



International  
Labour  
Office

**copac** Committee for  
the promotion  
and advancement  
of cooperatives

# STATISTICS ON COOPERATIVES

## COUNTRY IN FOCUS: MAINLAND TANZANIA

This country in focus note is part of the **Statistics on Cooperatives series** produced by the *International Labour Organization (ILO)* and the *Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC)* in support of a larger initiative to increase understanding of the ways in which countries around the world are producing and using statistics on cooperatives. Currently reliable and comparable statistics on cooperatives are missing in most countries of the world. These statistics are essential to measuring the impact of cooperatives on members, workers and the economy as a whole.

### Cooperatives in mainland Tanzania

Cooperatives have received support from the government throughout different stages of Tanzania's history. They were first founded in 1925 by peasants in the cash cropping areas of Tanganyika to organise markets for members, supply inputs at low costs and capture trade profits. Though cooperatives were dissolved in 1976 due to a change in the government's policy directions, they were reintroduced in 1982<sup>1</sup>.

The current legislation under which cooperatives operate includes the Cooperative Societies Act of 2013<sup>2</sup> and the Cooperative Societies Regulations of 2015<sup>3</sup>. According to the 2013 Act, cooperatives are regulated and promoted by the Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC)<sup>4</sup> under the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries<sup>5</sup>. The Cooperative Societies Act of 2013 identifies the following types of cooperatives that can be registered with the cooperative registrar: agriculture (crop production, collecting, processing, marketing, distribution and similar activities), finance, retail, industry, housing, livestock, fisheries, producers (designed for agricultural, forestry or other natural products) and mining.

### How are statistics on cooperatives generated in mainland Tanzania?

The National Bureau of Statistics has the mandate to provide official statistics to the government, business community and the public. However, as the cooperative regulator, TCDC is responsible for producing statistics on cooperatives.

The main sources of cooperative data in Tanzania are the Tanzania Federation of Cooperatives (TFC)<sup>6</sup>, which provides statistics related to membership and the promotion of cooperatives; the Cooperative Audit and Supervision Corporation (COASCO)<sup>7</sup>, which audits the financial affairs of cooperatives in the country; and Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU)<sup>8</sup>, which provides statistics related to training on cooperatives. TFC and MoCU collect various data on cooperatives nationwide related to membership levels, turnover, loans and shares.

TCDC gathers data on cooperatives annually through the Regional Assistant Registrars of Cooperatives at the regional level and the District Cooperative Officers at the district level. It then aggregates the data centrally and uses it to better understand the needs of cooperatives and improve awareness.

1 <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/ent/coop/africa/download/wpno14cooperativesintanzania.pdf>  
2 <http://www.kilimo.go.tz/index.php/en/resources/view/the-cooperative-societies-act-2013>  
3 <http://www.ushirika.go.tz/en/publications/regulations>  
4 <http://ushirika.go.tz/en/>  
5 <http://www.kilimo.go.tz>  
6 <http://www.ushirika.coop/>  
7 <http://www.coasco.go.tz/>  
8 <https://www.mocu.ac.tz/>



## What statistics are available?

TCDC organises statistics on cooperatives into three categories:

- Performance statistics that include information on the main activities of cooperatives (e.g. volume of crops produced, number and size of loans issued, number of members and number of employees);
- Compliance statistics, which include data on inspection and dispute resolution according to relevant legislation (e.g. number of cooperatives inspected and number of disputes filed); and
- Registry statistics, which includes information like the cooperative's name and registration number.

TCDC prepares annual performance reports that cover the number of cooperatives, number of members, number of employees and sectors of economic activity.

The Ministry of Finance produces an annual report – the Economic Survey – that contains the cooperative statistics. The most recent report available is from 2012<sup>9</sup>.

## Reflections on mainland Tanzania's approach to cooperative statistics

The different sources of data ensure good population coverage of cooperatives in TCDC databases. Classification by economic activity and data collection methods are based on international standards, ensuring comparability with other cooperatives in and outside of Tanzania. The combination of data from the statistical register and the performance data collected from cooperatives yields quality results. The statistics themselves cover a range of variables, although there is inadequate information on the number of employees and annual turnover.

TCDC has limited resources to allocate to work on cooperative statistics and invest in information technology that would make data collection more efficient and thorough. There is also low awareness about the importance of cooperative statistics, which means that work on the topic is not prioritised. Currently, censuses are conducted infrequently and irregularly, and reports are not available online. Strengthened collaborations between TCDC and the National Bureau of Statistics could improve the quality and accessibility of cooperative statistics.

The 19th Session of the **International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS)**<sup>10</sup> in 2013 included cooperatives in the Conference agenda for the first time in its history. The discussion converged towards the need for accurate, reliable, relevant and comparable statistics on the economic and social impact of cooperatives on the economies. A Resolution was passed with a view to carry out further developmental work on the measurement of cooperatives and carry out pilot studies in a number of countries to test various measurement approaches on collecting data on cooperatives.

The initiative on statistics on cooperatives is a collaboration between the ILO, COPAC, the cooperative movement, UN agencies, national statistics offices, government agencies and academic institutions to improve the quality and accessibility of statistical data on cooperatives. The outcome of this work will be guidelines for discussion at the 20th ICLS in October 2018.

COPAC is a multi-stakeholder partnership of global public and private institutions that promotes and advocates for people-centred, self-sustaining cooperative enterprises, guided by the principles of economic, social and environmental sustainable development. The current members of COPAC are the ILO, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Co-operative Alliance and the World Farmers' Organisation.

To find out more, please visit the **ILO COOP**<sup>11</sup>, **ILO Department of Statistics**<sup>12</sup> or **COPAC** websites<sup>13</sup>.

9 <http://www.mof.go.tz/mofdocs/Micro/2012/ECONOMIC%20SURVEY%20BOOK%202012.pdf>

10 <http://www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/meetings-and-events/international-conference-of-labour-statisticians/19/lang-en/index.htm>

11 [http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/cooperatives/areas-of-work/WCMS\\_550541/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/cooperatives/areas-of-work/WCMS_550541/lang-en/index.htm)

12 <http://www.ilo.org/stat/lang-en/index.htm>

13 [www.copac.coop](http://www.copac.coop)

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