

Country Profile: Tanzania

Tanzania has enjoyed virtually uninterrupted political stability and peace since independence in 1961 and union with Zanzibar in 1964.

HISTORY

Tanzania assumed its present form in 1964 after a merger between the mainland Tanganyika and the island of Zanzibar, which had become independent the previous year. Unlike many African countries, whose potential wealth contrasted with their actual poverty, Tanzania had few exportable minerals and a primitive agricultural system. To remedy this, its first President, Julius Nyerere, issued the 1967 Arusha Declaration, which called for self-reliance through the creation of cooperative farm villages and the nationalisation of factories, plantations, banks and private companies. But a decade later, Nyerere abandoned his policy of Ujamaa as it failed to boost agricultural output and the country became increasingly reliant on imports. Tanzania's economic woes were compounded in 1979 and 1981 by a costly military intervention to overthrow President Idi Amin of Uganda. After President Nyerere retired in 1985, his successor, Ali Hassan Mwinyi, attempted to raise productivity and attract foreign investment and loans by dismantling government control of the economy. This policy continued under Benjamin Mkapa, who was elected president in 1995.

RECENT SITUATION

The country has one of the greatest ranges of ethnic and religious diversity in the world (some 120 tribes) and manifests a tradition of strong ethnic and religious tolerance. Though it remains one of the poorest countries in the world, with many of its people living below the World Bank poverty line, it has had some success in wooing donors and investors. The economy has steadily grown and tourism is an important revenue earner. Tanzania's attractions include Africa's highest mountain, Kilimanjaro, and wildlife-rich national parks such as the Serengeti. The political union between Zanzibar and mainland Tanzania has weathered more than four decades of change. Zanzibar has its own parliament and president. Tanzania is an emerging, multiparty democracy. Elections have been held three times since 1995, and each has been dominated by the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party. Jakaya Kikwete is currently the President, having won an overwhelming victory under the CCM party in the country's third general election in 2005. Tanzania also plays a significant role in the Great Lakes peace process and has been home to refugees from Rwanda, Burundi and DRC.

FACTS

- **Full name:** United Republic of Tanzania
- **Population:** 40.4 Million (UN 2007)
- **Capital:** Dodoma (official), Dar es Salaam (commercial)
- **Area:** 945,087 sq km (364,900 sq miles)
- **Internet domain:** .tz
- **International dialling code:** +255
- **Major religion:** Christianity, Islam
- **Major languages:** English, Swahili (both official)
- **HDI value*¹:** 151. Tanzania (United Republic of) (0.530) [1. Norway (0.971)] (2009)
- **Human Poverty Index (HPI-1)*²:** 151. Tanzania (United Republic of) (30) [21. UK] (2007)
- **Life expectancy at birth (years) :** 52 (UNICEF 2007)
- **Probability of not surviving past 40 (%):** 36.2
- **Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births):** 116 (UNICEF 2007)
- **HIV prevalence (% aged 15-49):** 6.2 (2007)



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Education

- **Combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (%):**
 - **148. Tanzania (United Republic of) (50.4)** [1. Australia (113.0)] (2005)
- **Adult Literacy Rate: (% ages 15 and older): 72** (UNICEF 2007)

Economy and Trade

- **GDP per capita:** No. of people lived below the national poverty line. (PPP US\$):
 - **171. Tanzania (United Republic of) (744)** [1. Luxembourg (60,228)] (2005)
- **GNI Per Capita:** **US \$340** (World Bank, 2005)
- **Gini Coefficient *³:** **86. Tanzania (34.6)** [126. Denmark (24.7)] (2007)
 - **Smaller inequality ratio than the UK at 36.**
- **Monetary unit:** 1 Tanzanian shilling = 100 cents
- **Main exports:** Sisal, cloves, coffee, cotton, cashew nuts, minerals, tobacco
- **CO₂ emissions share of world total (%): 0.0 (2004)** [0.0 (1990)]

Water, sanitation and nutritional status

- **Population without access to an improved water source (%): 45** (UNICEF 2006)
- **Population using improved sanitation (%): 3** (UNICEF 2006) [47 (1990)]
- **Population Undernourished (% of total population): 44 (2002-2004)** 37 [(1990-1992)]

Politics

- **Government:** Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM)
- **President:** Jakaya Kikwete
- **Year Women received right to vote:** 1959
- **Internally displaced people (thousands, 2006): n/a**



*¹ The HDI provides a composite measure of three dimensions of human development: living a long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy), being educated (measured by adult literacy and enrolment at the primary, secondary and tertiary level) and having a decent standard of living (measured by purchasing power parity, PPP, income).

*² The Human Poverty Index for developing countries (HPI-1), focuses on the proportion of people below a threshold level in the same dimensions of human development as the HDI.

*³ The **Gini coefficient** is most prominently used as a measure of inequality of wealth distribution. A value of 0 represents absolute equality, and a value of 100 absolute inequality.

*⁴ Rankings are out of a total of 177.