



Diaspora engagement mapping TANZANIA

Facts & figures

Terminology: Tanzania refers to its diaspora as 'Tanzanians abroad'. The term diaspora is also used.

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections
for citizens residing abroad²



Remittances



Remittances as a share of GDP: **0.92%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **758.81**

Voting from abroad:

By post or in person at consulates/embassies



Data disclaimer

As diaspora definitions vary widely, we have chosen to use comparable data on emigration as a proxy. This does not include all who consider themselves diaspora and is not necessarily aligned with national definitions of diaspora. Emigration data comes from UNDESA (2024) and remittances from the [World Bank](#) (2023).

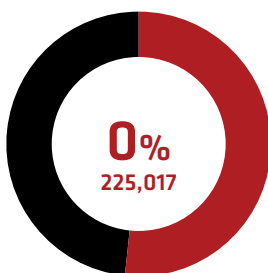
Emigration



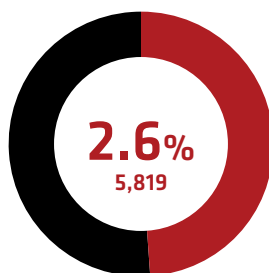
% of emigrants in
total population



% of which
in the EU



♂ 51.75%
♀ 48.25%



♂ 49%
♀ 51%

Top countries of destination



Rwanda	42,664
Burundi	37,409
Kenya	32,860
Uganda	22,790
Canada	21,068

¹ The 1995 Tanzania Nationality Act defines Tanzanian citizenship by birth and by descent, although it does not recognise dual citizenship - Full text. See also [Citizenship Law in Africa - A Comparative Study](#), OSF

² See [Voting from Abroad - the International IDEA Handbook](#)

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



1998 ● **Tanzania Development Vision 2025** puts an emphasis on mainstreaming the diaspora into national development and enhancing the capacity of the Diaspora Department to help strengthen the government's communication, outreach, and collection of information from its diaspora.³

2014 ● **Draft Diaspora Policy 2014** A draft diaspora policy was developed in 2014 as an evolution of the National Diaspora Engagement Strategic Policy Framework (NDESPF) (See Trends section) after a lengthy consultation process. According to an announcement made at the country's 6th Diaspora Forum in December 2019, the finalised policy was due to be submitted to the cabinet for approval in May 2020. A key feature of this policy includes the passing of a law recognising all Tanzanians living abroad regardless of whether they have taken up citizenship in their country of residence.⁴ The drafting and consultation process has undergone multiple iterations, and Zanzibar published its own diaspora policy in June 2020. In April 2022 President Samia Suluhu Hassan has said the government is putting final touches on drafting a policy for Tanzanians in the Diaspora.⁵

2020 ● **Zanzibar Diaspora Affairs Act** defines the Zanzibari diaspora as someone who is affiliated with, and has allegiance to, Zanzibar; it gives the Zanzibari diaspora the right to obtain a Zanzibar identity card and other privileges, included exemption from needing a work permit, multiple entry long-term visas, and the right to long stays in the country. It also establishes a Diaspora Register, which is to serve as a diaspora expert database.



Trends and achievements

Prior to 2010, Tanzanian migration and development policy focused on boosting remittances and investments, an approach that was criticised for failing to fully leverage the full potential of diaspora skills and knowledge.⁶

In recognition of their significant potential contribution to national development, in 2010 the Government decided to undertake the development of a National Diaspora Engagement Strategic Policy Framework (NDESPF) with World Bank support, and to establish a Diaspora Engagement and Opportunities Department within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFAIC).⁷ In 2011, a draft National Diaspora Framework (NDF), developed with support from IOM, aimed to create a conducive environment to engage the Tanzanian Diaspora to effectively contribute to the country's development.⁸

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation in Tanzania continues to undertake awareness-raising activities through television, radio, print media, annual diaspora conventions, and diaspora stakeholder meetings to share information and hear the views of the public on the issue of diaspora. This level of activity has led to increased public debate about diaspora participation in the economic and political life of the country.¹⁶ The Ministry's website also includes a 'diaspora news' section.⁹

3 Harold L.M. Utouh and Darlene K. Mutalemwa (2015), 'Engaging the Tanzanian Diaspora in National Development: What Do We Know and What are the Gaps?' in *African Journal of Economic Review*, Volume III, Issue I.

4 <https://www.ippmedia.com/en/news/diaspora-law-be-place-may-2020-dr-shein>

5 <https://allafrica.com/stories/202204260630.html>

6 Peter Hansen (2012), Revisiting the Remittance Mantra: A Study of Migration-Development Policy Formation in Tanzania, *International Migration Vol. 50:3*

7 <https://www.foreign.go.tz/index.php/services/diaspora-engagement-and-opportunities>;

8 https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1486/files/migrated_files/Country/docs/Migration-for-Development-flyer.pdf?v=1362363401000?v=1362363401000

9 <https://www.foreign.go.tz/index.php/resources/category/diaspora-news>

The government organises an annual Tanzania Diaspora Conference to bring together diaspora representatives from around the world and discuss how the diaspora can best contribute to national development. Diaspora organisations are active in supporting development in Tanzania, especially in the health sector.

The Tanzanian government has also expressed an interest in working with diaspora organisations to promote greater investment and tourism in Tanzania, specifically diaspora and heritage tourism.

In 2024, the Tanzanian government proposed landmark amendments to the Immigration and Land Acts, introducing a special legal status for the non-citizen Tanzanian diaspora. The reforms will allow eligible members of the diaspora to obtain a “Diaspora Tanzanite Card” granting them rights to enter, stay in, and exit the country, as well as to own land (rights previously reserved for citizens only). This long-awaited initiative responds to calls from the diaspora for greater inclusion and is expected to enhance investment opportunities, particularly in the real estate sector, while strengthening ties between Tanzania and its global diaspora.¹⁰

Obstacles¹¹



- **Lack of policy development:** There has been a delay in the government finalising a Diaspora Policy, and this has significantly stymied progress in effectively engaging the diaspora in the country's development.
- **Data management:** The government lacks reliable data regarding the Tanzanian diaspora, inhibiting its ability to plan and deliver services to its diaspora.¹²
- **Communication:** Ineffective communication and engagement of diaspora groups and organisations limits engagement. There are some governmental media channels targeting the diaspora, but these are underused and not always trusted.
- **Lack of incentives for investment:** Diaspora investors are treated in the same way as other foreign investors which leaves potential for targeted initiatives.

¹⁰ <https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/tanzania-finally-moves-to-introduce-special-status-to-diaspora-4816834>

¹¹ For a more detailed discussion, see Harold L.M. Utouh and Darlene K. Mutalemwa (2015), 'Engaging the Tanzanian Diaspora in National Development: What Do We Know and What are the Gaps?' in *African Journal of Economic Review*, Volume III, Issue I

¹² Personal communication, IOM Tanzania March 2016

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Mobilisation of Diaspora Scientific Expertise to strengthen infectious disease surveillance in Southern Africa 2010

HEALTH;
HUMAN CAPITAL

The Africa Centre of Excellence for Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals in Eastern and Southern Africa (SACIDS-ACE) works to harness innovation in science and technology in order to improve sub-Saharan Africa's capacity to detect, identify and monitor infectious diseases of humans, animals, and their interactions in order to better manage the risks posed by them. SACIDS-ACE has mobilised diaspora medics and scientists to respond to infectious disease outbreaks, such as Ebola virus and COVID-19, across Africa. SACIDS-ACE is based at Tanzania's Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), which also established a diaspora academic facility that allowed Tanzanian diaspora to establish academic and scientific associations with the university as part of a capacity building initiative.¹³

HEALTH;
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Mama Initiative

WAJAMAMA is a diaspora enterprise founded by a Zanzibari diaspora entrepreneur from the US that provides a safe space for women to get high-quality healthcare, be empowered to live healthier lives, learn about their bodies, and make exercise a part of their lives. Its Mama Initiative is a "charity pot" that allows WAJAMAMA to not only cover consultation and lab fees for women, but also deliver workshops to increase their knowledge about how to care for themselves and their families. WAJAMAMA fundraises for the Mama Initiative through its workshops and selling WAJAMAMA water bottles.

¹³ <https://www.sua.ac.tz/about-sua/university-linkages>

Annex:

List of Actors

Explore the institutionalisation of diaspora engagement worldwide via the [typology of 430+ institutions](#)

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

African Union Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (AU-CIDO) 2001

AU-CIDO is responsible for implementing the AU's engagement with non-state actors through the involvement of the diaspora and civil society. Tanzania nominates a diaspora focal point to represent the country at AU-CIDO Continental Meetings.

Southern African Development Community (SADC) 1992

Tanzania is a founding member of SADC, an inter-governmental organization whose goal is to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development among fifteen Southern African Member States. In addition, SADC Member States adopted the SADC Labour Migration Policy Framework, which implores all SADC member states to develop rights-based national labour migration policies by 2019.

East African Community (EAC) 1967

The EAC is a regional intergovernmental organisation of six Partner States that works to promote greater regional integration. One of its integration pillars is the Common Market, introduced in 2010, which includes free movement of people, goods, and services, and right of residence for EAC nationals.

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation 1961

The ministry oversees engagement of the Tanzanian diaspora to enable it to effectively contribute to political, socio-economic and cultural development of the country. Its website includes a 'diaspora news' section.

- At sub-ministerial level

Diaspora Engagement and Opportunities Division (DEOD) 2010

The DEOD engages the Tanzanian diaspora to effectively contribute to the political, socio-economic and cultural development of the country. It is responsible for diaspora policy development, diaspora engagement, and facilitation of diaspora investment opportunities. DEOD is formed of two sections: the Mobilization, Protection and Data Management Section, and the Diaspora Investment and International Employment Section.

Department of International Cooperation, President's Office and Chairman of Revolutionary Council, Zanzibar 2020

The Department of International Cooperation is responsible for promoting Zanzibar's relations with the rest of the world, and for coordinating diaspora affairs with a view to engaging the diaspora in the socioeconomic development of Zanzibar. Its Diaspora Unit sits under the Department of International Cooperation, in the office of The President and Chairman of Revolutionary Council.

Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) 1997

TIC's vision is to become a premier Investment Promotion Agency (IPA) capable of creating and sustaining ever-increasing investment flows and create competitive investment environment that promotes Tanzania as the prime investment destination of choice in Africa. TIC works to attract new investment and maximize its impact on the economy, including from diaspora investors.¹⁴ TIC does not yet offer specific advice or products aimed at the diaspora, although there are plans to introduce these in the future

Diaspora organisations in Europe

Amici della Tanzania OdV

- ✓ **Development activities**
- ✓ **Integration activities**

Established in 2013, the Amici della Tanzania is a non-profit organisation based in Genova. The association carries out development projects in both Italy and Tanzania, with a focus on integration, economic growth and job creation, education and youth, and health.

British Tanzania Society (BTS) 1975 UK

- ✓ **Development activities**
- ✓ **Integration activities**

BTS was founded in 1975 to improve communications and understanding between the UK and Tanzania. It is a non-political, non-governmental organisation that works to promote, preserve, and protect the health and well-being of the people of Tanzania and the relief or reduction of poverty. BTS also publishes the journal Tanzanian Affairs. Its President is Hon Hassan Mwinyi, former President of Tanzania. Its Vice Presidents are Trevor Jaggard - who has been linked with Tanzania (and before that Tanganyika) since 1950, Ronald Fennell MBE, Elizabeth Fennell MBE, Professor Esther Mwaikambo and Derek Ingram OBE.

Tanzania Association of Greater Manchester (TAGMA) 2014 UK

- ✓ **Integration activities**

TAGMA works to support the Tanzanian community in the Greater Manchester area. It organises cultural events to promote Tanzanian culture.

Read more about diaspora organisations
in "[Starting guide: What is a diaspora
organisation](#)"



¹⁴ <https://www.foreign.go.tz/index.php/tanzania/category/investing-in-tanzania>

Tanzanian Community in Denmark 2012 Denmark

- ☑ **Development activities**
- ☑ **Integration activities**

Non-profit organisation for Tanzanian Diaspora living in Denmark. Aims to bring together the Tanzanian community in Denmark.

Tanzanian Community in the UK 2018 UK

- ☑ **Development activities**
- ☑ **Integration activities**

The organisation works to expand and enhance good relations, cooperation in cultural, social activities and matters affecting Tanzanian living in the diaspora, whether related to life in the UK or activities in Tanzania.

Tanzania Development Trust (TDT) 1975 UK

- ☑ **Development activities**

A community development charity spin off of the British Tanzanian Society, TDT was founded with the aim of alleviating poverty in Tanzania through assistance with projects in health, water supply, education and community based self-help activities. It provides small grants to support projects in the most deprived parts of Tanzania. TDT is run entirely on a voluntary basis.

Tanzania Global Diaspora Council 2018 Sweden

- ☑ **Development activities**
- ☑ **Integration activities**

The organisation works on expanding, enhancing and encouraging Tanzanian Diaspora in the Nordic states (Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Faroe Islands and Aland) as well as the Baltic states to invest in sectors such as industrialisation, tourism, education, manufacturing, and other priority sectors.

Tanzania Now 2017 UK

- ☑ **Integration activities**

An independent private organisation that aims to provide information to the Tanzanian community in the UK, the organisation provides a directory of businesses in the UK, news, discussion forums, commentary of religion, etc.

Tanzania UK Healthcare Diaspora Association (TUHEDA) 2017 UK

- ☑ **Development activities**
- ☑ **Integration activities**

TUHEDA was established in order to facilitate the relief of sickness and preservation of health of the people in Tanzania and the UK through collaboration in healthcare provision between the UK and Tanzania. It provides medical equipment to Tanzania, and organises seminars, conferences, and training for healthcare professional and the public.

Tanzania Swahili Community (TSC-Scotland) 2014 UK

- ✓ **Development activities**
- ✓ **Integration activities**

TSC-Scotland works to bring together Tanzanians living in Scotland, and to promote Tanzanian culture. It delivers cultural education in Scotland and Tanzania, and raises funds to support health workers in Tanzania.

Tanzanian Women's Association UK (TAWAUK) 2006 UK

- ✓ **Development activities**
- ✓ **Integration activities**

TAWAUK works to empower female entrepreneurs in the UK and Tanzania, and provides weekly parenting classes online, support and advice to single women, and job search support for women in the UK. In Tanzania, it supports education projects as well as strengthening the Tanzanian health system through fundraising and sponsorship.

Wales and West of England Tanzania Diaspora (WaWeTD) UK

- ✓ **Development activities**
- ✓ **Integration activities**

WaWeTD is a network of Tanzanians and friends who reside in Wales and the South West of England. The network's mission is to solidify and strengthen community development in Tanzania.

Wasanii Tanzania Uingereza (WASATU) 2016 UK

- ✓ **Integration activities**

WASATU works to promote Tanzanian arts, culture, and music in the UK, It organises musical and cultural events, as well as marketing Tanzanian goods and Tanzanian foodstuffs.

Watanzania Birmingham and Black Country C.I.C. 2020 UK

- ✓ **Development activities**
- ✓ **Integration activities**

Watanzania Birmingham and Black Country Community Interest Company (CIC) is a diaspora social enterprise that conducts research and experimental development on social sciences and humanities, provides educational support services, as well as residential care activities for the elderly and disabled. It also works in partnership with other Tanzanian diaspora groups in the UK to promote diaspora investment in Tanzania as UK Tanzania Diaspora Business Conventions (UKTZDBC)



Zanzibar Diaspora in Scandinavia (ZANDIAS) Sweden

- ✓ **Development activities**
- ✓ **Integration activities**

ZANDIAS aims to be the collective voice of all members of the Zanzibar Diaspora in the Scandinavia, and works to help focus the efforts of the Zanzibar diaspora on relief initiatives and similar charitable projects in Zanzibar. It supports education and IT projects in Zanzibar, and works to bring about positive and lasting social and economic change.

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