

TANZANIA SEA RESCUE

The RNLI is working with Tanzania Sea Rescue (TSR), a newly formed search and rescue organisation based in Dar es Salaam, to develop their skills and capacity. The aim is for them to provide an effective search and rescue service at sea.

Why are we doing this?

Statistics for deaths by maritime accidents in Tanzania are sobering. Ferry accidents have resulted in the loss of thousands of lives in recent years and artisanal fishermen drown in uncounted numbers. Commercial shipping and trade as well as tourist charter boats and scuba divers, are important to the economy and are exposed to risk.

The RNLI was initially approached in 2015 for some guidance on how to set up a maritime search and rescue (SAR) organisation. Since then, we have been providing support with capacity building, SAR training and assistance with organisational development.

Tanzania Sea Rescue (TSR) is still in the early stages of its organisational development and is currently developing its SAR capability. Since 2016, with its limited resources, it has been providing a lifeboat service within the Msasani Bay area of Dar es Salaam. It has established a lifeboat station and owns a functioning boat. The volunteers have already completed several rescues, including to broken down ships and stricken sailing boats (dhows).



Photo: RNLI/Alee Howells



Photo: RNLI/David Whiddon

Tanzania Sea Rescue crew members are all volunteers



Photo: RNLI/Tanzania Sea Rescue



Photo: Tanzania Sea Rescue

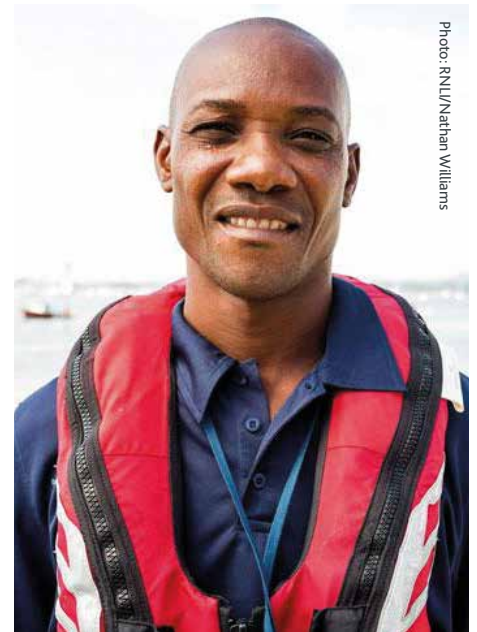


Photo: RNLI/Nathan Williams

Shukuru Lugawa TSR Volunteer Helm

Shukuru helped start Tanzania's only voluntary lifeboat service from scratch, learning alongside two RNLI trainers in Dar es Salaam. The following month, he attended the Future Leaders in Lifesaving course at the RNLI College, where candidates share knowledge to develop their own lifesaving organisations.

Working on tourist sailing boats for 7 years, Shukuru's seen more than enough to know the desperate need for change. 'Our sailing boat crews get called to help in so many incidents. I saw a boat sink in front of me. There were four people clinging to the mast without lifejackets. We also need to help local fishermen to protect themselves better with safety equipment and education. Everything has a beginning. I see the problem and want to make a difference.'

What do we want to achieve?

The main purpose of this project is to assist TSR in providing an effective response to search and rescue incidents along the coast of Dar es Salaam, with the potential to expand nationally. We have also been engaging with the community to raise safety awareness and prevent drowning in the most at-risk communities.

How are we doing it?

The RNLI is providing technical support to TSR through remote and in-country mentoring and training. This includes a number of in-country training visits, building their SAR and first aid skills, and developing trainer/assessors so they can train their own volunteers.

We are also developing key TSR members in the skills associated with running a volunteer maritime SAR organisation, so that TSR can become self-sustaining as it expands in future.



Photo: RNLI/David Whiddon

Who are the project team?

Recognising the value of a collaborative approach, this initiative brings together two lifesaving organisations:



Lifeboats

Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)
RNLI.org/international



Tanzania Sea Rescue (TSR)
tanzaniasearescue.org