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#### Facts About People

46,912,768 (rank=28)

Kiswahili (also called Swahili), the first official language, is used in schools, by newspapers, and on radio and television.

Kiswahili developed along the coasts of Kenya and Tanzania as a language between Africans and Arabs.

Visiting is an important social custom; friends and family visit often.

Precise religion statistics on Tanzania's population are not available because the government does not collect that information.

The United Republic of Tanzania covers 365,755 square miles (947,300 square kilometers), making it slightly bigger than Venezuela.

Tanzania's equatorial climate—hot, humid, and 90°F (32°C) on the coast—is tempered by inland elevations where temperatures are mild. Rains fall primarily from March to May and from October to December, with seasonal variations from north to south.

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#### customs-courtesies

Each region has a variety of non-Kiswahili greetings particular to the local ethnic groups, but Kiswahili is understood by the vast majority of people.

The most common Kiswahili greeting is Hujambo

Tanzanians use the right hand to pass and accept items.

The verbal "tch-tch" sound is considered an insult.

Often, when offering someone a drink, a person may taste the beverage first to show that it is safe for consumption.

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## society

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Fanzania's president (currently Jakaya Kikwete) is head of state and head of government.

Most roads, especially in the rural interior, are not paved; neither are the runways of over 92 percent of Tanzania's 124 airports. People often travel on foot or by bicycle, ride on or carry loads with donkeys or oxen, or hitchhike. Buses, trains, and taxis are available in some cities, especially Dar es Salaam.

Children may begin kindergarten as early as age four; there is no mandatory starting age. Primary school lasts for seven years.

In rural areas, malaria, sleeping sickness, schistosomiasis, hepatitis B, and intestinal parasitic diseases are common.

# Lifestyle Thecases olutions.com

Females may stay with their parents until marriage, though in urban areas many rent their own place.

Western-style dating habits are uncommon among the majority of people.

Immediate and extended family is not generally distinguished: cousins are referred to as brothers and sisters, and uncles and aunts are referred to as fathers and mothers.

In families where marriages are not arranged, boys may begin establishing relationships as early as 14 and girls as young as 12.

Traditionally, marriages have been arranged, often within the extended family.

Pregnant women and women with very young children are highly respected in society and are given privileges, such as being allowed to cut to the front of a line.

