

HELPAge TANZANIA: TWO YEARS OF IMPACT AND TRANSFORMATION



In April 2025, HelpAge Tanzania marks **two years** anniversary as an independent organisation, celebrating **28 months** of determined action to advance the rights, health, and wellbeing of older people across the country. Established in January 2023 to lead a focused national approach to healthy ageing, HelpAge Tanzania has made significant policy gains, strengthened community systems, and achieved measurable progress across six strategic objectives.

"These first two years have been a testament to the power of local leadership and community-driven action. We've seen older people step into advocacy roles, influence policy, and claim their rights in ways that were previously unimaginable. It's a reminder that when we empower communities, real change follows," said **Smart Daniel**, Executive Director of HelpAge Tanzania.

BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR CHANGE

In its first two years, HelpAge Tanzania has made significant strides in institutional development and long-term planning. Within the two years period, the organisation has achieved the following:

- **Strategic Direction and Planning:** Finalised and operationalised a comprehensive 5-Years Strategic Plan and Business Plan that guide the organisation's vision, objectives, operations, sustainability, and programmatic impact.
- **Policy Framework:** Developed and institutionalised over 20 internal policies covering governance, human resources, safeguarding, finance, gender, procurement, disability inclusion and programme quality hence laying a strong foundation for accountability and professionalism.
- **Financial Management Systems:** Established a robust financial management system using an internationally recognised accounting package that ensures compliance, transparency, and timely reporting. The system supports donor audits, internal controls, and real-time budget tracking.
- **Audit Performance:** Received unqualified external audit reports for two consecutive years, affirming the strength of internal controls and proper utilisation of donor funds.
- **Strategic Partnerships and Consortiums:** Formed strategic consortiums with both local and international organisations, enhancing programme reach, shared learning and funding access.
- **Geographic Expansion:** Successfully expanded humanitarian operations outside Tanzania, notably in Burundi, demonstrating the organisation's capacity to operate in cross-border contexts.
- **Trust and Credibility:** Built strong trust with the Government of Tanzania, donors and UN agencies, earning recognition as a reliable and credible partner in the ageing and humanitarian sectors.
- **Convening Role:** Took on the role of national convener for Older People and Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) advancing inclusive dialogue and action through structured platforms and advocacy forums.
- **Policy Influence and Advocacy:** HelpAge Tanzania contributed significantly to shaping national and local policy frameworks. Key achievements include:
 - ❖ Supporting the development and launch of the **National Assistive Technology Strategy (2024–2027)**.
 - ❖ Securing the **inclusion of geriatric care** in national health and social welfare plans.

- **Health Data and Planning in Zanzibar:**
 - ❖ Updated the **DHIS2 health information system** to capture healthy ageing data, increasing the visibility of older people in national health reporting.
 - ❖ Contributed to the development of a **new Strategy for Non-Communicable Diseases (2025–2030)** that integrates intergenerational ageing priorities.
- **Community Mobilization and Political Engagement:**
 - ❖ Distributed the **Tanzania Older People’s Charter** nationwide.
 - ❖ Supported and strengthened **74 Older People’s Associations (OPAs)** to engage in local development processes.
 - ❖ Influenced **four major political parties** to include older people’s priorities in their **2025 election manifestos**, amplifying the political voice of older citizens.



PROGRESS ACROSS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. Health and Care Services

Access to quality services increased from **22.9% to 33.8%**, supported by the training of **1,820 primary health workers**, strengthening of **1,200 community structures**, and advocacy targeting **320 senior officials**.

2. Income Security and Climate Initiatives

The number of older people receiving a universal pension increased by over **4,000**, reaching **32,304 individuals**, while the monthly amount nearly doubled— thanks to 24 advocacy actions carried out at national and district levels.

3. Protection from Violence, Abuse, and Neglect

Protection levels improved from **43% to 61%**, supported by **intergenerational dialogues** and **national campaigns** that reached over **567,000 people**.

4. Inclusive Humanitarian Action

In refugee camps and host communities, **96%** of people with specific needs reported satisfaction with services such as **rehabilitation, nutrition, education for children with disabilities**, and **repatriation support**.

5. Organisational Effectiveness

Governance was strengthened through **field visits** and **enhanced systems**, enabling more responsive strategic oversight.



ELEVATING THE NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON AGEING

HelpAge Tanzania hosted three high-profile national events:

- The **National Launch and Symposium on Ageing**
- The **Launch of the Assistive Technology Strategy**, officiated by the Deputy Prime Minister
- An **Advocacy Meeting with the Vision 2050 Planning Committee**, resulting in stronger inclusion of ageing priorities

These events significantly raised the organisation's national visibility and influence.



COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION

Over half of all health and income beneficiaries were **women**. However, **social isolation** and **limited decision-making power** remain persistent challenges. HelpAge Tanzania promoted **women's leadership** and integrated **gender-transformative approaches** across programmes.

Disability inclusion reached **12.6%**, short of the **30% target**. Rural barriers persist, but the organisation is taking steps to ensure that people with disabilities are **co-creators** in programme design and monitoring, using the **Washington Group Short Set on Functioning**.

PARTNERSHIPS THAT POWERED PROGRESS

Partnerships were central to success in the first two years:

- **HelpAge International** provided technical and proposal support and facilitated training on inclusive humanitarian standards.
 - **Age International** and **HelpAge Deutschland** supported donor engagement, compliance, and field content gathering during field visits.
 - **Local Ageing Organisations and Network Members** such as **SAWAKA** and **PADI** co-delivered projects in **15 regions**.
 - **Older People's Associations (OPAs)** engaged directly in policy advocacy at all levels.
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NAVIGATING TWO-YEARS CHALLENGES

Key challenges included:

- **High stakeholder expectations**, managed through transparent communication.
 - Termination of the **Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM)** contract, affecting humanitarian funding and co-financing capacity.
 - **Limited matching funds** and **delayed donor disbursements**, addressed through stronger donor coordination and financial planning.
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THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE HELPAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHEME OF SUPPORT

The **Scheme of Support** was instrumental to the two year's success. It funded board field visits, supported system development, and enabled a team-building session that strengthened internal cohesion. The scheme also underpinned the launch event and helped build strategic partnerships with government and civil society.

LOOKING AHEAD

Two years on, HelpAge Tanzania has established itself as a **trusted and influential voice** for older people. With a strong foundation in place, the organisation is now focused on **scaling its impact**—advancing **healthy ageing, inclusion, and rights** across the country. As it enters its next phase, its commitment remains clear: **older people in Tanzania must not only be seen—but heard, included, and valued.**