Mothers, Children and Cities

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Questions

• Are our children doing well?
• Are they really so much better than children in rural areas?
• How will our cities look when they grow up?
• What can do we now?
Why focus on urban areas

• The world, even Africa, is urbanising fast
• Already 1 in 4 Tanzanians lives in an urban centre
• Cities are growing twice as fast as the overall population
• Cities are Tanzania’s economic engine, contributing half of its GDP
• Urban LGAs levy 5 times as much revenue as rural LGAs; urban taxpayers contribute sizable share of total revenue
• Uncontrolled urban sprawl: environmental degradation & pollution, overstretched services, slums, poverty, disease
Is this inevitable?
What urban advantage?

- More poor people live in Tanzanian cities today than ever.
- Poverty is becoming increasingly urban.
- Urban poverty is higher than poverty measures show.
- The urban poor remain hidden behind statistical averages.

**Secondary school attendance, 2010**

[Bar chart showing secondary school attendance by quintiles in 2010.]
Urban disparities

• Cities intrinsically unequal, home to wealthy and poor

• Cost of rapid, uncontrolled urbanisation borne largely by the poor
  ✓ Insecure livelihoods in precarious jobs
  ✓ Inability to put food on the table
  ✓ Insecure housing in congested settlements prone to disease
  ✓ Environmental hazards

• Impacts more harmful to children
Hidden behind averages
Are cities so well off?

- Urban-rural gaps are narrowing
- Rural areas sometimes outperform urban centres
- Even when they don’t, large gaps remain
- Access to urban services has declined
- Quality has deteriorated

* Unplanned growth could render cities unlivable
Empty stomachs

- Access to food depends on (daily) cash purchases
- Urban farming limited by lack of space, water scarcity
- Unreliable incomes and rising cost of food and fuel limit quantity and nutritional value of food consumed
- Urban homes spend half of their budget on food
- Diet of urban poor lacks diversity
- Reliance of informal stalls and local food markets

* Local markets? School feeding? Food vouchers?
Thirsty cities

• Investments are not keeping up with population growth, affecting both water quantity and quality.

• Access to safe drinking water is down.

• Availability is even lower than access.

• A precious resource is wasted.

* Vast majority cut off from formal water delivery system.
An unaffordable resource

Chang’ombe, Dodoma

- 3 public taps, main source of drinking water
- User fees: main obstacle to accessing water
- Private vendors charge twice the fee set by the authority
- Residents forced to rely on shallow wells, contaminated by nearby pit latrines
Balancing act

Water reform

- Shift to commercially managed provision
- Gradual privatization of water utilities, with long term goal of full cost recovery
- Need to gauge impact on equity / access
- Poor families pay 3 times more for water as a share of their income
- City authorities must ensure interests of their constituents are met on equal basis
Insecure housing

- Massive informality: substandard shelters on encroached, hazardous land in underserviced areas
- Lack of titling due to cost and administrative hurdles
- High cost of rent: overcrowding, risk of sexual molestation
- Threat of eviction: disruption of livelihoods, stress, trauma
- No safe place for play and recreation
- Traffic and pollution pose serious threats to children

* Planning, land regularisation, security of tenure
Unhealthy environments

- Water quality and availability
- Unsanitary physical environment
- Poor housing, overcrowding

Risk of contagion and contamination

- Rainfall, ponding
- Climate change

Food and water borne diseases
- Diarrhoea
- Cholera

Vector-borne diseases
- Malaria
- Dengue
Dying to give birth

- Too few women can control their fertility; too many have babies too early
- Poor quality of ANC, including malaria prevention
- Skilled assistance at birth remains limited
- Lack of emergency obstetric care in case of complications
- Less than half of urban women do post-natal check-ups

* Can we afford this with a health facility 5 blocks away?
Stunted lives

- Sick, malnourished mothers give birth to LBW babies
  - Anaemia, vitamin A deficiency
- Why can’t all urban children be immunised?
- Living conditions, malnutrition and disease
- Many sick children never see a health care provider

* How come child death rates are higher in urban areas?
Barriers to health care

• People living in unhealthiest conditions are least able to access quality, affordable care
  ✓ Financial barriers: Failure to seek treatment due to cost
  ✓ Spatial barriers: links between poverty, location and access to health care; tradeoff between distance and quality care
  ✓ Insurance: Coverage remains very low and varies by family wealth
Chronically sick

• Urban paradox: greater awareness, higher prevalence

• At risk groups
  ✓ Adolescent girls and young women
  ✓ Commercial sex workers
  ✓ Orphans and children living on the streets

• Urban environment as a risk factor

* Collect data to inform preventive actions
* Focus on urban adolescents, young women and vulnerable children at high risk of infection
Schools

• Overcrowded, under-serviced and under-funded
• Lack of school supplies and learning materials
• Absentee, unqualified teachers

* No pay, no gain
* Are we shortchanging our children?
* Are they learning what they need to learn?
The cost of learning

- School attendance, retention correlated with wealth
- Direct costs: fees, transport, food, uniforms
- Indirect costs: child work

### Reasons for school drop-out

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<th>Reason</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
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<td>Too expensive</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>6.4</td>
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<td>Working</td>
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UNESCO, 2010

### Reasons for not attending school, children age 7-13

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Too expensive</td>
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<td>6.2</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>9.6</td>
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</tbody>
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HBS, 2007
Unequal chances

• Two-tier system: best schools in high demand among urban middle class

• Deprived children in urban schools are failing to learn

* Disaggregate data on school retention, learning
* Focus on educationally deprived child to develop inclusive strategies for replication
* Decentralise and strengthen school governance
* Monitor performance and quality improvements
Threats to children’s safety

- Worst forms of child labor
  - Informal garages, stone quarrying, fish processing
  - Scavenging
  - Child trafficking, domestic and commercial sex work
- When the street is home
Protecting children

• Abuse and violence against children
  ✓ Rampant but underreported
  ✓ Going to, at and coming back from school

• Street gangs and crime

* Residential care centres are never the solution
* Targeting the individual child alone won’t work
* Ensure adequate provision of protection services to prevent and respond to abuse, exploitation
An Urban Agenda for Children

- Focus on that poorest 15% of urban dwellers
- Improve the urban environment: titling, drainage, waste collection, transport, public spaces
- Think of children when you plan and budget
- Ensure good coordination across departments
- Monitor performance, esp. quality improvements and equity in access
- How do children envision the place they will live in as grown-ups?
“Creating an environment friendly to children in every town and city of Tanzania is not only a laudable goal, but a sensible choice and economic imperative for municipal authorities around the country”

Hon. Minister Anna Tibaijuka