

COUNTRY PROFILE Republic of Tanzania

Tanganyika achieved independence from British rule in the early 1960s and later merged with Zanzibar in 1964 to form present day Tanzania. The country's first President, Julius Nyerere promoted self-reliance and equality through socialist schemes such as cooperative farm villages. Holding multiparty elections for the first time in 1995, the majority of the population continue to live below the poverty line. Tanzania provided the liberation movements of South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe with bases during the struggles for democracy. It was a frontline state in the struggle against apartheid. It was a founding member of what was SADCC which became SADC – Southern Africa Development Community. It is also a member of the East African Community with Kenya and Uganda. Although Tanzania is geographically in East Africa, politically it is also in southern Africa.

SUMMARY FACTS

Population: 43,739,000, UK: 61,838,154 (UNICEF, 2009)	Adult Literacy Rate: 73% ages 15 and older, UK: >99% (World Bank 2009)
Capital: Dodoma; Dar es Salaam (commercial capital).	GDP per capita: US\$503, UK: \$35,165 (World Bank, 2009)
Area: 945,203 sq km (364,898 sq miles), UK: 243,610 sq km (94,060 sq miles)	UN Human Development Index Rank (UN HDI 2010): 148/169
Major languages: Swahili and English official languages. Many other tribal languages including Sukuma, Gogo, Haya, Kwere, Makonde, Mambwe, and Nyamwezi.	UN HDI Value (2010): 0.398
Major religions: Christianity & Islam	Monetary unit: Tanzanian Shilling
Life expectancy at birth: 56 years (UN, 2009), UK: 80 years	Main exports: Coffee, Tea, Tanzanite, Flowers, Cashews, Cloves
Under-five mortality rate: 188 per 1,000 live births, UK: 4 per 1,000 live births (UN, 2009)	CO2 emissions share of world total: less than 1%, UK: > 2%
HIV prevalence: 6% aged 15-49, UK: 0.2 % aged 15-49 (World Bank, 2009)	Population without access to an improved water source: 46%, UK: 100% (UN, 2008)
	Population using improved sanitation: 24%, UK: 100% (UN, 2008)
	Government: Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM)
	President: Jakaya Kikwete
	Year women received right to vote: 1959, UK: 1918, 1928 (equal rights)



Sources: UNICEF 2009, UN 2009, World Bank 2009.

History

The oldest evidence of human presence in Tanzania, and possibly in the world, was found at Olduvai Gorge close to the border with Kenya. Footprints dated to 3.6 million years ago were found by archaeologist Mary Leakey in **1978**. The first Europeans to visit and then trade in the area were the Portuguese in the 15th Century, who were later driven out by Omani Arabs. Omani Sultan Seyyid Said named Zanzibar Town as his capital in **1840**. During this time, Zanzibar became the centre for the Arab slave trade with approximately 50,000 slaves passing through Zanzibar each year.

Germany claimed Tanganyika as a colony in **1885** much to the concern of the British. They had established informal rule over Zanzibar through control of the Sultan of Zanzibar and were keen to spread their influence on the mainland. In late **1886**, East Africa was sliced into 'spheres of influence' by agreement between the British and the Germans, formalised in **1890**. The British took over the administration of the territory of Tanganyika following **World War I** under the auspices of first the League of Nations then the Trusteeship Council of the UN.

In **1953**, the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU) was formed, led by Julius Nyerere. Its objective became national liberation and in **1961** Tanganyika received its independence. Tanganyikans embraced independence with optimism for the future; however the British trustees had made little effort to prepare the territory for statehood.

Nyerere became President and between **1964** and **1995**, the country was under domination of one party political rule which was fostering "Ujamaa", the African socialist orientation of the country. In **1962**, Nyerere published 'Ujamaa [family hood]: The Basis of African Socialism'. In it he set out his belief that the personal accumulation of wealth in the face of widespread poverty was anti-social. Africa should strive to create a society based on mutual assistance and economic as well as political equality, such as he claimed had existed for centuries before European colonisation. The Arusha Declaration outlined this approach and the government vowed to reduce its dependence on foreign aid and instead foster self-reliance. The government strove to provide free education for every child. School children were taught to identify themselves as proud Tanzanians with a shared language, Swahili, rather than just members of a particular ethnic group.

Tanzania's relations with its major donors (Britain & USA) soured over political issues in the **1960s**. These issues were, namely, Nyerere's outrage at Britain's acceptance of the Unilateral Declaration of Independence of white-ruled Rhodesia and the American role in the civil war in Congo.

In **1964** Zanzibar and Tanganyika formed the Republic of Tanzania. In the **1970s** Tanzania aligned with communist China to seek aid. The Chinese were quick to comply, but with conditions that all projects be completed by imported Chinese labour.

Throughout the **1960s** to **1980s**, Nyerere asserted the autonomy of 'Third World' states, and pressed for a fairer global economic structure. Nyerere's government was also a vocal advocate for the liberation of southern Africa from white minority rule. Nyerere told the UN General Assembly in **1961**. 'We who are free have absolutely no right to sit comfortably and counsel patience to those who do not yet enjoy their freedom.' From **1963**, Tanzania provided a base for the South African, Zimbabwean and Mozambican liberation movements within its territory.

In **1978** Ugandan dictator Idi Amin ordered his soldiers to invade Tanzania, looting villages along the Kagera River thought to harbour Ugandan rebels. The Tanzanian Government responded with a force of 20,000 Tanzanian soldiers, who joined with Ugandans to topple Amin and restore Milton Obote to power.

In the early **1980s** economic conditions continued to deteriorate and dissension grew within the government. In **1985**, Nyerere resigned and in **1986**, the Tanzanian Government submitted to the IMF terms for structural adjustment of the economic system. The civil service was cut by over a third and tariffs put up to protect local producers from cheap imports were flattened in accordance with free trade. This had a devastating effect on the economy and increased the amount of people below the poverty line.

Part of the structural adjustment aid program included the re-introduction of multiparty democracy in **1992** and in the first multiparty elections in **1995** Benjamin Mkapa was elected President. Following Nyerere's death in **1999**, Mkapa was elected for a second term the following year. In elections in December **2005**, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete was elected president with 80% of the popular vote. In November of 2010, Kikwete was re-elected, this time with a smaller margin yet still got over 61% of the vote. Whilst the EU had some reservations over the delay in announcing results and the aggregation process, the UN generally regarded the vote as free and fair. Opposition parties, however, called for a recount and claimed there were numerous incidents of fraud.

Population

Tanzania's population stands at 43,739,000 in 2009. The population annual growth rate 1990-2007 was 2.7 %, which is a reduction of 0.4% from the period 1970-1990. Approximately half the population is under 18 years of age. The country has an incredibly diverse population with 120 tribes with different cultures and traditions. The Sukuma, Haya, Nyakyusa, Nyamwezi, and Chagga have more than 1 million members. Each tribe has its own language although most people speak fluent or some Swahili due to Nyerere's 'Ujamaa' philosophy.

Christianity is the dominant religion on the mainland. Islam is more widely practiced towards the coast and especially in Zanzibar. The rest of the population adhere to traditional beliefs, most of which centre around ancestor worship and nature-based animism.

Politics

Tanzania's President and National Assembly members are elected by direct popular vote for five-year terms. The President appoints the Prime Minister who serves as the Government's leader in the National Assembly. The President selects his cabinet from among National Assembly members.

Tanzania is regarded as a one-party dominant state with the Chama Cha Mapinduzi in power. Opposition parties are widely considered to have no real chance of gaining power. Zanzibar's House of Representatives can make laws for Zanzibar without the approval of the Union Government as long as it does not involve union-designated matters. The semi-autonomous relationship between Zanzibar and the union is a unique system of government.

Economy

The economy is mostly based on agriculture, which accounts for more than half of the GDP, provides 85% of exports, and employs approximately 80% of the

workforce. Topography and climatic conditions, however, limit cultivated crops to only 4% of the land area. Tanzania's main import commodities are consumer goods, machinery and transportation equipment and raw materials. Its main import partners are South Africa, China, India, Kenya, Zambia and the UK.

Tanzania has many National Parks such as the world famous Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, that generate income for the large tourism sector that plays a vital part in the economy. Recent public sector and banking reforms, and new legislative frameworks have all helped increase private-sector growth and investment.

Prolonged drought during the dry seasons in the last 10 years has severely reduced electricity generation (60% of Tanzania's electricity supplies are generated by hydro-electric schemes). Tanzania is part of the East African Community and a potential member of the planned East African Federation

Civil Society & Trade Unions

The trade unions of Tanzania have a total membership of approximately 370,000. 350,000 of these belong to the Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA), another 15,000 to the Zanzibar Trade Union Congress, and 2,400 are members of the Tanzania Fishing Crew and Allied Workers' Union.

During colonial rule, the Tanganyika Federation of Labour collaborated with the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU), in its fight for the nation's independence. In 2000, the Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA) was founded as a new umbrella organisation for the unions of the country. The TUCTA covers the mainland while the Zanzibar Trade Union Congress is responsible for Zanzibar. The TUCTA is affiliated with the International Trade Union Confederation.

Tanzania has ratified all eight International Labour Organisation (ILO) core labour conventions, however, the ILO argues that there is 'a lack of practical enforcement, and as a result violations of basic human rights of workers take place continuously throughout the country'.

Tanzania is a founding member of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). SADC was preceded by the South African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC). In the late 1970s, early 1980s, the Frontline States (FLS) emerged in opposition to Apartheid-era South Africa. Due to its stance against apartheid South Africa and racist-Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and its willingness to offer refuge to those fleeing from those regimes Tanzania was in a group of southern African nations termed "front line states."

Tanzania is also a member of the proposed East Africa Federation. This is a development from the East African Community and aims to federalise the five member states (Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania) into one single state of the African Union. The East African Federation may come into existence in 2013.

Tanzania is the only country to be a member of both the East Africa grouping and the southern Africa grouping.

Aid and Development

The UK aid budget for Tanzania is £150m in 2011/12; £160m in 2012/13; £165m 2013/14; £168m 2014/15

Achievements

1. Peace & relative democracy – While a number of Sub-Saharan countries experienced civil unrest after independence, Tanzania remained peaceful, possibly due to President Nyerere's demands for national unity and good relations between the 120 tribes.
2. Women in Government - The Government has taken positive steps towards including women in decision making. The Parliament passed a Bill in 2000 to increase the allocation of seats for women. In the local Government councils women are assured of 33% of seats, while in the Union Parliament women are assured 20% of the seats. Women currently hold 31% of seats in the national parliament.¹
3. Primary School Enrolment – The net primary school enrolment ratio for 2000-2007 is high with males and females entering school at an equal rate. Unfortunately, only 40% of males progress to secondary school and 32% of females do the same.
4. Mobile phone use – The number of people using mobile phones has increased dramatically in the last 10 years, with more people and businesses using them to increase their income and efficiency. In 2006 out of every 100 people 15 had a mobile phone; this has probably doubled since then.

. Development Challenges

1. Lack of improved water sources – There has been a decline in the use of improved sources in all areas. In 2008 only 54% of the population had access to safe drinking water.
2. Climate Change – The number of extreme weather events and especially droughts in Tanzania has increased considerably in the last 10 years due to climatic change. These have a massive affect on the agricultural potential for small subsistence farmers and for the larger, industrial flower growers. With 60% of Tanzania's electricity supplies generated by hydro-electric schemes, there may be considerably more cuts in the power supply in urban areas and little enthusiasm for the expansion of the electricity grid into rural areas.
3. Meeting the Millennium Development Goals - Tanzania is on track to achieving the MDGs related to primary education and child mortality, yet is in danger of failing to meet those the majority of the other MDGs. It looks increasingly unlikely it will achieve targets related to poverty, hunger, maternal health and environmental sustainability.² This is in addition to spread of HIV/AIDS in the country. According to the Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA), the spread of HIV/AIDS is the single most impoverishing force facing people and households in Tanzania today and if not halted then reversed, threatens the achievement of the MDGs. Recent statistics and information show that it is unlikely that Tanzania will reduce extreme poverty by 2015.
4. Education – Student enrolment is high, due to the governments' school building programme. However these new developments have not been combined with increased teachers or better resources. This means the amount of students leaving primary and secondary school with good qualifications is very low.

¹ World Bank, 2010. <http://data.worldbank.org/country/tanzania>

² Centre for Global Development MDG progress index 2011.
http://www.cgdev.org/section/topics/poverty/mdg_scorecards

For more information on Tanzania, visit the following websites:

- Civil society DataBase - www.tanzaniagateway.org/civilsociety/
- National website for the Republic of Tanzania <http://www.tanzania.go.tz/>
- The Foundation for Civil Society, Tanzania www.thefoundation.or.tz/
- Association of Tanzania Employers <http://www.ate.or.tz/>
- Tanzania Tourist Board <http://tanzaniatouristboard.com/>