

The Transformation of Cities in Tanzania: An overview

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BACKGROUND

In a drive to better understand urbanization processes in Sub-Saharan Africa, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) supported research to address knowledge gaps, particularly related to the 'just city' pillars: dignity, rights and responsibilities, equity and diversity, and democracy – as well as opportunities for the 'urban poor' to influence urban policy. In Tanzania, the baseline survey was conducted by REPOA in April 2021. The survey used a similar questionnaire administered in Kenya, Uganda, and Senegal, with a few country-specific questions. The data were collected from 2,014 respondents:

- In five districts of Dar es Salaam region, i.e., Ilala, Kigamboni, Kinondoni, Temeke, and Ubungo, representing urban areas
- In Karatu district/ Arusha region and Makete district/ Njombe region, representing rural areas

The research focused on three domains of urbanization:

- i) Transformation of cities
- ii) Public services
- iii) Political participation

The Transformation of Cities in Tanzania

Urbanization refers to the increase of urban population or growth of urban areas, partly through natural growth, partly because of rural-urban migration to establish a new permanent or semi-permanent residence. Tanzania, like many other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, has been experiencing a rapid rate of urbanization. Tanzania's estimated urban population annual change rate is 5.2% and is expected to rise from 19,959,000 in 2018 to 35,529,000 in 2030 and even further to 76,542,000 people in 2050.

This dispatch focuses on the transformation of cities. It examines drivers of rural-urban migration, who moves and who stays. It also asks, are expectations met? And what defines rural-urban linkages and belonging?

Methodology

A questionnaire survey and observational research were used. The survey sample comprised 2,014 adult Tanzanians living in Ilala, Kigamboni, Kinondoni, Temeke, and Ubungo districts in Dar es Salaam, Karatu district in Arusha, and Makete district in Njombe. The survey data were analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software and a descriptive technique for analysis was adopted. The total sample was 2,014, whereby 50.1% were rural and 49.9% urban respondents; 50.1% were male and 49.9% were female. There was more youth (18-35 years) as compared to the rest of the age groups of 36-55 and 56 and above. That is, 44.8%, 37.9% and 17.3%, respectively, which mirrors Tanzania's very low median age. Moreover, the analysis indicated that most of the respondents had a primary education level (61%), followed by secondary level (23%), post-secondary (9%), and lastly, no formal education (8%) (see annex 1). Also, almost 50% of the sample fell under the lowest monthly income category of Tanzanian Shillings (TZS) 0-70,000 and only 0.1% in the highest monthly income of above TZS 3,400,000.

Key findings

- 38% of respondents migrated to other regions from where they were born, while about 62% were born in the regions they were living. Out of those who migrated (38%), a simple majority (58%) migrated to Dar es Salaam. Again, the simple majority (53%) of the respondents migrated to where they are currently living 10+ years ago (see Annex 2).
- There was more youth (18-35 years, 4.4%) in the category of those who migrated in the past 1-2 years as compared to mid age (36-55 years, 1.2%) and no one in the age group 56 and above.

- Economic factors were leading in the migration decision, followed by social factors. 45% migrated to find work, i.e., a better job and 18% joined either spouse or family members (see Annex 3). People with lower estimated average monthly income, the less educated, and women were more likely to migrate to Dar es Salaam – primarily to find better job opportunities.
- The majority of respondents agreed that migrating to Dar es Salaam improves the opportunity for women to access services. That is, better public transport (70%), better trade and/or market opportunities (68%), improved health care (64%).
- More than half of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that migrating to Dar es Salaam creates challenges and threats to women, compared to those living in a rural area, such as a competitive job market. The higher the level of education of the respondents, the more they agreed.
- About 81% of the rural respondents expected better provision of public services in urban than rural areas. 71% of those who migrated to urban areas confirmed that public service delivery in urban areas was indeed better. However, the findings indicate that only 14% mentioned that living conditions in urban areas were very good (13.8%) and fairly good (0.5%) compared to 21% on the rural side.
- Almost half (49%) of the migrants who moved from rural to urban places consider the rural area as home and most people (61%) kept a strong connection with their places of origin.
- Among those who migrated to urban areas, when asked if they had plans to move (again) to another urban area in the coming five years, most of them responded that they were not sure if they would migrate (again) (about 22%).

Summary of Findings

Findings showed that people with lower income, less educated, and women are more likely to migrate to Dar es Salaam and mainly to find better jobs. A large percentage moved to Dar es Salaam with the expectation that public service provisions are better than in rural areas. Migrants see better and improved access to services, especially for women in urban areas. At least 51% to 70% of respondents agreed to improved access to all services. That is, better public transport (70%), better recreation and entertainment (69%), better trade and/or market opportunities (68%), better education service (64%), and improved health care (64%) (see Annex 4). The responses from both men and women were almost the same.

More than half of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that migrating to Dar es Salaam creates challenges and threats to women, compared to those living in a rural area. The higher the level of education of the respondents, the more they agreed. Moreover, those with more income, i.e., estimated average monthly income of TZS 900,001 and above, said that migrating to Dar es Salaam exposed women to a competitive job market (78%), expensive water and sanitation (78%), expensive recreation and entertainment (78%). The responses were almost similar between men and women, with a slight difference in poor working conditions (men 56%, women 53%), expensive health care (men 60%, women 57%) and expensive education services (men 57%, women 54%).

The majority (53%) of the respondents migrated to their current living areas 10+ years ago; only 8% migrated between 1-5 years ago. The majority (60%) of the migrants consider the rural area as home and keep a strong connection. The rate of men (61%) who considered rural areas as their homes were almost similar to that of women (60%). Also, 55% of young adults (18-35 years), 62% of middle age (36-55 years) and 69% of old age (56 and above years) considered rural areas as their home.

Reasons to consider a place home compared to other places where they have lived were: birth or childhood connections (61%), networks with family/clans/co-ethnics (21%), and economic/investment interests (10%) (see Annex 6). In addition, those who migrated visit their rural homes occasionally (55%) and a share of their incomes is remitted to support family members (47%) in rural areas: 43% facilitated access to essential services of their family relatives, and 32% sent money home occasionally.

Policy Recommendations

The national government should:

- Continue to invest more in youth-related employment programs such as addressing the skills gap and provide vocational training to young migrants, including the less educated.
- Undertake needs assessment or requirements for women and youth empowerment schemes and engage banks, financial institutions and development partners to provide skills and financial support to address their challenges, such as the competitive job market.
- Keep on improving the business environment for the private sector to invest in industries and other businesses to generate more decent employment opportunities for the new urban population.
- Improve working conditions in the informal sector in urban areas by providing support, access to finance, legal and social protection.

Urban authorities should:

- Ensure the affordability of public services for low-income groups, and focus on disadvantaged groups, including women, by effectively exploiting locally available resources.
- Strengthen the proper management of the economic empowerment support through 10% of the Local Government Authority's revenue to providing interest-free loans to registered groups of women (4%), youth (4%) and persons living with disabilities (2%).

- Design and efficiently implement a domestic resource mobilization strategy to sustainably finance the provision of better public services.
- Involve local needs in the design of a better urban land use plan that takes into consideration the desires of local residents and local informality realities.

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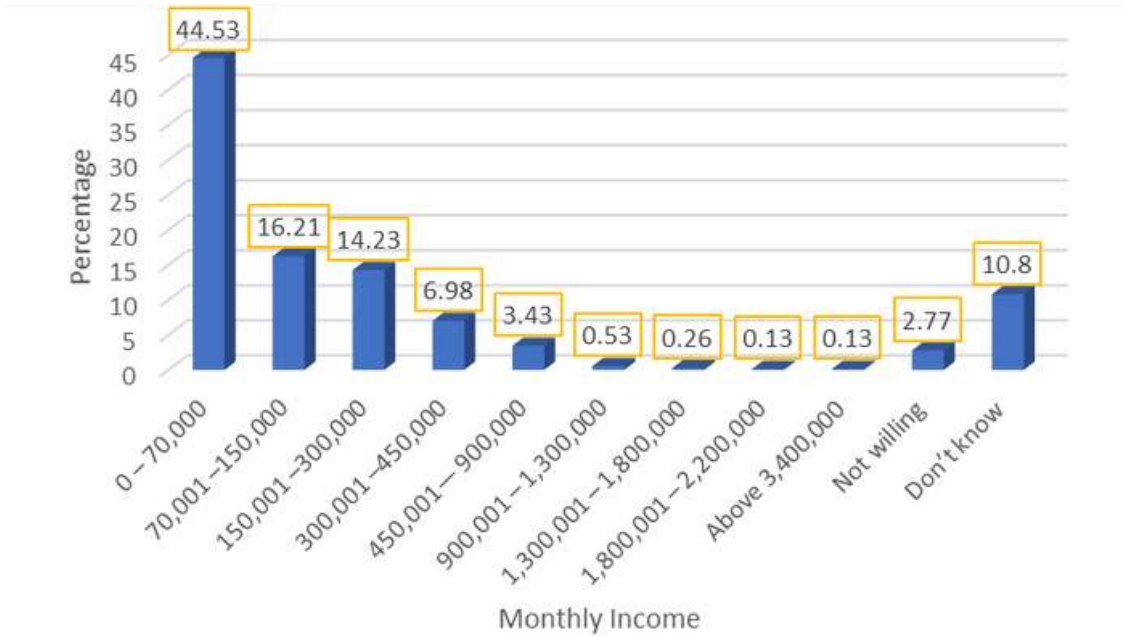
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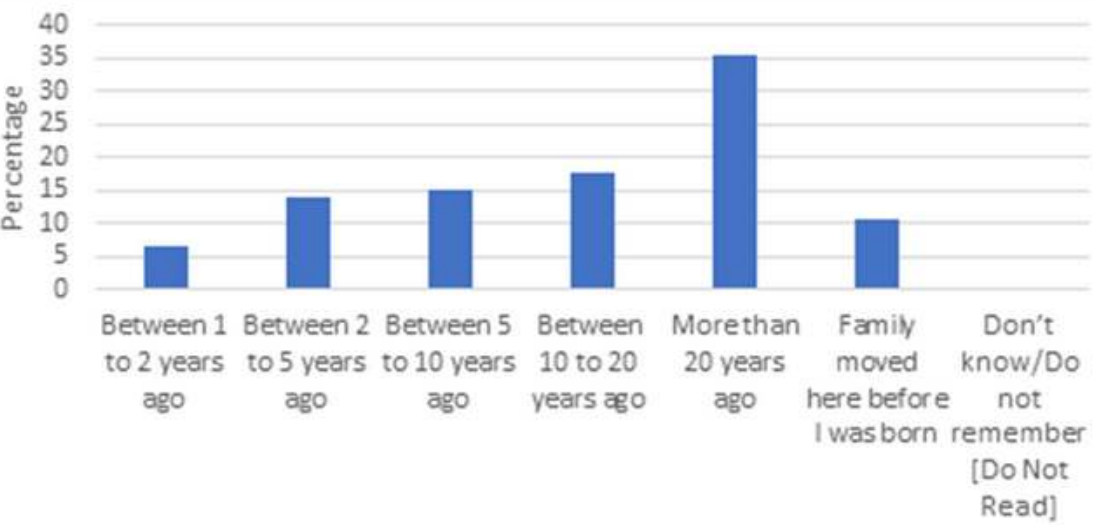
Data Annex

Annex 1. Monthly income of people who migrated



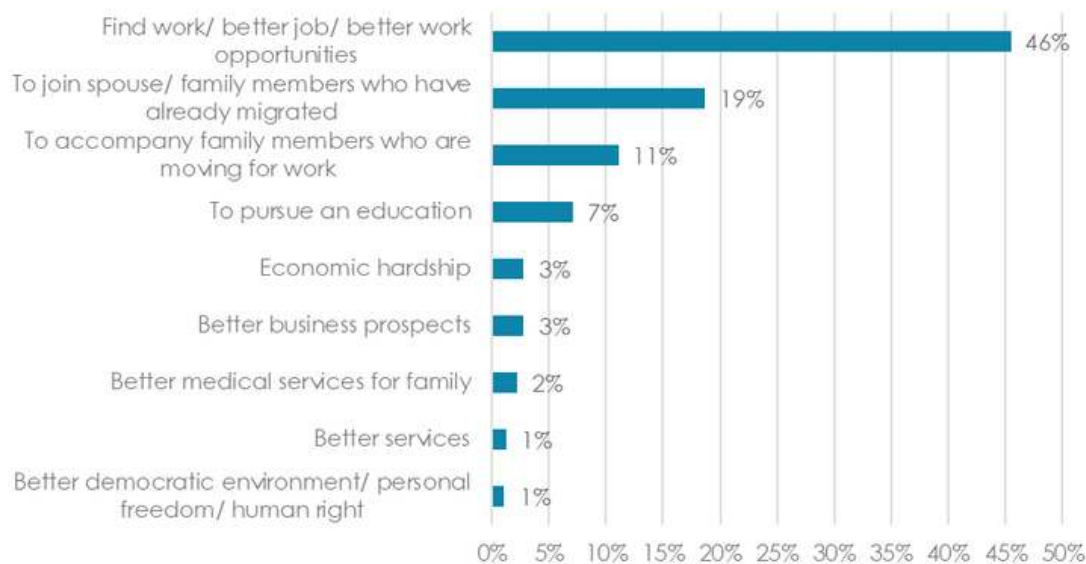
Question asked: What would you say is your estimated average monthly income?

Annex 2. Number of years migrants stayed in the new area



Question asked: How many years ago did you move here?

Annex 3. Reasons for migration



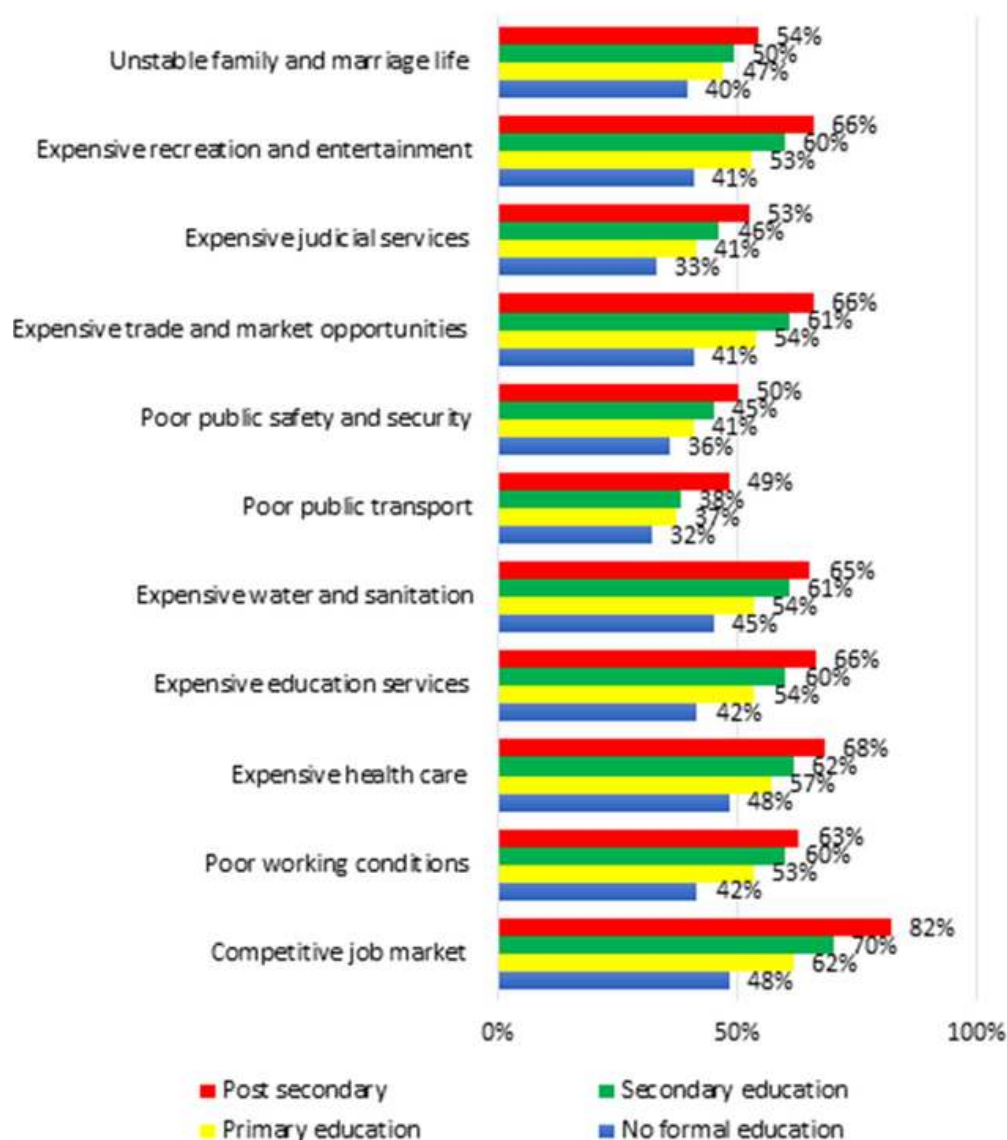
Question asked: What would you say were the most important reasons why you moved here?

Annex 4. Services accessed by women who migrated to Dar es Salaam

Opportunity/ Service	Agree/ Strongly agree	Disagree/ Strongly disagree
Better employment and jobs	53%	28%
Better working conditions	51%	27%
Improved health care	64%	17%
Better education service	64%	17%
Better water and sanitation	58%	22%
Better public transport	70%	14%
Public safety and security	54%	23%
Better trade and/or market opportunities	68%	14%
Better judicial services	54%	16%
Better recreation and entertainment	69%	12%
Better family and marriage life	41%	31%

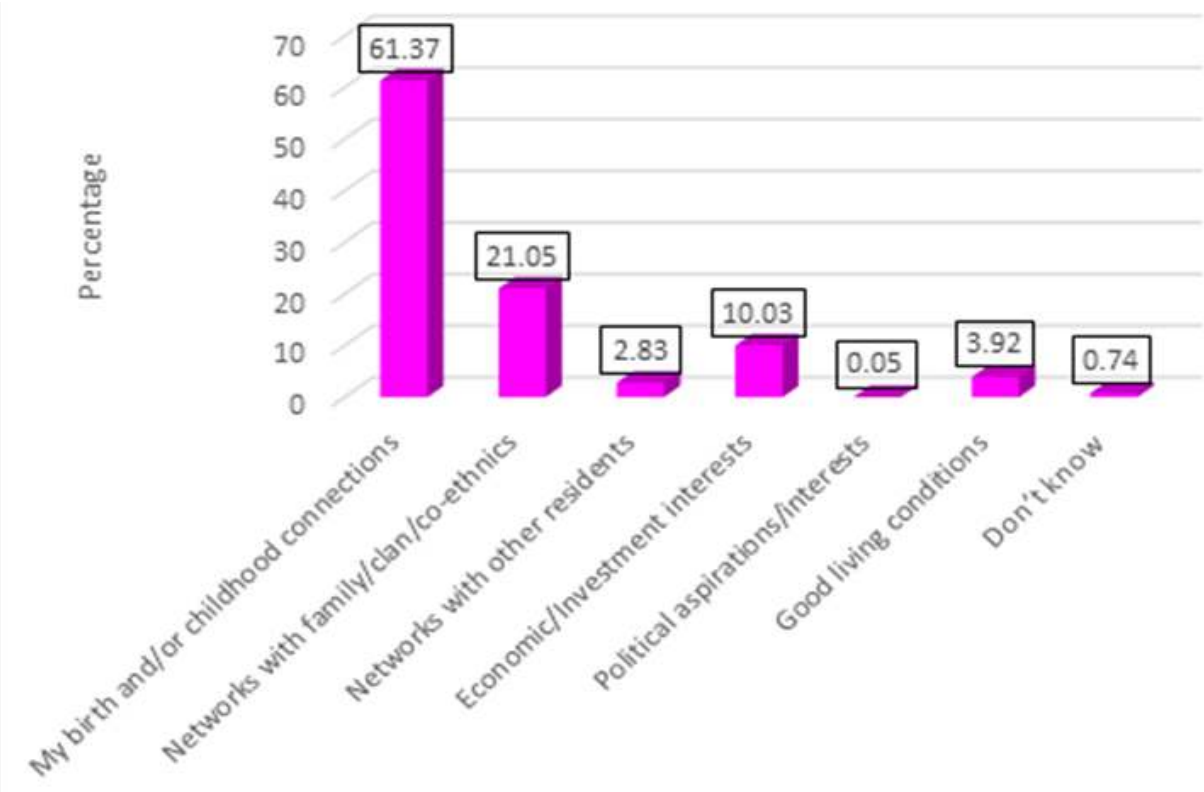
Question asked: Compared to living in rural areas, do you disagree or agree that migrating to Dar es Salaam improves the opportunity for women to access each of the following services?

Annex 5. Challenges and threats to women migrating to Dar es Salaam



Question asked: Compared to living in rural areas, do you disagree or agree that migrating to Dar es Salaam creates challenges and threats to women with respect to each of the following?

Annex 6. Reasons for considering a place people once lived in as home



Question asked: Considering other places you’ve lived in, why do you consider this home?

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