

## CONTEXT FOR THE NATIONAL DATA: TANZANIA

Higher education in Tanzania can be differentiated on both the public and the private side into university and non-university sectors. The distinction between university and non-university institutions is manifested in students' academic entry qualifications, level and duration of courses, academic awards offered, and minimum and maximum academic and professional requirements for faculty. Universities are mandated to grant academic degrees—bachelors to doctorate—while non-university institutions are mandated to grant three-year advanced diplomas, two-year ordinary diplomas, one-year postgraduate diplomas, professional masters degrees, and certificates in their areas of competence. Depending on the academic discipline, a bachelors degree takes between 3 and 5 years, masters between 9 months to 36 months, and a doctorate ideally 3 years after a masters degree, but often it takes as long as 10 years or more for completion. There are currently 4 public universities and 11 non-university institutes and colleges.

Private higher education did not exist in Tanzania until 1997, although one Catholic-owned private tertiary education institution (now a private university) has functioned in tandem with government-owned higher education institutions since independence (1961). Beginning in 1997, government granted private universities permission to operate. By 1999, 19 prospective private universities were undergoing accreditation reviews by the Higher Education Accreditation Council. There are at present 7 registered private universities and colleges, mainly offering bachelors degrees and advanced diplomas in business administration and related fields, journalism and mass communication, law, education, and health sciences. Only 2 private universities offer (very limited) graduate degrees. Another 2 private universities have been recently de-registered for failure to meet conditions for full registration. There are no private non-university institutions in Tanzania, whereas the public non-university side is composed largely of government owned professional institutes and colleges.

Tanzanian private universities rely heavily on tuition fees and other fees for their operations. They do not receive government subsidies. Tuition fees range from US\$ 1,400 to US\$ 8,135 depending on the academic program. Public universities do not charge tuition fees for

---

The Program for Research On Private Higher Education (PROPHE) seeks to build knowledge about private higher education around the world. PROPHE focuses on discovery, analysis, and dissemination. PROPHE neither represents nor promotes private higher education. Its main mission is scholarship, which, in turn, should inform public discussion and policymaking. PROPHE's Working Paper series is one vehicle to promote these goals.

government sponsored students but charge other non-tuition fees under the cost-sharing scheme re-introduced in the late 1980's due to economic crisis and as a part of wide-ranging macro-economic reforms. Also related to the revenue diversification scheme, public universities admit privately sponsored students in their undergraduate programs.

Public spending on higher education as a percentage of total education spending declined from 21.4% in 1997/98 to 13.1% in 2002/3. The higher education system of Tanzania is considered elitist and competitive. A mere 0.3% of high school graduates make it to tertiary education. The university age cohort participation rate for Tanzania is 0.27% compared to 1.47% for Kenya, 1.33% for Uganda, 4.66% for Namibia, 0.33% for Mozambique and 0.44% for Angola. The population of Tanzania is 34.5 million according to the 2002 population census.