

# BAGAMOYO AREA ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BRIEFING

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## History

“*Bwaga-moyo*” (Lay down your heart) or Bagamoyo is a small coastal “town” that has undergone tremendous changes since the time of slave trade when it was the last major exit port for slaves before they were shipped to Zanzibar and the Arab countries. At this point, slaves were telling themselves to *lay down their hearts* because they would never see their land again.

Bagamoyo was also the exit port for ivory and agricultural products from the interior to the outside world. Imports such as clothes, and other merchandise passed through Bagamoyo and went all the way to Congo and Zambia. When the slave trade was abolished in the 1880s and the Germans established their hegemony in Tanganyika, they made Bagamoyo their headquarters before moving it to Dar es Salaam.

During the Arab slave trade and German colonial domination, Bagamoyo grew into a prosperous trade and commercial centre. However, this growth was not sustainable. When the German administration moved its headquarters to Dar es Salaam, it left behind a settlement area that was lined up with roads, some semblance of planning, and the first “modern” hospital to be built in Tanganyika.

However, with the move, official interest in developing the area waned; Bagamoyo’s proximity to Dar es Salaam seems to have retarded its development, rather than stimulating its growth as a supplier of agricultural commodities.

## Population & Economy

Churches and Mosques, some few houses and a market dominated the main central area of Bagamoyo, which remained a village until very recently in the early 1990s.

Population grew slowly from 136,059 in 1978 to 250,164 people (45.8% male/54.2% female) in 2002. Average household size was 4.4 and population density was 27 persons/km<sup>2</sup>. The estimated population by 2008 is more than 285,400. Population size, structure, and composition have also undergone

significant recent changes. The population of Bagamoyo now is highly mixed due to migration and settlement of different ethnic groups.

The main economic activities for Bagamoyo include agriculture, fishing, mariculture (e.g. sea weed farming and prawn farming), trade and commerce, and tourism. These economic activities have been evolving slowly but still remain largely small and subsistence, with one important exception:

Largely in the past decade, the Bagamoyo area has become an important *cultural, beach and conference tourist* hub along the coast of Tanzania. This transformation to a tourism center has both created economic and development opportunities while adding new complexity to the key economic and social challenges facing the area:

## Key Social and Economic Issues

**Land use issues:** These relate to various economic activities, especially:

- (i) **Tourism development.** Bagamoyo has developed beach hotels that attract many people from Dar es Salaam. Most of the facilities are below the 60metres mark which is the limit from high water mark. Issues such as access to beach; waste (liquid and solid) and visual impacts are of concern to local people and visitors
- (ii) **Agricultural development**– No major cash crop is cultivated in Bagamoyo. Agricultural activity is largely subsistence and low value crops (i.e., small scale paddy farming). There is a new proposal for a sugarcane bioenergy facility in Bagamoyo.
- (iii) **Fisheries** – in the deltas (Wami and Ruvu rivers) large vs. small fishermen.
- (iv) **Mariculture** (prawn farming) and sea weed farming

**Deforestation of mangrove forests** due to salt making, charcoal (shipped to Zanzibar and Arab countries), hotel construction, beach tourism.

**Cultural changes.** Youth delinquency, alcoholism, drug trafficking and smuggling (using the old port to bring goods to the mainland) are perceived to be increasing. Tourism, with its influx of cash and visitors, likely exacerbates these issues.

**Poverty.** Despite having several lodges, people are still very poor and vulnerable. Tourism development for the wealthy has exacerbated equity issues. Social cohesion in the area is not strong.

**Population growth.** Tourism and the availability of public services (even if inadequate) such as schools, colleges attract more people and push pressure on resources (degradation).

**Water use issues.** The Lower Ruvu river supplies Dar es Salaam, but there is not sufficient water in Bagamoyo for local and tourist use.

**Social services.** Health and education services are very poor and inadequate. HIV/AIDs is on the increase.

**Unplanned urban settlement.** Increasing squatters and poor urban services due to increasing population and inadequate resources to do proper planning.

**Abandonment.** The “town” appears to be abandoned especially the central area which was the most vibrant part of the area in the old days. Old buildings with historical, cultural and tourism value are dilapidated and left without attention. The main cultural and historical tourism assets of Bagamoyo are being diminished.

**Inadequate compliance of laws and policies.** The Environmental Management Act No. 20 of 2004 requires mandatory EIA for development activities along the beach and in protected areas. Most facilities in Bagamoyo have had no EIAs done and no environmental audits have been undertaken.

**Lost opportunities.** The proximity to Dar es Salaam, a good all weather road, abundant land and plenty of water from Ruvu and Wami Rivers, and the presence of several tourist facilities are important economic assets that could be utilized to kick-start the development of Bagamoyo.

These opportunities are not being fully exploited. What are the root causes for such a situation? What planning and environmental issues need to be taken on board? How can change be undertaken in Bagamoyo?

## Governance

All governance matters are defined by the Local Government Authority Act.

Leadership at village level is by an elected Village Chairman. The Chairman is assisted by the Village Executive Officer, who is an employee of the government and oversees all government activities in the village. Each village has a Village Government (council) consisting of not less than 25 members elected by the villagers. The Village Government is divided into 5 Committees that undertake specific functions. The Village Act requires that at least one third of the representative must be women.

Leadership at the district level is provided by the District Commissioner, who is the arm of the Central government and the District Executive Officer, who is an employee of the Local Government Authorities. Councilors elected from the divisions form part of the District Council Team that is charged with daily operations.

The District Council is led by the Council Chairman – who is elected from amongst the Councilors. Bagamoyo is not a municipal Council that qualifies to have a mayor; therefore, the Chairman of the Council is the highest authority from amongst the elected leaders.

The Local Government Act devolves to the District Council and the Village Councils powers to undertake planning, collection of certain types of taxes, and supervision of development activities. The District Council is also empowered to prepare bylaws that must be approved by the Minister responsible for local government.

Under the current administrative set up, traditional leadership in Bagamoyo has very negligible role, and is not part of the formal arrangement. Traditional leadership is relevant and practiced amongst the pastoralist communities that are found in Bagamoyo. However, traditional leadership in these groups will be limited to matters that have relevancy to the group.

Although rules and procedures are defined in the law, implementation gaps exist with respect to accountability and transparency of public resources and funds. Meetings at the villages to deliberate matters of interests to the villagers are not taking place as often as they are prescribed in the Act. Issues related to environmental governance – e.g. with regard to ensuring appropriate levies and taxes from natural resources are collected and properly accounted for are inadequately handled.