

# **The impact of illegal immigration to national security: a case of North Western Tanzania**

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This study investigates the impact of illegal immigration to national security in Tanzania. Specifically, the study identifies the extent, impact and challenges that impede the management of illegal immigration in Tanzania. The study was conducted in North Western Tanzania in Kagera, Geita and Kigoma regions. The sample size of the study included 150 respondents from the Immigration Department using both primary and secondary data. Analysis included processing of data, quantitative analysis of descriptive statistics, correlations and graphs. The findings indicate that small number of the respondents (6 percent) identified the magnitude of illegal immigration in north western Tanzania to be minimal due to different measures taken by the Government of Tanzania. A large number of respondents (74 percent) suggested that the level of illegal immigration particularly in the north western of the country was still high due to civil wars in the nearby countries of Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia. The findings also show that there are impacts of illegal immigration to the national security which include crimes, environmental degradations, epidemic disease and intercultural impact. Overall, the study recommends enhancement of Integrated Border Management (IBM). This will create the ability of Tanzania to address border management comprehensively and cooperatively. The focus should be on integrated border management because it is the basic need for a sustainable international relations and full participation both international, and regional institution as well as national governance