

PROFILE: TANZANIA



Despite the country's reputation for stability, peace and recent economic growth, widespread poverty persists in Tanzania.

The country of Tanzania was created in 1964 after Tanganyika gained independence from British rule and merged with Zanzibar.

First president Julius Nyerere encouraged self-reliance and equality through cooperative farming villages and nationalisation policies.

A sense of national identity and altruism was forged, promoting peace and stability. But underpinned by repression and forced relocation of communities, Nyerere's blueprint also led to poverty, corruption and dependency.

Despite recent economic growth and higher government investment in services, grinding poverty is still the norm for many Tanzanians – especially subsistence farmers who rely on semi-arid marginal land for survival.

Influenced by entrenched traditional beliefs and lack of education, they face the additional challenges of desertification and low levels of access to credit, fertiliser and markets.

Meanwhile, a high HIV prevalence rate is increasing orphan numbers and pressure on medical services, as well as weakening household productivity and driving rural-to-urban migration.

Tanzania's evangelical churches are widely respected in the country and provide 40 per cent of national health and education services.

TEARFUND'S WORK IN TANZANIA

Tearfund has supported local Christian partners in Tanzania since 1969. We are currently working with seven partners in the country whose main focus is church and community mobilisation.

Our partners are working to help the following groups: internally displaced people, families affected by HIV, subsistence farmers and pastoralists, orphans and other vulnerable children.

These people are being helped through a variety of current and planned programmes covering community development, primary healthcare, water and sanitation provision, environmental protection, disaster preparedness and risk reduction, women's empowerment and HIV care and prevention.

A special emphasis is also being placed on strengthening the Tanzanian church to advocate at local and national levels about issues such as HIV, human rights, climate change, food security, disaster preparedness and improving poor communities' access to services.

- **Pray for people living in poverty in Tanzania.**
- **Please pray for our Tanzanian partners as they seek to help others.**
- **And pray for Tanzania: for justice, peace, health and hope for everyone.**