Past and current UN Country Team and Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar collaboration has shown that Zanzibar has important opportunities for social development and economic growth, including in the aquaculture and tourism sectors. It is, however, worth noting that Zanzibar still faces significant development challenges. Currently, 30.4 percent of the population in Zanzibar live below the basic needs poverty line, with 10.8 percent living below the food poverty line. There is also a high population growth rate with the population projected to double by 2050. The unemployment rate has increased, in particular among Zanzibari youth. Relatively high levels of basic needs still exist, including the need for improved access to clean water, sanitation and health services. Violence against women and children remains a daily reality in Zanzibar and data reports an increasing trend of physical, sexual, and emotional violence.

Consultations with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar have taken place on needs and priorities, together with analysis of available statistics, as well as a review on how the UN can respond to these needs. This area-based programme is the result of these consultations and consists of nine UN agencies, namely FAO, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN Women, WHO.

The programme has four thematic areas: Maternal And Newborn Health; Women’s Economic Empowerment through Seaweed Value Chain Development; Ending Violence Against Women and Children; and Capacity Building for Coordination and Reporting of SDGs and Mkuza III. There are synergies between all outcomes and gender cross-cuts all themes. SDG coordination and reporting underpins all themes given the scope of the SDGs but also the need for improved statistics and data.

**FUNDING STATUS**

- **Funded:** 6.5M
- **Unfunded:** 27.3M
- **Total Amount:** 33.8M

**Funded by**

- Canada
- Japan
- Sweden
- Norway
- UN Agency Core Funds

**Participating Agencies**

- UNDP
- UNFPA
- ILO
- FAO
- UNICEF
- UN Women
- UN Migration
- IOM
Maternal and Newborn Health

The Issue

236 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015 (Maternal Mortality Rate) in Zanzibar.

62% of infant mortality in Zanzibar are neonatal deaths.

45 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2015 (Infant Mortality Rate) in Zanzibar.

The Response

The focus of the response will be on two hospitals in Zanzibar – Mnazi Mmoja Hospital in Unguja and Chake-Chake Hospital in Pemba – as well as broader health system strengthening to deliver quality services for women and children. Both hospitals are currently providing healthcare to almost the entire population of their respective islands. The programme will build on existing UN interventions in the two hospitals.

- Strengthened health system through capacity-building of hospital managers and technical support to hospital management and administration. The Zanzibar Food and Drugs Agency will be provided with a laboratory and surveillance system to monitor quality and adherence to international standards of imported medicines.

- Quality of care for mothers and their newborns will be improved through supporting capacity-building of healthcare providers. Innovative approaches will be used for capacity-building such as strengthening supporting supervision, establishing mentorship programmes, telemedicine and use of e-learning platforms.

- Enhanced capacity to generate data for evidence-based planning and decision-making. The programme will support the two hospitals to collect, collate, analyze and utilize data in a reliable and timely manner. Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response will be supported to ensure every perinatal and maternal death is counted and action is taken.

- The Community Health Volunteer Programme will be strengthened through recruiting and training of new volunteers and refresher training for 1,800 current volunteers. This programme is essential to increasing knowledge on health among community members to enable them take informed decisions.

Participating Agencies
Women’s Economic Empowerment through Seaweed Value Chain Development

The Issue
Among the major challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in Zanzibar are entrepreneurship capacity, local capacity for value addition, regulatory frameworks and socio-cultural norms.

30.4% of the population in Zanzibar live below the basic needs poverty line.

48 million Tanzanians will need to be absorbed into the labor market by 2050.

The Response
The theme for seaweed value chain development aims to support transformation of the economy, including provision of decent jobs especially for women and youth economic empowerment. Interventions will include support to relevant MDAs, LGAs and the private sector to foster promotion and integration of the seaweed value chain. The project will directly support smallholder seaweed farming communities including women and youth groups/associations engaged throughout the value chain. The objectives are:

- To increase productivity and entrepreneurship skills for sustainable production of seaweed as a means of increasing the livelihoods of women and youth.
- To promote socio-cultural norms that support women and youth economic empowerment.
- To improve private and public sectors’ engagement and investment in seaweed value addition and marketing.
- To enhance the capacity of MDAs and LGAs to support women and youth economic empowerment in the seaweed value chain.

Participating Agencies

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- International Labour Organization
- UNIDO
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
The Issue

71% of boys and 62% of girls report experiencing physical abuse before turning 18.

35.5% of men in Zanzibar believe wife-beating is justified in some cases.

18% of all girls in Zanzibar are married before the age of 18, and 3.5% before the age of 15.

The Response

The theme on Ending Violence Against Women and Children targets all women and children in Zanzibar (approximately 980,032 people). It will build on the progress made to date in addressing violence against women and children through the implementation of selected activities promulgated by the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children in Zanzibar (NPA-VAWC) (2017-2022). Examples of interventions that will be undertaken include:

- Promotion of positive shifts in the legal and budgetary environment towards the protection of women and children through legal reform, institutional capacity-building, and improved data management.

- Violence prevention programming that addresses practices that are harmful to women and children, including developing a comprehensive and evidence-based communication strategy, building the capacity of stakeholders to address child marriage and trafficking, supporting positive parenting, operationalizing the Safe Schools concept, and establishing a groundwork to form women’s economic groups.

- Strengthening access to and the quality of protective services, such as emergency care for children with acute protection concerns, working with court officials to effectively address cases of violence and building the capacity of key frontline service providers in identifying and referring cases.
Crucial to the success of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is the presence of strong national systems, with adequate capacities, to coordinate implementation and reporting.

- Consultations and reviews of reports have highlighted limited capacities in Zanzibar for SDGs coordination, monitoring and reporting.

- Capacity challenges in terms of quality, reliability, relevance and timeliness of data from various sources have also been identified.

- Most of the datasets do not have the following important variables: age, gender, geographical location, and socio-economic status.

The Response

This thematic area will focus on enhancing institutional capacities of the Zanzibar Planning Commission (ZPC) which has the main responsibility of coordinating SDGs and Mkuza II implementation and the Office of Chief Government Statistician (OCGS) which is the custodian of official statistics in Zanzibar. Key sectoral MDAs, selected CSOs, the private sector as well as academia will also be strengthened given their roles in generating data and in implementing and monitoring SDGs and Mkuza II. Key interventions include:

- Strengthening the national coordination mechanism that will guide implementation, coordination and reporting of SDGs and MKUZA III in Zanzibar.

- Development and promotion of innovative strategies to ensure proper generation, dissemination and use of data for sustainable development. This includes promotion of data visualization techniques for analysis and dissemination of SDG statistics.

- Establishing a database and gender-responsive monitoring framework to facilitate monitoring of SDG, Child Rights and MKUZA III indicators.

- Putting in place governance and institutional frameworks that would enable national statistical systems meet the demands and opportunities of constantly evolving data ecosystems.
For more information please contact:

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