

Ireland's Partner Countries

Factsheet



Tanzania

Tanzania is over ten times the size of Ireland and is one of the largest countries in East Africa. It is bordered by Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique. The country's eastern border lies on the Indian Ocean.

Tanzania is home to many large and ecologically important wildlife parks such as the Serengeti National Park and to Africa's highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro. It is bordered by three of the largest lakes on the continent. Its climate varies from tropical along the coast to more temperate in the highlands.

In 1961, Tanganyika gained its independence from Britain and in 1964 merged with the British protectorate of Zanzibar to form the United Republic of Tanzania. Since independence, it has been a stable and peaceful country with one-party rule until its first multi-party elections in 1995.

The first President (and Prime Minister) Julius Nyerere, who died in 1999, is still revered as the founding father or teacher (Mwalimu) of the nation. Tanzania is an emerging multiparty democracy, and has held elections since 1995. The ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi party has won all elections to date.

Development in Tanzania

Tanzania has seen strong economic growth since 2000, with annual GDP increases of between 5 and 7 per cent each year. It has made some good progress towards achieving the MDG targets, particularly in education, under-five and infant mortality, declining HIV prevalence and environmental sustainability. The country has benefitted from its stability and has been successful in attracting donors and investors.

However, Tanzania is also one of the world's poorest countries, with income levels among the lowest in Africa. Life expectancy remains low at just 57 years, and high poverty levels remain, especially in rural areas, where 80 per cent of the population lives. Additionally over 6 per cent of the adult population is infected with HIV.

The economy depends heavily on agriculture, which accounts for more than 40 per cent of GDP, provides 85 per cent of exports, and employs the majority of the work force. However, climatic conditions and topography mean that only about 4 per cent of the land can be used for cultivation. Tourism, which builds on the country's natural attractions, is an important source of revenue for Tanzania.

Irish Aid's poverty reduction work in Tanzania

Tanzania has been a partner country of Irish Aid since 1975. In 2010, Irish Aid's bilateral support to Tanzania was over €36 million.

A key focus of Irish Aid's work is its support for the Tanzanian Government's *Agricultural Sector Development Programme*. A recent review of the Programme showed notable achievements in productivity, farm incomes, access to technologies and household food security. The proportion of smallholder farming households using improved seeds has increased from 18 per cent in 2003 to 24 per cent in 2008, and land under irrigation has increased by over 40 per cent since 2006.

The Irish Aid programme also works for improvements in the areas of governance and health. Irish Aid supports the local government reform process and a local government capital development grant system. With other donors, Ireland provides technical and policy support for the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to strengthen health services at district and village level, as well as providing support to civil society organizations in the area of health.

Comparison table

Source: UNDP, 2011 ¹	Ireland	Tanzania
UNDP Human Development Index Rank (of 187 countries)	7	152
Population	4.5 million	46.2 million
GNI (Gross National Income) per capita	US \$29,332	US \$1,328
Life expectancy from birth	80 years	58 years
Number of doctors per 100,00 people²	310	< 5
HIV prevalence³ (15-49 years)	0.2%	6.2%

¹UNDP Human Development Report 2011 (November 2011)

²UNDP Human Development Report 2010 (November 2010)

³UNDP Human Development Report 2010 (November 2010)

Facts about Tanzania Did you know...?

Full name:	United Republic of Tanzania
Head of State:	President Jakaya Kikwete
Capital:	Dodoma (official), Dar es Salaam (commercial)
Area:	945,087 sq km
Major languages:	Swahili (official), English (official), Arabic (in Zanzibar)
Major religions:	Christianity, Islam, traditional beliefs
Monetary unit:	Tanzanian shilling
Main exports:	Gold, coffee, sisal, cashew nuts, cotton, minerals

Find out more

www.irishaid.ie - Learn more here about Irish Aid's work in Tanzania

www.tz.undp.org - the United Nations Development Programme in Tanzania

www.concern.net and www.trocaire.org

- Both Concern and Trocaire work in Tanzania and have background information about the country on their websites



Irish Aid

An Roinn Gnóthai Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Irish Aid is the Government's programme of assistance to developing countries, and is administered through the Development Cooperation Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

You can visit the

**Irish Aid Volunteering and Information Centre,
27 - 31 Upper O'Connell Street,
Dublin 1.**

Phone number: 01 854 69 20

Organised visits to the Centre, including workshops, are available for school and college groups by arrangement.

 www.irishaid.gov.ie