

INTEGRATED LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2000/01

***The most recent labour force survey,
with new unemployment baseline indicators, highlights...***

GRADUAL INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT IN TANZANIA

ACCOMPANIED by an increase of the number of under-employed persons over the past ten years.

Despite encouraging positive economic growth over the past few years, the underlying economic reforms have failed to reduce unemployment in the country. Instead, unemployment rate has increased in both rural and urban areas, with the latter five times as high (compared to rural), doubling the number of unemployed persons ten years ago to about 1 million.

The increase in unemployment is also accompanied by an increase in the number of persons who either work less than normal working hours (40 hours) per week or can not find full-time work and are available for more work (Visible underemployment). There are 2.0 million persons who work for only few hours because they cannot find full-time jobs.

Underemployment has grown faster in rural than in urban areas, almost closing the gap that existed in 1990/91.

These are among the key findings from a new report out to day from the Ministry of Labour, Youth Development and Sports in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The findings come from the Integrated Labour Force Survey (ILFS) 2000/01 comprised of three modules; labour force characteristics, informal sector activities and child labour.

The survey covered more than 11,000 households throughout Tanzania Mainland with several new questions over and above the 1990/91 survey for not only providing comparison over the decade, but also generating new baseline information for measuring economic participation of children and child labour. The Royal Danish Embassy under HIPC initiatives and ILO funded the survey; the latter also provided technical assistance for Child Labour component.

Today's report shows that unemployment rate measured using labour force framework embedded in the ILO definition of employment, unemployment and inactivity, has increased by one and a half percentage points over the ten year period to 5.1.

This, much as is seemingly a moderate increase has actually doubled the number of unemployed to close a million. By the same definition, the number of under-

employed persons is 2.0 million, together making a total of 3 million persons either unemployed or under-employed.

Overall, gender disparities in employment particularly in urban areas continue to persist. A larger proportion of women is unemployed compared to men, but the gap is narrowing perhaps due to the explicit efforts to promote women employment.

Unemployment rate among youths aged 18 to 34 years in urban areas is above 22 percent and it is as high as 36 percent in Dar-es Salaam, compared to 2.7 in rural areas. Generally, unemployment problem is more severe among the youth aged 10 to 34 years than in older age groups because a majority of them enter the labour market for the first time without any work experience or skills.

As expected, the 2000/01 survey results show employment in the public sector has actually declined by 15 percent from its level in 1990/91, its share in the total employment reduced by nearly half from 5 percent. The share of agriculture in total employment has also declined by 3 percentage points. This shows the centre of employment growth has been shifting away from these sectors to other sectors particularly the private non-agricultural sectors, including formal and informal sectors, the trend that is consistent with the underlying economic policies and reforms.

If agriculture is excluded, informal sector is the largest sector employing 55 percent of total persons in employment, followed by private (including formal) sector taking 29 percent and the rest in the remaining sectors.

Informal sector employment has expanded and more households both in urban and rural areas are undertaking informal sector activities. The survey shows one in three households has an informal sector activity compared to one in four ten years ago. About 61 percent of urban and 25 percent of rural households operate these activities.

This national-wide survey found child labour measured among children in the 5 to 17-age bracket to affect on average 1.6 million children (or 34.8%) out of 4.7 million who were found working in various economic activities. A majority of these children either work for more than 4 hours per day, or are not attending school due to poverty reasons or their schooling was being affected by work that they had to do at the same time. It was found that the work that these children were doing was detrimental to child schooling, social and mental development, the characteristics, which are embedded in the concept of child labour.