

TANZANIA COUNTRY PROFILE

Capital: Dodoma/Dar es Salaam (Dodoma is the political capital and Dar, the business capital).



Quick Facts

Population: 37,445,392
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity): \$27.07 billion
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity): \$700
GDP composition by sector:
 Agriculture: 43.2%
 Industry: 17.2%
 Services: 39.6%
Size of labor force: 19.22 million
Labor force: by occupation:
 Agriculture: 80%
 Industry and Services: 20%
Unemployment Rate: NA
Population below poverty line (\$2/day): 36%
Life expectancy at birth: 45.64 years
HIV/AIDS – adult prevalence rate: 8.8%
Adult Literacy Rate (age 15 and over):
 Male: 85.9%
 Female: 70.7%

For more information: <http://cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/tz.html>

Political History

Tanganyika was a German colony from 1880s to 1919, when it became a British Trust territory. It remained under British control until 1961. Julius Nyerere became minister of British-ruled Tanganyika and went on to become the Prime Minister upon independence from Britain in 1961. In 1963, Tanganyika joined with the newly independent island of Zanzibar and created the United Nation of Tanzania. Nyerere ruled under his famous system of African Socialism called Ujamaa. This system was set up for justice and equality for all, but led to a disastrous economy and a country that faced food shortages. In 1979, Nyerere responded to

Uganda's president Idi Amin's threat to annex the Northern Tanzanian province of Kagera by declaring war on Uganda. Nyerere enlisted the Tanzanian armed forces, Ugandan exiles, and Rwandan Guerrilla fighters to complete the job. On April 11, 1979, Amin was forced out of Kampala and into exile for the remainder of his life. In 1985 Nyerere handed power to Ali Hassan Mwinyi. In October of 1995, Tanzania had its first ever multi-party democratic elections and Benjamin Mkapa was elected into office. In December of 2005, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete became the fourth elected president of Tanzania.

For more information: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanzania>

The Economy

Tanzania is one of the poorest countries in the world. Even with its poor climate, nearly 50% of its GDP comes from the Agricultural sector, along with 80% of the jobs and 85% of exports. The World Bank and IMF have both worked with Tanzania to re-build the infrastructure in order to stimulate the economy. Recent banking reforms have helped increase private-sector growth and investment. Continued donor assistance and solid macroeconomic policies supported real GDP growth of more than 6% in 2005. The primary agricultural products in Tanzania are coffee, sisal, tea, cotton, pyrethrum (insecticide made from chrysanthemums), cashew nuts, tobacco, cloves, corn, wheat, cassava (tapioca), bananas, fruits, vegetables; cattle, sheep, and goats. The primary industries are agricultural processing (sugar, beer, cigarettes, sisal twine); diamond, gold, and iron mining, salt, soda ash; cement, oil refining, shoes, apparel, wood products, and fertilizer. With India, Spain, and South Africa as its major trading partners, Tanzania exported goods worth \$1.581 billion in 2005 and imported goods worth \$2.391 billion.

Advocacy Issues

It has been the tradition in of many people groups in Tanzania to evict widows from their matrimonial homes after husbands die. This practice has over the years been accepted even within Churches as Church leaders and members talk of "our culture, our tradition". CRWRC got involved in addressing this problem about 6 years ago when a counter part Church worker died and after a couple of weeks his widow was thrown out of her matrimonial home and denied any land rights from her departed husband. Efforts to bring justice to this widow hit a hard rock when the highest Church leader in authority told me "you do not understand our traditions and customs". Armed with a Bible, I told this Church leader that I thought, "as Christians, I thought our Culture was all in the Bible".

This issue was brought to the country team meeting. Participants from different regions and people groups shared of the same tradition and together we made action plans that would lead to our partners addressing this injustice against widows and their children.

Justice education seminars were planned and implementation started. For a few years, the main reference for caring for widows and children was the Holy Bible. Eventually some Church leaders started preaching on caring for, rather than evicting widows. We went a step further to seek out any documented laws on land inheritance and we have translated, reproduced and shared with Churches. These laws seem to contradict each other in some parts, and in such areas, we lean more on the Bible. (Exo. 22:22-24). In many areas within the

Churches with whom we implement the justice education program, many community people seek help from Churches and many widows have been helped retain their matrimonial homes through this program.

We have plans to continue with this program with our Church partners. Even with people who have become Church leaders, there is a big pull between “our tradition, our culture” and “living the Christian culture”.