



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION
AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



UNIVERSAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE ACCESS FUND (UCSAF)

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED



May 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNIVERSAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE ACCESS FUND (UCSAF)

The Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) was established by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania under Act of Parliament No. 11 of 2006, Chapter 422, with the objective of enabling access to communication services for citizens living in the few urban areas and the many rural areas that are not commercially attractive to communication service providers. The Minister responsible for communications in the country approved the Fund's operating regulations in April 2009, and on 1 July 2009 the Fund officially commenced operations.

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF UCSAF

The objectives of UCSAF, as set out in its establishing legislation, are focused on the following areas:

- a) To ensure the availability of communication services in rural areas and urban areas with poor communication coverage;
- b) To promote the participation of the private sector and the government in the provision of universal communication services in rural areas and urban areas with poor communication coverage;
- c) To promote the provision of quality services at affordable rates and to ensure that information and communication technology is available in rural areas and urban areas with poor communication coverage at affordable prices; and
- d) To ensure universal access to communication services by improving the availability of communication services through private sector participation.

1.3 FUNCTIONS OF UCSAF

The Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) has the following functions:

a) To identify communication project areas that may receive subsidies from UCSAF;

b) To set criteria for identifying villages that require communication services and that cannot obtain them because they are not commercially attractive;

c) To conduct various studies and monitor communication developments in rural areas and in areas that are not commercially attractive;

d) To advise the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority on matters relating to universal communications;

e) To recommend appropriate methods of providing subsidies for the delivery of communication services to rural areas and to areas that are not commercially attractive;

f) To legally supervise the contracts for the execution of the responsibilities of providing universal communication services;

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF UCSAF PROJECTS

In carrying out its responsibilities, UCSAF has focused on three major areas:



**The Communications
Sector (Telecom & ICT)**



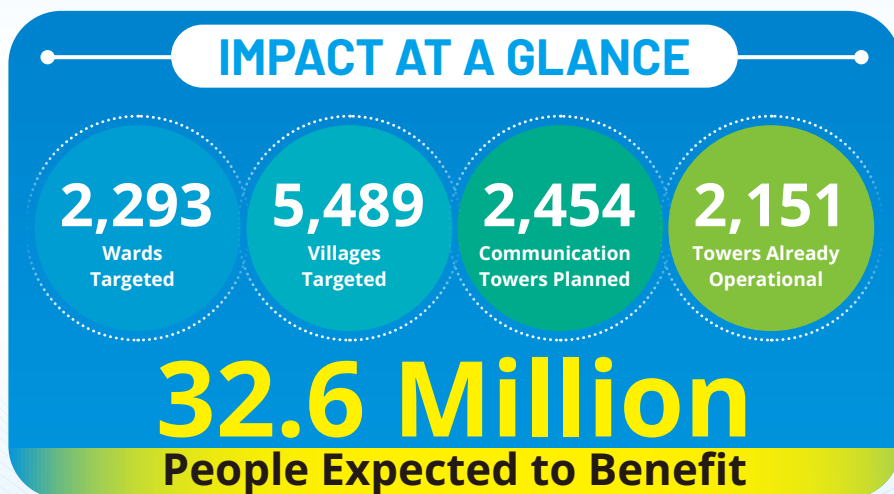
**The Broadcasting
Sector**



**The Postal
Sector**

2.1 TELECOMMUNICATION PROJECTS

As at April 2026, the Government, through the Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF), had already entered into agreements with service providers to deliver communication services in 2,293 wards comprising 5,489 villages with a population of 32,568,216. Upon completion of these projects, a total of 2,454 towers will have been constructed. Furthermore, out of these wards, 1,979 wards comprising 5,074 villages and 29,257,814 residents are receiving communication services through the 2,151 towers already constructed. Implementation is ongoing in 301 wards with 301 towers across 388 villages and approximately 3,177,600 residents.



3. THE 758-TOWER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The project for the construction of 758 towers has been completed, benefiting 8.5 million citizens. On 10 April 2026, the launch ceremony for the 758-tower construction project was held, and the Guest of Honour at the ceremony was H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania.



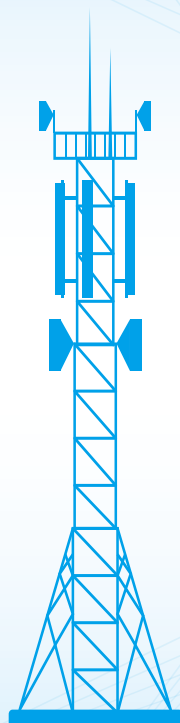
3.1 DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS BY MOBILE NETWORK OPERATOR

NO.	SERVICE PROVIDER	NUMBER OF TOWERS
1	AIRTEL 	169
2	VIETTEL 	34
3	HONORA (YAS) 	261
4	TTCL 	104
5	VODACOM 	190
TOTAL		758

4. PROJECT TO UPGRADE TOWER CAPACITY FROM 2G TO 2G/3G/4G

Through the Digital Tanzania Project, on 13 May 2023 service providers (mobile network companies) entered into contracts with the Government under which a total of 304 towers were planned for capacity upgrading. All 304 towers have already been upgraded from 2G to 2G/3G/4G, as shown in the table below;

NO.	SERVICE PROVIDER	NUMBER OF TOWERS	TOWERS COMPLETED
1	AIRTEL 	32	32
2	HONORA (YAS) 	148	148
3	TTCL 	55	55
4	VODACOM 	69	69
TOTAL		304	304



5. PROJECT TO DELIVER COMMUNICATION SERVICES TO VILLAGES – PHASE TEN (10)

The Government, through UCSAF, is continuing with the implementation of the project to construct 287 towers in 287 wards with the objective of delivering communication services to villages under Phase Ten (10). The official launch of the implementation of this project took place on 5/12/2025. The implementation period is 15 months and a total of TZS 29.0 billion has been allocated for the implementation of this project.

5.1 DISTRIBUTION OF TOWERS BY MOBILE NETWORK OPERATOR

NO.	SERVICE PROVIDER		NUMBER OF TOWERS
1	AIRTEL		137
2	HONORA (YAS)		37
3	TTCL		04
4	VODACOM		109
TOTAL			287

6. STRATEGIC PROJECT FOR DELIVERING COMMUNICATION SERVICES – PHASE 11

The Government, through UCSAF, has planned to implement the project for delivering mobile communication services (Phase 11) in the strategic areas of SGR/MGR, TAZARA, border areas, and National Park areas, where to date various steps have been undertaken, including;

- i. Collection of area information has been completed (Identification)
- ii. Analysis of the information has been completed (Analysis)
- iii. Verification of the areas has been completed (Verification)
- iv. The procurement process through NeST is ongoing.

Furthermore, through this project, a total of 280 towers are expected to be constructed in order to provide communication services in these strategic areas and to enable citizens to benefit from those services.



7. PROJECT TO EXPAND THE COVERAGE OF THE NATIONAL RADIO (TBC)

UCSAF has financed the construction of 11 radio broadcasting stations which have been completed and are providing TBC radio broadcasting services to citizens. A total of TZS 2.5 billion has been used. Furthermore, UCSAF is continuing with the implementation of the project to construct 21 stations which are at various stages of implementation.



8. COMMUNITY RADIO PROJECT

UCSAF is implementing a project to improve and establish various community radio stations, with the aim of ensuring that citizens receive accurate news and information about their respective communities in the areas where they live. Through this project, UCSAF has succeeded in providing radio broadcasting equipment (transmitters), improving studios, and constructing radio broadcasting towers.



9. POSTAL PROJECT

UCSAF has continued to support the efforts of Tanzania Posts Corporation (TPC) in improving the delivery of postal services through the procurement and distribution of various equipment used in providing postal services digitally and more conveniently. In the financial year 2024/25, UCSAF succeeded in distributing 50 PDAs, 30 computers, 7 laptops, 30 UPS units, and five (5) large document photocopying machines.

In the financial year 2025/26, UCSAF is continuing with implementation and expects to distribute 50 PDAs, 50 Digital Weighing Scales, 5 UPS units, 4 Heavy Duty Printing Machines, 7 Laptops, 7 Desktop PCs, and 5 Series Industrial Printers. Likewise, UCSAF is continuing to carry out a study on costing the provision of Universal Postal Services (UPS) for which TPC is entitled to be compensated by the Government. Furthermore, UCSAF has

collaborated with TPC to establish ICT centres (Telecentres) using TPC's District/Regional offices, where a total of 11 centres have been established in Tanzania Mainland.

10. PROJECT TO DELIVER ICT EQUIPMENT TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A total of 1,121 public schools have benefited from this project, including through the delivery of ICT equipment and the construction of laboratories. Furthermore, as at June 2025, the Government through UCSAF had invested a total of TZS 5.94 billion in the implementation of this project.

Currently, this project is at the feasibility study stage in order to identify the best implementation approaches that will ensure more effective and productive outcomes, alongside implementation in 50 schools (under the 2024/25 budget) and 196 schools (under the 2025/26 budget).



11. PROJECT TO DELIVER SPECIAL LEARNING EQUIPMENT TO SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Since the commencement of this project, UCSAF has to date succeeded in delivering various equipment to a total of 22 schools with students with special needs. That equipment includes;

- i. Braille Machines
- ii. Orbit Readers, laptop computers
- iii. Embossers (Braille printers)



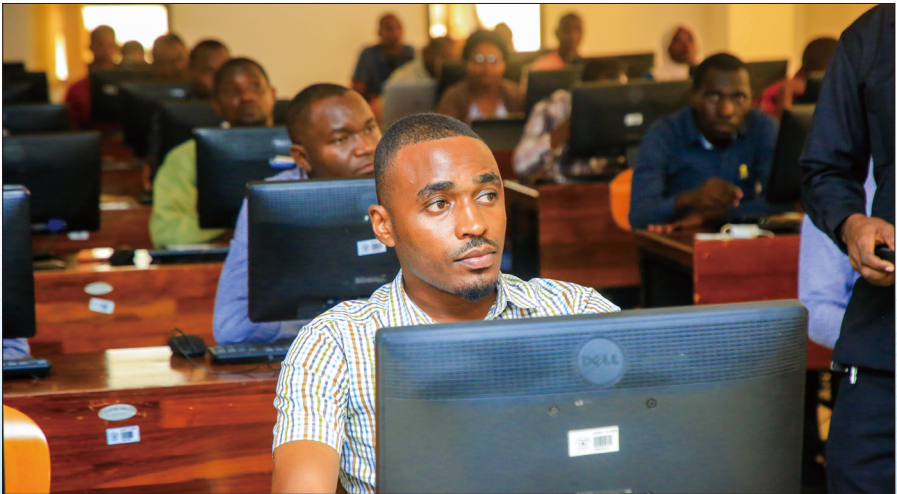
- iv. Digital voice recorders, and
- v. Magnifiers.

12. ICT TRAINING PROJECT FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

[UCSAF] has continued to finance ICT training for teachers of public primary and secondary schools in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar, where a total of 3,808 teachers have benefited from that training, which has been implemented every year since the financial year 2016/2017.

Furthermore, in the financial year 2025/2026, a total of 606 teachers have been provided with that training, comprising 100 teachers from Zanzibar and 506 teachers from Tanzania Mainland.

The purpose of that training is to increase teachers' skills and capacity to use, as well as to resolve challenges associated with, ICT equipment, in order to strengthen the use of technology in teaching and learning in schools.



13. ICT TRAINING PROJECT FOR GIRLS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

UCSAF has succeeded in building the capacity of 1,300 female students from public secondary schools through the commemoration of the International Girls in ICT Day, which is held every year in the month of April.

Through those commemorations, students are provided with training and encouragement on the use of ICT, digital innovation, as well as the various opportunities available in that sector. The main objective of this programme is to reduce the existing participation gap between girls and boys in the ICT sector, and to encourage girls to engage in studies and careers related to science, technology and communications. For the year 2025/26, UCSAF, in collaboration with TCRA, succeeded in providing ICT training to a total of 440 girls, including secondary, primary, college and pre-primary students and those with disabilities (PWD) at the centres of Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Mbeya and Zanzibar.



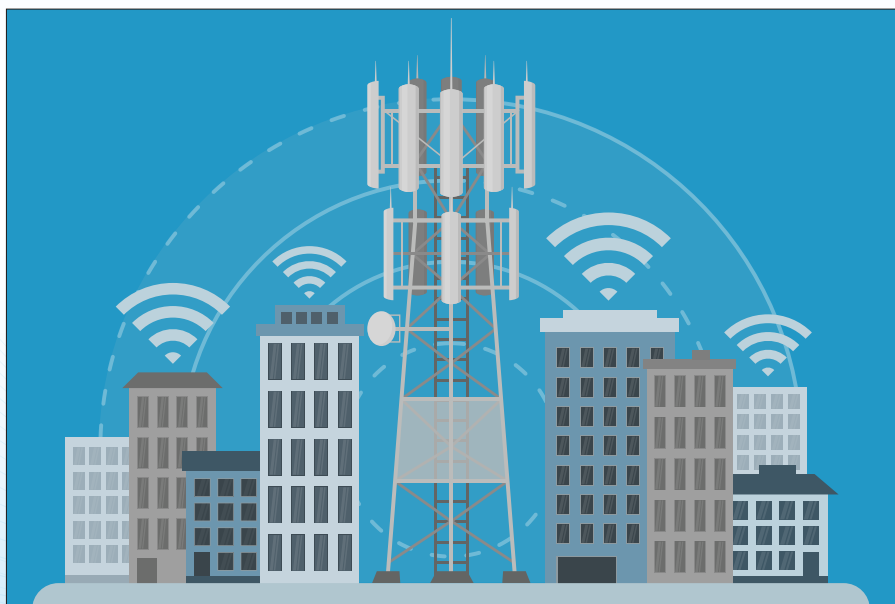
14. PROJECT TO PROVIDE FREE INTERNET SERVICES

UCSAF is implementing a project to provide free internet services in open public areas so that citizens can use internet services free of charge in those important areas which have many users. Through this project, 17 internet centres have been established at the Sabasaba International Trade Fair Grounds, Dar es Salaam. Furthermore, internet centres have been established in the following areas: Nyerere Square Grounds (Dodoma), College of Informatics CIVE (Dodoma), Nyamagana Market (Mwanza), Kiembesamaki (Zanzibar), Tabora Market (Tabora), and Lungemba Training College in Mafinga. However, for the financial year 2024/2025 UCSAF has implemented this project in 25 areas of the rapid transit bus stations

(BRT-DART), where the cost of the project is a total of TZS 500,000,000/=. Furthermore, for the financial year 2025/2026 the implementation of this project is ongoing in 60 areas of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

15. PROJECT TO CONNECT LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES TO FIBRE

UCSAF is implementing a project to connect Local Government Authority offices to the fibre optic backbone in order to ensure that reliable internet service is available in those offices. Currently, the identification of 10 areas has been fully completed. Furthermore, the procurement process is currently ongoing in order to obtain a contractor who will implement this project by connecting fibre as well as constructing the infrastructure to deliver that fibre to those areas.



16. PROJECT TO UPGRADE TOWER CAPACITY FROM 2G TO 3G AND 4G

The Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) is continuing with the implementation of the project to upgrade the capacity of 62 towers from 2G technology to 3G and/or 4G, with the aim of improving the availability of communication services and high-speed internet in various rural areas. In the implementation of that project, 37 towers are being

implemented by Vodacom, where implementation has been completed and the towers are providing high-speed internet services. Furthermore, 25 towers are being implemented by TTCL, and their implementation is currently at the preliminary procurement stages. This project aims to increase citizens' ability to access internet services of better quality, to enable the use of digital services, to stimulate social and economic activities, as well as to improve access to essential services such as e-learning, e-health, e-commerce and financial services through mobile phones.



17. CONCLUSION

In ensuring that it achieves various national, regional and international objectives, UCSAF will continue to carry out its responsibilities of delivering communication services in the country in all areas that are not commercially attractive, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology as well as various stakeholders, in order to stimulate the digital economy and fulfil Tanzania's digital ambition.

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