Chinese engagement in Tanzania: Is it considered positive or negative by Tanzanians?

Findings from the Afrobarometer Round 6 Survey in Tanzania

Dar es Salaam, 25 February 2015
At a glance

• In general, Tanzanians have a favourable perception of China.
• Tanzanians believe that China’s economic and political influence on Tanzania is mostly positive.
• Tanzanians perceive China as having more influence on Tanzania than the USA, UK, India and South Africa or international organisations such as the UN or the World Bank.
• More Tanzanians prefer China as a model for Tanzania’s development over the USA, UK, India or South Africa.
What is Afrobarometer?

- An African-led, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- **Goal:** To give the public a voice in policy making by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organisations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.
- National partner in each country conducts the survey. In Tanzania, Round 6 survey was conducted by REPOA.
Where Afrobarometer works
Methodology

• Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
  □ All respondents are randomly selected.
  □ Sample is distributed across regions and urban/rural areas in proportion to their share in the national population.
  □ Every adult citizen has an equal and known chance of being selected.
• Face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent’s choice.
• Standard questionnaire allows comparisons across countries and over time.
• Sample size in Tanzania of 2,386 adult citizens yields a margin of error of +/-2% at a 95% confidence level.
• Fieldwork for Round 6 in Tanzania was conducted between 26 August and 29 September 2014.
Tanzanians’ perceptions of China
Background and context

- Good bilateral relations dating back to early years of Tanzania’s independence.

- Similar ideological philosophies (socialism) promoting egalitarian societies.

- China’s exponential growth and changing global role, also the changing dynamics of China-Tanzania relations.
Historical relationship

Nyerere and Mao in 1965 (above) and Kikwete and Xi in 2013
Key legacy

- TAZARA, the Tanzania-Zambia Railway
  - Longest railway in sub-Saharan Africa, completed in 1975
  - Costing US $500M, it was the largest foreign-aid project undertaken by China at the time.
Key findings

- More Tanzanians choose China over the USA, UK, India or South Africa as the best model for future development of their country.

- Tanzanians say China has more influence on Tanzania than the USA, UK, India and South Africa, or international organisations such as the UN or the World Bank.

- A majority of Tanzanian say China’s economic activities in Tanzania have “some” or “a lot” of influence on the Tanzanian economy.

- About half of all respondents say China’s economic development assistance does “somewhat of a good job” or “a very good job” of meeting Tanzania’s needs.
Respondents were asked: In your opinion, which of the following countries, if any, would be the best model for future development of our country?
Respondents were asked: Which of the following do you think has the most influence on Tanzania, or haven’t you heard enough to say?
Respondents were asked: How much influence do you think China's economic activities in Tanzania have on our economy, or haven't you heard enough to say?

China's influence on Tanzania's economy

- Some/a lot: 71%
- A little/none: 17%
- Don't know: 13%

Respondents were asked: How much influence do you think China's economic activities in Tanzania have on our economy, or haven't you heard enough to say?
Respondents were asked: In your opinion, does China’s economic development assistance to Tanzania do a good job or a bad job of meeting the country’s needs, or haven’t you heard enough to say?
What shapes Tanzanians’ image of China?
Key findings

Factors that contribute most to a positive image of China in Tanzania:
- Chinese business investments in Tanzania
- The cost of Chinese products
- China’s investment in infrastructure in Tanzania

Factors that contribute most to a negative image of China in Tanzania:
- The quality of Chinese products
- Chinese economic activities taking jobs or business from the locals
Respondents were asked: Which of the following factors contributes most to a positive image of China in Tanzania, or haven’t you heard enough to say?
Factors that contribute most to a negative image of China

- The quality of Chinese products: 37%
- Taking jobs or business from the locals: 20%
- China's extraction of resources from Africa: 7%
- Land grabbing by Chinese individuals or businesses: 7%
- China's willingness to cooperate with undemocratic rulers: 5%
- The behaviour of Chinese citizens in the country: 3%
- None of these: 2%
- Some other factor: 1%
- Don't know: 18%

Respondents were asked: Which of the following factors contributes most to a negative image of China in Tanzania, or haven't you heard enough to say?
China’s influence: Positive or negative?
Key findings

- Seven in 10 Tanzanians (70%) say China’s economic and political influence on Tanzania is “somewhat positive” or “very positive.”

- Positive perceptions of China’s influence are somewhat less strong, though still in the majority, among:
  - Less educated Tanzanians
  - Older citizens (65 years and older)
  - Rural residents
  - Women
China’s influence: Positive or negative?

Respondents were asked: In general, do you think that China’s economic and political influence on Tanzania is mostly positive, or mostly negative, or haven’t you heard enough to say?

- Somewhat positive/very positive: 70%
- Somewhat negative/very negative: 9%
- Neither positive nor negative: 8%
- Don’t know: 13%

Respondents were asked: In general, do you think that China’s economic and political influence on Tanzania is mostly positive, or mostly negative, or haven’t you heard enough to say?
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perception</th>
<th>Primary or Less</th>
<th>Secondary/High School</th>
<th>Post-secondary and Above</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat positive/very positive</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat negative/very negative</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither positive nor negative</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Respondents were asked: *In general, do you think that China’s economic and political influence on Tanzania is mostly positive, or mostly negative, or haven’t you heard enough to say?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perception</th>
<th>18 - 40</th>
<th>41 - 64</th>
<th>65 - Above</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat positive/very positive</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat negative/very negative</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither positive nor negative</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Perceptions of China’s influence by age group**
Respondents were asked: In general, do you think that China’s economic and political influence on Tanzania is mostly positive, or mostly negative, or haven’t you heard enough to say?
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Conclusions
Tanzanians have a positive attitude toward Chinese engagement in the country. China is the preferred model for Tanzania’s development.

About half of Tanzanians say that Chinese assistance does “somewhat of a good job” or “a very good” of meeting Tanzania’s needs.

Chinese business investments and investment in infrastructure are leading factors contributing to China’s positive image in Tanzania.

Chinese products contribute both positively (cost) and negatively (quality) to China’s image in Tanzania.
Thank you for your attention.