



**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT**

**REMARKS BY H.E. DR. PHILIP ISDOR MPANGO, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, DURING OFFICIAL OPENING OF
CARE INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

**HYATT REGENCY HOTEL, DAR ES SALAAM
13TH MAY 2024**

I am delighted for the opportunity to join you in this important Conference. On behalf of H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of United Republic of Tanzania, I wish to welcome you all to Tanzania and to Dar es Salaam. President Samia had wished to personally officiate the opening of this conference, but could not be here due to other pressing commitments, and hence she sent me to stand in for her.

I am informed that this high-level conference is taking place for the first in Africa and Tanzania is privileged to be the first country in the continent to host it. I am also excited by the impressive turnout of about 100 participants, from more than 50 countries where CARE International operates. This is a clear testimony of the commitment of CARE International in addressing development challenges. Allow me to commend the Ministry of Agriculture and CARE-Tanzania team for successfully organizing this Conference.

Distinguished Delegates;

At the outset, allow me to convey sincere appreciation to CARE-USA which in November 2022 awarded H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, the **CARE 2022 Impact Award for Global Leadership** in recognition of her efforts in international leadership for the year 2022, and efforts made by the Government of Tanzania in creating opportunities for women and protection of human rights. I also wish to thank CARE-Tanzania for the support in preparation of a documentary on the two and a half years' achievement of the Generation for Equality Forum (GEF) Program, a mid-Point report for the country.

Distinguished Delegates;

CARE-International plays an important role in saving millions of lives through poverty reduction initiatives and promotion of social justice. The main interventions include humanitarian support; financing education services, nutrition and health care, water and sanitation; support to modern farming as well as facilitating technology transfer and environmental conservation. These interventions that CARE-International is pioneering are mainly a result of efforts to align its programs with the needs of beneficiaries and partners. It's worthwhile noting that, six decades ago, CARE-International was engaged more in the provision of food aid. The focus has now changed from humanitarian support to programs and projects. Hence, I am delighted to note that the theme of this Conference is: **"Building the CARE of the Future"** which reflects CARE International's commitment to address the emerging needs of beneficiaries working closely with partners.

Distinguished Delegates;

CARE International's operations in Tanzania are traced as far back as April 1994, when it started with the provision of humanitarian support to refugees from Rwanda following the genocide. Its operations have now evolved to various sectors at both local and national levels. The operations cover regions of Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Iringa, Njombe, Tanga, Mbeya, Shinyanga, Singida and all 5 regions of Zanzibar. In the last 13 years a total of USD 94.2 has been spent on programs funded by CARE International in Tanzania. The programs include: gender equality and women's empowerment, education, health, climate change, and microfinance services targeting women and youth through Village Saving and Lending

Associations (VSLAs). As of now, more than 30,000 VSLAs throughout the country, reaching more than 700,000 people, of which 60% are women.

I am also aware that, CARE-Tanzania in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), recently launched an innovative program on Farmer - Field and Business School (FFBS) extension approach, targeting to improve farmers' productivity, quality of farm produce and income. This program will later be incorporated in the training curricula at the Sokoine University of Agriculture from October 2024. In addition, there is another program that aims to promote modern farming and value addition of strategic crops such as tea, cashew nuts, soyabeans and maize. Also worth noting is, the construction of the Sakare Specialty Tea Demonstration Factory in Korogwe District and the support provided to the Online Tea Auction which has revamped the vitality of the Tanzania's tea industry. It serves not just as a trading platform, but also as a statement of intent, to showcase Tanzania's commitment to quality and market competitiveness.

Distinguished Delegates;

Through these collaborative efforts between the Government, CARE International and partners, significant strides have been made as indicated by key development indicators. For instance, the proportion of the population living below basic need poverty line has been decreasing from 34.4% in 2007 to 26.4% in 2017-2018 and was estimated at 25.7% in 2020 (*SDG's Indicators Report, June 2023*). Under-five mortality rate declined from 81 to 43 deaths per 1,000 live births between 2010 and 2022. The proportion of the population with access to clean and safe water increased from 74.5% to 79.6% in rural areas and from 86.5% to 90% in urban areas, between 2021 and February 2024. Primary school and Secondary school enrollment rate reached 92.7% and 89.1% in 2024, respectively with gender parity of 1:1. As of February, 2024, 11,837 villages out of all 12,318 villages in Tanzania Mainland were connected to electricity, equivalent to 96.1%.

Distinguished Delegates;

Allow me to propose four areas that I think would be pertinent for our partnership and collaboration, for your consideration:

First, support to climate change, specifically in areas of early warning system, disaster management/adaptation as well as building resilience – focusing on areas such as climate smart agriculture to improve productivity and yield by small holder farmers;

Second, scaling up women economic empowerment programs, particularly on effective use of renewable energy. As you may recall, H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan recently launched the transformative Africa Women Clean Cooking Support Programme (AWCCSP) at the Conference of the Parties (COP 28) in Dubai, UAE. On 24th March, 2024 the Government approved a Ten-Year Transition to Clean Cooking Energy Strategy (2024/25 - 2033/34). Collaboration with CARE International and Partners in the implementation of this environmentally friendly and women life-saving initiative will be highly appreciated.

Third, supporting the skills development program for the out-of-school girls and boys for acquisition of skills for their future decent life for themselves and their families. Available

statistics indicate that the problem of out of school girls and boys is still with us. Consequently, there is need for a program targeting to support out of school girls and boys to enable the acquire necessary skills to improve their lives.

Fourth, like in many countries in sub-Saharan African, child and maternal health challenges as well as nutrition remain at an unacceptable level. For instance, Tanzania under-five stunting, is prevalent in regions that are regarded as food basket regions, where stunting levels remain high in the range of 31.9% to 50.4%. Although, there has been progress in reducing maternal mortality, the rates still need to be reduced further. Additionally, there is a significant increase in the number of premature babies. These challenges warrant increased collaboration in research and strategies to drill down the main causes and strategies to address these challenges.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen;

In conclusion, I wish once again to commend the great job undertaken by CARE – International globally and in Tanzania, and hereby reaffirm the commitment of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to continue working together with CARE International and all other stakeholders in transforming the lives of our people.

With these remarks, **it is my singular honour and pleasure to declare the CARE International Leadership Conference officially open.**

Thank you.