



Zanzibar Joint Programme Integrated Innovations For Sustainable Development

Empowering Vulnerable Communities in Zanzibar

Executive Summary

The Zanzibar Joint Programme (ZJP), Integrated Innovations for Sustainable Development: Empowering Vulnerable Communities in Kaskazini Unguja and Kaskazini Pemba, Zanzibar, is a multi-agency initiative designed to address the root causes of poverty and inequality in these regions. It targets the most marginalised groups—including women, youth, persons with disabilities, female-headed households, and coastal communities whose livelihoods are affected by climate change. Many of these communities depend on the blue economy for income, nutrition and employment.

As a flagship initiative under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), the ZJP applies area-based and systems-based approach to development by integrating innovative solutions and focusing on long-term, inclusive outcomes. It prioritises four transformative areas:

- Strengthening human capital, including access to health, education, and skills.
- Ending violence against women and children.
Transforming food systems to ensure food and nutrition security and drive inclusive economic growth.
Building climate resilience for vulnerable coastal populations.

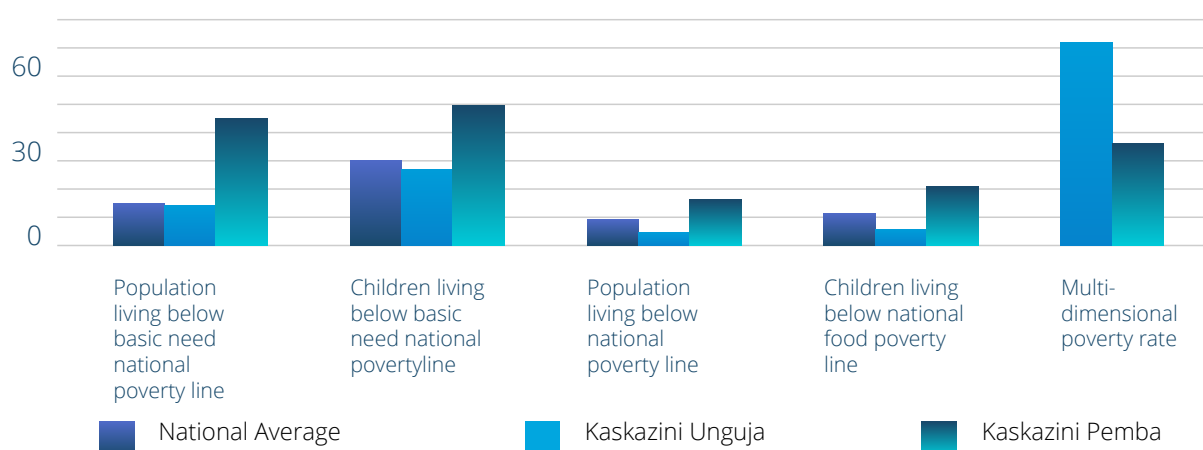
Moving beyond siloed interventions, the ZJP promotes an integrated, sustainable development model. It aligns with key SDG transition pathways—namely food systems, jobs and social protection, and climate action—and is anchored in the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental. The programme is also aligned with the Zanzibar Development Plan (ZADEP), reinforcing national priorities and ensuring coherence with the government's long-term vision for inclusive and resilient growth.

The ZJP's integrated approach, by simultaneously strengthening human capital, eradicating violence, transforming food systems, and building climate resilience, will create synergistic impacts, fostering a virtuous cycle of development that uplifts the most vulnerable from intergenerational poverty and accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

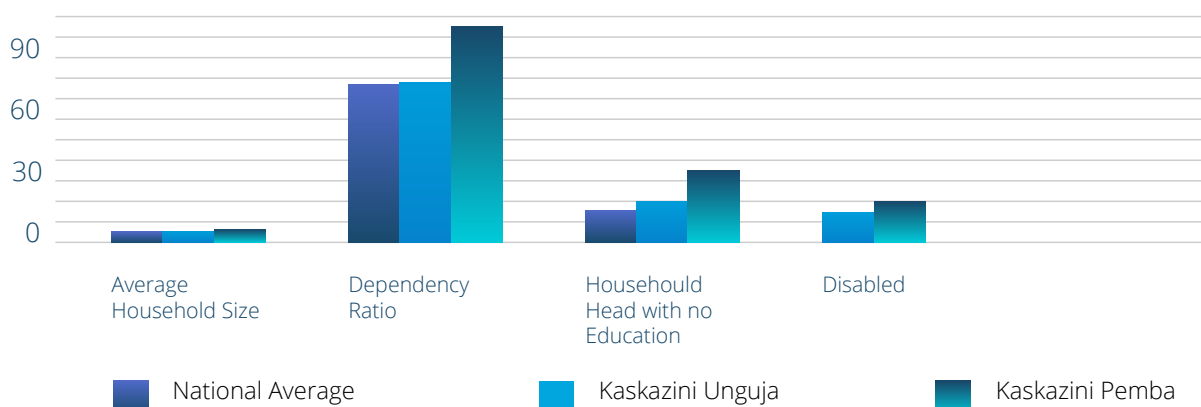
Targeting The Most Marginalised And Vulnerable Population Groups In Zanzibar

Despite a national poverty rate of 25.7%, disparities remain. In Kaskazini Pemba, 45.3% live below the basic needs' poverty line and 17.9% below the food poverty line. Half of all children live in basic needs poverty, and 20.7% in food poverty.

Kaskazini Pemba has the highest rate of multidimensional poverty (72%), far above the national average of 37%. Poor households in Zanzibar have higher dependency ratios (77.7) and larger average household sizes (5.3). In Kaskazini Pemba, these figures rise to 105 and 6.1, respectively.



Educational attainment among heads of households is also low, with 36.8% in Kaskazini Pemba and 20.4% in Kaskazini Unguja having no formal education—both above the national average of 16.6%. This heightens the risk of intergenerational poverty in these regions.



Zanzibar Joint Programme at a Glance

Participating UN Agencies (12)	FAO, ILO, IOM, UNCDF, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN Women, WHO
Target beneficiaries	529,381 people in Kaskazini Unguja and Kaskazini Pemba.
Geographical Coverage	Kaskazini Unguja and Kazkazini Pemba: 4 districts (Kaskazini A, Kaskazini b, Wete, Micheweni)
Available Resources	USD 3.47 million (funded by Norway through the SDG Acceleration Fund)
Time Frame	February 2025 – June 2027



Thematic Area: Human Capital Strengthening



PEOPLE:

By 2027, People in Kaskazini Unguja and Kaskazini Pemba Zanzibar, especially the most vulnerable, increasingly utilize quality gender transformative, inclusive and integrated basic education, health (with particular focus on RMNCAH, AIDS, TB, Malaria and epidemic prone diseases) nutrition, WASH and protection services.

Linked to ZADEP:

Human Capital and Social Services Pillar – education, health, social protection, water sanitation and hygiene services.

Participating UN Agencies

UNFPA (Lead), FAO, UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO

Total Required Resources:

USD 1,000,000



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STATISTICAL CONTEXT

	National Average	Kaskazini Unguja	Kaskazini Pemba	Additional Information
Health (DHS)				
Total fertility rates ²	High 4.7%	4.5%	5.7%	The total fertility rate in Zanzibar has declined over the past decade, from 5.1 children per women in 2010 to 4.7 children per women in 2022, with Kaskazini Pemba (5.7) being among the highest in Zanzibar.
Prevalence of anaemia among women (15-45) ⁴	43%	57%	65%	The prevalence of anaemia among women (15-49) is high (43%) where Kaskazini Pemba (at 65%) and Kaskazini Unguja (57%) being the highest.
Stunting of children under 5. (Move to food systems) ⁵	17.6%	29%	22%	While the national rate of stunting is declining (17.6%), Kaskazini Pemba (22%) and Kaskazini Unguja (29%) have the highest rates of stunting in Zanzibar
Basic Education				
Average of secondary school net enrolment rate ⁶	Low 46.7%	39%	39.3%	Though Net enrolment rate for secondary school is low, it has declined further from 52.1% in 2022 to 46.7% in 2023; both Kaskazini Pemba and Kaskazini Unguja have lower enrolment rates – below the national average.
Experience of physical violence ⁸	27%			Approximately, 27 per cent of women in Zanzibar have experienced physical violence since the age of 15 and 12 per cent have experienced sexual violence at the same age. It is also reported that 10% of women surveyed in Zanzibar had their first experience of sexual intercourse forced against their will. This is an increase since the last DHS in 2014/15.
Experience of Sexual violence ⁹	12%			
Child labour	7.4%			Child labour in Zanzibar remains a concern, with 7.4 per cent of children aged 5-17 engaged in child labour, many of them involved in hazardous tasks that pose risks to their physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Most of these children are found in the agricultural sector.

JOINT PROGRAMME RESPONSE:

The programme will invest in people's well-being, equity and human rights by addressing barriers to accessing health and education services, and by strengthening protection systems to prevent violence, child labour and human trafficking. These goals will be pursued through two joint programme outputs.

Joint Programme Output 1: Target population in Kaskazini Unguja and Kaskazini Pemba to have increased availability and awareness of basic social services specifically for quality reproductive health, family planning, maternal, and neonatal life-saving services and completion of basic education and/or technical vocational training.

Strategic Innovation Include:

- Establish a governance framework that harmonises education, health, nutrition, and protection services thus enabling real-time data sharing, predictive service delivery, and policy alignment at the local level.
- Strengthen school safety ecosystems “integrated safer school model” that connects incident reporting, and student-led safety councils—creating inclusive, resilient, and connected learning environments.
- Transform schools into smart learning hubs using ICT solutions with adaptive e-learning platforms, and institutionalised STEM curricula thus bridging the digital divide.
- Scale maternal health dashboards using information from MPDSR, enable supply chains, and virtual mentorship platforms like Mama na Mwana—ensuring timely delivery of life-saving RMNCAH commodities and continuous learning for frontline health workers.
- Integrate school health and nutrition indicators mapping into EMIS to visualize RMNCAH trends, track school health outcomes, and inform targeted, data-driven interventions across sectors.
- Equip CHWs with mobile health apps, and nutrition guides to deliver personalized care, promote IYCF practices, the use of locally available foods and track community health metrics.
- Launch an entrepreneurship accelerator for youth and women—combining practical life skills and business development training, and the integration of financing and market opportunities to support survivors of trafficking and promote economic resilience.
- Roll out nutrition campaigns via SMS, radio, and social media influencers, using behavioural science to nudge healthier food choices, promote local superfoods, and shift community norms around diet and wellness.

Thematic Area: Ending Violence Against Women and Children in Zanzibar

Participating UN Agencies

UNFPA(Lead), ILO, UNICEF, IOM, UN Women

Total Required Resources:

USD 1,403,000

Joint Programme Output 2: Strengthened capacities of child protection and GBV service providers to deliver appropriate prevention and response services that address VAWC, including systemic discrimination, support to victims of trafficking and child labour to women and children of Kaskazini Pemba and Kaskazini Unguja in Zanzibar:

Strategic Innovations include:

- Establish a decentralized protection ecosystem that integrates local service delivery platforms using case management information and strengthen referral systems to ensure access to protection services.
- Deploy e-learning modules to equip social welfare officers, school counsellors, civil society organizations with gender-sensitive tools for effective delivery service.
- Institutionalize grievance redress systems with anonymous reporting apps, and restorative justice pathways to address workplace disputes and prevent PSEA. Establish a rapid response network and case management tracking systems to enhance coordination, accountability, and survivor-centered service delivery across child protection and GBV sectors.
- Launch storytelling campaigns, and community dialogues to shift harmful norms and promote inclusive narratives around gender, education, and labor rights.
- Institutionalize gender-responsive social behavioral change interventions and secure commitment to reporting of GBV including the provision of witnesses.
- Mobilize faith leaders and male champions of the HeForShe campaigns through community dialogue using advocacy toolkits to dismantle patriarchal norms and promote gender equity.
- Introduce workplace safety tech kits—including and awareness raising and whistleblower tools and empower Human resource personnel to prevent and respond to harassment in real time.
- Establish a care economy innovation fund to scale models for community-based childcare, eldercare, and paid care work—especially for women in the informal sector.
- Conduct audits and community-led assessments to ensure safe houses meet the Zanzibar National Guidelines for survivors of violence and trafficking.

Thematic Area: Climate change adaptation for coastal populations living in low-lying areas of Zanzibar



PLANET:

By 2027 people in Kaskazini Unguja and Kaskazini Pemba Zanzibar, especially the most vulnerable, contribute to and benefit from more inclusive and gender responsive management of natural resources, climate change resilience, DRR and increased use of efficient renewable energy.

Linked to ZADEP:

Governance and resilience, Environment and climate change, safety, security and disaster management.

Participating UN Agencies

UNEP(Lead), WHO, UNICEF, UNCDF, UNDP

Total Required Resources:

USD 1,535,000

STATISTICAL CONTEXT

Indicator		Kaskazini Unguja		Additional Information
Percentage of households' connection to electricity grid (ZECO) ¹¹	57%	30.6%	28.5%	Lowest connectivity in Pemba
Proportion of households using firewood for cooking ¹²	52.8%			Approximately 37% of the population is multidimensionally poor with the highest deprivations in health insurance, cooking fuel, and having a bank account. Significantly contributes to deforestation and global warming.
Proportion of households using charcoal for cooking ¹³	34.1%			
Proportion of households using electricity for cooking ¹⁴	2.6%			

JOINT PROGRAMME RESPONSE:

The programme will respond to the impacts of climate change by strengthening the resilience of systems and communities—enhancing their capacity to adapt, while safeguarding health, improving food security and nutrition, and expanding economic opportunities.

Joint Programme Output 3: Coastal populations residing in low-lying areas of Kaskazini Unguja and Kaskazini Pemba will have enhanced capacities to adapt to climate change and will have successfully diversified their livelihoods, ensuring the protection of available natural resources

Strategic Innovation Include:

- Accelerate the adoption of smart clean cooking technologies—including solar induction stoves and biogas systems—through financing platforms and community-led energy cooperatives.
- Use drone-assisted mangrove mapping analysis and existing restoration plans to scale coastal ecosystem rehabilitation and carbon sequestration.
- Support alternative risk financing mechanisms by introducing climate bonds through mobile-based business development services for women and youth.
- Use analytics and participatory surveys to inform vulnerability and conflict assessments to map climate vulnerability hotspots and assess differential impacts on marginalized groups, informing inclusive adaptation strategies.
- Establish climate intelligence that integrate satellite data, community inputs, and predictive models to guide local planning and investment decisions.
- Pilot insurance schemes linked to weather data and target smallholder farmers, fisherfolk, and informal workers vulnerable to climate shocks.
- Install decentralized solar microgrids, water harvesting systems, and smart waste-to-energy units to ensure uninterrupted essential services in climate-vulnerable zones.
- Integrate mobile alerts, and predictive analytics into early warning systems to enable anticipatory action for food, water, and health emergencies.
- Equip CHWs with nutrition apps and recipe libraries, while launching multimedia campaigns (radio, SMS, social media) to promote local superfoods and improve micronutrient intake.
- Promote the scaling up of local species, such as seaweed, moringa and other nutritious species available on the island.
- Empower healthcare professionals and vulnerable communities through innovative tools, technologies, and training programs to anticipate, understand, and effectively respond to the evolving health risks posed by climate change.

Thematic Area: Transforming food systems to promote inclusive economic growth and improved food and nutrition security



PROSPERITY:

By 2027 people in Kaskazini Unguja and Kaskazini Pemba Zanzibar, especially the most vulnerable, contribute to and benefit from more inclusive and gender responsive management of natural resources, climate change resilience, DRR and increased use of efficient renewable energy.

Participating UN Agencies

FAO, PUNOs (Lead), UNCDF, UN Women, ILO, and UNIDO

Total Required Resources:

USD 3,880,000



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STATISTICAL CONTEXT

Indicator	National Average	Kaskazini Unguja	Kaskazini Pemba	Additional Information
Food security level ¹⁵	48.9%			Based on the analysis of the food security situation (March to June 2023), Food security slightly improved in some regions in Zanzibar, hence classified as IPC Phase 2 (Stressed).
Percentage of Households consume three or more meals per day. ¹⁶	67%			The proportion of the households that consume three or more meals per day has decreased from 80 percent in 2014/2015 HBS to 67.0 percent in 2019/20HBS
Stunting of children under 5. (Move to food systems) ¹⁷	17.6%	29%	22%	Though the national rate of stunting rates have declined (17.6%), Kaskazini Pemba (22%) and Kaskazini Unguja (29%) have the highest rates of stunting in Zanzibar
Production of food crops; seaweed etc. ¹⁸	16,652 tons			
Fish catch	80,085 tons in 2023			The quantity of fish catches in 2023 is 80,085 tons which shows an increase of 29.6 percent compared with 61,794 tons recorded in 2022. Anchovies being the most common.
ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ¹⁹	147,000 people	15%	19%	In terms of severity, the districts expected to have the highest percentage in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) were Kaskazini Pemba (15%) and Kaskazini Unguja and Kusini Pemba (10%). Overall, the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity and requiring food assistance and livelihood improvement interventions in the five regions was between 147,000 and 151,000 (8% of the population analyzed).

JOINT PROGRAMME RESPONSE:

The joint programme will support inclusive economic growth by promoting innovations that generate decent work opportunities along priority value chains, increase household incomes, and contribute to reducing inequalities.

Joint Programme Output 4: Women and youth from Kaskazini Pemba and Kaskazini Unguja benefit from enhanced capacities resulting from strengthened and inclusive value chain commodity production and productivity as well as inclusive and decent employment through skills development.

Strategic Innovation Include:

- Prioritize irrigation and aquaculture systems, including sensor-based water management and integrated multitrophic farming cages to boost climate-resilient productivity in priority value chains.
- Expand farmer field schools using mobile learning platforms and simulations tailored for women farmers to enhance commercial production and leadership in agri-enterprise.
- Establish community-based mariculture hubs and connect to producer cooperatives—leveraging e-commerce platforms for market access.
- Introduce post-harvest solutions and mobile-based training for farmers on storage, handling, and value addition—reducing losses and improving quality across the supply chain.
- Launch youth agribusiness accelerator that connects startups to off-takers via smart contracts, provides e-certification, and facilitates access to regional and global markets.
- Deploy enabled blended finance platforms to crowd in private capital, offer micro-loans, and provide bundled services (inputs, insurance, advisory) to smallholder farmers.
- Co-create a seaweed sector roadmap using participatory planning tools, market analytics, and climate risk modeling to guide investment, innovation, and governance.
- Implement skills mapping and RPL platforms to certify informal workers, promote digital literacy via learning, & link trainees to green job pathways.
- Integrate labour platforms and adaptive TVET curricula to deliver modular, demand-driven training for NEET youth, school leavers, and women—linked to employment-intensive public works and agrifood innovation zones.
- Introduce climate-indexed microinsurance and savings schemes for farmers and processors—bundled with mobile-based financial literacy and risk management tools.
- Establish a food safety compliance platform with e-certification, traceability systems, and training modules to prepare SMEs for regional and international market access.



End Notes:

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Zanzibar poverty assessment 2022 | 11. Household budget survey 2019 |
| 2. Demographic health survey 2022 | 12. Household budget survey 2019 |
| 3. Demographic health survey 2022 | 13. Household budget survey 2019 |
| 4. Demographic health survey 2022 | 14. Household budget survey 2019 |
| 5. Demographic health survey 2022 | 15. OCTOBER 2022 - MAY 2023 |
| 6. Zanzibar statistical abstract 2023 | 16. Household budget survey 2019 |
| 7. Zanzibar statistical abstract 2023 | 17. Demographic health survey 2022 |
| 8. Demographic health survey 2022 | 18. Zanzibar statistical abstract 2023 |
| 9. Demographic health survey 2022 | 19. IPC: OCTOBER 2022 – MAY 2023 |
| 10. Demographic health survey 2022 | |





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