

Higher
education
cooperation
for
sustainable
development
between

Tanzania
and Flanders
(Belgium)

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Tanzania is an important partner country of VLIR-UOS. From 2003 to 2021 VLIR-UOS spent around €21,8 million in cooperation with Tanzania, including long-term Institutional University Cooperation (IUC) partnerships with the **Sokoine University of Agriculture** (finalized), and ongoing IUCs with **Mzumbe University** and **Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology**. Currently a new IUC with **Ardhi University** is being prepared. These IUCs and 18 projects (started since 2017) are the cornerstones of the current cooperation of Flemish HEIs with Tanzania.



Higher education as a driving force for sustainable development

VLIR-UOS has a **longstanding history of cooperation** with higher education institutions in Tanzania.

VLIR-UOS revised its country approach towards an 'Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development' centred approach. Moreover, VLIR-UOS wants to facilitate connections between different actors and projects present in a given country. With these objectives in mind, the Country Reference Framework (CRF) for Tanzania supports teams of academics when identifying and formulating project proposals, by providing a context analysis focused on Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development and the higher education sector in Tanzania, and by providing an overview of Belgian development actors active in Tanzania, their ongoing projects and partners, in view of exploration of opportunities for synergy and complementarity.

VLIR-UOS cooperation in Tanzania has been aligned with the Tanzanian national development plans and has mainly focused on the themes of health, environment, food security, entrepreneurship and ICT and information management. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been mainstreamed into 'Vision 2025', Tanzania's long term development plan. This is in line with the objectives of VLIR-UOS on working towards Agenda 2030.

Institutional Partnerships

IUC with Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA)

From 1996 to 2008, the IUC partnership with SUA on “**Management of natural resources for sustainable development and poverty alleviation**” took place. As stated by the final evaluation, the programme created **substantial academic development, capacity and added value** by giving SUA an increasing reputation as a centre for research and teaching of agriculture.

IUC with Mzumbe University (MU)

“**Self-Steering Sustainable Social Innovation Through Training and E-Research (4SITE)**” is the title of this IUC which intends to **strengthen the capacity** of (MU) in the areas of training, education, research, infrastructure and institutional management. **Two transversal projects** support all projects in terms of (1) Strengthening capacity in teaching, research and community outreach services and (2) Improving ICT infrastructure and integrating ICT in teaching and learning. The **two thematic projects** deal with (3) promoting good governance and (4) promoting entrepreneurship development, both through integrated community-based activities.

IUC with Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST)

The programme, titled “**Sustainable management of natural resources to the benefit of the local communities of northern Tanzania**” focuses on strengthening the capacity of NM-AIST and the topics of food safety, safe water, and the sustainable allocation of water resources for people and environment. Three research projects focus on (1) **sustainable banana farming systems**, (2) **water sanitation** and (3) **applied aquatic ecology**. Moreover, a transversal project (4) on **institutional strengthening** works on library and information technology and a new project (5) aims at valorisation of results through the consolidation of a physical **technology park**.

IUC with Ardhi University (ARU)

In 2022, the new IUC “**Building Capacity in Education, Research, Innovation and Societal Outreach to Foster an Inclusive and Sustainable Built Environment in a Rapidly Urbanizing City of Dar Es Salaam**” will start. Its sub-projects will work on (1) land use planning, (2) decent housing, (3) socio-economic development, (4) urban transport, (5) cultural heritage, (6) gender and participation and (7) ICT and SSIC.



VLIR-UOS partnerships

The IUC programme with NM-AIST is based on a partnership between the local university and three Flemish universities. The goal of these partnerships is capacity building based on long term investments in human capital and building up networks.





Focus on sustainable development priorities

TEAM projects and Short Initiatives (SI) projects aim to strengthen the research and education capacity, exploring and building capacity in view of creating sustainable solutions to local and global development challenges.

Natural resources

A TEAM project that started in 2017 aims at increasing scientific knowledge on **water and rock resources** and research capacities in geology through collaborations between 2 Tanzanian Earth Science groups in the Arusha volcanic region and Belgian partners. They plan synergies with **local environmental stakeholders**, for communication of key results to relevant target groups. The project established contacts with a local NGO which is active in potable water delivery to local communities and diversification of rural community livelihood.



Teacher training

An JOINT project that started in 2020 aims at **capacity building teacher training to enhance parental involvement** in primary education. In order to give children, and especially girls, chance to a better future, the quality of education has to be enhanced. Parents should be considered as valuable co-educators of their children, to **enhance child literacy**. Therefore, this project intends to strengthen capacity building in (future) teachers (a) through an in-service training for teachers who already work in schools in rural areas, and a pre-service training for student teachers, and (b) through an e-course in a blended learning module.



Health

A 2019 SI project on **naturals to prevent and/or cure diabetes** works on diabetes, which is a big health problem with associated cardiovascular diseases in Tanzania. The Tanzanian nature is a rich source of insect and plant species which are a source of interesting compounds for healing and preventing diseases. The main goal of this project is to develop an increase in competence and experience of academic staff to identify and investigate useful insects and plants and to develop a long term approach.

Scholarships

Scholarships are powerful tools. It allows Tanzanian students to broaden their horizon, learn to look at problems from a multidisciplinary perspective and to grow into a skilful researcher. It also allows Flemish students to spend time in a Tanzanian institution and create close ties.



About the Country Reference Frameworks

VLIR-UOS **Country Reference Frameworks** (CRF) support teams of academics when identifying and formulating project proposals, by providing a context analysis focused on Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development and the higher education sector in a given country, and by providing an overview of Belgian development actors, their ongoing projects and partners in that country in view of exploration of opportunities for synergy and complementarity within the Joint Strategic Framework of Belgian NonGovernmental Actors active in Tanzania. On the other hand Belgian HE and Science actors joined in a thematic Joint Strategic Framework (JSF) on HES4SD.

The country reference frameworks consist of three components: (i) overview of VLIR-UOS projects in the country; (ii) context analysis focused on the Agenda 2030 framework and the higher education sector; (iii) overview of Belgian development actors (ANGCs involved in thematic or geographic JSFs & Enabel), their local partners and their regional/thematic focus

More information:

vliruos.be/tanzania

Total budget Tanzania 2003-2021 (in €)	
Projects	€ 13.154.651
Individual scholars	€ 9.276.712
Total	€ 22.431.363

Scholars from Tanzania in the context of VLIR-UOS cooperation (2003-2020)	
PhD*	3
Short Term*	205
Study/Master*	180
Total	388

* Only scholarships outside projects and programmes are shown; a lot of scholarships are included in projects or programmes.

In addition to Tanzanian scholars coming to Belgium, 406 Belgian scholars were granted a travel grant (short term) to Tanzania and another 9 were granted a sandwich Ph.D. scholarship. More information on the scholarships of VLIR-UOS: www.vliruos.be/scholarships.

About VLIR-UOS

VLIR-UOS supports partnerships between universities and university colleges in Flanders (Belgium) and partner countries looking for innovative responses to global and local sustainable development challenges.

VLIR-UOS is part of the Flemish Interuniversity Council and receives funding from the Belgian Development Cooperation. www.vliruos.be

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