



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



# **VICTIMIZATION SURVEY IN TANZANIA**

## **Executive summary**

**June 2009**

The UNODC initiative *Data for Africa* has the overall objective to improve the knowledge of drugs and crime problems in Africa, by strengthening the capacity of African countries to collect and analyse data and trends in drugs, crime and victimization.

This report presents the results of a victimization survey carried out within the framework of the UN Development Account project 06/07R *Collection and analysis of data and trends on drugs, crime, and victimization in Africa*.

<http://www.un.org/esa/devaccount/projects/2006/0607R.html>

This was the third victimization survey under the Safer Cities programme, which aims to build local government capacity to address issues related to safety and insecurity. The survey gathered information about crime and the perceptions of safety from a range of urban centers (cities and municipalities) in the country, namely the cities of Tanga, Mbeya and Mwanza and the municipalities of Moshi and Dodoma. Previous victimization surveys were conducted in Dar es Salaam (2000) and Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Mtwara (2003).



The victimization survey in Tanzania was carried out by the government of the United Republic of Tanzania through the Prime Minister's Office-Regional Administration and Local Government (PMO-RALG) in collaboration with UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

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This document has not been formally edited.



## Rate of victimization

In the year 2007, the period covered by the survey, the total number of crimes reported by survey respondents was 1,533. Of these, 1,078 (or 70.3 per cent) were household crimes and 455 (29.7 per cent) were crimes against the individual respondent.

The survey involved a total of 1,888 households in five survey centres in Tanzania, namely Dodoma, Mbeya, Moshi, Mwanza and Tanga.

**Table 1 – Prevalence of victimisation during the year preceding the survey (2007)**

Type of crime	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Household crimes</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>29.7</b>
Theft of car	13	6.8 <sup>1</sup>
Car hijacking	4	2.1 <sup>2</sup>
Theft from car	13	6.8 <sup>3</sup>
Car vandalism	3	1.6 <sup>4</sup>
Theft of motorcycle	5	3.7 <sup>5</sup>
Theft of bicycle	66	8.2 <sup>6</sup>
Theft of livestock	101	15.8 <sup>7</sup>
Burglary with entry	146	7.7
Attempted burglary	104	5.5
<b>Crimes against the individual respondent</b>	<b>1078</b>	<b>70.3</b>
Robbery	56	3.0
Personal theft	132	7.0
Sexual offences (women only)	18	1.8 <sup>8</sup>
Assault / Threat	55	2.9
Consumer fraud	332	17.6
Corruption	485	25.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1533</b>	<b>100</b>

At the household level, the most prevalent crimes were theft of livestock (15.8 per cent), theft of bicycle (8.2 per cent) and burglary with entry (7.7 per cent). For personal/individual

<sup>1</sup> This percentage is based on the number of households owning a car (190).

<sup>2</sup> This percentage is based on the number of households owning a car (190).

<sup>3</sup> This percentage is based on the number of households owning a car (190).

<sup>4</sup> This percentage is based on the number of households owning a car (190).

<sup>5</sup> This percentage is based on the number of households owning a motorcycle (136).

<sup>6</sup> This percentage is based on the number of households owning a bicycle (809).

<sup>7</sup> This percentage is based on the number of households owning livestock (640).

<sup>8</sup> This percentage is based on the number of women interviewed (1 024).

crimes, the most prevalent crimes by far are corruption<sup>9</sup> (25.7 per cent) and consumer fraud (17.6 per cent).

## Experience of respondents with the police

According to the survey, the frequency of reporting crimes to the police varies greatly depending on the type of crime concerned. While 93.3 per cent of motorcycle thefts were reported to the police, this was true for only 4.6 per cent of incidents of corruption.

Car hijacking is a serious crime and the general expectation would be that victims would report it to the police when it occurs. Reporting makes sense for a number of reasons including record keeping, insurance needs, understanding the context and developing new strategies to prevent further victimization. However, only 55.6% of those who had experienced car hijacking reported to the police. When these victims were asked about their satisfaction with services provided by the police, 60% responded that they were satisfied while 40% were not satisfied.

The number of respondents who reported crime to authorities other than the police is highest for sexual offences (20.5 per cent), assault/threat (17.1 per cent) and robbery (16.2 per cent).

**Table 1 – Percentage of victims who reported crimes to the police or other authorities**

Type of crime	% Reported to the police	% Reported to other authorities
Theft of car	71.4	-
Car hijacking	55.6	-
Theft from car	43.9	7.3
Car vandalism	46.7	-
Theft of motorcycle	93.3	-
Theft of bicycle	57.2	-
Theft of livestock	21.2	4.5
Burglary with entry	44.5	3.2
Attempted burglary	29.9	-
Robbery	45.6	16.2
Personal theft	21.0	-
Sexual offences	33.5	20.5
Assault / Threat	37.3	17.1
Consumer fraud	6.6	4.5
Corruption	4.6	4.8

## Opinions about police work

Neighbourhood policing is one of the practices that promotes safety among members of the community. Such practices allow people to conduct their daily activities with the comfort and

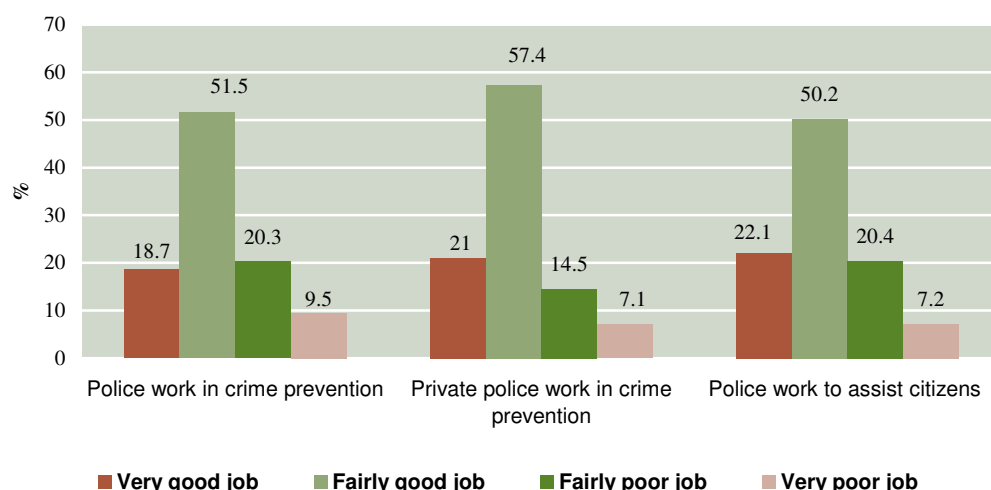
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<sup>9</sup> Corruption refers to a situation where government and non-government officers, demand extra pay for services they are supposed to offer for free to the general public. Corruption can also originate from the customers who corrupt employees of suppliers and or government officers in order to get certain benefits or privileges

trust they need. This is possible where the police are controlling crime. More than 70 per cent of respondents noted that police are doing either a “very good job” or a “fairly good job” at both crime prevention and assisting citizens (Figure 1).

The police force received good ratings in the urban centre of Moshi, whereas the poorest ratings were recorded in Mwanza city. With regard to private security officers, more than three quarters pointed out that they are doing either a “very good job” (21 per cent) or a “fairly good job” (57 per cent). However, more than one-fifth of respondents have a negative view of private police officials.

**Figure 1: Opinion about police work in preventing and controlling crime**



## Fear of Crime

Respondents were asked how safe it was to walk alone after dark in their own neighbourhoods. Inability to walk alone after dark indicates the presence of risks, such as personal attacks or threats, in the area. 55 per cent of respondents said it was either “very safe” or “fairly safe” to walk alone after dark (Figure 2). On safety at home after dark, some two thirds of respondents said they are either “very safe” or “fairly safe”.

Respondents in the cities of Tanga and Moshi felt safer than those in other cities. In particular, respondents from Mwanza and Mbeya felt very unsafe in walking alone after dark and at home after dark.

**Figure 2: Feelings of safety in the street and at home**



## **Crime prevention measures**

The survey included a section in which respondents were asked to indicate which preventive measures they were using to protect the security of their houses. Various crime prevention measures were mentioned, including physical tools (burglar alarms, window grids, door locks), arrangements with the neighbours and other community-based crime prevention schemes. More than a quarter of the respondents reported that they were not protected by any of the listed prevention measures, while 24 per cent said they installed door locks and 18 per cent special window grids.

## **Attitude of respondents towards punishment**

Respondents were asked which type of punishment was in their opinion the most appropriate for a 21-year-old who had been found guilty of stealing a colour television, having been convicted for burglary once before. The answers showed that two thirds of respondents would prefer such an offender to be imprisoned, 11 per cent thought a monetary fine would be appropriate, and another 10 per cent recommended community service.

## **Other information about the survey**

The 2008 victimization survey in Tanzania follows two studies carried out under the safer Cities Programme supported by UN-HABITAT. The first study, conducted in 2000, was carried out in Dar es Salaam City<sup>10</sup>, while the second covered the cities of Arusha, Dar es Salaam and Mtwara.<sup>11</sup> The coverage of this study includes the cities of Tanga, Mwanza and Mbeya and the municipalities of Dodoma and Moshi. These urban areas are among the seven centres involved in the 3rd phase of the UN-Habitat “Safer Cities” programme at the national level.

The main goal of the survey is to collect data which will allow State organs, particularly local authorities, and all interested stakeholders to understand better the state of crime in their respective jurisdiction and hence plan accordingly. The local government authorities are required by the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (1977) to maintain peace and order. Furthermore, the Local Government Act of 1982 (section 54) requires local authorities to address issues of safety and insecurity.

The survey was coordinated by Safer Cities National Programme Tanzania within PMO-RALG in collaboration UN-Habitat and funded by UNODC.<sup>12</sup> City and Municipal Directors of the respective urban centres contributed immensely to the smooth running of the exercise coordinated by their Safer Cities Programme Coordinators at city and municipal level.

## **Methodology and sample description**

A total of 1 888 households from the five urban centres of Dodoma, Mbeya, Moshi, Mwanza and Tanga were involved in the survey (see Figure 3 for distribution of respondents by city and area). In each city a team of qualified interviewers was recruited on a competitive basis and coordinated by Safer Cities Programme coordinators. All interviewers received a two day intensive training aiming to understand the questionnaire and focus on interview techniques and quality control. Training also included practical information on how to present him/herself before and during the interviews to promote effective interviewing, including

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<sup>10</sup> See *Crime in Dar es Salaam. Results of a City Wide Survey*. UN-Habitat, 2001 (<http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/getPage.asp?page=bookView&book=2413> )

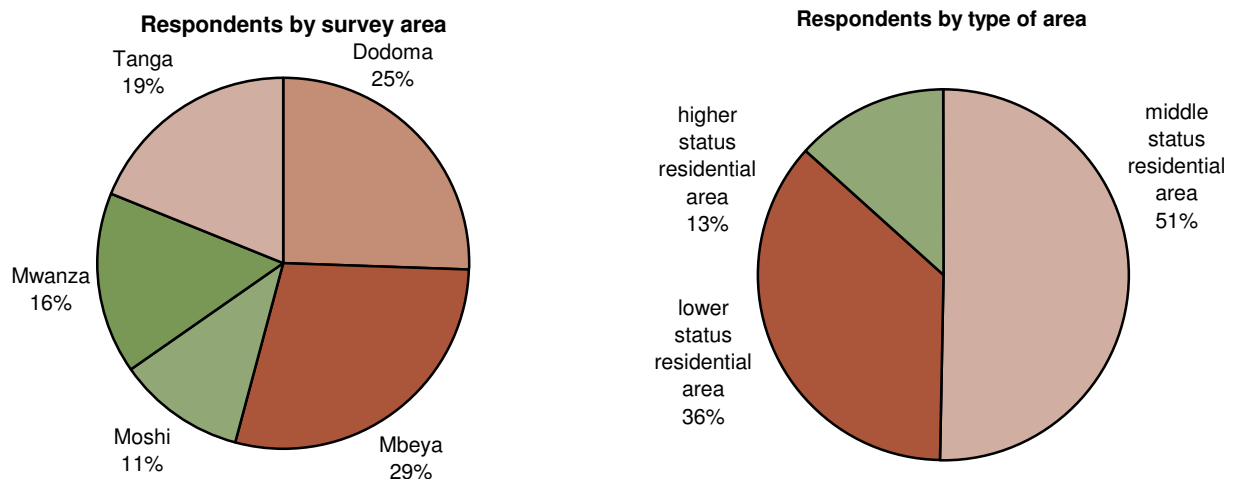
<sup>11</sup> See *Victimization Survey in Tanzania*. UN-Habitat, 2002.

<sup>12</sup> Within the framework of the UN Development Account project 06/07R *Collection and analysis of data and trends on drugs, crime, and victimization in Africa*.

setting appointments, use of language, dress code, understanding body language and getting respondents to participate and cooperate in the interview.

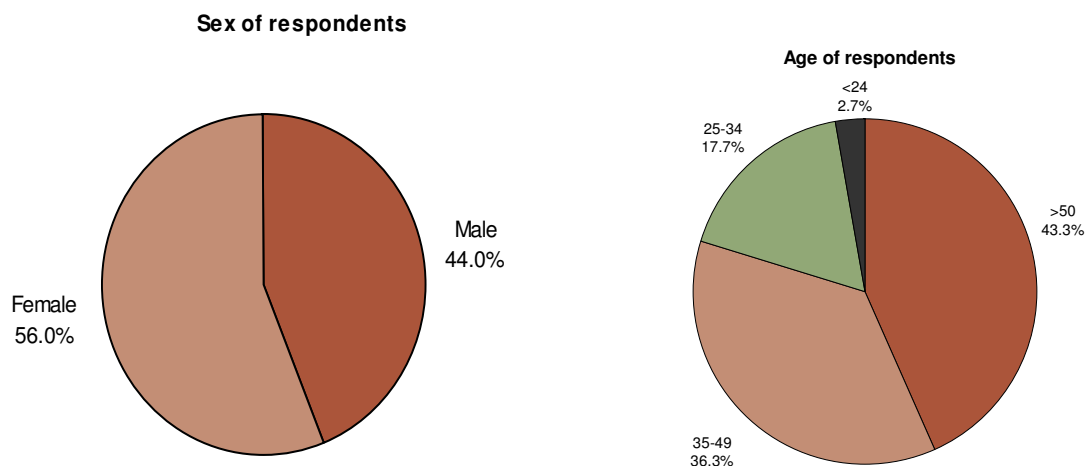
To get a balanced sample in each city, lower, medium and high population density areas were included in different proportions (51% of the sample was living in middle status residential areas, 36% in lower status and 13% in higher status areas respectively). In collaboration with sub-ward (Mtaa) executive officers and elected leaders, households were randomly selected within each area and their respective heads were interviewed. Quality control was done by the lead researcher assisted by a research statistician.

**Figure 3: Distribution of respondents by survey area**



The majority of respondent (76%) were married, followed by widow/widower (11%). Sixty-nine percent of the respondents noted that they had stayed in their respective areas for 10 or more years while 31 per cent said that they lived in their areas for a period of 5 – 10 years. Sixty per cent of the respondents had primary school education, while those with secondary education were 22 per cent. College graduates and those with university level studies were only 5 and 3 per cent respectively.

**Figure 4: Distribution of respondents by sex and age**





A gender overview indicates that 44% of respondents were male while 56% were female. As the head of each household was interviewed, the distribution of respondents by age and marital status may be a result of this methodological choice. Only 20 per cent of the respondents were less than 34 years old, while 36% were between 35 and 49 and the majority (43%) were above 50.