

Tanzania July 2027

Missions Trip Information Package



Trip Summary

Hope City Church is sending a team of adults to Mwanza, Tanzania, to serve alongside the team at VOH Mwanza, a children's care ministry in the Nyegezi area. Pastor Ahmed and Audrey NGOMBO will be our hosts along with Laeticia & Giphon Wabwile in Mwanza Tanzania and Hope City's connection to VOH Mwanza.

The tentative travel dates are Saturday, July 17 to Saturday, July 31, 2027 (inclusive of travel days). The plan is for the last two weeks of July, and exact dates will be confirmed once flights are booked.

Rob Farbin will serve as the team leader.

An optional safari and Kilimanjaro day hike is being planned for after the mission portion of the trip, for team members who wish to join. See Optional Safari and Kilimanjaro Day Hike below.

About our Global Partners in Tanzania

VOH Mwanza provides holistic care to children in need through a feeding program, a school, and other support programs that also help whole families. The centre is in Nyegezi, a suburb about 20 minutes outside Mwanza city, which sits on the shore of Lake Victoria. A satellite preschool in Nyasaka is about 30 minutes away. The centre opened in January 2012, cares for over 1,100 children and employs over 70 Tanzanians.

Their programs include:

Feeding: daily porridge each morning and a balanced lunch each afternoon for children at the school and the Nyasaka preschool. Children who are underweight or have medical conditions receive extra supplements and are monitored.

Education: free preschool and primary school for children living on site and in the neighbouring community. VOH Mwanza covers school fees and related expenses for on site children in secondary school, supports some graduates with further training, and runs workshops for young adults.

Family focused shelter: homes for children identified by local authorities as having no other safe place to live. Each home has a housemother and eight children of various ages. The ministry also works toward reuniting children with extended family and offers short term emergency stays.

Healthcare: an on site, government registered clinic with a full time doctor and nurse, regular check ups for the children, and a program supporting children with disabilities.

Children are selected by a Child Welfare Committee together with community leaders. Many have lost one or both parents, come from impoverished homes, or live with chronic medical conditions.

Items to confirm with VOH before this package is distributed: (1) the VOH MWANZA used to called Starehe (which was started in the 1980s under the German branch of the PAOC) in Nyegezi, Mwanza, Tanzania; (2) Village of Hope is under the PAOC

Why Short Term Teams?

(1) meet practical needs of local ministries
(2) provide team members an opportunity to participate in God's redemptive work in other cultures and contexts
(3) create and strengthen individual and organizational relationships across cultures
(4) create opportunities for spiritual formation in team members

Activities

The team will serve at VOH Mwanza. Specific activities have not yet been confirmed with VOH. Possible activities include classroom and preschool support, children's programming, helping with the feeding program, and practical projects around the centre. Specific projects will be confirmed approximately three months prior to departure.

Team members should expect to serve between 7 and 10 hours per day. Cultural experiences will be incorporated into the itinerary (to be confirmed).

Because the team will be working with children, team members should expect to complete a criminal record check (vulnerable sector) and child safety training before departure. Confirm requirements.

Who can apply?

Applications are open to active participants of Hope City Church who support our vision, mission and beliefs.

Team members must be in good physical, emotional, and mental health and be prepared to function in a warm climate, walk moderate distances over uneven terrain, climb stairs, and participate in full and active days.

Cost and Finances

Each team member is responsible for raising $4,000 to cover their portion of the team costs for the mission portion of the trip. This is an estimate and will be confirmed once flights and accommodations are booked.

Current estimates are about $2,500 for the international flight to Dar es Salaam and about $350 for the return flight between Dar es Salaam and Mwanza. The balance covers meals, accommodations, and ground transportation. Rob's first estimate for the mission portion was $3,500 per person. The updated estimate is closer to $4,000 for flights and accommodations.

As a ministry trip, all donations are eligible for a charitable donation receipt in the year the funds are donated. Charitable donations are nonrefundable. If a team member cannot participate, funds raised will remain in the team budget.

A minimum donation of $500 per team member is required within 15 days of acceptance.

Team funds cover flights, ground transportation, meals, accommodations, and ministry expenses. (Entry visa fee to Tanzania - $50 USD)

Team members will need to bring funds with them to cover airport meals, souvenirs, and incidental expenses (approximately $250 CAD).

At the end of the trip, any surplus team funds will be donated to VOH Mwanza.

Optional Safari and Kilimanjaro Day Hike

After the mission portion of the trip, team members may choose to join a safari and a Kilimanjaro day hike. The estimated cost is $1,200 to $1,500 per person, in addition to the mission trip cost. Dates, location, tour operator, parks visited and the Kilimanjaro route are all to be confirmed. These costs are paid directly by the team member and are not eligible for a charitable donation receipt.

Team Meetings

The team will meet several times over the fall of 2026 and spring of 2027 once all team members are finalized. The predeparture meeting will take place on [date to be confirmed].

We will do our best to find a convenient time for all team members to attend, either in person (preferred) or online.

Travel and Accommodations

The tentative plan is to fly from Edmonton to Dar es Salaam, then take a domestic flight to Mwanza. We will return the same way. Connecting cities, total travel time (approximately 30 hours) and arrival day are to be confirmed.

We will be staying in PAOC guesthouse accommodations in Mwanza.

The centre is about 20 minutes from Mwanza city. Ground transportation will be arranged by our host (hosts will drive). The Government of Canada advises avoiding dala dala buses, motorcycle taxis (boda boda) and three wheelers (bajaj), and avoiding driving after dark outside cities, so team members should not use these on their own.

Return travel for those not joining the safari is Mwanza to Dar es Salaam, then home to Edmonton. Return plans for those joining the safari to be confirmed.

Safety and Security

The Government of Canada currently advises travellers to exercise a high degree of caution in Tanzania because of crime and the threat of terrorism. The areas where it advises avoiding travel or taking extra care (the Mtwara region near the Mozambique border, and Kigoma and western Kagera near refugee camps) are not on our itinerary. (No part of the itinerary, including the safari, enters or is anywhere near these areas.)

Other points from the advisory that team members should know about include pickpocketing, bag snatching and armed robbery (especially in Dar es Salaam), express kidnappings involving street taxis, poor road conditions with frequent fatal accidents, possible protests that can turn violent and disrupt transport and internet access, and the risk of drowning or waterborne disease. Team members should not swim in untreated fresh water. Never leave food or drinks unattended. Local staff will give instructions to maintain personal safety. The host's safety briefing and emergency plan will be provided at the briefing meeting upon arrival.

Team members should review the government travel advisories for Tanzania before applying and again just before departure, as the advisory is updated regularly.

Climate

We will be visiting Tanzania in July, which is part of the dry season on the mainland. The Government of Canada lists the rainy seasons as March to May and November to December. Mwanza is typically warm during the day (about 27 to 29°C) with cooler nights (about 17 to 19°C). Dar es Salaam is similar, around 28°C. Rain is unlikely, although the Government of Canada notes El Niño conditions in 2026 and 2027 that may bring unusual weather. Safari areas

and Kilimanjaro are considerably cooler, especially at night and at altitude, so warm layers will be needed for those who join the extension.

Insurance

Team members are responsible for arranging emergency travel health coverage and ensuring they meet any conditions of the plan, including preexisting condition clauses. Evidence of coverage and contact information in the event of a medical emergency will be required prior to departure.

Trip cancellation insurance is not required because the church is the actual payor for travel and accommodation and you would not be eligible for a refund as the team costs are considered charitable donations.

Team Communication

Team members must have a personal mobile phone and WhatsApp for team communication leading up to the trip as well as during the trip. Team members should either purchase an eSim or be prepared to pay their carrier's roaming charges. Power outages are regular in Tanzania and authorities have restricted internet and phone services during unrest, so expect limited connectivity at times.

Passports and Visas

Team members who are Canadian citizens require a valid Canadian passport that is valid for at least six months beyond the planned departure from Tanzania (an expiry date of January 31, 2028 or later). Team members are expected to apply and pay for a passport themselves.

Team members who are citizens of other countries should check their eligibility to travel to Tanzania before applying to be part of the team.

Proof of a return or onward ticket may be requested on arrival. Currency over US$10,000 must be declared when entering and leaving the country.

Laws and Local Customs

Plastic bags are illegal in Tanzania, including bringing them into the country, and fines or up to seven days in jail can apply. Team members should pack with reusable or paper bags and not carry plastic bags in their luggage. Dress conservatively. Ask permission before photographing

people, and do not photograph military sites. Penalties for drug possession or use are severe. Carry a photocopy of your passport.

Vaccinations

Hope City Church requires you are current on your tetanus vaccine as a condition of participation, and you will need to provide the date of your most recent vaccination. We recommend you consult with a travel clinic at least six months prior to the trip to verify you have the required vaccines for travel to Tanzania based on your medical history, and any costs for those will be your responsibility.

The Government of Canada lists hepatitis A, hepatitis B, routine vaccines (including measles, polio and meningococcal), and typhoid among its recommendations, and notes that malaria is a risk in certain areas and seasons, so antimalarial medication may be recommended. Rabies is present in dogs and wildlife. A yellow fever certificate is required if you arrive from, or transit through, a country where yellow fever occurs, which depends on flight routing. It is anticipated that no Yellow Fever vaccine will be needed. Bring enough prescription medication in its original container for the whole trip, as some medications may not be available in Tanzania.

Allergies and Dietary Restrictions

Applicants with allergies or food intolerances must notify team leaders in advance of applying to investigate the possibility to accommodate allergies and other dietary needs. Depending on the type and severity of the allergy or intolerance it may not be possible to participate on the trip.

How to Apply

Applications are made online at https://gohc.ca/Tanzania2027.

The online form must be completed using the applicant's hopecity.ca account. Applications are due by November 18, 2026).

If you have any questions that would affect your decision of whether or not to go, please ask them before applying.

Spots on this team are limited to 14 maximum. Applicants will be assessed and accepted based on the needs of the team at the church's sole discretion.

If accepted, we require you to sign the International Trip Participation Agreement within 3 days of acceptance.

Important Information Regarding International Humanitarian Travel

When volunteering to travel and serve as part of a Hope City Church team, individuals are responsible for understanding the risks and considering the implications for them and their family. They must assume those risks, meaning they will not hold the church responsible for any loss connected to their participation.

All international travel involves risks. Participation in missions and humanitarian work carries different and greater risks than tourist travel. Travellers will not have access to the same protection, security, and health services as in Canada or other international tourist destinations.

Each country has a unique legal system, specific safety and security conditions and potential health hazards. Team members are expected to read the travel advice published by the Government of Canada (https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories) at the time they commit to the trip and again immediately before travel.

Countries make their own decisions about who they will allow to enter and leave the country. Team members are responsible for meeting the entry requirements for the countries they are visiting or transiting through, including obtaining any required visas.

Transportation, including air and ground travel, is provided by companies that are registered in different countries and are governed by different safety and liability regulations than Canadian companies.

Changes to the planned itinerary may be required due to schedule changes, natural disasters, security concerns, and other reasons. Changes may involve alternate carriers and providers and may include stops in countries other than those on the original itinerary.

The activities of the team may include projects where the equipment, safety standards and oversight are different than those in Canada. Team members assume greater risks than they would in Canada and are responsible for assessing the safety risks and taking appropriate precautions.

The church is not qualified to assess personal health risks. Team members are responsible for consulting with their physician and a travel health professional before travel and obtaining recommended vaccines and personal medications.

In the event of injury, disease or other medical emergency, the emergency medical care will be different than what is available in Canada. Team members are responsible for arranging health insurance to cover emergency medical needs for the duration of the trip. Team members must understand the coverage and limits of the policy, including any limitations on coverage and will confirm with the insurance carrier if there are any questions, including coverage for pre-existing conditions.

Individuals who participate on trips are responsible to consider how any injury, disease, loss, or death would impact their financial situation. Team members are responsible for confirming any life, disability or other insurance policies will provide coverage for loss incurred because of the trip.