Tanzania is an important partner country of VLIR-UOS. From 2003 to 2020 VLIR-UOS spent almost €20.5 million in cooperation with Tanzania, including long-term Institutional University Cooperation (IUC) Programmes with the Sokoine University of Agriculture, Mzumbe University and Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology.

The two ongoing IUC programmes and 16 projects that started since 2017 are the cornerstones of the Tanzania country programme.

Higher education as a driving force for sustainable development

VLIR-UOS has a longstanding history of cooperation with higher education institutions in Tanzania. One of the first institutional university cooperation programmes was set up in Tanzania, with Sokoine University of Agriculture.

The Tanzania Country Strategy, which is in line with national development plan (national strategy for growth and reduction of poverty – Mkukuta II), has 4 central themes: ‘health’, ‘environment’, ‘entrepreneurship & business development’ and ‘food security’. The theme of ‘gender’, ‘monitoring & evaluation’ and ‘ICT & information management’ have been put forward as a crosscutting theme that is relevant for all VLIR-UOS activities.

VLIR-UOS supports interventions that strengthen higher education institutions in their role as actor of change by improving education, research and extension of new knowledge, applications and services in various domains. This is in line with the Joint Strategic Framework for Tanzania, which was developed in 2016 by the Belgian Non-Governmental Actors active in Tanzania. More synergy and complementarity with other Belgian actors in Tanzania will be sought for.
Institutional Capacity Building

Results of long-term cooperation with the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA)

Between 1996 and 2008, SUA was an institutional university cooperation (IUC) partner university of VLIR-UOS. The research motto of SUA is "Management of natural resources for sustainable development and poverty alleviation". The themes dealt with during the IUC are very much related to this: capacity building in pest management; the ecology, biodiversity and taxonomy of rodents; soil and water conservation and transversal support dealing with training and research capacity and strengthening of usage of ICT and library. As stated by the final evaluation, the programme has created substantial academic development and capacity building. It created added value by giving SUA an increasing reputation of being a centre for research and teaching of agriculture.

IUC with Mzumbe University (MU)

“Governance and entrepreneurship through Research, Education, Access and Technology (GRE@T)” is the title of the IUC which intends to strengthen the capacity of (MU) in the areas of training, education, research, infrastructure and institutional management. Two transversal projects start from capacity building and 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 through integrated community based activities and (4) promoting entrepreneurship development through integrated community-based activities.

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

The programme focuses on strengthening the capacity of NM-AIST, a recently established Panafrikan research university, to do state of the art applied research that is responsive to the true needs of the local communities in the Upper Pangani Basin. In project 1 optimisation of soil management and selection of banana and bean varieties are assessed in order to improve agricultural productivity. Project 2 aims at a better understanding of the fundamental ecological and hydrological processes in order to share the scarce surface water between humans and nature to come to a more sustainable integrated water management. Support project 3 will contribute with the library and information technology for research and teaching and a better management of knowledge and information transfer, in particular to the local communities.

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 country-strategic themes

TEAM and South Initiative (SI) projects are mutually reinforcing projects that aim to strengthen the research and education capacity and to bring into service this capacity to find sustainable solutions to local and global development challenges.

Natural resources

A TEAM project that starts 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.

Food security

An ongoing TEAM project seeks to understand the epidemiology, socioeconomic impact and control of viral diseases affecting pigs, sheep and goats in order to improve the livelihood of small-scale farmers. The project has set up a multidisciplinary team of researchers, by bringing together expertise in veterinary virology, epidemiology, molecular and cell biology and rural development. The team has already done field visits for sampling and conducted analyses. In the next years, the team will work on results communication and further baseline studies.

Health

A 2017 SI project on nursing education wants to reinforce psychiatric health care services in the Kigoma region. Since psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers are very scarce in Tanzania, psychiatric nurses are a key element in the treatment of psychiatric patients. The project will focus on reinforcing mental health training and establishing stronger cooperation between higher education and health care services. The project wants to achieve this by improving the image of mental health nursing and by renewing the content and didactics of the curriculum and the internships.

Scholarships

Scholarships are powerful tools. It allows Tanzanian students to broaden their horizon, learn to look at problems from the perspective of multiple disciplines and to grow into a skilful researcher. Also Flemish students spend time in a Tanzanian institution and create close ties.
Main elements of the country strategy for Tanzania

Environment: natural resource management, soils, land use & land degradation, eco-tourism, renewable energy, water sanitation, etc.

Health: drug resistance HIV, environmental health, databases, bubonic plague & zoonocosis rodents, diabetes, etc.

Food security: technology development, food quality, etc.

Business & entrepreneurship: incubator development, community involvement, links with industry, etc.

Crosscutting support themes:

ICT & information management: ICT systems & administration, statistics & biostatistics, learning platforms development, library & information services management, access to research information & resources, etc.

Gender: gender mainstreaming, equal rights, etc.

Monitoring & evaluation: quality of research, etc.

About the country strategy

During the reform of non-governmental development cooperation in 2016, VLIR-UOS updated its list of 20 partner countries, hereby reconfirming Tanzania as a partner country. For each partner country VLIR-UOS elaborated a country strategy, to serve as a road map for cooperation going forward.

A country strategy reflects the opportunities for university cooperation for development between the country in question and Belgium/Flanders. A country strategy serves as a reference framework for programming, leading to strategy based calls for proposals.

About VLIR-UOS

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

VLIR-UOS funds cooperation projects between professors, researchers and teachers. VLIR-UOS also awards scholarships to students and professionals in Flanders and the South. Lastly, VLIR-UOS helps to strengthen higher education in the South and the globalisation of higher education in Flanders.

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

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More information: www.vliruos.be/tanzania

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total budget Tanzania 2003-2020 (in €)</th>
<th>Scholars from Tanzania in the context of VLIR-UOS cooperation (2003-2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>PhD*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual scholars</td>
<td>Short Term*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Study/Master*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>€ 11.783.065</td>
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<td>€ 8.660.019</td>
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<tr>
<td>€ 20.443.084</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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, 358 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.