Travel and Road Safety

Road accidents are one of the most common causes of death and injury in Tanzania. This applies to traffic in urban and rural areas. The risk is especially high when travelling on highways.

Over-land travel: On highways, speeds are often higher than road conditions permit. Road conditions can change without prior notice. Roads may be affected by potholes and other hazards. Pedestrians, livestock, cyclists, motorized and unmotorized vehicles may suddenly turn up and not move in line with prevailing road, traffic and weather conditions.

Recommended behaviour when travelling

- Only travel during daylight hours.
- Drive defensively and responsibly, insist your driver to do so, too.
- Wear seat belts at all times.
- Plan for rest at least every 2 hours and do not drive for more than 6 hours in one day.
- Have your phone fully charged and power backup systems in place.
- Always expect the unexpected! Pedestrians, goats, daladala, motorcycles may cross your way at any time.

Item checklist for vehicles

- First Aid Kit
- Communication device that is fully operational and working in the areas you are travelling to/through (mobile phone, satellite phone, etc)
- Chargers and Power Banks
- Hazards triangle
- Jack
- Tool box for changing tires and minor repairs
- Fire extinguisher
- Cooling water and coolant oil
- Brake fluid
- Filled fuel canister

When planning a trip:

- Gather information beforehand about road, weather conditions and the security situation along the planned route.
- Check distances and travel time beforehand, plan and book overnight stops in advance.
- Inform GIZ Country Office and respective Programme about your travel plans.
- Check whether additional communication devices are recommended (SAT phone, VHF, etc.).
- Before leaving for longer trips, additional thorough vehicle checks should be performed.

How to behave in an accident:

- Your first priority is your own safety. Tanzania has no law on the protection of first responders at the scene of an accident. So consider if you want to help others in case of an accident.
- Call the GIZ Programme Manager, Area Security Focal Point or GIZ Emergency Phone for advice and inform them of the incidents, your whereabouts and your needs.
- Make sure the accident site is secured.
- Crowds can quickly turn aggressive and unpredictable. Seek shelter at the next police station if necessary.
- Collect evidence (photos, names).
- Insurance must be informed within 48 hours.
- If you deliver an injured person to the hospital, you are likely to be responsible for the cost of treatment.

Karibu Tanzania! Welcome to Tanzania!

Tanzania is one of the world’s great tourism destinations and known for its diversity of wildlife and landscapes. Dar es Salaam is the economic and business capital.

The city grows rapidly and has around 5 million inhabitants. The official languages are Kiswahili and English. The Tanzanian Shilling is the local currency, US dollars are widely accepted.

Compared to other African countries, Tanzania is a relatively safe country to work and live in. However, general caution and risk mitigation is nevertheless required. Security situations can differ significantly from one area within the country to another, making it essential to be informed.

All GIZ employees need to take certain precautions to avoid unpleasant surprises and to mitigate potential exposure to risk in daily work and life situations. In order to help you doing this, this flyer offers the most important security information, procedures and contact details for your time in Tanzania.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Be alert to your surroundings

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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GIZ Medical Service +49 (0) 6196 79 79 79
GIZ Cope +49 (0) 6196 74 24 78
GIZ SRMS-EA Duty Phone +254 (0) 700 333 555

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First things first

Upon arrival in Tanzania, please complete the following steps:
• Security briefing with GIZ Country Office or Area Security Focal Point.
• Register with your Embassy (German Embassy: ELEFAND system).
• Share your contact details with GIZ Country Office.

Personal conduct:
• Your conduct is your personal responsibility!
• Generally maintain good situational awareness, keep a low profile and be tactful, respectful and diplomatic when dealing with others.
• Drink alcohol moderately and refrain from using narcotics.
• Abstain from inappropriate sexual behavior.

Law and Customs:
• Obey laws and regulations in Tanzania; be polite and respectful especially with local authorities.
• When in contact with law enforcement agents do not insist on positions, keep calm and be respectful.
• Paying bribes to law enforcement agents is a crime and in violation with GIZ Code of Conduct.

In Public:
• Do not take pictures or film military and police installations or personnel, government buildings, airports and avoid taking pictures in crisis situations.
• Always ask for permission if you take a picture where other people might be exposed.

Documents:
• Carry a copy of your valid ID document with you at all times.
• Have copies of the most important documents with you (passport, driving license, etc.).
• A copy of your passport (with visa) should be deposited in the GIZ HR-office as well.
• Carry the GIZ Tanzania Emergency Card and a record of emergency data with you at all times.

Locations:
• City Center / Kariakoo, Port of Dar es Salaam and other high-density residential areas are locations in the City where there is a higher risk to personal security

Crime:
Theft and robbery are the most common type of crime that may affect you. In Dar es Salaam, pick pocketing and theft occurs in public buses, traffic jams or simply along the streets.
• Do not defend your belongings.
• Do not carry your wallet in your back pocket.
• When walking along the road, carry your bag or back-pack with the strap on one shoulder only, facing away from the road, in order to not get trapped in case of attempted theft from a car or motorbike.
• Avoid walking on your own in isolated and unknown areas, especially after dark, both urban or on treks and hikes.
• In case a robbery is attempted, do not argue with the robbers but follow their instructions.
• Criminal incidents should be reported to the police, possibly accompanied by a local colleague, and to GIZ.

Health:
• You can reduce your risk of diarrhea and other common diseases by maintaining safe food and water habits. Do NOT drink tap water.
• Avoid diseases spread via insect bites (Malaria, Dengue-Fever, etc.) by covering exposed skin, using insect repellent, sleeping under a mosquito net and screening rooms for insects.
• Inform your colleagues when you start feeling unwell. Repeat a negative test for malaria after 12 hours if symptoms persist.
• Keep a comprehensive First Aid Kit in your office and residence and attend a First Aid Course.
• For information on medical support / hospitals see section on Emergency Contact Numbers and ask the GIZ Area Security Focal Point.

Self-Care – DOs and DON'Ts:
• Don't do cross-country trips after dark.
• Don’t walk at night or in unfamiliar areas.
• Don't show valuables in public (mobile phone, jewelry, cash, laptops, etc.).
• Use registered taxis if you have to drive at night, but avoid unfamiliar taxi drivers and Bajajs after dark.
• Especially in traffic jams, keep car windows closed and door locked.
• Inform others about your travel plans, including private ones if you travel alone.
• Don’t stop for accidents, but alert next police station.
• Confirm security and safety of places and activities with programme manager, or GIZ staff familiar with the places, whenever in doubt.
• Stay away from (spontaneous) gatherings of people and rowded places.

Hotels & Places to Stay:
• A range of hotels at various price categories are available. For details and recommendations, ask the country office or your local colleagues for assistance.
• Make sure your doors and windows lock and that the safe works, preferably with a distinct code. Take note of the emergency exits and evacuation plan. Do not drink tap water.
• Always keep valuables out of sight, including from those who enter your room for maintenance or cleaning.
• Check out procedures may take very long, and credit cards are frequently not accepted or do not work. Hide the security code on your credit card's back, and don’t let anyone walk out of sight with it. Checking out the night before your departure is usually more stress free.

Emergency Contact Numbers Tanzania

GIZ Emergency Phone +255 (0) 686 246 200
GIZ Country Office +255 (0) 222 115 901
German Embassy +255 (0) 222 115 409/15
+255 (0) 786 971 692

HOSPITALS IN DAR ES SALAAM
IST Clinic +255 (0) 754 783 393
Aga Khan Hospital +255 (0) 22 211-4096/5151
+255 (0) 784 550 100/200
Muhimbili Emergency Dep +255 (0) 222 215 1369

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE
Police, Ambulance, Fire +255 (0) 784 358 415
Oyster Bay police +255 (0) 755 356 402
Selander Bridge Police +255 (0) 222 120 818
Ultimate Security +255 (0) 773/731293

ARUSHA EMERGENCY NUMBERS
Lutheran Med. Centre +272 (0) 545 184/769 042 443
Total Care Lab +255 (0) 787 882 273
Central Police +255 (0) 222 503 541
WS Insight +255 (0) 756 442 200