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An analysis of the nexus between youth urban mobility and COVID-19 trajectories for peace and development in Africa: Perspectives from Tanzania

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ABSTRACT

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019 posed prominent public policy concerns. It posed many unanswered questions, especially among the youth who require social protection in different contexts. The pandemic spread over 200 countries worldwide, infecting over 640 million individuals and resulting in the deaths of over 6.5 million people. However, the pandemic has a similar fundamental consequence, marked by widespread inequality across households and individuals. It is estimated that its consequences might be more detrimental, particularly among the youth in low-income families like Tanzania. The country received significant global attention for its COVID-19 response during the first year of the pandemic since it did not share pandemic statistics, implement lockdowns, and question vaccine efficacy while emphasizing traditional medicines. Despite the progress made, the ripple effects of the pandemic are still felt in the country and will probably remain for a long and drive policies for generations to come. Still, there is scanty information about how the youth have been affected by the pandemic, particularly in urban areas, and relatively little is known about the relationships between youth, urban mobility, and COVID-19 trajectories for peace and development in the country. This chapter uses Tanzania as a case study to assess the nexus between youth, urban mobility, and COVID-19 trajectories for African peace and development. The chapter relied on secondary data collected through a systematic review. Content analysis was applied to analyze the data. The chapter reveals several studies on youth and COVID-19 in Tanzania. Nevertheless, these studies are very few. Like other parts of Africa and the world over, COVID-19 has significantly impacted the youth in Tanzania. It also revealed determinants and challenges, like social, economic, health, mental, and learning effects, of urban youth mobility in the face of COVID-19. Since the COVID-19 pandemic has largely affected the lives of youth, this chapter provides relevant information that will prompt responsible authorities to adopt effective response measures for addressing the pandemic for enhanced peace and development in Tanzania and Africa.

Keywords: youth; urban mobility; COVID-19 trajectories; peace and development

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1. Introduction

It is widely documented that in Africa, young people make up a huge proportion of the population compared to other parts of the world. **Figure 1** shows the population of Africa by age group in 2021^[1]. The United Nations projects that by 2050 Africa's population will reach close to 2.5 billion; such a figure would mean that more than 25% of the world's population will be African^[2,3]. The African Union Youth Division estimates that young people below the age of 35 account for at least 65% of Africa's entire population. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Africa has the youngest population in the

world, with over 60% of its population under the age of 25. This demographic feature is expected to continue growing rapidly in the coming years, with projections that by 2050, Africa will have more than twice as many young people as any other region in the world.

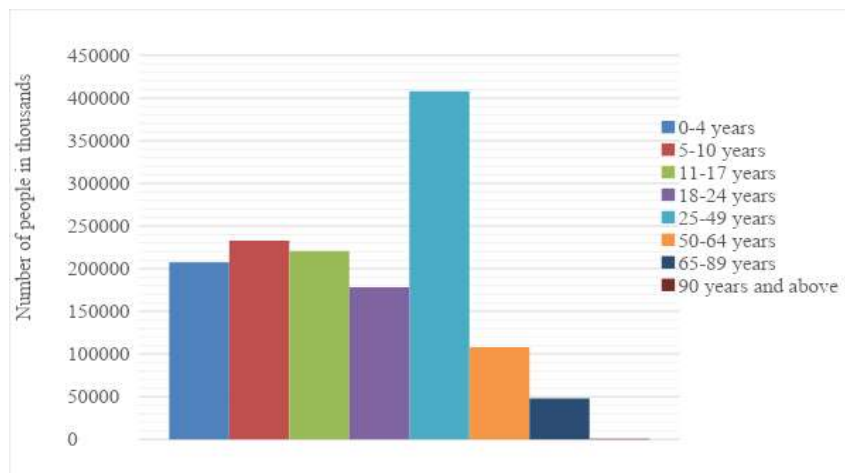


Figure 1. Africa's population by age group (2021).

Over the next three decades, the youth population in sub-Saharan Africa is anticipated to grow faster compared to other parts of the world. In the same period, the youth population in the region will increase by 522 million, while the rest of the world's youth population will decline by 220 million^[4]. Consequently, these trajectories pose opportunities and challenges to a sustainable peace and development agenda, especially in light of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in middle- and low-income countries like Tanzania.

Conversely, restrictions on movement in Tanzania presented many challenges and repercussions for the youth. Like other parts of the world, the disease raged throughout the nation and brought many repercussions. Reports from various sources indicate that there have been some cases and deaths related to COVID-19 in Tanzania. For example, in February 2021, Mumbu and Hugo^[5] reported that Tanzania had recorded 509 cases and 21 deaths from COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic. Since Tanzania initially downplayed the severity of COVID-19 and did not impose strict measures to curb its spread, there was a lack of awareness of the seriousness of the disease all over the country. However, due to global deaths and the ripple effects of the disease, Tanzania eventually acknowledged the seriousness of the disease and imposed some mobility restrictions and other preventive measures.

Considering the magnitude and associated implications of the pandemic, understanding the nexus between urban youth mobility and COVID-19 in Tanzania becomes imperative owing to the implications for peace and development in the African region. For instance, urban youth mobility is significant in spreading COVID-19 in Tanzania and other sub-Saharan Africa, increasing the risk of virus transmission within and across communities^[6]. Similarly, the COVID-19 pandemic has unquestionably exacerbated the existing social and economic inequalities in Tanzania, particularly affecting the youth. Therefore, understanding the nexus between urban youth mobility and COVID-19 can help identify ways to address these inequalities, promote social inclusion, and foster sustainable development.

COVID-19 has exacerbated the inequalities among the youth in Africa and Tanzania, particularly in mobility and migration, from movement across international borders down to movement within spaces of everyday life. The constraints interfered with the life-course opportunities of individual youth^[7]. The migration and mobility restrictions affected income-generating activities among the youth and increased the extent of poverty among the youth in Africa^[8]. The early restrictions were severe; millions were confined to their homes, institutions, or destinations. The closing of international borders altered many kinds of migration, including

labour migration, family-related migration, refugee migration, student migration, and amenity migration. Parkes et al.^[9] contended that such a situation severely affected the youth and caused inequalities among themselves because it interfered with the youth movement to find better jobs or schools, begin university, more easily manage work and family life, or give or get formal or informal care.

The restrictions were severe in other African countries, and other countries waived restrictions. This implies that some countries in the world enforced restrictions such as lockdowns that required people to stay and work at home, mobility, and migration and also provided statistics on the number of infections and deaths caused by COVID-19. In Africa, many countries abided by the conditions put forward by the World Health Organization (WHO) and continued giving statistics on the pandemic, while other countries, particularly Tanzania, ignored the need to implement restrictions and did not provide statistics for the infection.

Kenya is among the countries that implemented a lockdown and reported that 336,445 people were infected and 5668 coronavirus-related deaths since the pandemic began. In Uganda, 167,503 people were infected, and 3626 coronavirus-related deaths were reported. Rwanda recorded 10,316 cases and 133 COVID-19-related deaths reported, translating to a case fatality rate. Burundi has reported 43,060 infections and 15 coronavirus-related deaths in the country since the pandemic began. Sudan reported 9894 infection cases and 616 deaths. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, reported cases of coronavirus deaths were around 27,415. In South Africa, deaths related to coronavirus were estimated at 292.3 per 100,000 population, and in Nigeria, 188,880 infected and confirmed death cases of 2288 related to coronavirus. In Tanzania, a country in East Africa, infections and deaths related to the coronavirus were not reported, and lockdown measures for preventing the spread of the pandemic were not implemented. The study on lockdown measures in sub-Saharan Africa conducted in eight countries indicated that the implementation of lockdown measures was implemented, but in different designs, timings, and implementation^[10].

Although studies have shown the broader impact of the pandemic on youth mobility and employment in Africa, there is limited information on COVID-19 and youth mobility in Tanzania. The present study collects and reviews studies on urban youth mobility in Tanzania during the pandemic and discusses the nexus between restricted mobility and the COVID-19 trajectories in the country for peace and development in Africa from the perspective of Tanzania.

The structure of the study is that the theoretical framework is provided in Section 2, methods used in this analysis are provided in Section 3, and the review results and discussions are presented in Section 4 in terms of COVID-19 and the youth in Tanzania (Section 4.1), COVID-19 and urban youth mobility in Tanzania (Section 4.2), the determinants of urban youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories in Tanzania (Section 4.3), the nexus between urban youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories in Tanzania for peace and development (Section 4.4), the challenges of urban youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories in Tanzania for peace and development (Section 4.5), and the initiatives for rapid responses to urban youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories in Tanzania for peace and development (Section 4.6).

This chapter provides a relevant review of the nexus between urban youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories in Tanzania, which will prompt the responsible authorities to adopt effective response measures for addressing the pandemic for enhanced peace and development in Tanzania and other parts of Africa. This is especially important for Tanzania as a developing country whose peace, development, and prosperity can be jeopardized in the face of calamities such as the COVID-19 pandemic that hinder movement and interfere with economic activities and employment for youths, who form the majority of its population. Therefore, understanding the nexus between urban youth mobility and COVID-19 in the country is useful in identifying gaps and strategies for addressing inequalities arising from restricted youth mobility, ultimately promoting social inclusion and fostering sustainable development.

The following research questions were formulated to guide the search for the nexus between urban youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories for peace and development in Africa.

- 1) What is the situation of COVID-19 and youth in Tanzania?
- 2) How has COVID-19 affected urban youth mobility in Tanzania?
- 3) How do scholars suggest that youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories affect peace and development in Tanzania?
- 4) What are the challenges of urban youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories for peace and development in Tanzania?
- 5) What initiatives for rapid responses can be used for urban youth mobility given the COVID-19 trajectories for peace and development in Tanzania?

2. Literature review

2.1 The theoretical framework

The neutralization theory guides the study. Sykes and Matza^[11] explained how deviance from norms is justified and overcome. The theory comes into play when natural norms do not apply, considering the offender has the belief that they are justified in their actions, no matter if a law is broken or a victim has been violated in the process. The neutralization theory is a means for justifying wrongdoing or crimes and making their crimes acceptable. The World Health Organization made some rural areas restrict the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the restrictions were mobility and migrations, lockdown that required people to work at home, the closure of schools, and stopping production. However, some countries did not implement it, giving reasons that lockdown could have a more severe impact on people than the pandemic itself. The justification that more people could have died due to the lockdown is that most people get their daily bread through their movement from one place to another to find opportunities. This was the main deviation from the pandemic restrictions, particularly in Tanzania.

Further, other countries accepted the conditions made by the WHO and received funds, but the implementation was contrary to the agreement^[12]. According to Sykes and Matza^[11], the denial of responsibility and the denial of injury were applied in the COVID-19 pandemic. The study uses two techniques: the denial of responsibility and the denial of injury. Countries agreed that they had no choice but to confront people on mobility and migration, but only to default by letting them move to find opportunities for their survival.

2.2 Empirical literature review

This section reviews past and recent literature on the nexus between urban youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories for peace and development in Tanzania to show the perspectives in Africa. A search was mounted on Google Scholar and the Web of Science to review the relevant literature on the topic to identify the trends on the subject matter according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses guidelines^[13].

A total of 69 publications on the subject matter were retrieved and reviewed. Google Scholar and the Web of Science were chosen as the search engines for the required information on the nexus between COVID-19 and urban youth mobility for peace and development in Tanzania because the two can provide current and up-to-date publications on the subject matter. This is because COVID-19 and its associated problems, such as restricted movement, are the most recent occurrences. In general, there has been an increased number of studies on COVID-19 in Tanzania, but how many of these target the nexus between urban youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories remains an unanswered question, for which this section is going to uncover and discern how this can affect peace and development in the country.

The eligibility and exclusion criteria for the literature search are shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Eligibility and exclusion criteria for literature search for the chapter.

Eligibility criteria	Exclusion criteria
Studies reporting COVID-19 and urban youth mobility in Tanzania	Studies reporting COVID-19 and urban youth mobility in other African countries.
Youth aged 15–49 years	Study participants were less than 15 years or older than 49 years.
Studies in Tanzania	Studies not conducted in Tanzania.
Studies published in English	Studies not published in English.
Both quantitative and qualitative studies	N/A.

3. Methodology

This conceptual study reviews different studies to understand the effects of COVID-19 on the mobility and migration of the youth in Tanzania. The review is based on the formulated questions used to search relevant literature on the effects of the COVID-19 trajectory on youth mobility and migration. The keywords used in the literature search were COVID-19, urban mobility, peace and development, youth aged 15–49 years, and Tanzania.

4. Findings and emerging issues for discussion in the perspectives of Tanzania

This section is divided into six parts. Part 1 reviews the literature on COVID-19 and youth in Tanzania, while Part 2 presents COVID-19 and urban youth mobility in Tanzania. The determinants of urban youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories in Tanzania are presented, and the nexus between urban youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories in Tanzania for peace and development is discussed in Part 3. Finally, the challenges of urban youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories in Tanzania for peace and development are reviewed in Part 4, while the initiatives for rapid responses to urban youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories in Tanzania for peace and development are in Part 5.

4.1. COVID-19 and youth in Tanzania

Examples of studies that have assessed different aspects of COVID-19 and youth in Tanzania are shown in **Table 2**. Generally, there were few studies on COVID-19 and youth in Tanzania. However, several studies were found regarding particular aspects relating to youth and the pandemic. For instance, there were studies on youth's mental health or mental stress from the pandemic^[14–16]. Similarly, studies on youth and unemployment due to COVID-19 exist^[17,18] and youth and reproductive health during the pandemic^[19,20]. Several of these studies have striking methodological similarities, employing in-depth interviews and family case studies with different family members to establish qualitative and quantitative data on COVID-19 and youth in Tanzania.

Since Tanzania initially downplayed the severity of COVID-19 and did not impose strict measures to curb its spread, there was a lack of awareness of the seriousness of the disease all over the country, especially among the youth. According to a survey conducted by Elia^[21], 60% of youth in Tanzania believe that COVID-19 is not real and do not take any necessary precautions. However, due to the global deaths and the ripple effects of the disease, Tanzania eventually acknowledged the seriousness of the disease and imposed some mobility restrictions and other preventive measures in the country.

Like other parts of Africa and the world over, COVID-19 has significantly impacted the youth in Tanzania. According to Mwamwaja and Mlozi^[22], the pandemic has caused a decline in the educational attainment of young people in Tanzania. The study found that school closures and the shift to online learning have negatively affected access to education for many young people in Tanzania. Moreover, the pandemic has

led to an increase in unemployment among the youth in Tanzania. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO)^[18], the pandemic has caused a decline in economic activities, which has resulted in job losses for many young people in Tanzania. The report also indicates that the youth are disproportionately affected by the pandemic-related economic downturn, with many facing challenges in finding work or earning a living.

The pandemic has also significantly impacted the mental health of young people in Tanzania^[14-16]. For instance, Lin and Cui^[16] explored the impact of the pandemic on the mobility and well-being of youth in urban and rural areas of Tanzania. The study showed that the pandemic had also affected young people’s mental health and well-being, particularly those who had lost jobs or faced financial difficulties. According to Christie et al.^[15], the pandemic caused psychological distress among youth in Tanzania, with many experiencing anxiety, stress, and depression. This shows that the pandemic has had far and wide-reaching social and psychological impacts on the youth of Tanzania. Yet, mental health in youth needs attention for its impact because young people are the next generation^[23]. The control of the pandemic was widely achieved by restricted mobility in different parts of the world, Tanzania included. Assessing the determinants of urban mobility and COVID-19 trajectories in Tanzania is important. This is the focus of the next sub-section.

Table 2. Studies on COVID-19 and youth in Tanzania.

Title of study	References
The voices of children and youth in Tanzania’s COVID-19 response	[20]
Peace psychology for a peaceful world	[15]
An assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the tourism sector in Tanzania	[22]
I am not at peace’: COVID-19 impacts on the mental health of adolescents in Tanzania	[14]
Influence of credibility of sources of Covid-19 messages on handwashing behaviour among youth in Kinondoni District	[24]
Guiding the Focus of Research on Children and Young People’s Participation in the context of COVID-19	[25]
Learning from Resilience Strategies in Tanzania: An Outlook of International Development Challenges	[26]
Transport and mobility needs for an ageing society from a policy perspective: Review and implications	[16]

4.2 Determinants of urban youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories in Tanzania

During the COVID-19 pandemic, urban youth mobility in Tanzania was influenced by several factors. One of the main determinants was access to information and communication technology (ICT) devices such as smartphones and laptops, which enabled young people to access online platforms for communication and learning. Another factor was the limited availability of public transportation during lockdowns, reducing mobility for young people. Similarly, the financial capability of youths determined urban youth mobility in Tanzania.

One study conducted by Mwamwaja and Mlozi^[22] examined the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the travel behaviour of youth in Dar es Salaam. The study found that the pandemic had decreased mobility, particularly for young people who relied on public transportation. The authors also noted that the pandemic had highlighted existing inequalities in access to transportation, as youth from low-income households were more likely to face challenges in accessing transportation during the pandemic. Overall, these studies highlight the significant impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on youth mobility in Tanzania, particularly for young people who rely on public transportation and those who are from low-income households. As the pandemic continues, policymakers and stakeholders must prioritize young people’s needs and ensure they can access safe and affordable transportation options.

Various socio-economic factors, like income, education, and employment status, were important determinants of youth mobility during the pandemic. Those with higher income and education levels were more likely to have access to ICT devices and private transportation, which allowed for greater mobility, while those with lower income and education levels faced greater mobility challenges. Social norms and cultural

beliefs also influenced youth mobility during the pandemic. Despite government restrictions on gatherings, some young people continued to socialize in groups, particularly in informal settlements, due to the importance of social connections and cultural beliefs around socializing. For example, some youth in Tanzania continued to gather in groups despite government restrictions due to the importance of socializing and maintaining social connections.

Government policies and directives on COVID-19 have also shaped youth mobility patterns in Tanzania. According to Lin and Cui^[16], policies that restrict movement or limit access to transportation can significantly impact the mobility and well-being of young people, particularly those who rely on public transportation to access important services. Overall, the determinants of youth mobility during the COVID-19 pandemic in Tanzania highlight the need for policies and interventions that support young people from low-income households. Additionally, policies that take cultural beliefs and social norms into account are crucial to promoting adherence to COVID-19 restrictions and promoting public health^[27].

4.3 An overview of urban youth mobility and COVID-19 in Tanzania

The COVID-19 pandemic has had various effects on youth in Tanzania (**Table 3**), particularly among the urban youth in major cities such as Dar es Salaam. Like other parts of the world, restricted mobility was one of the approaches to reducing the spread of the pandemic^[28,29]. As expected, this has had a lot of repercussions on urban youth mobility. As the pandemic spread, many countries implemented measures such as lockdowns, curfews, and travel restrictions to curb the spread of the virus, and many young people have had to change their mobility patterns, particularly as it has affected their education and employment opportunities. As such, one of the most notable challenges in this regard is the youth’s vulnerabilities in the world of employment and the disruption of their education and training, hence the delayed transition into the labour market. According to a survey by the ILO^[18], the pandemic led to a significant reduction in the number of jobs available for young people in Tanzania, with many businesses closing down or reducing their workforce. In addition, the pandemic has led to a reduction in income for many young people in Tanzania. Restrictions on movement and business operations and decreased demand for goods and services have made it difficult for many young people to earn a living. As a result, many have had to rely on their savings or support from family members to survive.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the mobility of urban youth in Tanzania^[26]. The study established that many young people in Tanzania have had to alter their daily routines due to COVID-19, including changes in transportation and mobility patterns. The study recommended the need for policymakers to address the challenges young people face during the pandemic, including the need for safer transportation options.

Table 3. Effects of Restricted Urban Youth Mobility in Tanzania.

Effect	Description	References
Social effects	Disruption of social activities like lockdown, closure of bars and social joints, reduced socializing.	[26,28]
Economic effects	Disruption of economic activities, lack of employment, disruption of youth enterprises, and closure of businesses.	[18]
Health effects	Reduced health services access, closure of health facilities, reduced availability of contraceptives.	[19]
Mental effects	Anxiety, lack of peace, physiological distress.	[14,15]
Education/Learning effects	Lockdown, closure of schools.	[22,26,29]

One of the contributing factors to altered urban youth mobility during the pandemic was the closure of schools and universities to slow the spread of the virus^[26]. During the pandemic, many schools and universities in Tanzania were closed or switched to online learning, which has reduced the need for young people to commute to schools^[28]. While this had some positive impacts in terms of reducing the number of people

travelling to and from schools and universities that curtail the spread of the virus, it somehow limited opportunities for social interaction and learning, which could have long-term implications for young people's educational outcomes^[20]. Similarly, many young people who would have normally relied on school transportation or walked to school have had to find alternative travel methods, such as using public transport or relying on family members for rides. This has similarly impacted the mobility of young people in the country's urban centres in the face of the pandemic.

Restricted urban youth mobility during the pandemic has also had economic impacts, especially because many young people in Tanzania work in the informal sector, which was hit hard by the pandemic^[26]. With fewer job opportunities available, some young people have had to travel long distances to find work, which can increase their risk of exposure to the virus. Others have had to limit their mobility due to financial constraints, as they may be unable to afford transportation costs. With many businesses closing or scaling back operations, job opportunities have become scarce, particularly for young people, affecting their ability to access necessities such as food and shelter.

Additionally, the closure of social places like bars, clubs, and sports facilities has limited the opportunities for social interaction among urban youth. This has greatly impacted their mental health and well-being^[16], as many young people rely on social activities to relieve stress and stay connected with their peers. Muhia and Nanji^[23] have extensively reviewed the issues concerning youth mental health in the context of COVID-19 in the wider East and Southern Africa.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant and far-reaching impacts on urban youth mobility in Tanzania. This is because restrictions on mobility, disruption of social activities, and economic fallout have negatively affected young people in urban areas. Policymakers and stakeholders must consider the unique challenges urban youth face and work to address them as part of the broader response to the pandemic. The pandemic has had significant implications for young people's mobility in urban areas, affecting their ability to access education, employment, and other important services. These challenges are particularly acute in low-income areas, where young people may lack access to reliable transportation and other resources that can help them navigate the pandemic. At the same time, the pandemic has also exposed existing social and economic inequalities that limit young people's ability to adapt to the challenges posed by COVID-19. This is because young people from low-income households in Tanzania may not have access to the same resources and opportunities as their wealthier peers, which can exacerbate the challenges posed by the pandemic.

The implications of these challenges for COVID-19 trajectories in Tanzania are significant. Without access to education and employment opportunities, young people may be more likely to experience long-term economic and social impacts from the pandemic, which could exacerbate existing social and economic inequalities in the country. In addition, restrictions on civic and political activities during the pandemic can limit young people's ability to engage in meaningful participation in the democratic process, which can have implications for the country's long-term stability and development. The nexus between urban youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories in Tanzania also highlights the importance of understanding the social and cultural context in which young people live. For example, cultural norms and expectations around family responsibilities and gender roles can limit young people's mobility and access to resources during the pandemic. This is particularly true for young women, who may face additional challenges related to safety and security when navigating urban areas during the pandemic. In addition, the pandemic has highlighted the importance of digital connectivity and access to technology for young people. The ability to work and learn remotely has become critical during the pandemic, and young people who lack access to digital devices and reliable internet connections may face significant barriers to accessing education and employment opportunities. Addressing these challenges will require significant investments in digital infrastructure and expanding young people's access to technology.

Furthermore, the nexus between urban youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories in Tanzania raises important questions about the role of youth in shaping the country's future. The youth are an important demographic group in Tanzania, and their ability to navigate the challenges posed by the pandemic will have significant implications for the country's long-term stability, peace, and development. Policymakers and stakeholders must prioritize their needs and concerns during the pandemic to ensure that the youth can fully participate in the country's political, economic, and social development. Overall, the nexus between urban youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories in Tanzania is a complex and multifaceted issue requiring a comprehensive approach. By prioritizing investments in infrastructure and digital connectivity and addressing social and economic inequalities among the youth in the country, policymakers and stakeholders can help the youth adapt to the challenges posed by the pandemic and contribute to the country's long-term development and peace.

4.4. Challenges of urban youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories in Tanzania

The COVID-19 pandemic presented and continues to present unprecedented challenges concerning urban youth mobility in Tanzania, with far-reaching implications for peace and development. Here, we discuss the challenges of urban youth mobility in Tanzania during the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on peace and development. The most obvious challenge to urban youth mobility brought about by the pandemic is movement restrictions by the government on the people. The Tanzanian government imposed various restrictions on movement to curb the spread of COVID-19, which has made it difficult for urban youths to move around freely. These restrictions have affected their access to education, employment opportunities, and other services. The restrictions on movement and transportation during the pandemic can limit young people's ability to access education, employment, and other important services, impacting their economic and social well-being.

As in many other parts of the world, the closure of schools was one of the strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infections. However, the closure of schools can have far-reaching impacts and challenges, especially for developing countries like Tanzania. The closure of schools disrupted children's ability to learn and interact with others. Recently, Munishi^[30] established that the closure of schools and other institutions significantly impacted the mobility of urban youth in Tanzania. Another is the loss of employment opportunities due to the pandemic. Many businesses also closed down or reduced their operations, leading to job losses and reduced incomes for urban youth. This made it difficult for the youth to afford transportation and other mobility-related expenses. Losing employment opportunities can also increase poverty and social tensions, negatively affecting peace and development.

The challenges of urban youth mobility during the pandemic are particularly acute in areas with high levels of poverty and inequality^[6]. This is because young people from low-income settings may face significant barriers to mobility during the pandemic, which can exacerbate the existing social and economic inequalities. Overall, this can translate into significant implications for peace and development in Tanzania. Limited access to education and employment can increase the risk of social unrest and conflict, particularly among young people who are already marginalized. Similarly, limited mobility can limit young people's ability to engage in civic and political activities, affecting democracy and good governance. To address these challenges, policymakers and stakeholders need to prioritize the needs of urban youth during the pandemic. This may involve investing in transportation infrastructure, expanding access to remote work and learning opportunities, and ensuring that policies related to COVID-19 are inclusive of the needs of young people.

The challenges of urban youth mobility during the COVID-19 pandemic in Tanzania are not unique to the country. Similar challenges have been documented in other low- and middle-income countries around the world, where restrictions on movement and transportation have limited young people's access to education, employment, and other important services in other parts of Africa^[17,30]. However, the challenges young people

face in Tanzania are compounded by social and economic inequalities. Similarly, young people from low-income households may not have access to the same resources and opportunities as their wealthier peers, which can limit their ability to adapt to the challenges posed by the pandemic. In addition to economic challenges, the COVID-19 pandemic has had significant implications for social and political participation among urban youth in Tanzania. The restrictions on gatherings and public events can limit young people's ability to engage in civic and political activities, which can have implications for democracy and good governance in the country.

Consequently, the implications of these challenges for COVID-19 trajectories in Tanzania are significant. Without access to education and employment opportunities, young people may be more vulnerable to the economic and social impacts of the pandemic. This could exacerbate the country's existing social and economic inequalities, further marginalizing young people and limiting their ability to participate fully in their development.

4.5. Responses to urban youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories in Tanzania

Several initiatives have been fronted for a rapid response to urban youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories in Tanzania for peace and development in the country. These may involve investing in transportation infrastructure, expanding access to remote work and learning opportunities, and ensuring that policies related to COVID-19 are inclusive of the needs of young people. Others have offered financial support to help young people cope with the economic impacts of the virus^[26]. Efforts should also be made to address underlying social and economic inequalities that limit young people's ability to adapt to the challenges posed by the pandemic. Adebimpe et al.^[31] have recommended supporting vulnerable youth populations who are often disproportionately affected by the pandemic, especially those in urban areas where job losses occur and economic instability ensues from the pandemic.

Concerted efforts to facilitate volunteer platforms for youth to prevent the pandemic are similarly important. In other words, youth interventions toward the COVID-19 trajectories should merit support. Similarly, Tanzania can benefit from engaging with and supporting young volunteers who develop positive and impactful interventions. The state resources can help facilitate and scale up localized youth-led initiatives, and state databases and dissemination resources should help identify the existing gaps in urban youth mobility and greatly improve the delivery of service provisions during COVID-19. Efforts should be made to address underlying social and economic inequalities that limit young people's ability to adapt to the challenges posed by the pandemic. This could involve initiatives to promote youth entrepreneurship, improve access to healthcare and social support, and address discrimination and other forms of marginalization. Lastly, given the sometimes contentious relationship between governments and independent youth groups, state support of youth-led anti-COVID-19 work could serve as a way to build trust and collaboration between youth and government.

Scholars have emphasized the importance of social protection policies and programs for vulnerable youth populations in informal urban settings. According to Khan et al.^[32], social protection measures such as cash transfers and food subsidies can help mitigate the negative economic impacts of the pandemic and promote social stability. Finally, there is a need for governments and organizations to take a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach to address the challenges posed by COVID-19 and urban youth mobility. This could involve collaboration between government agencies, civil society organizations, and private sector actors and developing comprehensive, evidence-based policies and programs. Section 4.2 on the determinants of youth mobility during the COVID-19 pandemic in Tanzania highlighted the need for policies and interventions that address the digital divide, improve access to public transportation, and support young people from low-income households. However, the present assessment failed to establish any policy reviews regarding youth and urban

mobility in the last few years of the pandemic. Policymakers and stakeholders in Tanzania need to prioritize the needs of young people during the pandemic. Additionally, policies that take cultural beliefs and social norms into account are crucial to promoting adherence to COVID-19 restrictions and promoting public health.

5. Conclusions and recommendations

This chapter uses Tanzania as a case study to assess the nexus between youth, urban mobility, and COVID-19 trajectories for African peace and development. Like in other countries, the pandemic has significantly impacted youth mobility in Tanzania. As the world grapples with the ongoing effects of the virus and new COVID-19 trajectories, policymakers and stakeholders must prioritize young people's needs and ensure they have access to safe and affordable transportation options. Overall, the challenges of urban youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories in Tanzania are complex and multifaceted and require a coordinated and collaborative response from various stakeholders. The chapter has revealed that the pandemic has presented policymakers, development partners, and a range of state and non-state leadership and development stakeholders to reflect on our approaches, plans, and investments. This has been so with one sole purpose: putting youth at the centre. Opportunities are emerging as well. IT-related jobs, personal protection products, new global value chain models, and diverse services, such as new delivery services in Ghana, among others, hold promise. New skills, such as soft and digital skills, are now in demand more than ever, but there is a concern that this new demand will exacerbate existing vulnerabilities for different youth groups. By prioritizing the needs of young people, policymakers and stakeholders can help ensure that the pandemic does not have lasting negative effects on peace and development in the country. The nexus between urban youth mobility and COVID-19 trajectories in Tanzania highlights the need for a comprehensive, coordinated response that prioritizes the needs of young people. Similarly, there should be investments in Tanzania's young people to ensure that the country emerges from the pandemic stronger, more resilient, and more equitable.

Author contributions

Conceptualization, WM and LB; methodology, LB; software, LB; validation, WM and LB; formal analysis, LB; investigation, WM; resources, LB; data curation, LB; writing—original draft preparation, WM; writing—review and editing, LB; visualization, LB; supervision, WM; funding acquisition, WM. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have a conflict of interest.

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