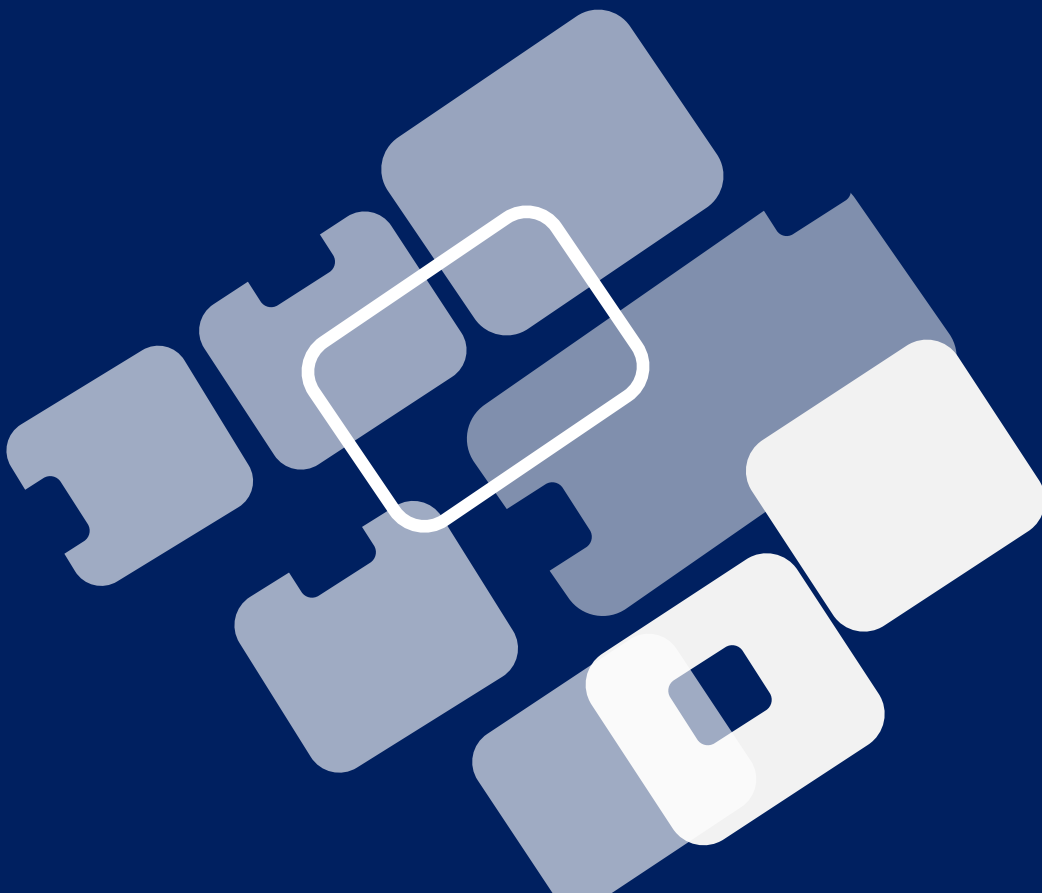




Table of CONTENTS

<i>Abbreviation and Acronyms</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Executive Summary</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Part One</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Introduction and Background Information</i>	<i>6</i>
1.1. Introductions	6
1.2. Background	2
1.3. The Launch of Leadership Training	1
1.4. Key address during the Launching	2
<i>Part Two: Youth Online Leadership Training</i>	<i>8</i>
2.1. Introductions	8
<i>Part Four:</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Dialogues (Youth and Councillors)</i>	<i>12</i>
3.1. A highlight from Iringa Youth Local Dialogue	14
3.2. A highlight from Arusha Youth Local Dialogue	16
3.3. A highlight from Dodoma Youth Local Dialogue	18
<i>Part Four:</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Achievements, Challenges, Lessons Learned, Way Forward</i>	<i>19</i>
4.1. Achievements	20
4.2. Lesson Learned	21
4.3. Way Forward and Recommendations	22

Abbreviation and Acronyms

CBE	College of Business Educations
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
GDP	Growth Domestic Product
ICISO	Iringa Civil Societies
LGA	Local Government Authorities
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NDI	National Democratic Institute
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OCGS	Office of the chief government statistician Zanzibar
PLAJC	Peace and Legal Aid Justice Centre
PWD	People with Disabilities
TAHLISO	Tanzania Higher Learning Institutions Students Organization
TCD	Tanzania Centre for Democracy
TPSF	Tanzania Private Sector Foundation
UN	United Nation
UNA	United Nation Association
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VIF	Vijana Inspiring Foundations
YPC	Youth Partnership Countrywide

Executive Summary

This report provides an analysis and evaluation of the Launching of the census and youth participation in the decision-making series of activities which was held in Arusha- SG Premium Hotel Arusha on 15th August 2022. The Census and Youth Participation in Decision Making is a series of youth activities including a two-day online training on youth leadership and three dialogues with local government authorities (LGAs) in Arusha, Dodoma and Iringa. The Dialogues reflect on previous census data, particularly those raised on youth issues and how they have been utilized over time to make informed decisions that facilitate and promote youth civic, economic and political development at a council level.

The Launching of the census and youth participation in decision-making activities was done in Arusha and was coordinated by Vijana Inspiring Foundations (VIF) on behalf of its partners: The National Democratic Institute (NDI), Civil Society Organizations (ICISO), Tanzania Peace and Legal Aid Justice Centre (PLAJC) and Tanzania Higher Learning Institutions Students Organization (TAHLISO). The Guest of Honour was the Mayor of Arusha Municipal Hon. Maximilian Iranqhe. The Launching event was participated by a total of 58 people (46 physical attendance, 12 attended online), 28 females and 30 males and among all 45 were youths, 17 universities were represented, CSOs and Three Councils.

After the Launching Day, it was followed by a two-day Youth Leadership Skills Capacity Building training titled *“Census for Increasing the Role of Youth in Decision Making”*. The training was participated by the University Young Leaders and was conducted by experts who have experience in agendas and youth participation in political processes. The topic covered were;

1. The importance of youth engagement and census data in local decision-making, leadership and participation provided by Dr Rodrick Henry, University of Dar es Salaam
2. Experiences of youth in local government decision-making and available platforms for youth to engage and participate in local policy development and leadership provided by Reynald Maeda, Executive Director, UNA Tanzania
3. Introduction to negotiation essentials to find solutions: characteristics, conditions, benefits, positions (problem, interests, negotiate or not) and alternatives, and strategy provided by Professor Makulilo
4. “A case study from youth in the private sector with LGAs” provided by a Representative from TPSF

After every session, the participants were given time to ask questions and have a Discussion among participants and Key Takeaways were generated from the Discussions.

Part One

Introduction and Background Information



1.1. Introductions

Throughout August, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in collaboration with Youth Inspiring Foundation (Vijana Inspiring Foundation, VIF), and Tanzania Higher Learning Institutions Students Organization (TAHILISO) organized a series of youth activities including two days of online training on youth leadership, 3 dialogue with councillors in Arusha, Dodoma, and Iringa. The Dialogues

reflected on previous census data, particularly those raised on youth issues and how they have been utilized over time to make informed decisions that facilitate and promote youth civic, economic and political development at a council level. Dialogues also offered insights on how youth are engaged directly or indirectly in the decision-making process on issues that affect their civic, socio-economic and political development at the local level. These dialogues further helped both youth and councillors identify factors that prevent

young people from participating in decision-making processes; and how LGAs can foster an enabling environment for young people including young women and young people of diverse identities and backgrounds to exercise influence.

1.2. Background

To tackle some of the most complex civic, economic and political developmental issues, the government needs complete, accurate and disaggregated data to give decision-makers a full understanding of who is impacted and how the situations are evolving; nowhere is that endeavour clearer than with the national census. Census is the process of collecting, compiling, analysing, evaluating, publishing and disseminating statistical data regarding the population. Population data collected during census: demographic, social and economic which shape policies and overall future government priorities at the local and national levels. According to the Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Census data help the Tanzania government to identify specific needs of the citizens including special groups like youth, women, People living with disabilities (PWDs), children and the elderly therefore making it easy for the government to develop policies

and development strategies based on the needs and current environment as per census data. The National Bureau of Statistics clearly explains that the census is the foundation of good leadership and overall democratic participation and emphasises the need for community members to participate and for government officials at all levels to utilize census data. In support of this view and since the United Republic of Tanzania is expecting to conduct the 2022 census from August 23, NDI in collaboration with Vijana Inspiring Foundation and TAHLISO convene 25 University students online for a two days of youth leadership training that among other topics, youths reminded of their crucial role in participating in census and engaging in local council discussions to learn how these leaders use census data to address their issues and how as a youth, they can contribute in improving the process. To practice the skills acquired from online sessions, NDI, VIF and TAHLISO and other partners organize three dialogues for university students and counsellors from Arusha, Dodoma and Iringa to discuss the role of youth participation in local level decision-making while reflecting on how previous census data have been used to improve youth civic, economic and political development.

1.3. The Launch of Leadership Training

Before convening youth leadership training, NDI in collaboration with VIF and TAHLISO organized a launch event to bring youth together for networking among themselves before convening online training and physical dialogues. The launch also provided a platform for youth to learn and network with different stakeholders from the business sector, government and NGOs. In addition, the launch provided an avenue for stakeholders including youth to be informed about upcoming leadership training, and dialogues with councillors. The Launching of the census and youth participation in decision-making activities was done in Arusha and was coordinated by Vijana Inspiring Foundations (VIF) on behalf of its partners: The National Democratic Institute (NDI), Civil Society Organizations (ICISO), Tanzania Peace and Legal Aid Justice Centre (PLAJC) and Tanzania Higher Learning Institutions Students Organization (TAHLISO). The Guest of Honour was the Mayor of Arusha Municipal Hon. Maximillian Iranqhe. The Launching event was participated by a total of 46 people from 17 universities, (22 female and 23 Male), CSOs and Three Councils.

On the Launching Day, the sessions included a variety of speeches and presentations provided by different special guests and experts. The sessions included the opening remarks on the Initiative and presentation of partners as well as the Presentation of selected youth leaders which was done by, Mr Mbayani Tayai- Executive Director, Vijana Inspiring Foundation, a representative from TAHLISO and Florida Henjewe, Senior Democracy, Rights and Governance Specialist, USAID. The opening Remarks were followed by Remarks from the Guest of Honor who highlighted “Census data and its impact on local government planning processes”. Other sessions included the Importance of census data to enhance youth participation in decision-making processes” provided by Mr Said Ameir Assistant Commissioner of Census - NBS, and the Reflection on youth participation in decision-making processes provided by Dr Rodrick Henry, University of Dar es Salaam, as well as the Dialogue on census and youth at the local level provided by Mr Jaruo Karebe - Director, Tanzania Peace, Legal Aid and Justice Centre (PLAJC). The Launching also featured a discussion among the participants where they were able to ask questions and provide their opinion concerning the census and youth participation in the decision-making.

Participants during the Launching

In total, the launch was attended by 58 participants both physical and online, 46 attended physically and 12 attended online. The participants were categories young leaders from 17 universities (Female 28 and Male 30), Three (4) Councillors, one of which 1 was the mayor of the Arusha Municipals and the Guest of Honour for the Launching event. Other participants included 1 representative from CSO, 3 staff from NDI, 5 representatives from VIF for both physical and online representations, 1 representative from the National Bureau of Statistics, 1 government Officials from the relevant ministry, 1 member from the business sector, and 1 academician from the University of Dar es Salaam

1.4. Key address during the Launching

Remarks by VIF Executive Director, Mr Mbayani Tayai

- In his remarks, he applauds partners including NDI, PLAJIC, and ICISO for their commendable work in the preparation of the Activities. He also applauded the VIF staff for their sleepless day and nights to ensure that the event became a success.
- He further commented on the work that VIF is doing ranging from advocating for the change of policies and legal frameworks to ensuring that youth are benefiting from friendly legal and policy frameworks. He further stated that apart from advocacy for friendly policies for youth VIF empowers youth by developing community centres where youth can have knowledge and skills for employment. He provided an example of the VIF community centre which focuses on developing youth computer literacy as a prerequisite for their 21-century success. Apart from that VIF helps the government in implementing some community projects such as water projects which aims at empowering women and youth to access safe and clean water.
- He further commented that this series of activities planned for census and youth participation in the decision-making will contribute towards achieving the mission of VIF by helping youth, especially from the university to participate in decision-making and leadership positions.
- He concluded by thanking NDI and VIF staff for their continued support in ensuring that the event is successful and all the series of activities will be implemented and informed the participants that after the Launching event there will be a series of activities such as Youth Leadership Training and Dialogues.



**Remarks by TAHILISO Representative,
Mr Elisha Christopher:**

In his address the following key messages were noted;

- He started by thanking VIF and the partners for preparing the event and other follow-up sessions and seeing the importance of involving other institutions such as the Universities through its associations. Doing that shows that TAHILISO has a role to play to advocate for youth agendas.
- He commented that being part of the event TAHILISO joins hands with VIF and its partners to ensure that the youth of Tanzania participate in decision-making, particularly on issues that affect their life directly or indirectly.
- The end product from the universities has proved to be good as we have seen a lot of students coming out of the university and becoming good leaders. Therefore, the youth of Tanzania join hands with the government to raise awareness of the magnitude of youth by ensuring their participation in decision-making processes.
- He concluded by a vote of thanks for being invited and presented greetings from the chairperson of
- TAHILISO who was supposed to be present but due to other works, he has to be represented

Remarks by Florida Henjewe, Senior Democracy, Rights and Governance Specialist, USAID

Addressing the participants of the launching Mr Florida Henjewe commended that the timing of the event was right because the census is coming and youth need to be engaged to know the challenges that the fourth face in their development. He commented that engagement of youth is very practical especially in today's world because of their creativity, energy, time and other factors in which all of these need to be honoured.

In his address the following key messages were highlighted;

- He believes that after the end of all the sessions youth will translate all their strength into increasing their participation in local government decision-making bodies
- He further commented that USAID is interested in the well-being of youth which is why their five years strategy focus on youth advancing their career in the areas of comics, political participation, health, employment and youth engagement in private sectors
- The planned training will also help youth towards increasing youth leadership and realising their potential for National Development.
- Tanzania youth and the centre to the government transformations because they have that capacity, time and energy. The investment should centre on youth as the change makers for any development.
- To attain all that demographic data is critical to inform the government of Tanzania for better human and management resources. This is why youth participation in the census is very important today and they should be at the centre of a such census.
- He concluded his remarks by Thanking the Government of Tanzania for participating in the launching of the census and youth participation in the decision-making series of activities and the Launching of the CENSUS which will take place on August 23, 2022. He quoted saying;

“Hakika Vijana ndio Taifa la Leo na Kesho”

Address by the Guest of Honour Hon. Hon. Maximillian Matle Iranqhe, (Mayor of Arusha City)

In his address, the Guest of Honour started by thanking the VIF and its partner for the invitation to the census and youth participation in the decision-making series of activities. He commented that youth are a very important part of the national population that is the present and future of the Nation and he believes he is the mayor who is interested and believes in youth Agendas.



In his address the following key messages were highlighted;

- Since youths are the present and future of any nation, the life of youth is in their own hands. All youth in the nation should look in the mirror because if there is a problem that will hinder youth from prosperity it may be themselves.
- Youth should take 100% of their life responsibilities, the government only must facilitate youth through friendly policies. However, the university dreams that youth are having will be transformed into reality by the youth themselves. Youth should work towards realising their dreams through engaging in every activity in front of them.
- Youth is the right age to change the world and it is also the right age to change your life. If you need a proper life it has to start now. He argued with youth to take the example of the developer of Facebook, he started that dream while at university. There is nothing that hinders the youth from innovating anything at that age, the only thing required is to set a legal and policy environment for that to happen.
- There are principles that youth should have, one of them is having a vision. The majority of youth today don't know what they want in life. As the youth of the nation, we should know what we want to be after 5, 10 or 20 years to come. The only thing that will make youth achieve their dreams is also to commit to their visions.
- Youth also needs determination. It is difficult to have a vision and stay committed to achieving the vision if they are not determined. As said earlier, youth need to know what they want to be in a certain period.
- The government of Tanzania has been providing the 10% LGA revenue for simple Loans to youth, women and PWDs. This is a government initiative but the youth also need to take initiative to increase their knowledge on how to utilize these resources. Youth is among the group which fails to refund these loans while expecting that youth is the one with energy and skills and will return the loan on time this is not the case.
- Therefore, the purpose of the government conducting a census is to know how many people it has and know their needs to inform its planning. Youth need to participate

because the government needs to know how many youths are available and what needs the youth have. Failure of youth to participate in the census means it will be difficult for their needs to feature in the Government Planning.

- Youth should also take responsibility to sensitize the community to participate in the Census. Youth

have the required understanding and exposure such as social media and other technology uses. These abilities should be put to use to help the leaders.

- He concluded his remarks by thanking NDI and its partners for their support and interest in ensuring that youth reach their potential.

Presentation Sessions:

Session One: Importance of census data to enhance youth participation in decision-making processes

Summary

The session aimed to explore the importance of census data to enhance youth participation in decision-making processes in Tanzania.

Key Themes from the Presentations

- A census is an expensive statistical operation, consisting of a complex series of interrelated steps, which a country undertakes. The ultimate goal of the census operation is to provide the government and other stakeholders with essential statistics on the socio-economic conditions of a population;
- The population and housing census are conducted across Tanzania every 10 years. The 2022 census will be the sixth since the Independence of the United Republic of Tanzania in 1964. Other censuses took place in 1967, 1978, 1988, 2002 and 2012.
- The 2012 census results indicated there were 43,625,354 people on Tanzania's mainland and 1,303,569 people on the Zanzibar islands.
- Population and Housing Censuses in Tanzania are carried out by Statistics Act No. 1, 2002; The Act, *inter alia*, mandates the NBS to conduct Population and Housing Census

within the United Republic of Tanzania. However, the census is a national issue and therefore involvement of Government leadership and machinery is essential. To ensure the involvement of national leadership, there is a Central Census Committee chaired by the Prime Minister that provides general guidelines and mobilizes the required resources. Similar committees are also available at lower administrative levels i.e., the regions and districts.

- National development requires a well-organized statistical system allowing planners to work on the broad set of statistical indicators that are indispensable for the development and improvement of planning. To involve the statistical system in the planning and delivery of the designed and desired statistical data, there is a need to link statistical planning and community groups such as youth and other vulnerable groups.
- The percentage of youth participation in decision-making in Tanzania is indeed very minimal. Through the census, the status of youth participation will be determined from the local to the national level.

Session Two: Reflection on youth participation in decision-making processes

The session aimed to explore youth participation in decision-making processes in Tanzania. This session was delivered by **Dr Rodrick Henry from the University of Dar es Salaam**. Exploring this concept was seen as a very important turning stone toward youth participation in National Development. Participants discussed Why Youth should participate in decision-making processes and the current situation in Tanzania and globally. Also, the youth discussed what should be done to increase youth participation in the decision-making process in Tanzania.

Key themes in the Session

In his presentation the following key themes were highlighted;

- Equal and inclusive participation of a diverse citizenry in public and private life is a fundamental aspect of a peaceful and just society. Social inclusion represents a vision for a “society for all” in which every individual has rights, responsibilities and an active role to play. Participation of marginalized groups in decision-making processes and institutions has a positive effect on conflict prevention and democratic governance. These are the principles that define youth participation in decision-making.

- For any democratic nation, the rule of the majority and the rights of the minority should be respected. Traditionally, democratic governance was, and to a large extent is still, determined by proportionality of numbers i.e., the tyranny of numbers. Representative democracy is strengthened when young people, among other groups, become active in their communities.
- Youth are the majority in most developing nations, particularly in Africa playing a bigger role in political, social and economic life. Opportunities for youth to engage in governance and participate in political and decision-making processes depend largely on the political, socioeconomic, and cultural contexts. Participation of young people in formal, institutional political processes is relatively low when compared to older citizens across the globe.
- People under the age of 35 are rarely found in formal political leadership positions. The situation is even more difficult for both young women as well as women at mid-level and decision-making/leadership positions. A majority of 13,000 respondents from 186 countries highlighted that the main challenges for youth were limited opportunities for effective participation in decision-making processes (UN, 2012)
- Globally, less than 2 percent of parliamentarians are under 30 years old. The average age in parliament around the world is 53 years old. Only 1.65% of parliamentarians around the world are in their 20's and for a third of countries. Voter turnout among 18-25-year-olds continues to be lower than in other age groups.
- Tanzania's population is among the youngest in the world. The median age is just 17 years. In Tanzania, youth constitute about 68 per cent of the workforce. Despite constituting the majority of the population young people are underrepresented at all levels of decision-making institutions
- They are inadequately represented in political parties, parliament, local governments and central government. This is contrary to traditional principles of representative democracy which prescribe the rule of the majority. The Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977 guarantees freedom of participation in political and public life to everyone without discrimination.
- Participation is and can be both direct - at local levels and indirect - through representation in decision-making bodies. In democratic countries, including Tanzania, elections are key channels to participate in decision-making. Yet, the youth's role in elections largely confines them as mobilizers, organizers and voters

- With the increasing use of social media, the youth are now trusted political influencers and warriors. During elections, candidates tend to portray themselves as youthful to gain support from the youth. Consequently, the youth are side-lined in enjoying direct and indirect avenues of participation provided by the legal framework.
- The study by TCD (2021), based on 16 constituencies involving three political parties, revealed: aspirants from youth were 35% and 23% for parliamentary and councillorship posts. It further noted that youths were 32 per cent and 36 per cent among nominated candidates for parliamentary and councillorship posts respectively. Only 27 percent have reported having meaningfully participated in local government meetings which are key in development plans and budgets providing direction and a vision for development.
- Minimal participation of youth in decision-making implies the exclusion of youth voices in socio-economic and political agendas and plans. There is no legal mechanism to guarantee the representation of youth in decision-making bodies eg. Quotas. Studies establish that barriers to youth participation are economic, social and legal e.g. lack of time and funding to run a campaign.
- However, the lack of age-disaggregated data is a critical issue in advancing youth participation in decision-making processes. It is difficult to establish representation and influence of youth in political life, decision-making bodies and processes. Therefore, the upcoming National Census exercise is of greater importance to the nation and the youth.
- Youth are underrepresented in decision-making bodies across the world. The phenomenon is prevalent in Tanzania and they're a lack of age desegregated data on youth in decision-making processes. The upcoming National Census exercise will provide real data which is critical in advancing the interests of the youth.

Session Three: Dialogue on census and youth at the local level

Summary

The session aimed to explore census and youth at the local level. This session was delivered by Mr Jaruo Karebe - Director, Tanzania Peace, Legal Aid and Justice Centre (PLAJC). Participants got an opportunity to discuss important concepts such as what is census, and the importance of census for youth. Also, the session discussed census and youth in a democratic and peaceful state, census and youth economic development, and Census and policy opportunities in

education at the community level. Further, the discussion explored census and social media opportunities for youth, census and youth participation at the local level decision-making bodies, and census and access to quality social services for youth in Tanzania.

Key themes in the Session

In his presentation, Mr Jaruo Karebe highlighted the following themes;

- The government of the United Republic of Tanzania is expecting to conduct a Census of people and settlements in August 2023. The Ministry of Finance and Planning through the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in collaboration with the Office of the Chief General of Statistics of Zanzibar (OCGS), is in the final preparatory stage to conduct such a Census. Therefore the 2022 Census will be the 6th Census in Tanzania after the Union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar.
- The Youth who are the main stakeholders in the census is approximated to be 68% of the general population in Tanzania.
- The census of people and settlement is a mechanism for collecting, analysing, assessing and publishing and disseminating demographic, economic and social data relating to all people and their residence in a country for a specified period to obtain the total population in the country, by age and gender, where they live and their educational status, employment status, birth and death status and housing status including youth information.
- These basic statistics are the ones that can match the actual needs of citizens including specific groups with special needs, for example, persons with disabilities, women, children, youth and the elderly thus making it easier to formulate development policies and programmes based on needs and prevailing circumstances.
- Census is very important to youth as it assists the Government with basic information that will support the process of implementation of Vision 2025, health and social reforms, as well as monitoring of international development agendas. Also, it was highlighted that the Demographic information assists district authorities in the implementation of development plans that reflect the aspirations of the people at the relevant level and help in the balance of resource allocation. Further the basic demographic, socio-economic status reports of population and housing programmes at all levels. Not only that but also the demographic data is a dividend in calculating other indicators e.g., Per capita GDP,

GDP, Employment and Unemployment and student enrolment rate. In addition, the demographic information will enable the government to determine population growth, by distribution and other indicators, which are essential for environmental management. Lastly, demographic information lays the foundation for good governance and the inclusion of democracy. That is to say, accurate Census data is needed for the effective allocation of the election constituencies and correction of boundaries of the local government authorities. This will benefit all young people considering that young people are a large population and they are at all levels of society in the entire nation whereas the Census data will help ensure that young people are well planned for their participation at decision-making and leadership levels.

In the areas of youth, democracy and peace it was highlighted that youths are usually increasing and their needs are increasing. Youth are the main stakeholders of democracy and peace in the country, so the census helps to identify the reality of the youth and their needs. This means that the census will identify young people who will be eligible to vote, and young people who are eligible to participate at decision-making levels. The census will also identify how many young people are at decision-making levels and determine the needs of the youth to maintain peace.

In the Economic sector, it was highlighted that the country's development plans since independence have focused on liberating Tanzanians from the three main enemies of the late Father of the Nation Mwalimu Julius Nyerere which are ignorance, poverty and disease. The well-being of youth development depends on stakeholders like the government, the private sector, and civil society investing in economic innovation and creating awareness about development for youth and obtaining accurate and relevant information for stimulating their participation in the economy and national development.

Therefore, the census is an important tool for accurate youth information for development: "The sustainability of our nation is the presence of youth, who are the national labour force who are self-identified and responsible for bringing development to our country" The importance includes enacting specific laws looking at youth-started businesses, providing tax relief, facilitating access to information on the establishment/operation of entrepreneurial activities through the establishment of a joint centre. Youth and 10% economic empowerment apply to all youth at all levels.

In the education sector, the census promotes the preparation of policies that provide opportunities for young people in education. Thus, the result of the Census is to have policies that take into account the specific needs of young women in education to have qualified youth in the labour market to build an inclusive economy and achieve the goal of gender equality in every sector of the country including the economy.

In social media, youth participation in the census will help identify the works that young people do through technology and social media. The important things that can help a young person grow include using social media to better recover economically and build democracy. Census help to imagine ways to improve technology, and to give opportunities to youth; If a young person uses the Internet properly, we won't be able to go to people's pages to insult/insult them. Social media is a platform where youth can learn and have opportunities to grow their careers.

"Cybercrime affects many, especially young people. The protection against cybercrime starts with the individual and especially us young people. Also, the authorities should act immediately if crimes occur to protect the villagers who have been the biggest victims of all internet users.'

The census contributes to all the national planning and sheds light on youth realism and draws attention to the importance of creating an enabling environment for young people to participate at leadership and decision-making levels. To build a more equitable society of inclusiveness, young people need equal representation at decision-making levels ranging from central government, local government, private organisations/institutions and the public from the grassroots to the board leadership and top governance

Quality social services such as education as well as healthcare are fundamental human rights, which should be provided equally to all segments of society including the youth to stimulate productive decisions among the youth through access to quality, affordable and friendly services. The data collected will be used to formulate economic, social and environmental policies and will also be used to assess the quality of life of the general population as the government recognises that it is difficult to achieve sustainable development without accurate and reliable statistics on people and housing.

The session was concluded by calling all young people to take advantage of their opportunity to participate in the census and help mobilize citizens through social media to provide such

education as the most literate are young people. All young people and Tanzanians should be, be prepared, counted, and emerge so that the nation gets accurate figures of all people and especially youth for development.

“As a young person I am ready to be counted on August 23, 2022, are you”

Part Two

Youth Online Leadership Training

2.1. Introductions

After the launching of the series of activities in Arusha, it was followed by two days of youth online leadership Training conducted on August 17 to 18, 2022. The Youth online leadership training brought together a total of 43 participants, 23 females, and 20 males and among all 36 were youths and 7 were other invited guests and trainers, 17 Universities were represented by a

number of students during this training. The online training is aimed at capacitating the youth to be more effective in leadership and decision-making. Further, the training was a means of bringing together University youth and representatives from the National Bureau of Statistics, business and academia to reflect on the role of youth leadership in the census, Building capacity among young leaders in effective communication, public speaking, strategic planning, and negotiation so that they can exercise influence at the council level in decisions that affect their civic, economic and political development; and Preparing youth to better engage with local councillors

The selection of the youth who participated in the online training contained multiple factors including age, their leadership role, Youth with an interest to engage with local leaders or prior experience engaging in local level decision making, Gender and inclusion (Consider young male and female and youth with disabilities), Youth divisional representing at least 17 Universities of 54 Tanzania based Universities and Youth representing Universities but based in Dodoma, Arusha and Iringa during the time of the activity. Also, consideration was given to Youth with access to the internet since the leadership training will be online.

Day one of the training covered topics such as the importance of youth engagement and census data in local decision-making, leadership and participation; Experiences of youth in local government decision-making and available platforms for youth to engage and participate in local policy development and leadership; Introduction to negotiation essentials to find solutions: characteristics, conditions, benefits, positions (problem, interests, negotiate or not) and alternatives, and strategy. Also, day one delivered a Case study on youth in the private sector with LGAs.

Day 2 of the Youth Online leadership Training covered topics such as Tips for public speaking, political communication, (youth agenda) personal branding; Video clip on do's and don'ts; Essentials of strategic planning for youth advocacy in decision-making spaces. Two days of training also come up with the recommendations and Way forward which will be discussed in the way forward and recommendation sections.

2.2. Content Covered

Session 1: Tips for public speaking, political communication (youth agenda) and personal branding

Key themes from this session

Throughout the entire session the following key themes have emerged;

- Political communication refers to the messaging surrounding politics and it can be directed inward or outward. The defining characteristic of political communication is the creation of meaningful narratives in society that work to inform, persuade and call citizens to action. Youth should be concerned with how information spreads and influences politics, policymakers, news, media and citizens.
- Youth should understand that to be a leader needs a lot of skills including how they speak with the public. They should also know what defines a good public speaker. Youth should make themselves good as public speaking does not happen in a vacuum, it needs good content and skills to apply the content. That's why public speaking is both an art and a science. An art because it needs rhetorical crafting, practice and hard work. It is a science because it has an underlying principle to be followed being it ceremonial, demonstrative, informative or persuasive speaking.
- Youth should invest in strengthening their skills to be able to inform their audience, persuade and commemorate /entertain.
- Youth were informed that to be a good speaker tips they should consider to have which include among others knowing their audience, knowing the content they need to deliver, knowing the skills of public speaking such as using diaphragmatic breathing and other skills such as tone and volume use depending on the audience. It was also highlighted that as a public speaker Grabbing and keeping the public attention is very important.
- Apart from public speaking, youth were also introduced to the concept of personal branding. In this, the youth were told that a brand is how they want the community to define them in terms of skills, professionalism, careers and leaders. Many issues were discussed in personal branding where the youth had a chance to ask questions on how to effectively start building their leadership branding starting at the university level.
- During the discussions, youth were asked that they should not wait until they are elders, they should start building their careers as leaders at this young age while at university. They should start at their local level and improve their leadership skills.

Session 2: democratic and transformational LEADERSHIP in advocating for youth agenda

This session was delivered by Mr Israel Ilunde, the executive director of Youth Partnership Countrywide (YPC) who is also the chairperson of Ushiriki Tanzania. The session covered many issues including defining leadership, Main Leadership Behaviour Patterns, Basic requirements to build a good Leader, types of leadership, Advocacy –leading by Influence and the youth Agendas.

Key Themes from the Session

- The well-being of future generations rests on what we decide to do or not to do in our times.
- Although the state is expected to realize all the public goods for the betterment of the people, there is a shared responsibility of both the state and the citizens, the CSOs in particular.
- While we advocate for an improved policy and legal environment for democracy to flourish, CSOs are urged to take up their roles as advocates and defenders of social justice and contribute to strengthening and deepening democracy.

Other Topics covered during the Youth online Training include the importance of youth engagement and census data in local decision making, leadership and participation; the Experiences of youth in local government decision making and available platforms for youth to engage and participate in local policy development and leadership; Introduction to negotiation essentials to find solutions: characteristics, conditions, benefits, positions (problem, interests, negotiate or not) alternatives, and strategy as well as Case study on youth in the private sector with LGAs. Further, the training had sessions on the Essentials of strategic planning for youth advocacy in decision-making spaces.

Part Four

Dialogues (Youth and Councillors)



3. Introductions

Following the online leadership training, NDI in collaboration with VIF, PLAJIC, ICISO and TAHLISO organised three local dialogues in Arusha, Dodoma, and Iringa. The Dialogues brought together selected University students and local councillors from the host region. The purpose of these dialogues was to provide a platform for youth to engage in community decision-making processes with their councillors to discuss civic, economic and political issues that affect their lives and deliberate how local leaders can better engage youth. During the dialogue, councillors also shared their experiences on how they have been utilizing census data to make informed decisions on issues that affect youth who according to census 2012, are the majority population.

All the dialogue sessions were conducted on the 20th, of August 2022 in all three regions respectively. The Local dialogue in Arusha was coordinated by Vijana Inspiring Foundation, in Dodoma, it was coordinated by PLAJIC while in Iringa it was coordinated by ICISO. The Total number of 81 people participated including 61 Students(40 males and 21 females) 11 Local Councillors(3 from Arusha, 3 from Dodoma and 6 from Iringa) and 9 members from each partner organization(3 VIF,3 PLAJIC, 3 ICISO).The dialogues brought together youth and councillors to discuss how census data related to youth have been used to make informed

decisions to promote youth civic, economic and political development; Discuss the critical role of youth in participating in community decision-making processes; Discuss the critical role of councillors (local leaders) in helping create pathways for young leaders to exercise influence, and drafting a document with key takeaways.

3.1. A highlight from Iringa Youth Local Dialogue

In Iringa, the Dialogue started at 09:05 am and was attended by the Iringa Municipal Director. The dialogue started with an introduction of the participants and was followed by a brief introduction on the aim of the Youth and Census Dialogues. In this part, the moderator provided a brief background of the necessity for youth participation and being part of decisions in all the matters that affect their lives. The participants were further informed that these youth dialogues were being conducted concurrently at the same line in Arusha, Dodoma and Iringa by PLAJC in Dodoma, VIF in Arusha and ICISO in Iringa being supported by their partner National Democratic Institute (NDI). The participants were also informed that TAHLISOs were instrumental to get the targeted students. The moderator sighted that youth participation in matters related to their day-to-day lives is very minimal, thus the necessity for University Student leaders to be sensitized so that they convey the message to their fellow students through their designated channels.

The Opening of the Dialogue

The Dialogue was officially opened by the Iringa Municipal Director. In his opening address, he touched on many things youths need to know and make sure that they use all the opportunities before them by participating in the development of the Nation. The following were key highlights in his opening remarks;

- He started by highlighting the importance of conducting the Census as a nation and highlighted that the Census is very important in government planning and ensuring the effective provision of Health, Education, and infrastructure services to everyone.
- In the Health sector, he highlighted that Census informs the government of the need of building health centres, hospitals and other dispensaries. Building dispensaries, health centres, and hospitals also are informed by the number of people and social diversionals available in that particular area. Also, Census will inform the number of medicines and

hospital equipment, staff, and doctors that will be needed to provide services to that particular population.

- In the Education Sector, building schools (both primary, and secondary technical/vocational as well as Universities plus teachers and staff will also depend on the population of that area. This will only be informed by Census.
- In the Agriculture Sector, to make sure that all agricultural inputs ie. fertilizers, Pest sides, extension officers to assist farmers in animal husbandry, fish farming and other related income-generating activities are provided. This will also depend on census information.
- Infrastructure - census will inform timely construction and road maintenance to enable communities' transportation with their products.
- He concluded by saying the list of the reasons is very long just as it is for the benefits and argued for the youths to cooperate and participate in the coming census as it will be very useful to get youth information that will help the planning of future address to the youth Concerns. He officially declared that the dialogue is open and youth are free to discuss.

Key Issues Raised During the Dialogue

During the dialogue, a lot of issues were raised and the following were the key highlights.

- Youth are not attending the Council Meetings where a lot of decisions are being made. Very few youths attend both the council, Ward, Village and Hamlet meetings and this is a challenge across all the regions in Tanzania. It was argued that those meetings were very important to be attended because that is where the government plans for both policies, budgets and setting up development priorities start. If youth will not participate their interests will not be taken into consideration.
- In the Response, the Municipal Director was surprised to see that youth doesn't participate in the Local Government Meetings. He highlighted those decisions, particularly in the local government, are made through meetings such as the full council, committee meetings, Municipal Meetings and those on hamlet, village and ward levels. Youth can through the laid channels. He informed the dialogue meeting that Full Council is a public hearing, and anybody is most welcome to attend and learn how they come to pass/stop development plans as the case may be.

- The youth was encouraged to participate in the local government meetings as all the development issues and opportunities such as the Loans for Youth, Women and PWDs are being discussed and decided.
- The youth also was informed about the background of the Census since Independence. The Census Coordinator explained why the coming census was very important and unique so everyone has to make sure they participate fully.

Experience Sharing from the Councillors.

During the dialogues, the Councillors also shared their experiences on how they have been utilizing census data to make informed decisions on issues that affect youth who according to census 2012, are the majority population. The following are the key highlights from the Councillors;

- Councillors were of the view that there are a lot of opportunities from the village to the district level. It is very difficult for youth to take these opportunities because they are not known even in their villages. To be able to access opportunities, youth should participate in community events and meetings.
- Some Councillors advised the youth to develop a culture of being close to the elders especially the leaders so that they know them and not to wait until they have a problem or need their assistance.
- Youth were advised not to be selective when it comes to jobs, they should take any opportunities they think they can be able to do. The University Certificate does not guarantee anyone employment or success without personal initiative.

3.2. A highlight from Arusha Youth Local Dialogue

In Arusha, the dialogue was opened at 08:30 am and closed at 12:30 noon at the Uhuru Primary School Venue in Arusha Municipality. The meeting was attended by a total of 30 participants where 24 were university students, 3 Councillors and 3 VIF staff and members. The dialogue started with an introduction from Dr Leckton Moris who welcomed the participants to introduce themselves and asked them to fully participate in the Dialogue. He further informed the participants that the dialogue involved the councillors who will share their experience with youth

on census and youth participation in Local Government Decision making. To list them, he introduced Hon Pauline Richard, Hon Lidya Nina and Hon Mary Lomayani who were present. He also introduced the representatives from NDI and VIF.

The dialogue was focused on Statistics of Census and Youth where three main topics were discussed. One was to Reflect on Census data and how they can assist in making informed decisions on issues affecting youth at the local level and the use of Census 2022 data. In this topic, Hon Pauline Richard (Councillors) highlighted the following.

- Census is very important as it assists in budgeting planning and allocation of available resources to make sure that everyone in the community benefits from the available resources. The upcoming Census will help in obtaining social information and economic information that will help develop a strategic youth employment plan and identification of various youth activities
- Apart from knowing the needs and priorities in the census, it also supports the government in the implementation of the development vision by 2025
- Therefore, the census will increase youth motivation to participate in various economic and social activities including participating in forums and meetings to hold Decisions. In that regard, youth should participate effectively in the upcoming census.

During the discussion, like in Iringa, it was highlighted that the youth in Arusha also are not participating in community meetings and have no accurate information on how to access the opportunities around them e.g. The presence of 4% of youth loans in the council, something many young people have not yet benefited from.

The second topic of the dialogue was Recommendations for increasing youth participation in leadership and decision-making in the Local Government on policies, programs and development strategies. The topic was led by Mr Chacha P. Chacha who was also a youth participant during the dialogue. During his address, he highlighted that the challenge facing many youths in Tanzania such as not being rich and having less involvement in decision making has made many youth interests forgotten during the planning of National Development. It was advised that youth should stop expecting immediate outcomes rather they should focus on working towards long and short-term goals. Youth have lost their faith in their leaders because they have been receiving fake promises. This has made the majority of youth fail to participate in any political-related activities.

The third topic included Discussions on interventions or programmes that will lead to inclusive local governments and strategies to help bridge the gap between youth and council development (Concrete examples convening a public council meeting with youth CSOs to discuss youth-related census data to tackle unemployment. The municipality can organize an annual conference to connect young people with employers. This topic was led by Hon Ms Mary Lomayani who also argued that to ensure youth effective participation it is necessary to have multiple interventions and programs which aim at mobilizing the youth to participate in different activities and forums for decision making. This will enable an inclusive government hence different strategies to bridge the gap between youth and development will be put in place. A lot of recommendations were raised which are highlighted in the way forward and recommendations sections.

The session was closed by Dr Leckton Moris who was the facilitator by thanking all the participants for their meaningful participation and argued all the youth were good ambassadors in mobilizing other youth and communities to participate in the Upcoming Census.

3.3. A highlight from Dodoma Youth Local Dialogue

The dialogue session topics in Dodoma were the same as in other dialogues in the two regions of Arusha and Iringa. On the importance and use of data which will be collected during the census, it was highlighted that knowing the specific number of youths we have in the ward, will help to know their needs, age and activities. This will help the government in preparing youth policy and budget that cover youth needs and priorities. Since the information to be collected will answer the employment status of youth, this will also help the government in generating employment for youth. Knowing the level of education will further assist the Local Government Authority in preparing an action plan to empower youth with the skills necessary to develop.

On the other hand, it was stated that when accurate data will not be provided/ obtained it may result in The Government failing to prepare the actual budget needed by the society particularly that covers youth needs and priorities. For example, the employment opportunities may be lesser than the actual population if the actual data on the population of unemployed youth will not be collected. It was also said not only from that angle but also Youth will lack important social services example: education services, financial services and employment services.

The discussion also explored the Factors of low participation of youth in decision-making. Low participation of youth in development activities example; wards development projects and ward meetings were among the mentioned factors that hinders youth from exploring the opportunity to participate. Not only that but also Youth were said to have been engaging themselves in criminal offences example: stealing hence the community failing to trust them. Lastly, it was mentioned that Laziness among youth example: most of the youth do not want to work or selecting work makes them unable to have any financial incomes that will define their contribution to the community.

NOTE: One of the key issues during all three community dialogues conducted in Arusha, Dodoma, and Iringa was low youth participation in community activities including community meetings and public hearings. This is alarming; perhaps VIF in collaboration with their partners should invest in some interventions that focus on increasing youth participation in community meetings and public hearings.

Part Four:

Achievements, Challenges, Lessons Learned, Way Forward



4.1. Achievements

Key Achievements from the Dialogue

- During the Dialogue, the Iringa Municipal Mayor promised to call a platform on which inventors will display their inventions for the public, institutions, and journalists to see and publicise them in the media channels. He invited the participants to attend the upcoming Full Council Meetings where they will be rearranging their committees for the coming financial year. The mayor promised to use Bajaj and boda-boda drivers in sensitising the community to participate fully in the Census because they are very close to the communities.
- The students demonstrated an increase in knowledge and awareness of the importance of census and youth participation in Local Government Authorities. Some youth promised from the dialogue going forward they will be participating in the LGA meetings. This was good progress from the dialogue in Iringa.
- During the discussion, the youth demonstrated the increased knowledge of leadership and promised to apply the acquired skills to cater participation in the local level decision-making mechanisms. One participant was quoted saying;

“We thank VIF and all the presenters for this very effective knowledge we have acquired here, the skills will be useful to us and we will make sure we effectively participate in leadership roles, particularly at the local level”

- Youth also demonstrated improved political communication, public speaking, negotiation, strategic planning, and leadership and decision-making skills among youth leaders. During the online capacity-building sessions one participant was quoted saying *“I didn’t know that branding can be anywhere, I thought branding is for companies now I realise that as a young leader I can brand my way into being a great leader in future”*
- It was also demonstrated that youth increased their understanding of the role of young leaders in the census and its applicability to civic, economic and political issues that affect youth participation in decision-making. Since the councils involved in the launching and dialogues promised to engage more youth in the decision-making at the Ward Level and encourage the villages, and hamlets to engage youth in the decision process.
- Few youths demonstrated increased confidence to engage with councillors in decision-making processes. This was said during the Dialogues sessions, particularly in Arusha. This is because of the Improved skills of youth to engage and communicate with local councillors
- Councillors also increased their understanding of the importance of using census data to prioritise civic, economic and political issues about youth. Also, they increased their understanding of their critical role to help create pathways for young leaders to exercise influence. During the launching event in Arusha one Councillor was quoted saying;

“This event has been significant for me as it has made us aware that youth are the majority of national populations. Therefore, we have a role to ensure our plans are youth centred giving close attention to women youth as they are more vulnerable”

4.2. Lesson Learned

There is very low youth participation in the Local Government Authorities. Not only in the decision-making bodies but also the community activities and gatherings. This emerged as a cross cutting issue around every session. The committees available at the local level such as the Community Development Committees, The Ward committees include the Peace and Security Committees, The Peace Committees, the Committees of Children living in vulnerable

conditions, the hamlet committees and many other committees are very minimal attended or served by youth. This was a lesson that should inform the interventions. A lot of interventions have been centred at the National level such as increasing youth in the parliament and other decision-making bodies and forgetting that the local level is where all the government planning, identifying needs and setting of priorities begins.

4.3. Way Forward and Recommendations

- It is evident that most youths in learning institutions and out there in the community are less informed of the real-life people they are experiencing. They need sensitization and mentoring.
- In Arusha during the dialogue, it was stated that young people should be involved at every stage of decision-making and also be provided with accurate information that will have a positive political, social and economic impact on young people. This should be done by every stakeholder who works with youth and for youth. It was advised that the LGAs should have good mechanisms in place that will enable young people to be part of decision-making from the village level of government.
- There is a need to review the youth policies in Tanzania to include current youth interests.
- The LGAs should develop a friendly system to provide feedback on the decisions made at the local level, especially those which have been passed and implemented by the government and those which are not accepted and implemented.
- There is a need to change the attitudes of youth that the Local Government meetings are for elder people. Youth should be encouraged to engage and fully participate.
- Due to the participation of young people in the census, the Government should put in place programmes that adapt to the evolution of science and technology, it should also be in line with the demands of the youth at the moment, like having an online feedback contribution system (E - Youth decision making).
- The Government should have in place an inclusive system to prepare young people from an early age to participate in various aspects of decision-making. This should also include increasing the budget that will match the number of youths to be achieved from the population and housing census to be conducted tar 23/08/2022
- There is a need to establish traditional non-bureaucratic youth councils and the local level which are easy to run and manage while we continue to await the completion of the

process of operationalizing the legally and constitutionally recognized formal youth council.

- The LGAs in collaboration with other stakeholders should conduct various concerts that will help raise awareness among young people especially by using successful youth in various fields (Youth Champion Leaders and role models who will inspire youth to participate in decision-making bodies)
- There is a need to start teaching young people the structure of government and its functioning from a young age especially since they were in primary and secondary school to learn how to contribute feedback to their local governments and identify the opportunities around them.
- Government collaboration with youths on various occasions and volunteer groups to create a patriotic experience in the surrounding countries and communities
- Government to plan programmes following the demands of young people that are in line with current needs as well as science and technology development
- Young people should be educated about existing training and how youth can access them.
- Enactment of policies that will be implemented by the needs of the youth now
- Using the information available from the census improving access to capital for youth and youth participation by being educated in entrepreneurship so that they can become self-reliant.

