

My Experience at Ujuzi

First of all, I would like to thank everyone involved for the incredible time I had at Ujuzi. It was my first time in Africa in general and I am grateful to have had such a great experience.

I'm Miro (19) and after graduating from high school in Germany, I went on a trip around the world, during which I was in Tanzania, among other places, and spent a month volunteering at Ujuzi.

I found the organization through the platform and app "Workaway". After exploring their themes and values on their website, I was eager to work with them. So it happened that during my trip in Australia, I applied to Ujuzi as a volunteer and then relatively quickly had the first appointments via Zoom, where it became clear that my help was wanted here.

After all formalities were settled, I booked a flight to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. Here I was picked up at the airport and driven to the Ujuzi property. I was very happy that everything went so smoothly. Ujuzi has a little outside of Dar es Salaam a property on which a main house and another small house are located. The location is close to the sea and also a supermarket and other stores are within walking distance. My accommodation consisted of a small bedroom, in which I had the opportunity to cook, and an adjacent bathroom. At the same time with me was another volunteer from Canada at Ujuzi. Thanks to her and the other great people who lived on the property and worked for Ujuzi, I had such a great time here.

The days at Ujuzi were extremely varied, I worked on different things and areas within the organization. For example, I worked together with an intern on the business incubation center at Ujuzi. Here we dealt with small companies that work with Ujuzi and tried to support them in all possible things that they needed. We wrote business plans, organized meetings where we talked to the founders about their ideas and tried to develop them further. We also worked on organizing hackathons, events for young adults from all kinds of fields.

However, the working day was very relaxed and there was a pleasant atmosphere in the office. At lunchtime, there was regional food which tasted very good. On the weekends, there was time to either visit the city, go swimming (even if the sea water is not the cleanest, there is also a resort around the corner) or take other trips. There were so many new and beautiful things to see that the month was hardly enough.

Last but not least I would like to thank Kai and Eva, you are doing a great job and it was a lot of fun to work with you. I would also like to thank Mbappe who always managed to make me laugh with his funny manner and who was a great guide to show us around. And also to all the others who work and have worked at Ujuzi, you do a great job and I hope you never stop!

- Miro Grabic