



U.S. Embassy Dar es Salaam TANZANIA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United States Launches Kijana Nahodha Youth Development Program on Mainland

Dodoma - Today marked the official mainland launch of the USAID Kijana Nahodha project in Tanzania—a groundbreaking initiative that builds on over 60 years of partnership between the United States and Tanzania. This project aims to empower young people by granting them access to top-notch education and healthcare services, enabling them to acquire essential skills, generate sustainable income, and actively engage in their communities.

Initially launched in Zanzibar in February 2023, the USAID Kijana Nahodha project has now expanded its reach to empower both mainland and Zanzibar youth. By focusing on building the capacities of young people, providing vital health services, and facilitating access to key economic sectors such as agriculture, tourism, and the blue economy, this partnership through USAID aims to establish sustainable income sources for Tanzanian youth. Through this holistic approach, Kijana Nahodha fosters active civic participation, transforming young individuals into productive, engaged citizens who contribute significantly to the country's economic growth.

"By investing in the skills and potential of Tanzania's youth, together we are establishing a brighter future for Tanzania," stated Kate Somvongsiri, Mission Director of USAID/Tanzania. "We recognize that the youth are the driving force behind development, especially considering that the average age of Tanzanians is 17 years old. It is imperative that we address their unique needs and challenges and provide them with the tools and opportunities they deserve."

Tanzania, with over 70 percent of its population under the age of 35, possesses an incredible demographic advantage. However, an alarming 41 percent of secondary school-aged children are currently out of school, missing crucial opportunities for learning and financial advancement. USAID Kijana Nahodha is committed to bridging this gap by leveraging USAID/Tanzania's extensive investments in agriculture, education, employment, health, and governance. Through this youth-centered approach, Kijana Nahodha places young people (ages 15-25) at the forefront of development, empowering them as drivers of their own success.

As the largest generation in the nation's history, Tanzanian youth represent a diverse group with varied aspirations, needs, and skills. USAID Kijana Nahodha is dedicated to providing them with comprehensive support to ensure their bright futures, fostering economic growth and engagement across the nation.

For more information about this press release, please contact the U.S. Embassy Tanzania Press Office at DPO@state.gov.