



United Republic of Tanzania

**POLICY ISSUES ON ENVIRONMENT, WATER
AND HUMAN HEALTH IN TANZANIA**

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Where is Tanzania?



Introduction

- A large proportion of the population in TZ still cannot access safe water;
- They live in an environment that detrimentally affects their health;
- There is inadequate environmental , water and health services in place;
- These problems are addressed in various policy documents (Environmental Policy, 1997; Water Policy, 2002; and Health Policy, 1990);
- These policies aim at improving welfare of both rural and urban populations.



Tanzania's Development Policies

- National Development Vision 2025
 - The Vision 2025 aims at achieving high quality livelihood for all people
 - The earmarked strategies aim to ensure realization of the following goals among others;
 - Universal access to safe water
 - Access to quality health services
 - Food self-sufficiency and food security
 - These goals are also identified in the environment, water and health policies



National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty

- The NSGRP is based on the goals of Vision 2025, and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- The NSGRP identifies environment as a cross-cutting theme.
- The NSGRP recognizes community dependence on natural resources for their livelihoods.



Major environmental problems in Tanzania

- Land degradation;
- Lack of accessible, good quality water for both urban and rural inhabitants;
- Environmental pollution, thus affecting human health;
- Loss of wildlife habitats and biodiversity;
- Deterioration of aquatic systems;
- Deforestation;
- Effects of climate variability/change



Policy Based Interventions on Environment, Water and Health

- **Environmental Policy (URT, 1997)**
 - Supports the overall national objective of providing clean and safe drinking water;
 - Promotes efforts to protect water sources and prevent environmental pollution;
 - Promotes provision of community environmental infrastructure;
 - Promotes health related programmes such as food, hygiene, etc.



Water Policy (URT, 2002)

- Promotes water management system which ensures;
 - Protection of the environment;
 - Protection of ecological system and biodiversity;



Health Policy (1990)

RECOGNISES THAT:

- Health problems are associated with environmental problems;
- Water borne diseases are among the critical challenges in Tanzania, as they are in other developing countries;



Agriculture and Livestock Policy (1997)

- Seeks to improve national standards of nutrition;
- Promotes integrated and sustainable use and management of natural resources;
- Promotes conservation of the environment;



Linking Environment, Water and Health

- **Environment and water resources**
 - Environmental degradation affects availability of water resources;
- **Health and Environment**
 - Changes in environmental conditions, in turn, affect human health and well-being;
 - There is a close link between water supply, sanitation, hygiene practices, and prevalence of waterborne diseases such as cholera



Conclusion

- The existing linkage among environment, water and health create challenge in the implementation of our national policies;
- These challenges call for harmonization of approaches and strategies in addressing the seemingly sectoral problems;
- Realization of vision 2025 and sustainable development requires a more holistic approach informed by awareness of linkages among water management, environment and human health challenges.



THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

