Tanzania

Tanzania is located in Eastern Africa, bordering the Indian Ocean, between Kenya and Mozambique. It is a large country so the climate varies from tropical along the coast to temperate in highlands. Natural hazards include flooding on the central plateau during the rainy season and drought during the dry season (Tanzania: Geography).

Tanzania is not racially diverse: 99% African and 1% Asian, European and Arab. However, diversity is seen through religion: 30% Christian, 35% Muslim and 35% Indigenous beliefs. Tanzania achieved independence from Britain in the early 1960s. Since then, there has been a lot of political tension but as of 2010 the government is nationally united (Tanzania: People and Society).

In 2002 Tanzania implemented free public school tuition, which lead to a massive increase in school enrollment. Primary school, which is similar to elementary and middle school here, has a high enrollment percentage that ranged from 70% in some villages and towns but up to 100% in other wealthier sections. In secondary school, or high school, enrollment falls to 44%. So, it is much easier for younger kids to go to school and older kids. This is probably because when kids graduate primary school, many of them have find jobs and help provide for
their families. So, the vast majority of kids have access to education, but not everyone takes advantage of that.

Most of Tanzania’s power comes from hydropower, but they also get some of their power from coal and natural gas. Their infrastructure is not up to par however and as a result, suffer with many power outages.

Tanzania often lacks a sufficient amount of medical supplies and equipment. There are very few hospitals and for most villages and rural areas they do not have a medical center anywhere near them. Health care is available for most people but only the wealthy are able to afford it. Mostly only residents in the urban areas have health care and have access to medical benefits.

The official language of Tanzania is Swahili, although English is primarily used for commerce, administration and higher education. In most tourist areas of Tanzania the locals know English but knowing even a little Swahili will go a long way for tourists when it comes to hospitality. English used to be the primary language for lower education as well until Tanzania switched to Swahili for primary schools. This will make Tanzania the first sub-saharan African country to use an African language in lower grades.

Tanzania originated as bunch of tribal trade routes that linked the Great Lakes Victoria and Tanganyika with the coast. Eventually Arab traders moved more inland in hopes of finding slaves and ivory. In 1884 Karl Peters arrived with two other Germans and began to move through the Tanzanian mainland and persuade local chiefs to fly the German flag. Peters returned to Berlin with news that there was a German territory ripe for the taking. In 1885, Peters returned to Tanzania in efforts to make it theirs. By 1891, Germany had direct control of Tanzania’s
government. Germany had control over Tanzania until the Treaty of Versailles was issued in 1919 giving Britain power of Tanzania, now called Tanganyika. The British supported local Tanganyikan government though and worked with administration to put the local government back on its feet and make it self sufficient again. In 1964, the people of Tanzania finally had a country to call their own again, with the help of the British they were able to establish the Republic of Tanzania. With Julius Nyerere as President and Abeid Karume at second in command, a socialist government was set up and after 23 years in office the two had established a reputation of two free-thinking leaders who are not afraid to do what they feel is right for the people.

As important as water is for survival, Tanzania has almost no access to it. In 1991, 33.5% of citizens had access to clean water. In 2010 that number dropped to 33.1%. It is honestly tragic how much of the country is cut off to water. More than 70% of rural households are over 15 minutes away from their main source of water. We have clean water 3 seconds away from us at almost all times and they have to walk 15 minutes just for a cup of water. Although Tanzania is not a food-deficit country, the land is greatly under fertilized. While productivity is low, there is plenty of space for improvement.

Tanzania has one of the poorest economies in the world, although it has been improving greatly over the past few years. One U.S. dollar is equivalent to roughly 1,650 Tanzanian shillings (“Tanzania, People and Society”). The average yearly income is $998.10 ("GDP per Capita (current US$)"). Agriculture is largest GDP by far and the Tanzanian government has now moved to a market economy while continuing business in telecommunications, energy, and
mining (“Tanzania, People and Society”). Industry such as mining and wood could be beneficial
to designing new cell phone technology.

Rural citizens have issues with improving their business due to the inability to charge
their phone. Almost every rural household does not have access to electricity (98%), so they
travel miles to charge their phones at charging stations and then find that the station barely works
or the operator gives them bad service (Collins 2). At this time, this is the only method for
charging in Tanzania, and it is the main reason for electrification in the country.

Our customers are a typical, Swahili-speaking, Tanzanian family of four who live in
Mwanza Tanzania. Mwanza is located on the shore of Lake Victoria and is the second largest
city in Tanzania, with an estimated population close to 640,000. Mwanza is the most important
port on Lake Victoria and its geographic location makes it an important travel point for business,
people and travelers. Our family consists of a mother, a father, a son and a daughter. The parents
are self-employed, working as petty traders while the kids go to school. They live in a one room
house in the hills that lacks basic amenities like water and electricity because their income is
$21.00 a month.
Works Cited


