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Exploring Tanzania's Diplomatic Landscape: Citizen Perspectives on Foreign Policy Execution, Diplomatic Relations, Trade Agreements, and Aid Initiatives

Adam Michael Mnyavanu^{1*} & David Haruna Mrisho²

¹ Tanzania Institute of Accountancy, P. O. Box 9522, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

² St. Augustine University of Tanzania, P. O. Box 307 Mwanza, Tanzania.

* Author for Correspondence ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4602-9410>; Email: Adam.mnyavanu@iaa.ac.tz

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Through an investigation of citizens' perceptions of trade agreements, aid programs, and diplomatic relations, this study aims to determine the extent to which Tanzania has implemented its foreign policy. Based on the necessity of comprehending public opinions, the research adds new perspectives to the corpus of knowledge by using a citizen-centric methodology. The study uses quantitative data to show that citizens are generally not very satisfied with the efficacy of trade agreements, aid initiatives, and diplomatic relations. Results show that in order to promote economic growth and socioeconomic development, foreign policy objectives must be strategically adjusted to match public expectations. The study adds more nuance to the analysis by conducting key informant interviews, which provide professional viewpoints on the difficulties and achievements in Tanzania's foreign policy environment. The study promotes a fair strategy that protects national interests while acknowledging the opportunities and hazards that come with liberal ideals. The study emphasises how crucial it is for foreign policy to continuously adapt and solve issues in order to overcome persistent obstacles to trade and diplomacy. In order to strengthen diplomatic ties, trade agreements, and aid initiatives, recommendations stress the need for open communication, policy realignment, and cautious liberalisation. This will ensure Tanzania's foreign policy is implemented effectively in the ever-changing global environment. In addition to improving our knowledge of Tanzanian foreign policy, this study offers insightful information to help decision-makers facing comparable difficulties in the field of international relations.

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INTRODUCTION

The implementation of foreign policy in every country assumes paramount significance in an era marked by increasing global interconnectedness, not only for the countries involved but also for the global community at large. The global impact of developing countries' foreign policy implementation, both in terms of effectiveness and scope, is significant as it shapes diplomatic environments, trade dynamics, and cooperative efforts to address common challenges (Jena & Sethi, 2020). The trade agreements, aid programs, and diplomatic ties will affect both the developed and developing worlds as they attempt to make a statement in the global arena (Pänke, 2019). Diplomatic relations play a significant role in shaping the global geopolitical landscape by providing insight into a nation's alliances and ability to navigate global dynamics. Success in trade agreements promotes a more integrated and interdependent global economy in addition to stimulating economic growth in developing countries (McKenzie, 2018). Furthermore, the success of aid initiatives highlights the mutual accountability of developed and developing countries in tackling major developmental roadblocks (Asongu & Odhiambo, 2020). This intricate network of interrelated foreign policy issues emphasises the importance of comprehending how these variables affect global dynamics, extending beyond national boundaries and influencing the cooperative efforts necessary to handle the difficult problems that confront our globalised society.

The execution of foreign policy in developing nations is a complex process that includes trade agreements, aid initiatives, and diplomatic

relations (Hongli & Vitenu-Sackey, 2023). This scholarly investigation seeks to evaluate citizens' perceptions in order to determine the effectiveness and scope of foreign policy execution. Motivated by the goal of ascertaining the degree of foreign policy implementation, the research examines three primary factors: trade agreements, aid programs, and diplomatic relations. One important aspect is diplomatic relations, which show how well a country can build alliances and handle global dynamics. Trade agreements, which are essential for economic expansion, demonstrate how countries have integrated into the world economy. Concurrently, the assessment of assistance initiatives determines how well international collaboration tackles developmental obstacles (Dawson et al., 2017). The findings and discussion explore the interactions among diplomatic tactics, business ventures, and humanitarian projects, illuminating the complex terrain of foreign policy implementation in Tanzania. Drawing from the Liberalism theory of international relations, this scholarly investigation aims to explore Tanzanian citizens' perspectives in order to provide insight into the effectiveness and scope of the nation's foreign policy implementation (Sandel, 2018). Focusing on three critical areas—trade agreements, aid programs, and diplomatic relations—the research aims to determine the degree to which these elements facilitate or obstruct the achievement of foreign policy goals. One important aspect that is being studied is a country's ability to form alliances and effectively handle international relations; one important indicator of this is diplomatic relations (Gonzalez-Vicente, 2017). Trade agreements are essential for promoting economic growth because they show how integrated a country is into the

world economy. At the same time, a liberal perspective is used to evaluate aid initiatives, highlighting the effectiveness of global collaboration in tackling developmental issues (Börzel & Zürn, 2021; Pänke, 2019). Taking a broad stance, this study methodologically examines the complex interactions among diplomatic tactics, business dealings, and humanitarian initiatives, offering insightful information about the complex environment of foreign policy implementation in developing countries, especially Tanzania.

The current study addresses a critical gap in foreign policy research by incorporating citizens' perceptions into the evaluation of Tanzania's foreign policy implementation. Existing studies largely focus on state-centered analyses, emphasising government policies, economic data, and diplomatic strategies, while neglecting how ordinary citizens perceive and experience the impacts of foreign policy. By integrating public opinion, this research provides a bottom-up perspective, offering a more comprehensive understanding of how trade agreements, aid programs, and diplomatic relations influence national development. Additionally, most previous studies examine these foreign policy dimensions in isolation, whereas this study takes a holistic approach by analysing their interconnectedness, thus presenting a more nuanced picture of Tanzania's engagement in the global arena.

Furthermore, the study contributes to theoretical and empirical discussions by applying the Liberalism theory within an African context, a framework that is often underutilised in studies of developing countries' foreign policies. While liberalism emphasises international cooperation, alliances, and economic integration, its relevance to Tanzania's foreign policy has not been extensively explored. This research empirically assesses the effectiveness and scope of Tanzania's foreign policy, moving beyond broad regional generalisations to provide localised insights specific to the country's diplomatic, economic, and developmental realities. By filling these gaps, the study offers valuable knowledge for

policymakers, scholars, and international development partners seeking to understand and enhance the effectiveness of foreign policy in developing nations.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Brazil, a Southern American nation, has successfully implemented its foreign policy through strategic diplomatic relations, alliances, and trade agreements, promoting economic growth and aid initiatives (Neethling, 2017). Brazil's skilful handling of these variables demonstrates the value of a liberal viewpoint, while Venezuela's difficulties highlight the challenges posed by strained international relations. This liberal viewpoint has allowed Brazil to strategically integrate into the global economy, highlighting the importance of international cooperation in addressing development issues (Zahluth Bastos & Hiratuka, 2020). However, Venezuela has faced difficulties in foreign policy, particularly in diplomatic relations, due to its strained international ties (Funk et al., 2021). Cuba has demonstrated resilience in diplomatic relations, forming alliances that support its foreign policy goals despite historical setbacks (Clarke & Ricketts, 2017).

Sri Lanka faces challenges in implementing its foreign policy compared to other Asian nations, including internal conflicts and maintaining diplomatic relations (Li, 2014). Malaysia, on the other hand, has successfully implemented a comprehensive foreign policy through trade agreements, aid programs, and diplomatic relations (Funk et al., 2021). These Asian countries provide valuable insights into the strategies and results of international relations, highlighting the interdependence of trade agreements, aid initiatives, and diplomatic relations in achieving successful foreign policy implementation.

In the African context, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) grapples with foreign policy challenges, as internal conflicts and political instability hinder diplomatic relations and impede economic integration through trade agreements

(Diemel & Hilhorst, 2019). In contrast, South Africa emerges as a success story, adeptly navigating diplomatic complexities and utilising alliances to play a significant role in regional and international forums (Mason, 2017; Neethling, 2017). The country's strategic approach to trade agreements has contributed to robust economic growth, demonstrating the integral role of economic integration in successful foreign policy (Neethling, 2017). To improve their ability to make strategic decisions, Tanzania's policymakers must comprehend the dynamics of these components within the prism of liberalism theory, providing insight into trade deals, aid programs, and diplomatic strategies. An analysis of liberalism theory provides insights into Tanzania's ability to create mutually beneficial alliances, promote economic growth via trade agreements, and work cooperatively on international developmental issues (Agbebi & Virtanen, 2017).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study involved the Tanzania Institute of Accountancy, the Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, and the College of Business Education. The chosen study area offered a combination of benefits fit for data collection because they have a mixed population in terms of education, responsibilities and varied interests in their occupations.

A cross-sectional study design was adopted for this study. The design offers many benefits in data collection and analysis, including its data fit for descriptive and inferential analyses (Zangirolami-raimundo and Oliveira, 2018). Both quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection were used to achieve the goal of data triangulation (Meyer & Schutz, 2020; Oduro, 2020).

Population Sample Size

The study examined students and staff from selected higher learning institutions, including Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, Tanzania Institute of Accounts, and College of Business Education. The total population was 59,523, with

a sample size of 399 respondents determined using the Yamane (1973) formula. Additionally, eight Key Informants (KIIs) were selected from various ministries, including the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, a retired military attaché, and higher learning institutions.

Data collection involved both quantitative and qualitative methods. Quantitative data was gathered through a structured questionnaire, while qualitative data was obtained through Key Informant Interviews. The study employed stratified sampling to ensure representation of both students and staff.

To ensure validity, experts from academia and professionals in the field reviewed the questionnaire and interview guide to confirm that all key aspects were covered and aligned with the research objectives. A pilot test was also conducted with a small group of respondents to assess whether the questions effectively captured the intended constructs. Any ambiguous or unclear items were revised accordingly.

For reliability, a subset of respondents completed the questionnaire twice at different intervals to assess the consistency of responses. This test-retest approach helped ensure the stability and reliability of the research instrument.

Measurements of Variables

Foreign policy implementation was measured by three indicators, which are diplomatic relations, media coverage, trade agreements, and aid programmes. The Likert Scale of 5 points was then developed to rank the level of each indicator. The ranks are 1=Strongly Agree, 2=Agree, 3=Neutral, 4=Disagree, 5=Strongly Disagree

Questions for diplomatic relations were: To what extent do you believe that Tanzania's diplomatic efforts have effectively maintained peaceful relations with other nations? How do you perceive Tanzania's reputation on the global stage due to its foreign policy efforts? To what degree do you think Tanzania engages with other countries and participates in international events and

organisations? And how satisfied are you with the Tanzanian government's ability to manage and resolve diplomatic crises or emergencies with other nations?

Data Analysis Methods

Data were cleaned, and frequencies and measures of central and dispersion were analysed to inform the characteristics of respondents and data diagnosis. This step was necessary to prepare data for analysis (Cuschieri, 2021). Quantitative data were collected and then imported and computed by SPSS Version 26. The data were cleaned, and outliers and missing variables were separated. The total responses were 386, out of which 8 were missing for some variables. The data were analysed using descriptive statistics. Descriptive statistics facilitated a meaningful and understandable presentation of data. The frequencies are applied in this instance, followed by explanations. The use of inferential statistics to illustrate the relationship between research variables using correlation and regression analysis.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The study surveyed 379 respondents, with 51.6% male and 48.4% female. A balanced gender distribution was observed. Education status was 63.8% with a degree, followed by diplomas (23.5%) and master's degrees (6.6%). The majority of respondents were aged 15-25, with 66.9% falling in this age range.

Extent of implementation of Tanzania's Foreign Policy

The objective is to determine the extent of the implementation of Tanzania's foreign policy. Three variables were studied: diplomatic relations, trade agreements and aid programmes. Results are presented in *Tables 1, 2 and 3*.

Diplomatic Relation

Diplomatic relation determines the success or failure of foreign policy. The variable was studied to find out the perceptions of citizens on the way they perceive Tanzania's diplomatic relations. Findings are presented in *Table 1*.

Table 1: Diplomatic Relations

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Disagree	144	38.0	38.0
Disagree	120	31.7	69.7
Neutral	30	7.9	77.6
Agree	70	18.5	96.0
Strongly Agree	15	4.0	100.0
Total	379	100.0	

Source: *Study findings (2023)*

Respondents were asked how they perceive Tanzania's diplomatic relations. The above table provides frequency distribution concerning diplomatic relations and reflects the responses of 379 individuals to a question or statement on this topic. The data indicates that 38.0% strongly disagreed with the statement, 31.7% disagreed, 7.9% were neutral, 18.5% agreed, and 4.0% strongly agreed. This information highlights that there were varying degrees of agreement within the surveyed group regarding diplomatic relations. The largest group expressed strong disagreement, while a significant portion

disagreed or were neutral. A smaller but notable percentage either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement.

Trade Agreements

Foreign policy should assist businesses to grow, both exports and imports (DTDA, 2018; McCarthy, 2020). The study sought to measure respondents' perceptions of the foreign policy implementation of trade agreements. Findings are presented in *Table 2*.

Table 2: Trade Agreements

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Disagree	130	34.3	34.3
Disagree	153	40.4	74.7
Neutral	11	2.9	77.6
Agree	65	17.2	94.7
Strongly Agree	20	5.3	100.0
Total	379	100.0	

Source: *Study findings (2023)*

The study asked about respondents' perceptions of the foreign policy implementation on trade agreements. The data shows that 34.3% strongly disagreed with the statement, 40.4% disagreed, 2.9% were neutral, 17.2% agreed, and 5.3% strongly agreed. This information suggests that opinions within the surveyed group varied concerning trade agreements. The largest group expressed disagreement, followed by strong disagreement, and a smaller but notable portion

either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement.

Aid Programs

Tanzania is among the developing countries, therefore, foreign policy intends partly to provide conducive environments for grants and aid to support various social-economic sectors. The study examined respondents' perceptions of aid programs as part of the implementation of foreign policy. The findings are presented in *Table 3*.

Table 3: Aid Programs

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Disagree	139	36.7	36.7
Disagree	165	43.5	80.2
Neutral	11	2.9	83.1
Agree	42	11.1	94.2
Strongly Agree	22	5.8	100.0
Total	379	100.0	

Source: *Study findings, (2023)*

The provided frequency distribution concerns Aid Programs and reflects the responses of 379 individuals to a question or statement related to this topic. The data indicates that 36.7% strongly disagreed with the statement, 43.5% disagreed, 2.9% were neutral, 11.1% agreed, and 5.8% strongly agreed. This information suggests that opinions within the surveyed group varied regarding aid programs. The largest group expressed disagreement, including both strong disagreement and regular disagreement.

Findings from KII on the foreign policy implementation variables studied.

...Tanzania's foreign policy has made encouraging progress in fostering trade and economic cooperation with its neighbours, but even greater efficacy will depend on removing trade barriers and improving

logistical support... (KII 2, on 4th October, 2023)

Another KII had this to say

...Tanzania has effectively upheld a non-alignment strategy and positive engagement in global affairs through its foreign policy. Tanzania's foreign policy has generally been successful in its diplomatic endeavours, albeit it needs to be continuously modified to maintain its efficacy... (KII 3, on 3rd October, 2023)

On security, the KII had this to comment

...the security issues continue to be a major worry, especially in light of transnational threats and permeable borders. Collaborative efforts to resolve these concerns have shown some success; but, in order to completely

safeguard Tanzania's interests and those of the region as a whole, a comprehensive and sustainable solution is required... (KII 4, on 5th October, 2023)

DISCUSSION

Tanzania's foreign policy has consistently prioritized regional integration and economic cooperation, as highlighted by Magoma, (2019). By fostering strong diplomatic and trade relationships with neighbouring countries, Tanzania has contributed to the stability and growth of the East African Community (EAC), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). These regional affiliations have facilitated economic opportunities, expanded trade routes, and improved cross-border business operations. Additionally, the country's active participation in multilateral organisations has reinforced its diplomatic presence and enhanced its role as a key player in African economic diplomacy.

Despite these achievements, significant challenges persist. Trade facilitation remains a bottleneck due to bureaucratic inefficiencies, regulatory inconsistencies, and limited infrastructure to support seamless cross-border trade (Asongu & Odhiambo, 2020). The lack of well-developed transportation networks, outdated customs clearance processes, and excessive tariffs continue to hinder the realisation of Tanzania's full economic potential (Asongu & Odhiambo, 2020). Addressing these barriers through comprehensive policy reforms, infrastructure investment, and harmonisation of trade policies with neighbouring countries will be crucial in achieving the desired regional economic integration.

Tanzania's foreign policy has also been instrumental in securing trade agreements with regional and international partners. The country has signed multiple bilateral and multilateral agreements aimed at enhancing trade liberalisation, attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), and boosting export competitiveness (Magoma, 2019). These agreements have opened

up new markets for Tanzanian products, creating employment opportunities and fostering economic diversification. However, the effectiveness of these trade deals is often hampered by non-tariff barriers, fluctuating global economic conditions, and inadequate logistical support (Asongu & Odhiambo, 2020). Strengthening trade policy implementation and ensuring that agreements translate into tangible economic benefits will be key to sustaining long-term economic growth.

Furthermore, foreign aid and development assistance programs have played a pivotal role in supporting Tanzania's economic initiatives. International partnerships have funded infrastructure projects, healthcare improvements, and educational programs, contributing to national development (Magoma, 2019). However, reliance on aid poses sustainability concerns, making it essential for Tanzania to transition towards self-reliance by leveraging its trade potential, expanding industrial production, and enhancing regional supply chain integration. In addition to economic considerations, Tanzania's foreign policy must also address security concerns, as highlighted by Juma and Odhiambo (2021). The country faces growing transnational threats, including terrorism, organised crime, human trafficking, and illegal smuggling due to its vast and often porous borders. While regional security cooperation has led to progress in mitigating these risks, challenges persist in fully securing Tanzania's territorial integrity. Collaborative efforts with neighbouring states, intelligence-sharing mechanisms, and increased border control measures are necessary to enhance national and regional security.

Tanzania's participation in regional security organisations such as the African Union's Peace and Security Council and the EAC's security initiatives has been instrumental in tackling security threats. However, long-term solutions require investment in modern surveillance technologies, training of border personnel, and strengthening diplomatic efforts to foster international cooperation in counterterrorism and transnational crime prevention (Magoma, 2019).

Given the evolving nature of global and regional challenges, Tanzania's foreign policy must remain dynamic and responsive. Economic, diplomatic, and security concerns are interconnected, requiring a holistic approach to foreign policy formulation and implementation. Strengthening diplomatic ties, promoting economic cooperation, enhancing security frameworks, and ensuring sustainable development strategies will be critical to achieving long-term success (Asongu & Odhiambo, 2020).

Additionally, the global geopolitical landscape continues to shift, necessitating strategic alliances and policy adjustments to safeguard national interests. Tanzania must proactively engage in diplomatic negotiations, strengthen trade alliances, and reinforce its role in global forums to remain competitive and resilient in the face of emerging challenges. By doing so, the country will not only enhance its economic standing but also contribute to regional stability and prosperity.

Summary of Findings

Regarding the extent of Tanzania's foreign policy implementation, the examination of citizens' perspectives on trade agreements reveals a diverse range of opinions. This diversity underscores the complexity of public attitudes and the need for nuanced policy responses. Further emphasise the dynamic challenges facing Tanzania's foreign policy, highlighting the imperative for a responsive approach to safeguard the nation's interests.

CONCLUSION

Regarding diplomatic relations, the significant dissatisfaction among citizens (with 38.0% strongly disagreeing) indicates that Tanzania's foreign policy may face difficulties. The liberal ideals of international harmony and cooperation may be jeopardised if the nation ignores these worries and does not match its diplomatic efforts with popular expectations. The division could make it difficult to work together effectively and harm the country's standing abroad, which would

put the larger tenets of liberal diplomacy in jeopardy.

Similarly, a sizable percentage of citizens' dissatisfaction with trade agreements (34.3% strongly disagreeing and 40.4% disagreeing) points to a possible threat to liberal economic principles. Tanzania's trade policies could potentially undermine the liberal ideal of promoting economic cooperation through foreign policy if they are not strategically realigned to meet public expectations and foster growth. This could make it more difficult for the nation to fully benefit from globalisation and thwart its attempts to liberalise its economy.

The complex terrain of Tanzania's foreign policy implementation is highlighted by the differing degrees of agreement and disagreement across trade agreements, aid programs, and diplomatic relations. The insights gleaned from key informant interviews highlight the successes in promoting economic cooperation and regional integration, but they also highlight the ongoing difficulties, particularly with regard to security. The need for flexibility and problem-solving is a recurrent theme, highlighting the fluidity of foreign policy and the requirement for ongoing improvement to get past persistent obstacles to diplomacy and trade.

Recommendations

Diplomatic Relation

In light of the citizens' discontent, as indicated by the survey, Tanzania's diplomatic approaches ought to be thoroughly reviewed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is essential to have an open discussion with the public in order to comprehend their expectations and concerns. The ministry should think about taking a more open and inclusive stance to improve diplomatic relations, making sure that the public is informed and involved in important foreign policy choices. When implementing these changes, care must be taken to strike a balance between transparency and protecting national interests—an excessively permissive stance could put the nation in danger.

Trade Agreements

The Foreign Affairs Ministry should thoroughly assess current trade policies in order to address the unhappiness surrounding trade agreements. It is necessary to make strategic changes in order to match public expectations with foreign policy goals and encourage inclusive economic growth. Underscoring the tenets of liberal economic cooperation, the ministry ought to pursue avenues for mutually advantageous trade partnerships. To mitigate potential risks associated with rapid liberalisation, like economic dependency, a cautious approach is necessary. Resilience in the face of global economic fluctuations and sustainable development will require striking a balance between protective measures and economic openness.

Aid Programmes

Taking into account the considerable discontent that the public has voiced, the ministry needs to reconsider how it approaches aid initiatives. It is essential that grants and aids be used in a more accountable and transparent manner. Bridging the perception gap will require public engagement in order to convey the benefits of foreign aid on socioeconomic sectors. Although accepting the advantages of outside help is encouraged, care should be taken to prevent dependency on aid that can jeopardise national sovereignty. The nation should deliberately project an image of being self-sufficient but also open to cooperation with other countries. This calls for a nuanced strategy that optimises development opportunities without endangering national sovereignty or becoming unduly reliant on outside assistance.

Contribution to the Body of Knowledge

Harmonising National Interests with Liberal Principles. The paper recognises the possible advantages and disadvantages of foreign policy liberalisation. The research offers a nuanced perspective by warning against an excessively liberal approach and highlighting the necessity of a balanced strategy that protects national interests. The dynamics between liberal principles and national sovereignty are better-understood thanks

to this discussion, which also offers insightful information to Tanzanian policymakers and perhaps other nations facing comparable foreign policy challenges. Because it balances liberal ideals and national interests, offers expert insights, incorporates citizen perspectives, and provides quantitative data, this research makes a significant contribution to the body of knowledge on Tanzania's foreign policy implementation. Together, these contributions improve our knowledge of the opportunities and challenges associated with implementing foreign policy strategies in Tanzania.

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