Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority



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Tanzania Expands Digital Frontier

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Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA)

Vision

A society empowered by communication services.

Mission

To regulate communication services for the welfare of the Tanzanian society.

Mandate

Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) under the Act No.12 of 2003 is mandated to regulate the electronic and postal communications sector in Tanzania.

Core Values

PROFESSIONALISM

"We undertake our activities objectively and deliver quality services while upholding integrity and maintaining due respect to our stakeholders."

INNOVATION

"We embrace creativity and continuous improvement in addressing regulatory issues and adapting to the ever-evolving technological environment."

TEAMWORK

"We believe in synergy and collaboration to achieve shared goals, recognizing that effective and constructive communication is essential to maintaining a productive and supportive work environment."

AGILITY

"We remain flexible, responsive to change, and adapt to emerging trends, technologies, and regulatory challenges in the Communications Sector."

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TCRA duties outlined in the establishing Act are:

1. *Promoting effective competition and economic efficiency;*
2. *Protecting the interest of consumers;*
3. *Protecting the financial viability of efficient suppliers;*
4. *Promoting the availability of regulated services to all consumers, including low income, rural and disadvantaged consumers;*
5. *Enhancing public knowledge, awareness and understanding of the regulated sectors, including:*
6. *The rights and obligations of consumers and regulated suppliers;*
7. *The ways in which complaints and disputes may be initiated and resolved; and*
8. *The duties, functions and activities of the Authority.*
9. *Taking into account the need to protect and preserve the environment.*

TCRA Functions are to:

a. *Issue, renew and cancel licenses.*

b. *Establish standards for regulated goods and regulated services.*

c. *Establish standards for the terms and conditions of supply of the regulated goods and services.*

d. *Regulate rates and charges.*

e. *Make rules for carrying out the purposes and provisions of this Act and the sector legislation;*

f. *Monitor the performance of the regulated sectors, including in relation to:*

i. *Levels of investment;*

ii. *Availability, quality and standards of services;*

iii. *The cost of services;*

iv. *The efficiency of production and distribution of services; and*

v. *Other matters relevant to the Authority.*

g. *Facilitate the resolution of complaints and disputes;*

h. *Disseminate information about matters relevant to the functions of the Authority; and*

i. *Consult with other regulatory authorities, bodies or institutions discharging functions similar to those of the Authority in the United Republic of Tanzania and elsewhere.*

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Editor's letter

Tanzania's renewed push for inclusive digital transformation

Tanzania is experiencing a boom in digital infrastructure expansion and digital services adoption, leading to greater inclusion in key areas and increased public awareness, knowledge and skills.

These are addressed in the Government's eight (8) strategic priorities for the communications sector in the 2026/2027 financial year, which are analyzed in our main article.

The priorities have been renewed midway through the implementation of the Digital Tanzania Project and the National Digital Economy Strategy.

The planned priorities are core components of the pillars of the country's digital frontier. They reinforce the foundations for Tanzania's sustainable digital growth.

They include the expansion of terrestrial and satellite networks. The thrust is on leveraging digital infrastructure for the digital economy.

Other priorities include consolidating the policy framework by reviewing sector instruments, developing essential skills, and expanding digital literacy.

Leveraging emerging technologies and their possibilities, and strengthening cybersecurity to build trust in digital services are also on the to-do list.

The April to June communications sector report shows a notable upward trend in internet usage, data consumption and broadband coverage. These further fortify the pillars of the digital frontier.





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Director General's Message

Promoting seamless connectivity

Tanzanians are increasingly becoming dependent on the country's rapidly expanding digital communications systems and services. Strong and reliable digital infrastructure is essential for growth in all sectors. Tanzania's regulatory framework, including its licensing regime, promotes competition, innovation, and investment throughout the communication sector.

The Infrastructure being deployed across the country has expanded the availability and scope of communications services and accelerated digital inclusion. It has also created opportunities for more participants in the national economy.

Third-generation (3G) mobile communications services penetration increased from 70.3 per cent to 93.95 per cent between March 2021 and June 2026. Fourth generation (4G) population coverage increased from 50.4 per cent to 94.99 per cent during the same period, while fifth-generation (5G) services reached 34.18 per cent.

By June 2026, there were 116,952,295 active SIM cards, 62,793,986 internet subscriptions, and 87,046,089 mobile money accounts, which processed 710,993,717 transactions. Smartphone penetration reached 44.7 per cent of the population.

Tanzania's economy, public services, and national systems now rely on networks that must perform under normal conditions and during disruptions. Any disruption to the networks can have serious consequences for the economy and society.

The pursuit of digital resilience extends beyond national borders. In today's interconnected world, no country operates in isolation. Submarine cables, satellite systems, cross-border fibre networks, and global data flows bind our economies and societies. A disruption in one part of the network can have cascading effects across regions and continents.

Tanzania has moved beyond expanding access to ensuring dependable and continuous connectivity. The country has made significant progress in strengthening the resilience of its digital infrastructure.

The country has strengthened domestic, regional and international connectivity through the National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB) and four (4) international submarine cables. The six (6) Internet Exchange Points and four (4) Tier III carrier-neutral data centres facilitate local traffic exchange.

These infrastructures provide route diversity, minimizing the risk of single points of failure. They also reduce network latency and enhance service continuity by maintaining resilient connectivity during international network disruptions.

We have addressed resilience across the full lifecycle of digital systems - from design, operations, and recovery. Our regulatory frameworks promote redundancy, diverse routing, cybersecurity, and infrastructure sharing and co-location.

TCRA requires communication network operators to build resilient networks through redundancy, cybersecurity preparedness, interoperability, and effective recovery systems that ensure continuity of services in the event of any disruption. Through enhanced monitoring and coordination, operators are better positioned to detect faults early, reroute traffic efficiently, and maintain essential services in real time.

We continue to strengthen institutional capacity, including the national Computer Emergency Response Team (TZ-CERT), to ensure rapid response, effective incident management, and continuous improvement of cybersecurity.

We are also finalizing a sector-wide Crisis Management Framework (CMF) to enhance preparedness and coordination. The other goal is to ensure continuity during communication emergencies. This framework will support a timely response and strengthen the sector's ability to sustain critical communication services during crises and other disruptions.

Digital resilience is a shared responsibility. It requires sustained collaboration among regulators, operators, technology providers, and international partners, guided by global frameworks and cooperation through regional and international institutions.



Tanzania Expands Digital Frontier

By Regulator Writer

Tanzania has mapped out eight (8) priorities in the 2026/2027 financial year to accelerate the implementation of programmes that will expand the country's digital frontier.

The priorities, presented to Parliament recently by the Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Hon. Angela Jasmine Mbelwa Kairuki, focus on consolidating infrastructure, enhancing the availability of telecommunications and postal services, and advancing the Digital economy.

Innovations, network and service expansion, strengthening cybersecurity, e-commerce, and consolidating sector guidelines and public awareness of emerging technology and digital opportunities are also on the list.

The Government plans to implement programmes that utilize outer space for communications. It will facilitate the launch of Tanzania's first communications satellite.

It will also strengthen the security and protection of cyberspace and networks. Other priorities are to disseminate information on information and communications technology (ICT), emerging technologies, and related issues.

The Government will also review the communications sector policies to accommodate global technological trends.

Hon. Kairuki explained that Tanzania is committed to developing a connected and digitally inclusive society by 2050. The Government will maintain an enabling environment to support the implementation of Tanzania's new development blueprint - Vision 2050.

Towards a Digitized Tanzania by 2050

Tanzania Vision 2050, whose implementation started this year, seeks to harness digital technologies to transform Tanzania's economy and social lives. It seeks to transform Tanzania into a regional and continental ICT hub.

Major programmes will be implemented to develop and expand digital communications infrastructure and to connect more communities. ICT services will be treated and promoted as basic human needs, such as water and energy



Tanzania's strategies to advance sustainable development through digital communications have been recognized globally, with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) awarding the country for building 758 new mobile phone communication towers. The Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Hon Angellah Kairuki, receives the award at a recent ITU event in Geneva.

Digital Frontier Core Pillars

A country's digital frontier is built on secure digital infrastructure. It covers plans, programmes and strategies for developing and consolidating technologies that address national priorities and create new possibilities for their citizens.

Its pillars include digital infrastructure, secure, resilient access and use and emerging technologies. The others are a digital economy and its elements, sound legal and regulatory frameworks, appropriate skills, cybersecurity and international collaboration.

Tanzania is strengthening critical communications infrastructure and consolidating its international profile, including maintaining its position in international bodies.

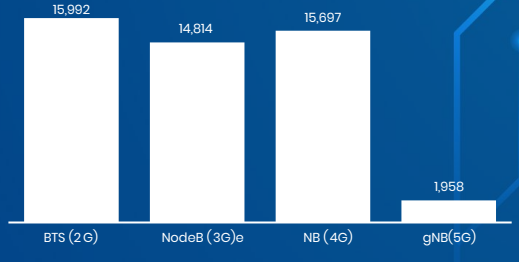
The Government has deployed new communications infrastructure, including seven hundred and eighty (780) new mobile phone base stations and three hundred and four (304) upgraded ones to accommodate and support advanced technologies and features.

The project, launched on 13 May 2023, is part of the country's digital strategy and is expected to increase access to data services in rural areas. The project has been recognized globally as a model rural communications initiative.

The new infrastructure has accelerated penetration and coverage. It has pushed subscriptions and services.

The population coverage of third-generation (3G) mobile communication services increased from 77 per cent to 93.95 per cent between September 2023 and June 2026. Fourth-generation technology (4G) penetration increased from 65 per cent to 94.39 per cent during the same period.

Fifth-generation (5G), which debuted in Tanzania in 2022, had reached 22 per cent of the population by December 2024. It had penetrated 34.18 percent of the population by June 2026.



Radio base stations distribution per technology

This technology is fast and more efficient. It has a huge capacity and can support multiple device connections simultaneously compared to previous generations. It is expected to push Tanzania's agenda for a digital economy.

Smartphone penetration has doubled in four years. It increased from 22 per cent in 2022 to 44.7 percent in June 2026. Service providers have introduced smartphone loan arrangements to facilitate the uptake of high-speed internet services.

The programme has driven growth in subscriptions and services. Active SIM cards increased by 74.5 percent between September 2023 and June 2026, rising from 67,024,338 to 116,952,295.

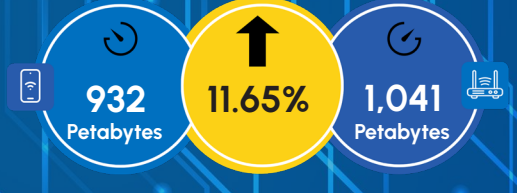
Mobile money accounts and transactions have also increased significantly. Accounts rose from 51,369,347 in September 2023 to 87,046,089 in June 2026, while transactions increased from 422,390,546 to 710,993,717. Accounts increased by 69.5 per cent and transactions by 68.3 per cent during the period.

	April	May	June
Airtel Money	14,164,833	14,331,645	14,307,193
Azam Pesa	81,829	106,957	89,711
HaloPesa	7,932,463	8,473,702	8,796,709
Mixx by Yas	25,928,787	26,882,220	27,853,189
T-pesa	596,453	631,098	686,101
Mpesa	32,840,183	34,394,537	35,313,186
Total	**81,544,548**	**84,820,159**	**87,046,089**

Mobile Money Subscriptions per Operator

Internet subscriptions, computed from lines used to access the internet, increased by 116 per cent between March 2021 and June 2026, from 29,071,817 to 62,793,986.

Online data usage increased by 790 per cent during the period. Subscribers consumed 1,041 petabytes of data in June 2026, compared with 117 petabytes in March 2021.



Amount of Data Used in Mobile Internet Services in the Quarter ending June 2026

Satellite and Submarine Cables

Tanzania is strengthening its participation in the space and satellite communications sector and continues to explore opportunities for developing national satellite capabilities.

The country is also connected to four international fibre-optic submarine cables. These have enhanced international connectivity, improved network resilience, and support the growth of the digital economy.

The country has also connected its national broadband cable to seven (7) neighbouring countries.

It is also poised to become a major hub for Africa's postal communications and is a member of several decision-making bodies in international ICT and postal

Network Security

The Government has enacted a Personal Data Protection Act and established a Commission to regulate this area to ensure the security and privacy of its citizens.

The Government is also implementing cybersecurity measures to protect users against cyber threats and to safeguard the integrity of the country's digital infrastructure.

Licence Boom

New licences issued by TCRA in recent years have boosted access to communications services and enhanced the user experience. By June 2026, TCRA had issued twenty-six (26) Network Facilities (NF) licences, fifty-three (53) Network Service (NS) licences and one hundred and eighty (180) Application Service (AS) licences.

NF licences are issued for facilities that support network and content services. Examples are mobile communications base stations, broadcasting transmission towers and equipment.

NS licences enable connectivity or transport between different networks. Operators may use their own networks or others' to provide services. Application services include voice, data, electronic commerce and other transmission services.

Postal Resilience

The postal sector has experienced significant changes in recent years. The country has built critical infrastructure for innovative postal services, including a physical addressing and postcode system, expected to facilitate the delivery of goods purchased through e-commerce, an area into which many postal operators have diversified.

Tanzania is surrounded by eight (8) countries, five (5) of which are landlocked. This makes it strategically positioned to benefit from e-commerce benefits, both directly and through the postal supply chain.

Tanzania has embedded the Universal Postal Union (UPU) postal strategy for 2026–2029 to guide postal and courier operations in the country. The strategy underlines the need to streamline policies and enhance international cooperation. It also emphasizes innovation, including the adoption of new technologies for postal services.

Tariff Affordability

The new infrastructure and affordable services have given Tanzanians a wider choice of technology and services in the past five (5) years.

Mobile phone voice tariffs have fallen significantly in recent years. On-net (subscribers' networks) call charges fell from 149 shillings to 28 shillings, while off-net (to other networks) tariffs fell from 189 shillings to 28 shillings between June 2021 and June 2026. The convergence of tariffs across networks has enabled more seamless voice communication and enhanced consumer convenience.

The annual growth rate of off-net traffic was seven times that of on-net traffic between 2019 and 2023. This was attributed to reduced network interconnection charges during the period, which fell from 34.92 shillings in 2013 to 10 shillings in January 2026.

Programmes to build Digital and Blue Economies

A Digital Economy involves mainstreaming ICTs and digital solutions across a country's sectors. A blue economy focuses on utilizing ocean-based marine resources for economic growth. A digital economy relies on reliable connectivity, safe and sound access and usage and a secure payment platform.

These are in place in Tanzania, and the country has laid a strong foundation for expansion through the Digital Tanzania project, launched in 2022.

Other programmes include the Digital Tanzania project, which promotes infrastructure development, professionalism and digital literacy among users.

Tanzania has all the prerequisites of a digital economy. There is an enabling policy, legal and regulatory framework.

Legal and regulatory frameworks

TCRA continues to play its noble role in regulating Tanzania's communications sector. It creates an enabling regulatory environment, drives inclusive programs, and collaborates with diverse stakeholders to ensure the benefits of the digital revolution.

TCRA contributes to the digital and blue economies through its regulatory functions, including licensing, monitoring performance and compliance, and enforcing regulations. The Authority promotes optimum connectivity and services.

TCRA-initiated 2022 review of electronic and postal communications licensing regulations has created new avenues for entrepreneurs in the broadcasting and Postal subsectors. The Regulations have created several sub-categories under the four main licence types in the converged licensing framework, with provisions for electronic commerce licences.

TCRA has also developed mechanisms for the sound planning and management of communication resources, including the frequency spectrum and electronic communication numbers.

It allocates communication resources free of charge to start-ups to test the viability of their projects.



Ministry focuses on 30 transformative areas in 2026/2027

1 To develop, consolidate and manage the application of instruments guiding the Communications and information technology sector

The following will be implemented:

i. Managing the implementation of the Digital Economy Strategy 2024 – 2034.

ii. Finalizing the:

- Formulation of the Physical Addresses and Postcode Act of 2026 and the ICT Act of 2026.
- Review of the 2026 edition of the National Postal Policy of 2003.
- Development of a new Information and Communications Technology (ICT) policy.
- Crafting of the National Outer Space Policy and the National Policy on Startups.
- Procedures for the ratification of the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection of 2014.
- Procedures for the ratification of the 2025 International Convention on Cyber Crime and two international conventions on Outer Space.

Communications sector 2026/2027 Priorities

2 To enhance the availability of telecommunications and postal services

Actions include to:

i. Enhance the availability of telecommunications and radio services in underserved areas.

ii. Complete the construction of 636 communications towers in 443 wards and 636 villages, and continue working on 287 towers.

iii. Build 280 communications towers in areas with communications challenges along the infrastructure of Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), the metre gauge line, the Tanzania-Zambia Railway (TAZARA), national parks and along the country's borders.

3 To put in place an enabling environment for developing and strengthening electronic commerce (e-commerce)

This encompasses:

i. Coordinating and overseeing the project for the construction of warehouses for e-commerce.

ii. Managing the establishment of a digital system to facilitate e-commerce.

iii. Reviewing digital systems and the registration of e-commerce and electronic services platforms.

4 To disseminate public information on ICT-related issues and emerging technologies

Educating the public through legacy media and social networks on the appropriate, safe and secure use of communication and building public understanding of emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI).

5 To consolidate the infrastructure that will facilitate the implementation of the Digital economy

The list includes:

i. Coordinating 10 districts to the national broadband backbone (NITCBB)

ii. Connecting the NICTBB to the Democratic Republic of Congo through Lake Tanganyika.

iii. Facilitating:

- The establishment of national data centres in Dodoma and Zanzibar.
- Installation and modernization of video conference facilities in 100 districts.
- The availability of wireless networks enabling devices to connect to the internet (Wi-Fi) in 100 public areas.
- The connection of broadband services in 100 public institutions, the Government City at Mtumba, Dodoma and 100 public schools.
- Some 321,000 fibre optic infrastructure connections.



6 To consolidate the security and protection of cyber space and networks

The focus will be on:

i. Building public awareness on personal data protection and vigilance against network fraud.
ii. Facilitating the availability of a national system for monitoring and reacting to network events and crimes.
iii. Disseminating education on guidelines on critical ICT infrastructure
iv. Establishing a national cybersecurity committee.
v. Drawing up a monitoring and evaluation plan for the cybersecurity strategy.

7 To increase/boost investment in ICT and the implementation of the outer space programme

It is planned to:

i. Facilitate the deployment of one satellite to outer space.
ii. Coordinate the project for the training satellite – CUBESAT.
iii. Build public understanding of the application of technology in outer space.

8 To promote ICT start-ups

Interventions will be geared to:

i. Manage the establishment of the National Digital Technology Institute (NDTI) to be built at Nala – Dodoma.
ii. Facilitate the establishment of seven ICT innovation incubation centres.
iii. Conduct three researches/studies on the application of emerging digital technologies in production, operations and services.
iv. Manage two programmes for the promotion of ICT startups.
v. Register 100 ICT innovation startups.
vi. Facilitate training for 25 ICT startups.
vii. Facilitate the establishment of two mobile ICT access centres



Towards Digital Resilience in Tanzania

By Hon. Angela Jasmine Mbelwa Kairuki, Minister for Communications and Information Technology

These are excerpts from the Hon. Minister's message on the World Communications and Information Society Day (WCISTD) on 17 May 2026. This year's theme was "Digital Lifelines: Strengthening Resilience in a Connected World."

The theme of this year's World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is a timely reminder that digital connectivity is no longer a luxury; it is essential national infrastructure.

In Tanzania, mobile money platforms process billions of shillings in transactions daily. Emergency services depend on reliable telecommunications for coordination and rapid response, and critical public services in healthcare, education, and finance are increasingly underpinned by digital networks that span mobile, fibre, satellite, and data centre infrastructure.

Yet crises, whether physical, cyber-related, natural, or artificial, can disrupt these services, with cascading effects on public safety, livelihoods, economic stability, and national security.

Tanzania has made significant strides in broadband connectivity. Yet expanding connectivity alone is insufficient. We must also build resilient digital systems that can withstand shocks, adapt to disruptions, and recover swiftly.

Recent global experiences, including extreme weather events and large-scale infrastructure outages, have demonstrated how fragile digital networks can be when resilience is not built in from the outset.

Resilience must be embedded across the entire digital ecosystem. This means designing systems with redundancy, cybersecurity preparedness, seamless interoperability, and sustainable infrastructure.

It means having rapid-response capabilities — network rerouting and effective emergency communications during crises. And it means investing in rapid service restoration and system hardening to guard against future disruptions.

Tanzania's pursuit of digital resilience is grounded in the Tanzania Development Vision 2050, which recognizes digital transformation as a catalytic driver of the country's long-term socio-economic aspirations. Realizing this vision demands a robust, secure, and resilient digital infrastructure that supports inclusive and sustainable development across all sectors.

The Tanzania Digital Economy Strategy Framework (2024–2034) further reinforces this commitment by outlining concrete measures to protect national critical information infrastructure, data, and information assets. These include the development and application of the National Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) Guidelines, a National Public Key Infrastructure (NPKI), and frameworks to guard against emerging physical and cyber threats.

Tanzania's role as a regional connectivity hub underscores the importance of resilient digital lifelines. As of December 2025, the National ICT Broadband Backbone spanned 15,167 kilometres with a capacity of 2,000 Gbps, linking all mainland regional headquarters, 122 of 139 districts, and seven neighbouring countries.

Work is ongoing to connect the remaining districts and the Democratic Republic of Congo. By March 2026, Tanzania had four active submarine cables landing in Dar es Salaam, six Internet Exchange Points (IXPs), and five data centres qualified to host mission-critical systems.

Strengthening these lifelines ensures continuity of services, trade, emergency communications, and digital economies across the region — even during cyber incidents, natural disasters, or infrastructure failures.

Tanzania has established a robust legal and institutional framework for disaster preparedness and emergency response. The Disaster Management Act No. 7 of 2015 established the Tanzania Disaster Management Agency (TDMA), which provides the national disaster risk management framework and mandates sector-specific emergency planning.

In telecommunications, the National Emergency Telecommunications Plan (NETP) guides preparedness and response. It sets a target of restoring

communication services within 24 hours of a disaster. It emphasizes risk assessment, training, and simulation exercises to strengthen national readiness.

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) Spectrum Management Strategy 2024/25–2034/35 further recognizes emergency telecommunications as a critical national function.

Cybersecurity remains a fundamental pillar of digital resilience. Through TCRA, Tanzania has established the Tanzania Computer Emergency Response Team (TZ-CERT) under the Electronic and Postal Communications Act, 2010. TZ-CERT monitors, detects, and responds to cybersecurity threats in order to safeguard Tanzania's critical digital infrastructure and ensure secure and uninterrupted communication services.

These coordinated national efforts in cybersecurity have significantly strengthened Tanzania's digital resilience and contributed to the country attaining Tier 1 "rolemodelling" status in the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024.

Building digital resilience cannot be achieved in isolation. Digital ecosystems transcend national borders and are thus exposed to disruptions that can simultaneously affect multiple countries. Through partnerships with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and regional bodies, Tanzania works to keep its networks strong, secure, and inclusive.





Hon. Angellah Jasmine Mbelwa Kairuki, Minister for Communications and Information Technology, presents a token of appreciation during her visit to Viettel Group in Hanoi, Vietnam, where she encouraged continued investment in Tanzania, particularly through the expansion of Halotel's 4G and 5G network coverage.



Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Social Transformation

By Regulator Writer

Experts have called for legal and regulatory interventions to harness the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for social transformation and responsible content development and sharing.

A recent stakeholders' meeting on AI ethics and managing social transformation outlined ways to address complex social challenges caused by emerging technologies. The goal is to preserve societal values and foster harmony.

AI is the theory of creating computer systems capable of performing tasks that require human intelligence, such as seeing, recognizing sounds, or translating languages.

The meeting, convened by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), observed that the transformative impact of digital technologies and their opportunities should not be downplayed by challenges that can be easily overcome.



The challenges include social disruption, inequality, and ethical concerns likely to be caused by AI. Others are misinformation through the circulation of AI-generated images and videos. These cause panic among the public.

Foreign content may also clash with local cultural values, social norms, and linguistic realities. Extensive AI use and reliance also lead to automation and job displacement, as they reduce human interventions in many tasks.



This creates a need to strengthen research and evidence-based policy interventions to guide digital adoption toward positive social transformation and sustainable development outcomes.



UNESCO urges member states to ensure that the development, deployment, and adoption of AI promote positive societal impact and uphold human rights, dignity, and sustainable development.

Governments should foster local innovation to ensure positive societal outcomes in the AI era.

They should create an enabling environment that supports the youth and innovators in transforming context-relevant ideas into scalable enterprises.

This includes strengthening business cases and facilitating access to investments and markets.

These programmes should also focus on the responsible and ethical use of AI. The goal should be to equip the people with knowledge and understanding of AI technologies, their opportunities, risks, and appropriate applications.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) should be employed to develop national AI infrastructure to stimulate innovation and bridge the digital divide.

This infrastructure should include high-performance computing facilities (such as cloud and data centers) and data ecosystem infrastructure.

Countries should also promote awareness and digital literacy among their people to enable them to distinguish between genuine and AI-generated content.

Meanwhile, Tanzania will host the African Conference on Social Transformation and the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in August this year.

Researchers, policymakers, and innovators from across Africa will be able to showcase research, share best practices, and discuss how AI can drive socially responsible and culturally grounded transformation across Africa.

UNESCO Recommendations on AI

They are Based on Ten Principles

Proportionality and removing harm

AI systems should be designed and deployed in ways that avoid harm and ensure that risks are proportionate to expected benefits.

Safety and Security

AI systems must be safe, secure, and resilient throughout their lifecycle, with mechanisms to prevent misuse, malfunction, or unintended consequences

Fairness and Non-Discrimination

AI should promote fairness and avoid bias, discrimination, and unjust impacts on individuals or groups.

Sustainability

AI development and deployment should support environmental sustainability, social well-being, and long-term economic development.

Right to Privacy and Data Protection

AI systems must respect privacy rights and ensure strong data governance, transparency, and protection of personal data.

Human Oversight and Determination

Humans should retain meaningful oversight and decision-making authority over AI systems to ensure accountability and ethical alignment.

Transparency and ease of explanation

AI systems should be understandable and explainable so that users and stakeholders can comprehend how decisions are made.

Responsibility and Accountability

Clear mechanisms for responsibility and accountability must be established for AI design, deployment, and outcomes.

Awareness and Literacy

Governments and stakeholders should promote AI literacy and public awareness to enable informed participation and responsible use.

Multi-Stakeholder and Adaptive Governance and Collaboration.

AI governance should involve inclusive, participatory processes and adapt to evolving technological and societal contexts.

Tanzania Rides Automation Wave

By Regulator Writer

A key enabler of the digital economy – the Internet of Things (IoT) is at different stages of development and deployment in Tanzania, with its key component, Machine-to-Machine (M2M) communication, on the rise.

IoT refers to a network of physical devices, vehicles, appliances, and other objects embedded with electronics, software, sensors, actuators, and connectivity, enabling them to collect and exchange data. Processes are automated, creating new opportunities and enhancing performance across various sectors.

M2M technologies enable objects, devices, or things to exchange information and perform actions with minimal or no human intervention using existing or evolving communication networks. They allow wireless and wired systems to communicate.

In M2M, sensors attached to a machine relay data to an application. This is analysed, and decisions are taken in real time or near real time.

Machine to machine (M2M) SIM card subscription growth in two years

Service provider	Airtel	Halotel	TTCL	Yas	Vodacom	Total
June 2024	329,292	57,340	6,512	24,755	551,541	969,440
June 2025	350,749	78,687	4,501	61,370	588,048	1,083,355
June 2026	355,114	101,020	4,111	92,930	680,292	1,233,467
Increase	25,822	43,680	2,401	68,175	128,751	264,027
Percentage	7.8%	76%	(37%)	275%	23%	27%

The Internet of Things (IoT) and Machine-to-Machine (M2M) communications are key enablers of digital transformation. They support applications across critical sectors such as agriculture, businesses, healthcare, transport and logistics, energy, manufacturing, environmental monitoring, smart cities and emergency services.

In agriculture, IoT devices can monitor soil conditions, weather patterns, and crop growth. Sensors can measure soil moisture content and release optimal amounts of water, thus facilitating irrigation.

IoT health care devices can be fixed or worn to monitor physical activity, capture vital signs, and record other metrics. These collect real-time data and transfer it to smartphones, computers, or authorized professionals.

Industries use IoT devices to manage operations and processes. They monitor machine performance, detect failures, and optimize production processes. They can also monitor environmental conditions for specific products to ensure compliance. Retail outlets use them to monitor inventory levels.

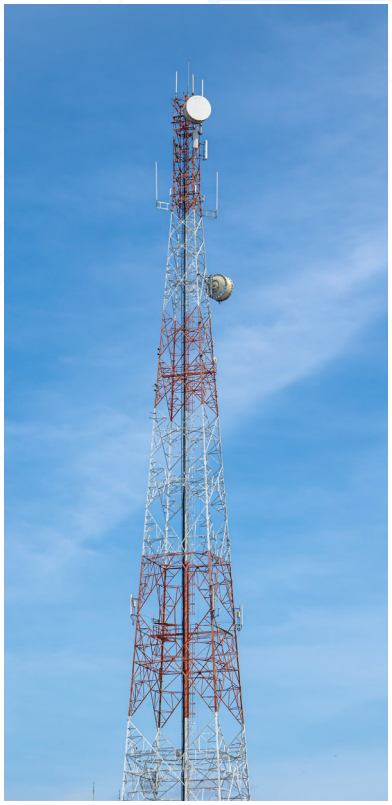
Transporters use IoT devices to manage their fleets. This includes tracking vehicles and monitoring their performance, movements, and fuel consumption.

By connecting devices and systems, IoT and M2M enhance efficiency, improve service delivery, and create new opportunities for socio-economic development.

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has allocated a block of numbering resources to support the provision of IoT and M2M services.

IoT and M2M device management require strong security measures to prevent hacking. Encryption and access controls are crucial.

TCRA has introduced guidelines for M2M communication. The Guidelines have outlined the procedures and requirements for M2M communication services through mobile communications networks requiring a SIM card and numbers. M2M Operators can provide M2M connectivity in line with their respective licences.



Legal and Regulatory Updates

Online Content Licence Fees Cut, New Category Introduced

By Regulator Writer



A new category of online content services licence has been introduced with fewer conditions and a one-year fee waiver.

The amended online content regulations have reduced licence fees by between 10 and 20 times. The revised regulations were signed by the Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Hon Paul Makonda, on 27 June and published in the Government Gazette on 30 June this year

The amendments provide for an amateur licence category for new entrants, who are exempted from licence fees for 12 months. After one year, the licensees may apply for licences in other categories or cease providing online media services, with licences valid for three years.

They create three online content service categories – for online media services (radio, television and a forum or weblogs), content aggregation and amateur.

Online content aggregators source and process content from various online sources including websites, blogs and social media, and make it available through an organized platform.

Individual online media service Amateur licence category applicants are required to submit only two compulsory documents – a certified copy of their national identity card and a certificate of business name registration – while those in other categories have to submit six.

Companies or non-government organizations must provide a copy of the certificate of incorporation or a certificate of business name registration, a copy of the Tax Clearance Certificate, copies of the National Identity Cards of shareholders, and a list of owners and the management team.

Additionally, they must submit the curriculum vitae of key staff responsible for running the station and meeting the minimum qualifications for journalists, as well as editorial policy guidelines for online radio and online television.

All categories must provide any additional information or documents as required by the TCRA.

The new fees for online media services (radio, television, and forums or weblogs), with the old ones in brackets, are 10,000 shillings for applications (100,000), an initial fee, an annual fee, and a renewal fee of 50,000 (1,000,000).

The new application fee for online content aggregation services is 20,000 (100,000), and the initial licence, annual and renewal fees are 100,000 (1,000,000).

As of June 2026, there were 210 online televisions, 10 online radios, 66 weblogs and 5 online content aggregators.

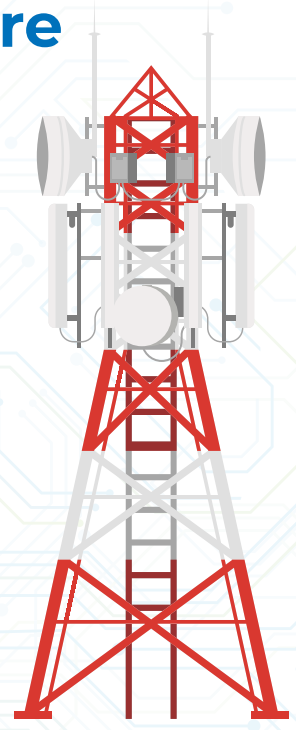




Communications Statistics

Katavi Leads in Infrastructure Expansion

By Regulator Writer



Katavi is among five regions with the highest rate of expansion of mobile communications towers and advanced technologies base stations over the past two years, the June 2026 communications status report has confirmed.

Communications towers and base stations with facilities for fourth and fifth generation communications technologies (4G and 5G) deployed in the region between June 2024 and June this year increased by an average of 47 percent.

The technology is known as eNB for 4G and gNB and connects user devices to 4G and 5G networks.

Four G and 5G enable high-speed internet access and data transfer. It ensures high-quality video streaming and wider device connectivity without delays.

Other regions with above 20 and 50 per cent 4G and 5G rollout increases respectively in the period are Tabora, Pwani (Coast), Geita, Shinyanga, Lindi and Morogoro.

Zanzibar's Urban West region had the highest 5G roll out increase, (77.2% – from 232 to 411), followed by Simiyu (70.5% – from 193 to 329), Iringa (58.4% – from 291 to 461), Katavi (57.1% – from 126 to 198 and Dodoma (56.1 % – from 326 to 506.

Katavi's overall position was pushed by a 42% increase in four G roll-out – from 93 to 132.

Overall, 1,382 new mobile towers were built throughout Tanzania in the period, increasing their number to 9,933, a 16.2 per cent increase from 8,551. Base stations increased by 40.1 per cent, from 12,531 to 17,655.

The construction of new mobile communications towers and deployment of advanced mobile communications technologies under a project launched in May 2023 accelerated the increase.



ROLLOUT

Five 5G base stations deployed all over the country increased by 159.7 per cent between June 2024 and June this year. The technology has penetrated 34.2 per cent of the population and covers 11.34 per cent of Tanzania.

Reference	5G base stations (Next Generation Nodes -gNBS)	Penetration (Population coverage)	Geographical coverage
June 2024	754		2.2 %
June 2025	1,038	26 %	5.9 %
June 2026	1,958	34.18%	11.34%
Increase	905	8.8 points in one year	9.41 points
Percent	159.7%	31.5% in one year	415%

5G Roll Out between June 2024 and June 2026

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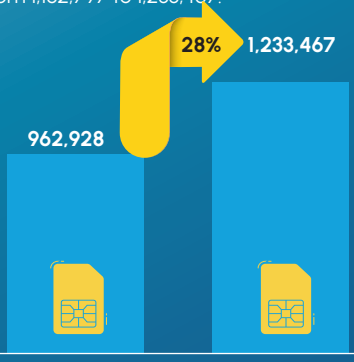
The construction of new mobile communications towers and deployment of advanced mobile communications technologies under a project launched in May 2023 accelerated the increase.

SIM Card Penetration Reaches 167 Percent

Tanzania's five mobile communications networks had 116,850,926 active SIM cards at the end of June 2026 – 48.7 percent increase from 78,588,006 in June 2024 and 4.51 per cent from 111,900,000 in March this year.

The penetration rate is now 167 per cent due to subscribers having multiple SIM cards for various uses.

SIM cards that enable machines to communicate, known as M2M, increased by 28 per cent, from 962,928 in June 2024 to 1,233,467 in June 2026. The increase from March was 4.3 per cent, from 1,182,797 to 1,233,467.



M2M SIM growth between 2024 and 2026

Smartphone Penetration

Smartphone penetration increased from 31.55 per cent in June 2024 to 44.74 percent in June this year, up from 42.5 percent in March 2026



42.50%(March 2026) *44.74%(June 2026)*

Internet, Data Usage

Internet subscriptions increased by 59.7 percent, from 39,311,477 lines used for the service in June 2024 to 62,793,986 lines. They increased by 6.48% from 58,974,820 lines in March 2026.



Internet Subscriptions

Data usage increased by 144.3 percent, from 426 petabytes in June 2024 to 1,041 in June this year, and by 11.69 per cent, from 932 petabytes in March.



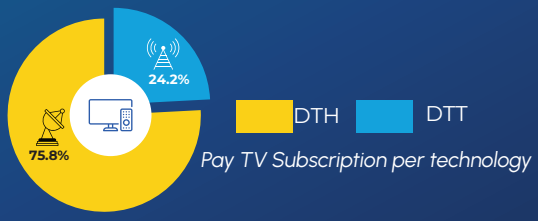
Mobile Money Services

Mobile money accounts increased from 55,523,067 to 87,046,089 (56.8 percent) between June 2024 and June this year, and by 7.5 percent, from 80,977,268 in March.

Metric	March 2026	June 2026	Net Change	Growth Rate (%)
Active Subscriptions	80.98 Million	87.05 Million	+6.07 Million	+7.50%

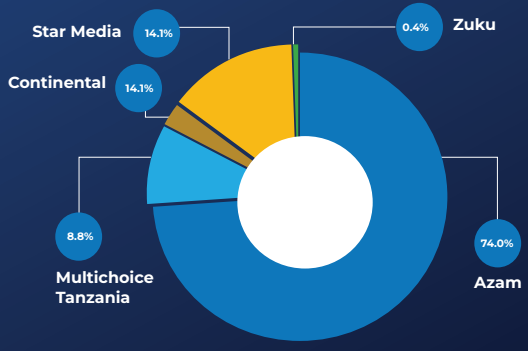
World Cup Pushes Decoder Demand

The fall in connected television broadcast decoders has been halted. Decoders increased from 2.09 million in March 2026 to 2.26 million in June 2026. The erstwhile downward trend had seen their number falling from 2.3 million in September 2025 to 2.09 million in March.



Pay TV Subscription per technology

The increase can be attributed to the demand for sports content in the 2026 World Cup football competition, from 11 June to 19 July. Azam Media, with its sports bouquet, had 74.0 per cent of decoder subscriptions (1,674,320), followed by StarMedia with 14.1 percent (319,589).

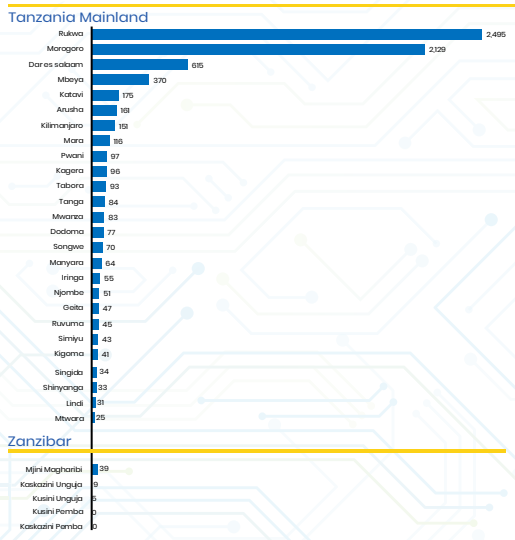


Share of Decoders per Operator as of June 2026

Mobile Fraud Down but Persists in two Regions

Reported fraud on mobile communications networks decreased by 25.29 per cent, from 9,816 reported in the quarter ending March 2026 to 7,334 in June 2026. Rukwa and Morogoro regions are infamous, with 2,495 and 2,199 incidents respectively.

However, the menace has been reduced by 69 per cent between September 2023 and June this year, from 23,328 to 7,334. TCRA has been educating the public and consumers about network safety, emphasizing vigilance and how to avoid online scams and theft.



Postal Highs and Lows



Physical parcel pickup and delivery services are taking root in Tanzania and are facilitated by the national addresses and postcode system

The Postal sector performance was mixed in the April-June 2026 quarter, with increases in international traffic and decreases in local posted and delivered items.

International posted items increased by 40.8 per cent from 32,565 in the quarter ending March 2026 to 45,850 in June. Delivered items in this category increased by 52.2 per cent, from 44,555 in March 2026 to 67,800 in June.

Domestic posted items decreased by 9.9 per cent, from 546,644 items in March 2026 to 492,335 items in June 2026. Domestic delivered items decreased by 1.6 per cent, from 907,759 in March to 893,673.

New postal and courier service trends

TCRA issues licenses to these providers, and as of June, there were 143 such licensees. They include international, domestic, intracity, and inter-city courier service providers.

Overall, parcel delivery has increased due to services provided primarily by domestic courier service licensees, particularly transporters.

Physical parcel delivery services are taking root in Tanzania. The national addresses and postcode system has facilitated the physical delivery of items.

This system also enables the government and its agencies to serve the people. It supports security, public safety, and various economic and social services delivery initiatives.