



**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS -  
REFUGEES DEPARTMENT**

**INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO  
ADDRESSING MIGRATION  
ISSUES IN TANZANIA**

# Context

- Tanzania was involved in consultations leading to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and is committed to their implementation
- The country has, for years, been experiencing, “mixed migratory flows”

## ❑ Migrants in mixed migratory flows:

- regular migrants,
- asylum-seekers,
- smuggled and trafficked persons &
- illegal/irregular migrants.

❑ Mixed migratory flows include individuals of all ages as well as sexes.

**TABLE SHOWING IRREGULAR IMMIGRANTS IN THE YEAR 2013, IN THE UNITED  
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA.**

S/N	TANZANIA REGIONS	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1.	Arusha	160	19	138	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
2.	DSM	1526	192	19	-	1376	85	150	-	-	106	72
3.	Dodoma	155	02	152	11	13	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Iringa	143	81	-	13	71	03	01	48	-	-	-
5.	Kagera	1633	25	110	-	198	-	-	-	-	21,134	-
6.	Kigoma	2,029	896	-	-	827	-	165	-	88	23,758	13
7.	Kilimanjaro	907	53	748	10	88	01	69	-	-	1283	-
8.	Lindi	94	20	73	49	08	-	-	29	-	1841	-
9.	Manyara	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	112	-
10.	Mara	312	270	-	01	03	56	-	-	-	11,172	79
11.	Mkeeya	779	537	-	-	56	-	-	299	-	270	-
12.	Morogoro	437	116	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	12,300	-
13.	Mtwara	201	24	-	39	48	12	-	28	-	29,300	05
14.	Mwanza	234	234	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Pwani	60	-	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Rukwa	179	148	28	19	21	-	03	-	-	15,579	-
17.	Ruvuma	74	21	234	22	06	-	-	-	-	11,863	01
18.	Shinyanga	170	78	-	06	06	09	47	-	19	1500	05
19.	Singida	161	42	49	112	138	02	-	-	-	-	-
20.	Tabora	221	115	-	112	-	13	53	-	26	564	-
21.	Tanga.	289	144	-	-	167	-	42	-	-	715	-
22.	Zanzibar	50	26	19	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-
24.	Jumla	10,045	3068	1630	398	3115	183	588	404	133	131,497	178

**KEY : A=Arrested - 10,045 ; B=Charged in Courts 3068 ; C=Paid fines 1630 ; D=Jailed – 398 ; E=Set Free – 3115 ; F=Deported – 183 ; G=Under Investigations – 588 ; H=TZA Stowaways received - 404 ; I=Drug Offenses – 133 ; J= Settled Immigrants - 131,497 ; K= Cases in Proceedings 178.**

# Government approaches to addressing irregular migration

## 2014: Comprehensive Migration Management Strategy in Tanzania (COMMIST)

- ❑ A joint pilot exercise to register and profile all settled and irregular migrants in Western Tanzania (regions bordering Burundi, Rwanda & Uganda)

# Components of COMMIST

- i. Mass Information
- ii. Population Mapping
- iii. Registration
- iv. Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) of irregular migrants who wish to go home
- v. Verification of residence status for those seeking regularisation or confirmation of status in Tanzania
- vi. Regularisation/formalisation of status for those who qualify under the laws or any directives which the Government may give

# Partnership and coordination

Steering Committee composed:

- Tanzania Immigration Services Department,
- Tanzania Refugees Services Department,
- IOM &
- University of Dar es Salaam - Centre for the Study of Forced Migration)

# Key Successes

1. By February 2015, a total of 22,282 irregular migrants had been registered
  - ❑ The government now has some data on irregular migrants in Western Tanzania which it can use for evidence-based policy making (Goal 10, target 10.7) & Goal 17, target 17.18)
  - ❑ Registration has immunized migrants from the risk of trafficking in persons as they now can potentially engage in decent economic activities and earn a living (Goal 16, target 16.2)



# Key Successes cont'd

2. The Tanzanian Immigration Services Department has improved institutional capacity to identify, register or regularize irregular migrants electronically enabling them to formulate and implement comprehensive migration policies with a human rights based approach (Goal 10, target 10.7)

# Key Successes cont'd

3. Burundian, Tanzanian and Ugandan immigration officers produced and adopted joint recommendations on Standard Operating Procedures in Bujumbura 2014 on Humanitarian Border Management and Return Management through..

4. Tanzania Government reached an unprecedented decision in 2009/10 for a durable solution to protracted refugee cases, by Naturalizing 162,156 former Burundian Refugees of 1972.

# Upcoming initiatives

Through an IOM-EU joint initiative, ***‘addressing the needs of stranded and vulnerable migrants’*** Tanzania’s regional and district immigration offices will be equipped with biometric equipment to register migrants so as to generate data that will inform decisions and actions by the Government of Tanzania and its collaborating partners.

Through the launching of Solution Alliance group initiatives in Tanzania, advocacy for fund raising will be spearheaded to fund TANSPLI Implementation.

# Challenges

COMMIST aimed to pilot in 3 regions, actual roll out was done in 3 out of 6 districts in 1 region. TANSPLI is yet to start

Why?

- Funding constraints
- Limited time of funding from IPs, & Dev. Ps.
- Physical inaccessibility of some areas due to hostile weather and vastness of the area to be covered

# Lessons learned

1. Currently, Tanzania has some data on irregular migrants to inform policy developments and reviews
2. The capacity building trainings which accompanied the registration has facilitated altering mind-sets of key actors (immigration officers) who now have adopted a human rights based approach in providing assistance to migrants
3. Migrants' as well as the New Tanzanians' security has been enhanced, they now have feelings of belonging and can access social amenities like Citizens.

# Areas needing support

1. Funding – to expand the exercise countrywide through purchase of equipment (registration kits)
2. Increased capacity building to immigration service throughout the country
3. Mass communication to enhance public awareness and minimize xenophobic attitudes and behaviour as well as anti-immigrant sentiments
4. Support the review of policies related to migration to become pro-migration in relation to the adoption of SDGs

# Shared experience

Exploration of the possibility of replicating COMMIST within the region and elsewhere in Africa.

Presented by Suleiman Everest Mziray  
Assistant Director, Refugee Services Department  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
The United Republic of Tanzania.

**Thank you**

