

we all work



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Tanzania Seamstress in Outdoor Shop

It was an all-day bus ride from Dar es Salaam to the southern highlands of Tanzania. In the town of Iringa, I came upon this seamstress and her outdoor shop on a dusty street near the main *soko* or market. She was busily hemming a *kanga*, the colorful cotton cloth which alternates as head wrap, apron, or baby sling. She and several other women who worked had foot pedal sewing machines set up along the street where they took in work from passersby. After a few minutes of conversation in my broken Kiswahili – which brought the wide smile to her face – I continued on my way with two newly hemmed *kanga* and the memory of this industrious woman on “Seamstress Street.”

-- Joy Campbell, *Peace Corps/Morocco, 1998-2000*

Tanzania (United Republic of Tanzania)

Capital Dar es Salaam

Population 41,048,532 (2009 est.)

Life Expectancy 52.01 years

Literacy 69.4% (age 15 and over can read and write Kiswahili, English or Arabic)

Languages Kiswahili or Swahili (official), Kiunguja, English, Arabic, others

Religions Christian 30%, Muslim 35%, indigenous beliefs 35%, (Zanzibar: 99% Muslim)

Government republic

Source: *The World Factbook, 2009*

