



## TANZANIA ADVANCES SOCIAL PROTECTION WITH NEW NATIONAL POLICY AND HIFADHI SCHEME



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**Secretary General**

Tanzania has taken major steps to strengthen its social protection system following the “National Social Protection Sector Stakeholders’ Conference,” held from 9–10 February 2026 at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC), attended by more than 1,000 policymakers and development partners. The two-day conference brought together government institutions, development partners, civil society organizations, and private sector actors to advance inclusive and sustainable social protection for all Tanzanians.

The conference was officially inducted by the Minister of State, Prime Minister’s Office – Labour, Employment and Relations, Hon. Deus Clement Sangu, reaffirming the Government’s commitment to expanding social security coverage and positioning social protection as a key pillar of national development. Senior leaders from major social security and implementing institutions participated, including the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF), Workers’ Compensation Fund (WCF), Zanzibar Social Security Fund (ZSSF), Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), Zanzibar Health Services Fund (ZHSF), and the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF).

A key outcome of the conference was the official launch of the National Social Protection Policy (2023), which provides a comprehensive framework for coordinating, delivering, and financing social protection programmes in Tanzania. The policy emphasizes inclusive, sustainable, and rights-based approaches to ensure that all citizens across the lifecycle, particularly vulnerable and excluded groups, have access to effective social protection services.



The conference also marked the official launch of the Social Security Scheme for Self-Employed Persons, known in Kiswahili as “Hifadhi Scheme”, to be administered by NSSF under the NSSF Act. The Hifadhi Scheme extends formal social security coverage to workers in the informal economy, including small-scale traders, motorcycle taxi operators (boda-boda), artisans, farmers, and other self-employed individuals. This initiative directly addresses long-standing coverage gaps and represents a significant milestone toward achieving universal social protection in Tanzania.



During the conference, stakeholders formally recognized the Africa Social Security Association (ASSA) for its pivotal role in establishing the “Hifadhi Scheme.” This was highlighted by the Director General of NSSF, Hon. Masha Mshomba, who said that in collaboration with the Prime Minister’s Office in Tanzania, ASSA conducted a comprehensive needs assessment study that generated critical evidence on the demand for affordable, flexible, and accessible social security services among informal sector workers. The study’s findings informed the design and operational framework of the new scheme, the strengthening of stakeholder engagement, and supported a smooth approval process.

Participants commended the collaboration between ASSA, the Prime Minister’s Office, and NSSF as a strong example of research-driven policy development and effective public–civil society partnership. The outcomes of the conference demonstrate Tanzania’s growing momentum toward inclusive growth and social security systems that leave no one behind, particularly workers in the informal economy who have historically been excluded from formal protection.