



REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR

ABRIDGED ZANZIBAR GENDER EQUALITY PROFILE



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This gender profile brief has been developed from the Zanzibar gender profile. It summarises the analysis of gender equality in Zanzibar, focusing on areas ranging from gender and poverty to gender, peace and security. The profile has also identified a range of policies for closing the gender gaps in Zanzibar and priority areas on which policies and programs designed by AfDB, UN Women, other development partners and the Government of Zanzibar can be focused. This brief will guide and support the efforts of the African Development Bank, UN Women, the Government of Zanzibar and other stakeholders to promote gender equality and inclusive and sustainable development in Zanzibar.

The methodology in developing the broader profile entailed a review of the academic, policy and grey literature and an analysis of quantitative and qualitative secondary data. Consultations were also held with key stakeholders in Zanzibar, including the Director of Gender in the Ministry of Health, Social Welfare, Elders, Gender and Children, the Office of the Chief Government Statistician, the Office of the First and Second Vice President, the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries, Environment, Zanzibar's Electoral Commission, and Zanzibar's Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA). The presented analysis concludes that GEWE is essential for human development.

POLICY ENVIRONMENT AND MACROECONOMIC POLICIES

The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ) has a clear vision for gender equality anchored in key government policy documents. The *Zanzibar Development Vision 2050 (Vision 2050 or ZDV50)*, which is Zanzibar's long-term development framework, recognizes gender disparities in access to land ownership and employment. The Vision aspires to ensure an equal and equitable society that protects and empowers women and other vulnerable people, including children and persons with disabilities. The *Blue Economy Policy (2020)* has strategies to broaden equitable participation of men and women, youth and elders in the governance and handling of Blue Economy activities. The *Zanzibar Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty III (ZSGRP III)* (also known as MKUZA III)¹ has gender equality and women empowerment as cross-cutting aspects in each of its five Key Result Areas (KRAs), including specific outcomes, strategic actions, and gender-based monitoring indicators.²

The *Zanzibar Gender Policy (2016)* and its *Implementation Plan (2016-2020)* provide a framework for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and demonstrate the Government's commitment to addressing all forms of gender inequality in the country. The Policy outlines the process of mainstreaming gender in all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), policies, and programmes. A *Gender and Social Inclusion Policy (2015)* was developed by the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) to ensure equality and inclusive participation in the electoral process in Zanzibar. Other gender-sensitive policies indicate gender consideration during policy formulation, especially in education, health, representation, employment, property ownership and agriculture, to reduce gender-based discrimination. However, policy gaps arise from poor implementation, lack of coordination, ineffective governance, and the distance between policymaking and practice.³

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Zanzibar National Women Machinery (NWM) is strongly committed to gender equality and women empowerment. Various structures have been established as the National Machinery for gender, with different but complementary roles. For instance, the Ministry of Health, Social Welfare, Elders, Gender and Children has a broad mandate to coordinate gender mainstreaming and ensure that all ministries, government departments, and CSOs engage actively to promote gender equality and eliminate discrimination.⁴ Every Sector/Ministry/

1 Mkakati wa Kukuza Uchumi na Kupunguza Umaskini Zanzibar III (MKUZA III) - the Swahili translation for Zanzibar Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty III

2 RGoZ; Zanzibar Beijing +25 Report (2019)

3 Sajid, A. and Khan, A. (2006).

4 RGoZ, Zanzibar Gender Policy (2016)

Department/Agency has a Gender Focal Point (GFP) to coordinate gender mainstreaming in their respective institutions. A special Gender Unit in the Office of the Chief Government Statistician (OCGS) collaborates with the Gender Statistics Steering Committee to ensure gender-disaggregated statistics in the OCGS. Other CSOs and women's rights organisations, such as the Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA), the Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA), the Zanzibar Legal Service Centre (ZLSC), the Zanzibar Association of People Living with HIV & AIDS (ZAPHA+), the Zanzibar Association for People with Developmental Disabilities (ZAPDD), and the Association of Non-Governmental Organisations Zanzibar (ANGOZA) advocate for gender equality and women's empowerment.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR ZANZIBAR

At the global level, Zanzibar (as part of the United Republic of Tanzania) has signed and ratified. It is implementing and reporting on various UN Conventions, notably the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)*, which contains a "bill of rights" for women; the *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)*, 1989,⁵ which focuses on non-discrimination and protection of children; the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, (2006)⁶ which protects persons with disabilities from discrimination; and ILO conventions including the *ILO Maternity Protection Convention*⁷ which ensures maternity rights for women. Other global frameworks include the *Beijing Platform for Action*, which urges Governments to revoke any remaining laws that discriminate based on sex and to implement the human rights of women fully and the girl child as an inalienable, integral, and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms; and the *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* (Agenda 2030), Goal 5 which calls for, among other things, actions to end discrimination against women.

At the regional level, Zanzibar subscribes to the *African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights*, which contains a non-discrimination provision covering sex⁸ and equal protection before the law provision.⁹ The *African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child*, 1990 (ACRWC)¹⁰ demands the principles of non-discrimination and equal protection before the law to prevail¹¹ and calls for States to take appropriate steps to eliminate customs and practices that discriminate on the grounds of sex,¹² including passing laws to set the minimum age of marriage at 18 for both sexes. Zanzibar also subscribes to the *African Union Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa* 2003, (Maputo Protocol) 2005, as well as to the *African Union Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa*,¹³ which reinforces provisions found in the *Maputo Protocol* and the *Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy for the Southern African Development Community Region (2006–2015)*; and to the *Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa Beyond 2014* and the *African Union Agenda 2063*. Furthermore, under the *International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)* in July 2012,¹⁴ Zanzibar, as part of the URT, must implement actions towards addressing sexual and GBV cases and provide progress reports.

Zanzibar has its own legal framework and Constitution (Zanzibar Constitution 1984), which governs non-union matters.¹⁵ Article 12, clauses (4) and (5) of the Constitution provides that all persons are equal before the law and no person shall be discriminated based on gender. Zanzibar also has its own Legislature (the House of Representatives) mandated to legislate on all non-union matters. Zanzibar has an independent Judiciary consisting of the High Court of Zanzibar and subordinate courts but shares the Court of Appeal with the Mainland. Zanzibar has its Law Reform Commission, whose responsibility, among others, is to review discriminatory laws.

5 Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by GA Resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989

6 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, A/61/611, preamble paras. a, h and p and art. 2, 3(b) and (g) and 5.

7 ILO Convention (No. 183) on Maternity Protection

8 African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, 1981 OAU Doc. CAB/LEG/67/3 rev. 174 Article 2

9 Ibid Article 3

10 African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1990, OAU Doc CAB/LEG/24.9/49.

11 Ibid, arts.3 and 21(1)(b).

12 Ibid, art. 21(1)(b)

13 AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality 2004, Assembly/AU/Decl.12(III) Rev.1.

14 Paragraph 5 of the Communiqué(resolution) namely, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Regional High-Level Consultation of Ministers in Charge of Justice and Gender on Kampala Declaration on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), in Grand Hotel, Kinshasa 28th July 2012.

15 Union matters include The Constitution and The Government of The United Republic of Tanzania; Foreign affairs and international cooperation (external affairs); Defense and security; Police force; Power to declare a state of emergency; Citizenship; Immigration; External trade and borrowing; Public services for united republic; Income tax, Customs and excise duties; harbours, air craft, posts and telegrams; Financial matters, legal tenders and currency; Industrial licenses; Higher education; Mineral resources, including petroleum and natural gas; National examination council and all matters relating to the council; Aviation and air transport; Research; Meteorological matters; Statistics; Court of appeal of the United Republic; Registration of political parties and other matters relating to political parties.

Some of the key laws that have been reviewed and amended to ensure equal rights and protection of women are (1) *The Zanzibar Legal Aid Act 13 2018*, which stipulates preferential support to indigent people who cannot afford to pay legal services and advocate fees – the majority of whom are poor rural women, widows, and people with a disability; (2) *The Zanzibar Public Sector Service Regulation of 2014* which prohibits all forms of gender-based violence in the workplace for employees and employers; (3) *The Penal Act 6/2018* – which increased punishment for “moral related offences” (e.g., rape, sodomy) from 7 years to 14 years of a jail term; (4) *The Criminal Procedure Act 7/2018* with sections on VAW/GBV related offences and stiff punishment on VAW/GBV crimes; and (5) *The Zanzibar Spinsters and Single Parent Children Protection Act (2005)* which stipulates for the right to go back to school for pregnant girls, within two years after delivery. The *Kadhi Courts¹⁶ Act 2017* was amended and introduced a “reconciliation unit” staffed by competent eminent people from the community to assist in resolving marital disputes before they proceed to court. The main objective of having these units is to reduce the number of divorces and to ensure that women and children get their basic rights.

Although Zanzibar (as part of the URT) has ratified global and regional frameworks, which can potentially transform the lives of women and girls, lack of or incomplete implementation is still a challenge. The CEDAW Committee of Experts¹⁷ recommended that Zanzibar incorporate the provisions of the Convention into the national legal system so that they can be directly applicable in the courts. The Committee also recommended harmonizing customary and religious law with statutory law to ensure alignment with the provisions of the Convention. The recommendations have not been implemented fully due to legal pluralism whereby Islamic law (governed by the Holy Quran) and statutory laws operate in the same jurisdiction, and Islamic law takes precedence over other laws.

CHALLENGES OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic deepened pre-existing gender inequalities and exposed vulnerabilities in social and economic systems, which, in turn, amplified the impacts of the pandemic. It has been observed that during health emergencies like COVID-19, women lost their small businesses because of the economic fallout. Because of school closures for about three months during COVID-19, cases of child pregnancy in Zanzibar increased.¹⁸ According to UNFPA, before the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 500 million women and girls worldwide did not have what they needed to manage their menstruation. Due to lockdown measures, mobility restrictions and interruptions to menstrual hygiene supplies, the COVID-19 outbreak exacerbated this situation.¹⁹ In Zanzibar, the situation was worsened because girls could talk about menstruation at home, and they were forced to use pieces of cloth in the absence of sanitary pads.²⁰ Importantly, Zanzibar needed to continuously and robustly collect gender-disaggregated data on COVID-19 infections, deaths, recoveries, and vaccinations to tackle the pandemic on the health, economic and social fronts.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan’s inauguration marked a shift in Tanzania’s COVID-19 approach. Initially denying the virus, her administration acknowledged its existence and formed a 14-member task force. This team collated international data to shape Tanzania’s policies, resulting in 19 recommendations advocating public information sharing and optional vaccinations, prioritizing medical workers, tourism employees, and the elderly.

16 The jurisdiction of the Kadhis’ courts is restricted to matters of Muslim law regarding personal status, marriage, divorce, and inheritance, as well as cases where all parties profess the Islamic faith.

17 Concluding observations of the CEDAW Expert Committee in 2016 when URT was defending her 7th and 8th combined periodic reports.

18 Legal and Human Rights Centre Human Rights Report (2020)

19 <https://tanzania.unfpa.org/en/news/pandemic-exacerbating-menstruation-related-challenges-girls-zanzibar>, accessed on 10th May 2021

20 <https://tanzania.unfpa.org/en/news/pandemic-exacerbating-menstruation-related-challenges-girls-zanzibar> Accessed on 10th May 2021

THEMATIC ANALYSIS

1. GENDER AND POVERTY

Women head fewer households

Over three-quarters (76.3 per cent) of households are headed by males, while over one out of five of all households (22.8 per cent) are headed by a woman, with similar breakdowns in both urban and rural areas (Table 3).²¹ In addition, Kaskazini B district had the highest proportion of male-headed households (83.8 per cent), while the proportion of female-headed households was highest in Mjini district (29.6 per cent).²² At least 17.2 per cent of the heads of households have no education,²³ and most are located in rural areas (23.9 per cent). The proportion with no education was higher among the rural female-headed households (48.1 per cent) than urban female-headed households (19.1 per cent), and higher for rural males (16.9 per cent) than urban male-headed households (4.3 per cent).²⁴

TABLE 3:

Percentage Distribution of Household Head by Sex and Area, 2009/10, 2014/15 and 2019/20 HBS

Sex of HoH Head	2009/10			2014/15			2019/20		
	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
Male	80.6	76	78.7	77.5	76.7	77.2	77.4	74.8	76.3
Female	19.4	24	21.3	22.5	23.3	22.8	22.6	25.2	23.7
Total Percent	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total HHs	136,059	96,452	232,511	148,754	113,541	262,295	169,461	123,335	292,796

Source: HBS (2009/2010, 2014/2015 and 2019/2020)

2. GENDER, LEADERSHIP AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Participation in Politics and decision-making

Table 5 indicates that, as of December 2019, 24 per cent of members in the Revolutionary Council (also the Council of Ministers) were women, while women ministers accounted for 29.4 per cent. Women's representation is highest among Deputy Principal Secretaries (36 per cent).

²¹ HBS 2019/20

²² HBS 2019/20

²³ HBS 2019/20

²⁴ HBS 2019/20

TABLE 5:**Women's Representation in Government Leadership**

Indicators	2017				2018				2019			
	Count		Percentage Distribution		Count		Percentage Distribution		Count		Percentage Distribution	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Ministers	5	11	31.3	68.8	4	12	25	75	5	12	29.4	70.6
Deputy Ministers	4	7	36.4	63.6	4	8	33.3	66.7	4	8	33.3	66.7
Member of Revolution Council	5	13	27.8	72.2	5	15	25	75	5	16	23.8	76.2
Presidential Advisors	2	4	33.3	66.7	2	4	33.3	66.7	2	6	25	75
Chief Secretary	0	1	0	100	0	1	0	100	0	1	0	100
Attorney General	0	1	0	100	0	1	0	100	0	1	0	100
Principal Secretaries	5	13	27.8	72.2	5	13	27.8	72.2	6	14	30	70
Deputy Principal Secretary	8	15	34.8	65.2	8	15	34.8	65.2	9	16	36	64
Chief Government Statistician	1	0	100	0	1	0	100	0	1	0	100	0
Chief Government Chemist	0	1	0	100	0	1	0	100	0	1	0	100
Director (Include Director General)	28	89	23.9	76.1	28	89	23.9	76.1	29	90	24.4	75.6
Deputy Director	1	6	14.3	85.7	1	6	14.3	85.7	1	6	14.3	85.7
Manager	5	15	25	75	5	15	25	75	5	15	25	75
Commissioner	4	15	21.1	78.9	4	15	21.1	78.9	5	15	25	75
Members of Zanzibar Electoral Commission	0	7	0	100	1	6	14.3	85.7	1	6	14.3	85.7
Executive Secretary	4	15	21.1	78.9	4	15	21.1	78.9	4	15	21.1	78.9
In charge Officer	2	11	15.4	84.6	2	11	15.4	84.6	2	12	14.3	85.7
Members of House of Representatives	32	54	37.2	62.8	32	54	37.2	62.8	32	56	36.4	63.6
Regional Commissioner	0	5	0	100	0	5	0	100	0	5	0	100
District Commissioner	3	8	27.3	72.7	3	8	27.3	72.7	3	8	27.3	72.7

Source: Zanzibar Statistical Abstract, 2019

Other leadership positions

Except for primary court magistrates, where more women (55.5 per cent) hold leadership positions than men, women are under-represented in all other leadership positions (Table 6). However, the Chief Government Statistician is a woman.

TABLE 6:**Women's Representation in Other Leadership Positions**

Indicators	2017				2018				2019			
	Count		Percentage Distribution		Count		Percentage Distribution		Count		Percentage Distribution	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Regional Administrative Secretary	1	4	20	80	1	4	20	80	1	4	20	80
District Administrative Secretary	2	9	18.2	81.8	2	9	18.2	81.8	2	9	18.2	81.8
Sub District Administrative Secretary	0	2	0	100	0	2	0	100	0	2	0	100
District Executive Director	1	10	9.1	90.9	1	10	9.1	90.9	1	10	9.1	90.9
Councillors	60	106	36.1	63.9	60	106	36.1	63.9	49	110	30.8	69.2
Sheha	33	308	9.7	90.3	33	308	9.7	90.3	52	333	13.5	86.5
Court magistrates	13	51	20.3	79.7	16	48	25	75	17	52	24.6	75.4
Judges	3	5	37.5	62.5	3	5	37.5	62.5	3	5	37.5	62.5
Regional magistrates	6	12	33.3	66.7	6	12	33.3	66.7	6	12	33.3	66.7
District magistrates	5	7	41.7	58.3	5	7	41.7	58.3	5	8	38.5	61.5
Primary court magistrates	9	4	69.2	30.8	9	4	69.2	30.8	10	8	55.6	44.4
Kadhi's court	0	10	0	100	0	10	0	100	0	10	0	100

Source: Zanzibar Statistical Abstract, 2019

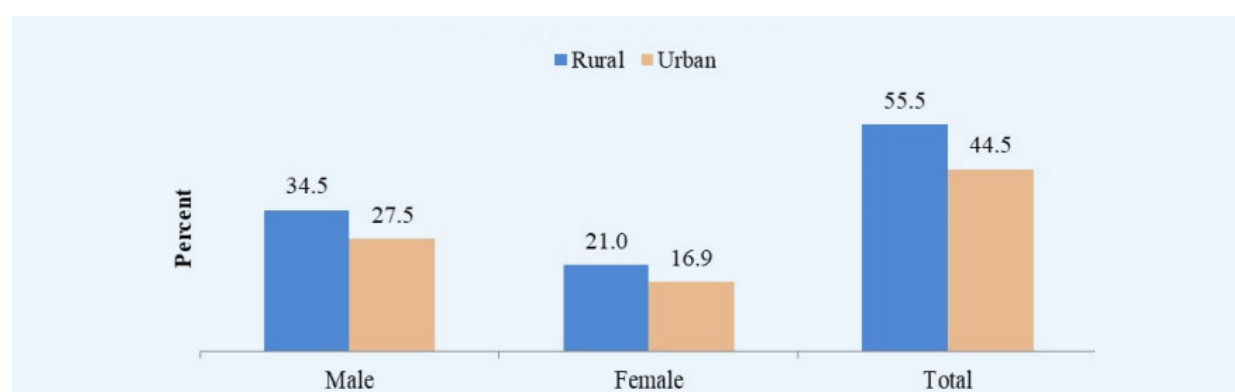
3. GENDER AND THE ECONOMY

More men than women are employed

Creating good-quality employment is a key component of Zanzibar's poverty reduction strategy, which aims not only to achieve higher economic growth rates but also to increase societal welfare levels and reduce household poverty. Figure 2 reveals that most of the currently employed population was found in rural areas (55.5 per cent) compared to urban areas (44.5 per cent). However, rural and urban areas had more male employees than female employees. In rural areas, the majority of those employed (45.5 per cent) are engaged in agriculture and fishing; only 29 engage in the same activities.²⁵ Men and women are mostly employed in agriculture and fishing (46.3 per cent and 44.3 per cent, respectively). Still, women are less likely to hold most professions (such as legislators, administrators and managers) and more likely to be technicians and associate professionals, clerks, service workers, and shop sales workers.

FIGURE 2:

Percentage of Currently Employed Population Aged 15 Years and above by Area and Sex, 2019/20 HBS



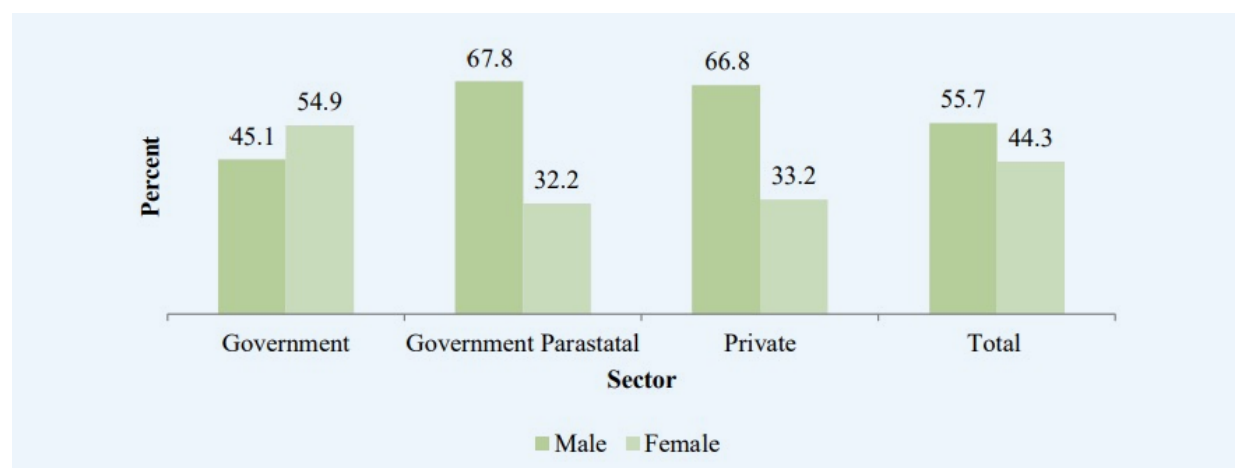
Women are slightly less likely to be employed in the better-paying formal sector

The labour market in Zanzibar employs 62,804 workers, out of whom 34,988 (55.7 per cent) are male and 27,816 (44.3 per cent) are female.²⁶ At least 51.5 per cent of all workers are engaged in the government sector, 38.2 per cent in the private sector, and 10.3 per cent in parastatals.²⁷ The average monthly salary of regular citizen employee is TZS 530,651, where males earn TZS 542,156 and females earn TZS 520,421. Women are more likely to be employed in the government sector (54.9 per cent women versus 45.1 per cent men), while the share of men is double that of women in both the parastatal and private sectors (Figure 4).

25 HBS 2019/20

26 Formal Sector Employment and Earnings Survey (FEES) 2018/19

27 Formal Sector Employment and Earnings 2018/19

FIGURE 4:**Percentage of Total Employment by Sector and Sex; 2018/19**

Source: FEES 2018/19

Among permanent employees, 87.3 per cent of women are in the government sector, compared to 72.3 per cent of men.²⁸ Women are under-represented as permanent employees in the private and parastatal sectors. Most temporary employees are engaged in the private sector, with equal proportions of men and women. All employees with casual contracts are employed in the private sector, with equal representation of men and women (Table 8). Female employees were paid less than male employees in Government and parastatals but more in the private sector (Table 9).

TABLE 7:**Percentage Distribution of Total Employment by Sector, Types of Contracts and Sex; 2018/19**

Sector	Permanent			Temporary			Casual			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Government	72.3	88.1	80.3	5.1	6.4	5.5	-	-	-	41.6	63.8	51.5
Government Parastatal	18.3	8.2	13.2	6.2	6.3	6.2	-	-	-	12.6	7.5	10.3
Private	9.4	3.7	6.5	88.7	87.3	88.2	100	100	100	45.8	28.7	38.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total Number	19,144	19,606	38,750	14,297	7,485	21,782	1,547	725	2,272	34,988	27,816	62,804

Source: FEES 2018/19

TABLE 8:**Monthly Average Salary of Regular Citizen Employees by Sector and Sex; 2018/19**

Sector	(TZS)		
	Male	Female	Total
Government	510,613	495,784	501,810
Government Parastatal	707,003	691,722	701,524
Private	525,620	680,089	565,308
Total	542,156	520,421	530,651

Source: FEES 2018/19

More female youth are employed in the Government and temporary jobs in the private sector.

The private sector has the highest proportion of youth (15–35 years) employees (58.6 per cent) compared with the remaining sectors, with 90.7 per cent on temporary contracts.²⁹ Among permanently employed youth, women are over-represented in government (87 per cent versus 66.9 per cent compared to men). Most youths on temporary contracts were engaged in the private sector (91.8 per cent of male youth and 88.7 per cent of female youth).³⁰

Most self-employed women are found in the informal sector and poorly paid positions.

Women dominate low-paying self-employment sectors like dairy farming, while men pursue lucrative fields like ICT. This imbalance leaves women economically vulnerable, mainly engaging in informal sectors like petty business and handicrafts, affecting their access to healthcare, pensions, and stable income.³¹ While low-paying jobs and engagement in the informal economy may diminish the value of contributions women make, they still contribute actively and consistently towards the creation or acquisition of family assets.³²

4. OVERVIEW OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Women are less likely to own houses and land than men

While 70.2 per cent of men in urban areas are sole owners of the houses they live in, only 24.9 per cent of women in Zanzibar own the houses they live in³³ (Table 9). On a positive note, 35.2 per cent of women are landowners with titles to the lands in their names, compared to 12.0 per cent of men.³⁴ Land ownership by women may increase their household bargaining power and help them become entrepreneurs since land can be used as collateral to access credit or sold to buy other assets.

29 Formal Sector Employment and Earnings Survey (FEES) 2018/19

30 Formal Sector Employment and Earnings Survey (FEES) 2018/19

31 SIGI background paper Tanzania (covering Zanzibar) 2019

32 Zanzibar Integrated Labour Force Survey (ILFS) 2014

33 HSB 2019/20

34 TDHS 2015/16

TABLE 12.**Dwelling ownership by sex and area**

Sex of Owner	2009/10			2014/15			2019/20		
	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
Male	84.1	78.9	82	77.4	75.1	76.4	78.9	70.2	75.0
Female	14.8	18.3	16.3	20	20.3	20.1	18.1	24.9	21.1
Joint ownership	1	2.4	1.6	2.3	4.1	3.1	2.8	4.4	3.5
Don't know	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.3
Total Percent	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total Households	136,059	96,452	232,511	148,754	113,541	262,295	166,985	133,896	300,881

Source: 2009/10, 2014/15 and 2019/20 HBS

Gender disparities in financial inclusion persist.

Access to credit and other financial services can potentially increase women's economic empowerment. However, only 15.6 per cent of Zanzibar women have access to a bank account. Similarly, while 73 per cent of Zanzibaris own mobile phones, only 33.0 per cent of women who own mobile phones use them for financial transactions.³⁵ Gender gaps in financial inclusion stem from factors like financial illiteracy, lack of collateral for rural women, costly services due to inefficient delivery channels, cash-based economies, cultural norms, and limited mobile phone ownership.³⁶ It is worth noting that access to credit is improving steadily, thus empowering women economically in Zanzibar despite these challenges.

Savings, credit groups, and societies: The emergence of microfinance in Zanzibar, which has targeted poor women, has been considered an effective vehicle for women's empowerment.³⁷ Women in Zanzibar benefit from credit facilities from their self-started savings schemes and government affirmative funds. In addition, saving and credit groups help smooth women's incomes, meet predictable expenses and reduce shocks in emergencies.³⁸ By December 2018, 226 SACCOS had been registered in Zanzibar. These Cooperative Societies have 28,523 members (15,574 women and 12,949 men)³⁹ engaged in various activities, including agriculture, small businesses, beauty parlours, selling garments, and handicrafts. Quick access to appropriate credit facilities enables women farmers in rural areas to defer selling or pre-selling their harvest to a time when prices are higher, in some cases substantially, to increase income.⁴⁰ In addition, access to microfinance facilitates women's participation in household decision-making.⁴¹ Women in microfinance groups give advice within their communities, participate in community meetings, and organize for social change.⁴²

Special Fund to support women entrepreneurs: The Zanzibar Economic Empowerment Fund (ZEEF), established in 2013, is a revolving fund aimed at supporting youth and women entrepreneurs through soft loans. In 2017/18, the Fund disbursed loans to 531 groups, benefiting 9,000 people, of whom 65 percent were women. The value of loans provided to members by the end of September 2017 was TZS 19,029,935,927 (USD 8,457,749) in both Unguja and Pemba.⁴³ By March 2019, ZEEF had disbursed 1,944 loans with a cumulative value of TZS 3,523,900,000 billion to 31,325 beneficiaries in Zanzibar. Out of these, 17,542 (56 per cent) were women.⁴⁴

35 Zanzibar Finscope Survey Report 2017

36 Finscope Survey Report 2017

37 2015 Siwa Ali Khamis; Assessing the Role of Women Entrepreneurship Development Trust Fund in Promoting Women Business Growth in Zanzibar; A Dissertation Submitted in Fulfilment of The Requirements for The Degree of Master of Business Administration in Transport and Logistics of The Open University of Tanzania

38 Finscope Survey Report 2017

39 Zanzibar Beijing +25 Implementation Report (2019)

40 Finscope Survey Report 2017

41 2015 Siwa Ali Khamis

42 2015 Siwa Ali Khamis

43 Zanzibar Beijing +25 Implementation Report (2019)

44 Zanzibar Beijing +25 Implementation Report (2019)

Business incubation services are needed to enhance women's business skills.

The Zanzibar Technology and Business Incubator (ZTBI) at Karume Institute of Science and Technology incubates youth and women start-ups in ICT, Tourism and Agribusiness.⁴⁵ The incubation center offers entrepreneurs advisory services, training, mentoring, and access to resources. Despite training over 779 entrepreneurs since 2015, few women and youth establish companies post-training.

Marital Status: less educated women marry earlier

Marriage remains the cultural norm and there have not been any major changes in marital status over the last ten years, as indicated in the 2014/2015 and 2019/20 HBS. In 2019/20, 55.6 per cent of the population above 15 years were married (60.1 per cent in rural areas versus 50.7 per cent in urban areas). For women, the median age at marriage is lower for less educated women: for women aged 25–49, the median age at first marriage is 17.8 years for women with no education versus 23.6 years for women with at least secondary education. For men aged 30–49, the difference in the median age at first marriage between men with no education and men with at least secondary education is 4.6 years.⁴⁶ Both women and men in rural areas are more likely to marry earlier than their urban counterparts.⁴⁷ Figure 3 indicates that the proportion of the married male population is slightly higher (56.1 per cent) compared to the female population (55.2 per cent).⁴⁸

The average marriage life span among the rural population is between 10–15 years, while in urban areas, it is less than 10 years. Various studies have indicated an increasing rate of unilateral divorce and family abandonment in Zanzibar.⁴⁹ Between 2012 and the first three months of 2016, 2,841 divorce cases were brought to the *Kadhis* Court at Mwanakwerekwe, while maintenance cases during the same period were 268.⁵⁰ Women file most divorce cases.⁵¹ Over 90 per cent of cases filed involved matrimonial disputes ranging from divorce suits and claims for maintenance.

5. GENDER IN AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is a direct source of employment for about 42 per cent of the Zanzibar population (38.3 per cent for women and 61.7 for men)⁵², contributing to more than a quarter of the national economy. The sector has a wide scope to stimulate the expansion of other sectors, such as agro-processing, services, and trade.⁵³ Agricultural production is subsistence, small-scale, and rain-fed.⁵⁴

Few women own agricultural land

One of the specific goals of the Zanzibar Land Policy 2018 is to promote gender equality in agricultural development and production to ensure that women have equitable access to and control over productive resources, including land, water, credit and extension services. The National Land Policy of Zanzibar underscores that women and other vulnerable groups (including people with disabilities) are less likely to own land. The proportion of women who had secured the right to agricultural land alone (24.7 per cent) is significantly lower compared to men (65.8 per cent), and the discrepancies persist in both rural and urban areas (Figure 4).

45 A. Rajeev, M. Afua and B. Mohamed; Fostering Entrepreneurship Development among Youth for Job Creation through Industrial Development: The Case of Zanzibar Technology and Business Incubator; a paper published in *Huria Journal*, vol 24 (2017)

46 TDHS 2015/16

47 TDHS 2015/16

48 HBS 2019/20

49 2018 TAMWA, Report on the Analysis of Section 5 of the Kadhi's Court Act (No. 9, 2017) on prescriptions related to actual contribution to matrimonial assets

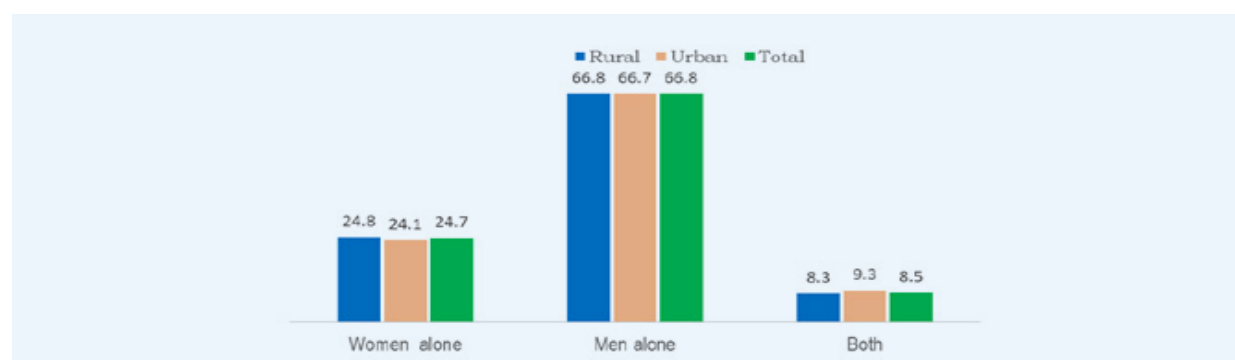
50 2018 TAMWA

51 Majamba p.11 and Stiles 2009

52 FEES 2019

53 Zanzibar Agricultural Transformation for Sustainable Development, 2010–2020 For Agricultural Productivity, Food Security and Sustainable Livelihood (2010–2020)

54 Zanzibar Agricultural Transformation for Sustainable Development, 2010–2020 For Agricultural Productivity, Food Security and Sustainable Livelihood (2010–2020)

FIGURE 4:**Proportion of Population who secured the Right to Agricultural Land by Location and Sex**

Source: 2019/20 HBS

Seaweed farming and horticulture offer financial independence and status to women

Seaweed farming in Zanzibar is a well-established industry that brings in foreign currency and gives coastal people, especially women, an opportunity to earn an income for themselves and their families.⁵⁵ Seaweed farming often acts as a supplement to fishing or agriculture-based households. In 2019, seaweed farming in over 56 villages in Zanzibar and employed 12,903 farmers.⁵⁶ About 80 per cent of all seaweed farmers are women.⁵⁷ In the coastal areas, where the land is not suitable for agricultural activities, women spend much of their time on the beaches cultivating seaweed.⁵⁸ Like other farmers, women seaweed farmers face the challenges of poor-quality seaweed and a limited availability of varieties with higher market potential.⁵⁹ Other challenges include limited investment in secondary and tertiary seaweed processing and inadequate skills in farming and post-harvest handling techniques such as drying.⁶⁰

Seaweed farmers also engage in eco-tourism and produce seaweed-based products such as soaps, cosmetics, lotion, medicines, and food.⁶¹ Trade in seaweed has brought women financial independence and the social status that comes with it. The income generated by seaweed farming has enabled farmers to improve their standards of living by giving them income to pay school fees, buy uniforms and books for their children, improve the houses in which they live, and purchase clothes and food to meet their daily needs.⁶²

Zanzibar's horticulture thrives due to tourism demand. Traditionally reliant on imports, local farmers now cultivate vegetables for hotels and restaurants, enhancing income. Over 4,500 women and youth have improved their production after receiving training from the Zanzibar Horticulture programme; 3,000 smallholder farmers have been linked to hotel markets in Zanzibar; 417 farmers (295 male and 122 female) were connected to markets to sell their products specifically in tourist hotels.⁶³ Zanzibar's Horticulture program empowers women, fostering leadership and confidence, enabling them to negotiate and utilize income for personal choices. Participants hold influential community roles, including political representation.⁶⁴

Men make final decisions on how income from farming is spent.

According to HBS 2019/20, the proportion of women who make final decisions alone on spending income from farming was 23.6 per cent, while for men, it was 58.1 per cent. A similar pattern was observed for men and women in both rural and urban areas. Consequently, more males (54.5 per cent) make final decisions on

55 Msuya F, Dr. A Study of Working Conditions in the Zanzibar Seaweed Farming Industry; Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organising (WIEGO) 2012

56 OCGS 2019 The Agricultural Statistics Release, Third Quarter 2019

57 RGoZ Blue Economy Policy 2020

58 Groverman, V. & Sentamu, J. Tanzania Women Empowerment in Zanzibar project; Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2011)

59 Zanzibar Agricultural Transformation for Sustainable Development, 2010-2020 For Agricultural Productivity, Food Security and Sustainable Livelihood (2010-2020)

60 Zanzibar Agricultural Transformation for Sustainable Development, 2010-2020 For Agricultural Productivity, Food Security and Sustainable Livelihood (2010-2020)

61 Zanzibar Agricultural Transformation for Sustainable Development, 2010-2020 For Agricultural Productivity, Food Security and Sustainable Livelihood (2010-2020)

62 Msuya F, Dr. A Study of Working Conditions in the Zanzibar Seaweed Farming Industry; Women in Informal Employment: Globalising and Organising (WIEGO) 2012

63 Report of the Assessment of CEDAW Implementation in Zanzibar (2019)

64 <https://tgt.or.tz/index.php/tgt-projects/zanzibar-horticulture-programme/>

spending income from livestock than women (25.4 per cent). Across Zanzibar (in both rural and urban areas), a very small proportion of men and women make final decisions on how to spend farming or income from livestock together.

Mechanization and technical services are needed to transform the sector.

Zanzibar Vision 2050 aims to shift agriculture to sustainable, export-focused production with value addition for food security and climate resilience.⁶⁵ However, mechanization and technical services, the prerequisite for transforming Zanzibar's subsistence agriculture, are still inaccessible to farmers. Only 24 per cent of farmers use tractor-hire services, and only one per cent use oxen-drawn implements to cultivate their lands.⁶⁶ This being the case, the hand hoe remains the principal tool for land cultivation.

6. GENDER, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Women and girls are more vulnerable to climate change

The significant rise in sea temperatures is killing seaweed, mostly farmed by women in Zanzibar. During prolonged droughts or floods resulting in decreased food security, men migrate to other areas, leaving women and their children behind with household and agricultural responsibilities in addition to care and support roles. Water shortage in schools leads to absenteeism and dropping out of school among adolescent female students, leading to gender disparities in performance and retention. Although women have the knowledge and understanding of what is needed to adapt to changing environmental conditions and to come up with practical solutions, they are still an untapped resource in terms of their representation in different structures that address environmental and climate change issues.

7. GENDER IN THE SERVICES SECTOR

Women's participation in tourism

Compared with other sectors, tourism offers more room for women to participate.⁶⁷ Women's interest in entering tourism is influenced by their place of residence concerning tourist sites; chances are higher if they live in the city, along beaches, or along the roads that tourists use to travel to hotels and attractions.⁶⁸ Women engage in tourism via direct employment in hotels, agencies, and by establishing small businesses like hotels, homestays, and shops. They also offer services like massages, sell goods on beaches, and collaborate through groups like the Kidoti women's group.⁶⁹ Likewise, the 'Mbogamboga' project in Zanzibar, supported by the TGT and ZATI has linked women farmers and large tourist hotels in Zanzibar. It has also trained women horticulturists to cultivate more professionally and reached out to 1,087 women farmers.⁷⁰ Regarding the establishment of tourism-related businesses, large hotels do not support local SMEs entering the tourism industry since they prefer to import food and products instead of sourcing them locally, with the only exception being fresh fish.⁷¹

8. WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN ICT

ICT creates new opportunities for women and contributes to knowledge sharing, networking, and electronic commerce activities. Women entrepreneurs' access and use of ICT tools is increasing, especially of mobile phones, computers, media and the Internet. Many women entrepreneurs use modern communication tools, particularly mobile phones, the Internet and email, to exchange information with their clients (e.g., exchange of

65 RGoZ Zanzibar Vision 2050

66 Issa Hassan Shoka; Contribution of Agriculture to The Economic Growth of Zanzibar Dissertation Submitted in Partial/Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award of Master of Science in Accounting and Finance of Mzumbe University (2015)

67 Maliva, N.S; (2016)

68 Ibid

69 KIDOTI women's cooperative of rural women running small businesses, producing soap and selling it to shops and hotels in northern Unguja.

70 Mori, Neema (2014)

71 Rotarou, E;

product designs before orders). However, data also showed that more men use ICT tools than women. Women continue to be excluded from access to ICTs and especially the Internet due to technical problems and costs of access, but also due to a lack of training and knowledge, as well as other social and cultural obstacles, poverty, lack of access to opportunities, illiteracy (including computer illiteracy) and language barriers, prevent women from using ICT, including the Internet.

9. GENDER AND INFRASTRUCTURE (ENERGY, ROAD AND WATER)

The Zanzibar Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (MKUZA III) emphasizes better access to good infrastructure and communication.

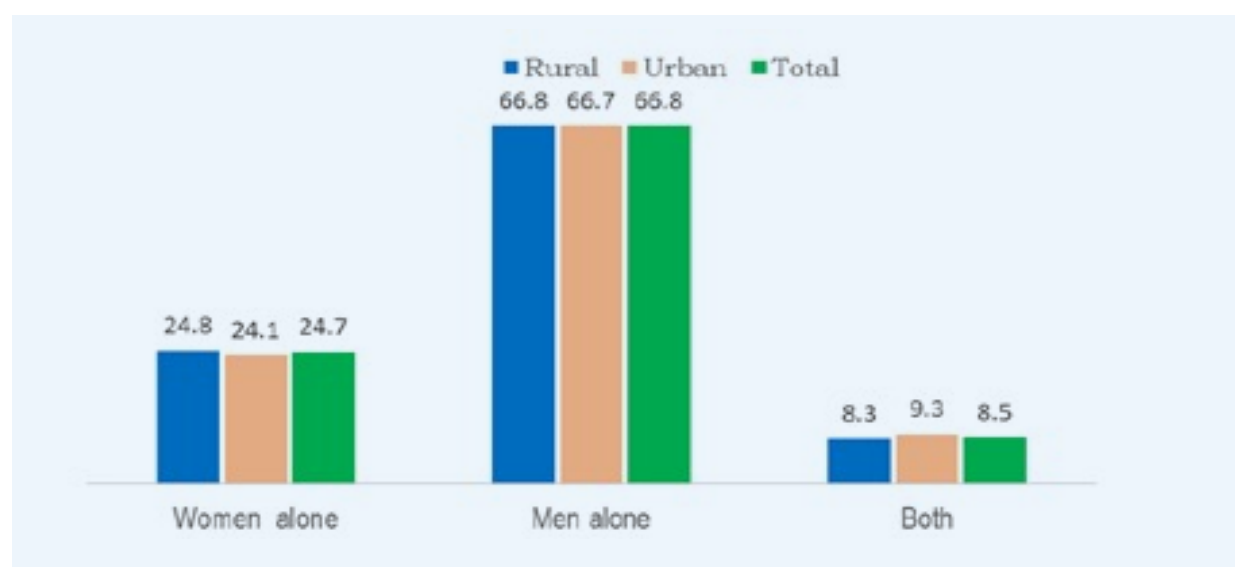
Access to water

Poor households have less access to utilities such as water, which increases women's unpaid work burden.

Poor households have limited access to basic services such as clean drinking water, safe sanitation and electricity (Table 4). For example, the poverty rate for households without access to clean water was twice as high as for those with access to clean water. Lack of water means that women and girls spend more time searching for water than engaging in other activities, including education and income generation. Furthermore, households with no toilets were two times more likely to be poor than those with toilets, and a similar situation is seen concerning access to electricity.⁷²

TABLE 4:

Distribution of Basic Needs Poverty Headcount Rate by Utility, 2014/15 and 2019/20 HBS



Source: HBS 2019/20

More effort is needed to increase the women's participation in water governance.

Frequent water shortages, lack of adequate water sources, long queues, and lack of money to buy water are some of the problems related to water supply and their causes and effects on family welfare.⁷³ The major effect on households includes health problems, the high cost of water from vendors, women spending a lot of time queuing for water, and poor hygienic conditions due to insufficient water. While women are more active in providing water and ensuring health and well-being for the households, women are often not given a role in water

⁷² HBS 2019/20

⁷³ 2012 AfDB Appraisal Report for the Zanzibar Urban Water and Sanitation Project for the United Republic of Tanzania https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Project-and-Operations/Tanzania_-_Zanzibar_Urban_Water_and_Sanitation_Project_-_Appraisal_Report.pdf accessed on 8th May 2021

provision and management.⁷⁴ As a result of the AfDB-supported “Zanzibar Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project,” which aimed at providing appropriate infrastructure solutions, institutional support, community sensitisation and capacity building/training mechanisms, 49 Shehia Water and Sanitation Committees were established at the local level that had 40 per cent female active membership.⁷⁵

Cooking energy

In Zanzibar, most households use traditional and inefficient energy sources because they are cheap and locally available. Efficient and modern energy sources, such as LPG and electricity, are expensive and poorly explored.⁷⁶ Table 15 shows that the most common energy sources used for cooking are firewood (52.8 per cent of households) and charcoal (34.1 per cent of households), and only 2.6 per cent of households use electricity.⁷⁷ Electricity is used for lighting (57 per cent), while 31.5 of households use kerosene for lighting.

TABLE 15:

Percentage of Households by Source of Energy for Lighting and Cooking by District

Energy Source	Kaskazini A	Kaskazini B	Kati	Kusini	Mjini	Magharibi A	Magharibi B	Wete	Micheweni	Chake Chake	Mkoani	Total	Total
Energy mainly used for lighting													
Electricity	25.7	35.5	34.4	50.9	91.4	76.8	84.2	41.4	15.7	54.8	25.7	57.0	171,572
Generator	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Solar	5.9	8.4	18.3	13.7	0.3	3.9	1.5	3.7	14.3	4.1	13.7	6.1	18,445
Biogas	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	64
Charging light	4.9	2.6	11.4	10.2	3.1	3.3	3.8	3.9	1.8	1.9	2.1	4.0	11,933
Kerosene(lamp)	62.7	52.1	32.3	23.4	5.2	15.1	7.9	50.6	66.4	38.3	56.2	31.5	94,699
Candle	0.0	0.4	1.8	0.5	0.0	0.0	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	1,711
Firewood	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.7	0.5	1.2	0.3	876
Other (Specify):	0.0	1.0	1.9	0.4	0.0	0.9	0.1	0.0	1.1	0.4	1.2	0.5	1,579
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	300,881
Energy mainly used for cooking													
Electricity	0.6	0.3	0.0	1.3	5.1	5.6	5.1	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	7,817
Solar	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.1	402
Generator	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Industrial gas	0.9	2.1	4.7	1.1	15.2	10.0	19.5	1.4	0.0	1.9	0.3	7.7	23,311
Biogas	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	272
Kerosene	3.4	2.4	2.1	1.0	2.8	0.4	2.3	0.6	0.7	1.7	2.2	1.9	5,741
Coal	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	190
Charcoal	10.6	9.4	6.3	15.1	59.8	80.0	54.8	27.1	9.1	27.7	8.8	34.1	102,616
Firewood	84.1	85.8	85.2	80.1	16.6	23.0	17.1	68.5	90.2	67.4	87.4	52.8	158,953
Wood/Field Residuals/Dust	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	69
Kinyesi cha Wanyama	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Other specify:	0.4	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.9	0.0	0.5	1.2	0.5	1,521
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	300,881
Total	26,785	19,691	19,317	11,257	51,845	35,902	48,172	23,610	23,248	20,179	20,874	300,881	

Source: 2019/20 HBS

10. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Both male and female children are vulnerable to sexual violence: The 2009 Violence Against Children (VAC) Survey in Zanzibar indicated that 6 per cent of girls and 9 per cent of boys reported having experienced sexual violence before the age of 18 years. Of those who had their sexual debut before age 18, nearly 9.6 per cent of females and 13.3 per cent of males reported that their first sexual intercourse was unwilling, meaning that they were forced or coerced to engage in sexual intercourse.⁷⁸ Eight out of every nine reported cases of violence against children involved girls.⁷⁹ The most common form of childhood sexual violence (i.e., sexual violence that occurred before age 18) reported by females was unwanted attempted sex, followed by unwanted sexual touching. The most common form of childhood sexual violence reported by males was unwanted sexual touching, followed by unwanted attempted and forced sex.⁸⁰

Older persons perpetrate sexual violence: The three most common perpetrators of sexual violence experienced by females before age 18 were strangers, neighbours, and dating partners.⁸¹ Two-thirds of the females reported that at least one incident of sexual violence involved a perpetrator who was ten years older

74 2012 AfDB Appraisal Report for the Zanzibar Urban Water and Sanitation Project for the United Republic of Tanzania

75 AfDB 2020 Zanzibar Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project completion report <https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/tanzania-zanzibar-water-supply-and-sanitation-project-project-completion-reports> Accessed on 5th May 2021

76 Moh'd, S. O. (2013). The efficiency of different energy sources used by households in urban Zanzibar: best choices for environmental conservation. Dodoma: The University of Dodoma <http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12661/1690> accessed on 8th May 2021

77 HBS 2019/20

78 Vac report (2009)

79 Women and men facts and figures 2018

80 VAC Report (2009)

81 VAC Report (2009)

or more. About half of males 13 to 24 years of age reported that at least someone older perpetrated one of their incidents of childhood sexual violence.⁸² The most common locations where sexual violence occurred at least once for females and males were someone's house, at school, or while traveling to or from school.⁸³

Seeking services after abuse is not popular: This is confirmed by the fact that one in five females and 1 in 10 males who experienced sexual violence before age 18 sought services for at least one experience. For both females and males who experienced sexual violence before age 18, six out of the 11 people who sought services were assisted.

Physical violence: About 6 in 10 females and 7 in 10 males reported experiencing physical violence before age 18.⁸⁴ Almost 1 out of 2 females and more than 4 in 10 males 13 to 17 years old reported that they experienced physical violence in the past 12 months by either a relative, authority figure (such as teachers), or an intimate partner.⁸⁵ Among females and males who experienced physical violence before age 18, approximately 4 in 10 reported physical violence by their mother. Almost 3 in 10 females and 6 in 10 males reported physical violence by their father.⁸⁶ More than 1 out of 10 females and about 3 out of 10 males reported physical violence by their mother and father. Over 7 in 10 females and 6 in 10 males, 13 to 24 years of age, who experienced physical violence before age 18 reported physical violence by teachers.⁸⁷ Approximately 1 in 10 males who experienced physical violence reported physical violence by a religious leader.⁸⁸

A close relative or neighbour perpetrates emotional violence in childhood: about 1 in 7 females 13 to 24 years of age and 1 in 5 males reported experiences of emotional violence before turning age 18.⁸⁹ Among 13- to 24-year-olds who experienced emotional violence before the age 18, around one-half reported that a relative perpetrated the emotional violence and about one-half reported that a neighbour perpetrated emotional violence.⁹⁰

The rates of GBV in Zanzibar are high: At least 17 per cent of women aged 15–49 in Zanzibar experience physical violence and 4 per cent have experienced sexual violence. 12.5 per cent have experienced both physical and sexual violence (Table 16). However, both men and women accept the use of physical violence by husbands against their wives. Approximately 4 in 10 females and 1 in 2 males 13 to 24 years of age believed that it was appropriate for a husband to beat his wife under certain circumstances if she either goes out without telling him, neglects the children, argues with him, refuses to have sex with him, or burns the food.⁹¹

82 VAC Report (2009)

83 VAC Report (2009)

84 VAC Report (2009)

85 VAC Report (2009)

86 VAC Report (2009)

87 VAC Report (2009)

88 VAC Report (2009)

89 VAC Report (2009)

90 VAC Report (2009)

91 TDHS 2015/16

TABLE 16.

Experience of different forms of violence: Percentage of women aged 15–49 who have ever experienced different forms of violence by current age

Age	Physical violence only	Sexual violence only	Physical and sexual violence	Physical or sexual violence	Number of women
15-19	16.1	5.4	5.8	27.3	1,911
15-17	15.2	3.8	4.3	23.3	1,111
18-19	17.4	7.6	7.8	32.9	800
20-24	26.5	4.3	11.5	42.3	1,753
25-29	31.8	3.5	14.2	49.5	1,511
30-39	28.7	4.1	15.9	48.7	2,428
40-49	32.7	2.7	15.0	50.4	1,719
Total	27.0	4.0	12.5	43.6	9,322

Source: TDHS 2015/16

Infrastructure to respond to VAWG

At least 417 Gender and Children's Desks have been established in 11 police stations in Zanzibar, together with seven One Stop Centres to respond to VAWG. In 2018, 942 GBV/VAWG cases were reported to the Police Gender and Children's Desks in Zanzibar, slightly decreasing from the 1,041 cases reported in 2017.⁹² Five, 236 Children's Courts exist in Zanzibar.⁹³ Rape of girls under 18 years was the most reported crime in 2019 (594 incidents), while sodomy was the fourth (157 incidents). In 2017, the Government of Zanzibar established a special operation to fast-track the investigation of violence against women and children to expedite the prosecution of VAWG Cases. There is an enhanced collaboration between the police and the Director of Public Prosecution's (DPP) office.⁹⁴

The DPP's office and police hold monthly joint training, focusing on improving criminal justice, notably on GBV/VAC. This initiative enhances case prosecution, expediting some to completion within a month.⁹⁵ In 2019, the Government procured DNA equipment to support the efficient collection of evidence for cases of violence against women and children in Zanzibar since many of the cases (particularly rape) ended in acquittals due to the lack of evidence.

11. GENDER, EDUCATION, TRAINING AND HUMAN CAPITAL

More girls than boys are enrolled in primary and secondary school

According to HBS 2019/20, the number of female-to-male pupils in school ratio is 1.05.⁹⁶ This ratio improves from pre-primary to primary level and worsens from primary to secondary level. The primary net enrolment rate is higher for females (83.7 per cent) than males (80.5 per cent), while the primary gross enrolment ratio is marginally higher for males (116.4 per cent) than females (111.5 per cent)⁹⁷ (Table 17). A similar pattern is observed for males and females in rural and urban areas. The gross ratio exceeds 100 per cent due to the enrolment of children above and below the regular school age.

⁹² <https://tanzania.unfpa.org/en/news/strengthening-responses-address-gender-based-violence-zanzibar>.

⁹³ Ibid., pg. 60–64

⁹⁴ 2019 SIGI Background Report for Zanzibar and Tanzania

⁹⁵ Zanzibar 9th CEDAW Report (2015–2019) work in progress

⁹⁶ HBS 2019/20

⁹⁷ HBS 2019/20

TABLE 17:**Primary Education Net and Gross Enrolment Ratio by Sex and Area**

Sex	2009/10			2014/15			2019/20 ⁵		
	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
Male									
Net Enrolment Ratio	78.5	83.5	80.5	78.1	88.4	83.2	75.0	85.9	80.5
Gross Enrolment Ratio	103.7	105.3	104.4	96.9	106.7	101.8	114.4	118.4	116.4
Female									
Net Enrolment Ratio	77.7	88.1	82.2	81.1	89.2	85.1	80.3	87.1	83.7
Gross Enrolment Ratio	97.9	104.1	100.6	100.9	104.5	102.7	106.4	116.6	111.5
Total									
Net Enrolment Ratio	70.1	85.8	81.4	79.6	88.8	84.2	78.0	86.8	81.4
Gross Enrolment Ratio	100.9	104.7	102.5	98.9	105.6	102.2	110.9	118.0	113.7

Source: HBS (2009/2010, 2014/2015 and 2019/20)

Secondary education enrolment is higher in urban areas than rural areas. Interestingly, female secondary school enrolments have exceeded male enrolments since the 2009/10 surveys in rural and urban areas.⁹⁸ In 2019/2020, the net enrolment for males was 46.8 per cent, while for females, it was 55.9 per cent (Table 18).

TABLE 18:**Secondary Education Net and Gross Enrolment Ratio by Sex and area, 2019/20 HBS**

Sex	2009/10			2014/15			2019/20		
	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
Male									
Net Enrolment Ratio	36.7	53.4	43.3	30.2	47.5	38.8	34.7	58.9	46.8
Gross Enrolment Ratio	44.1	64.2	52.1	37.3	60.6	47.9	45.7	76.5	61.1
Female									
Net Enrolment Ratio	42.8	58.7	48.8	39.4	45.0	42.2	50.1	61.7	55.9
Gross Enrolment Ratio	47.3	69.4	55.4	46.3	58.2	52.3	61.3	77.1	69.2
Total									
Net Enrolment Ratio	39.8	55.6	46.1	34.8	60.3	40.5	44.3	61.6	52.1
Gross Enrolment Ratio	45.7	67.0	53.8	41.8	76.8	50.6	55.6	78.1	65.7

Source: HBS 2019/20

Boys and girls drop out of school for different reasons.

Table 19 indicates that in 2019/2020, more girls than boys dropped out in standards 2, 3, and 4. Importantly, boys and girls drop out for different reasons. For instance, 79.1 per cent of male dropouts and 51.6 per cent of female dropouts, alluding to this reason, indicated that they were not interested in school or thought school was useless.⁹⁹ At the primary level, girls drop out because they are expected to carry a greater burden of household work or the expectation that girls will soon marry. In contrast, at the secondary level, boys are more likely to participate in income-generating activities that affect their school attendance.¹⁰⁰ Although girls drop out at a much lower rate at the secondary level, they do so because of household work, sickness, marriage, or pregnancy.¹⁰¹ In 2019/2020 HBS, no girl dropped out of school due to pregnancy (0.0 per cent), compared to 0.8 per cent in 2014/15 HBS. No females dropped out of school in Zanzibar for work reasons.¹⁰²

98 HBS 2019/20

99 HBS2019/20

100 HBS2019/20

101 HBS 2019/20

102 HBS 2019/20

TABLE 19**Percentage Distribution of Dropout 6-13 Years and Class by Sex**

Class	2009/10			2014/15			2019/20		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Standard 1	8.7	6.1	7.7	6.7	2.4	4.7	31.8	0.0	21.8
Standard 2	13.0	8.1	11.2	10.7	7.8	9.3	20.4	23.7	21.5
Standard 3	18.1	14.3	16.7	15.1	8.1	11.8	14.6	41.2	22.9
Standard 4	20.8	12.9	17.8	14.5	11.8	13.2	8.7	18.0	11.7
Standard 5	14.8	9.0	12.6	12.9	13.2	13.0	18.7	17.1	18.2
Standard 6	7.1	11.8	8.8	9.4	12.9	11.0	5.8	0.0	3.9
Standard 7	7.8	15.7	10.8	12.4	16.8	14.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Form 1	4.2	8.9	6.0	3.7	3.4	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Form 2	5.5	13.3	8.5	14.7	23.7	19.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Percent	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total Individual	11,175	6,857	18,032	11,452	10,288	21,740	2,700	1,242	3,942

Source: HBS (2009/10, 2014/15 and 2019/20)

The re-entry policy allows pregnant girls to complete school.

Although pregnancy did not feature as a reason for girls dropping out of school in the 2019/20 HBS, cases of early marriages and pregnancies, have been reported as the cause of dropouts among girls, especially at the primary school level.¹⁰³ The Zanzibar Education Policy of 2006 has enabled girls to return to school after childbirth, and the law permits the reintegration of pupils who have given birth in schools.¹⁰⁴ Zanzibar's Marriage law permits girls over 18 to wed while in school. Absence of policies against child marriage results in pregnant, married girls facing education barriers due to stigma. Cultural administrators fear peer influence, causing expulsions.¹⁰⁵ The RGoZ¹⁰⁶ urges members of the public to stop discriminating against pregnant school girls and stakeholders to raise awareness about the needs of returning pregnant girls.

Illiteracy rates are declining.

HBS data analysed for 2009/2010, 2014/2015 and 2019/2020 shows that in 2019/2020, female illiteracy (16 per cent) was higher than male illiteracy (8.6 per cent). In the same period, female illiteracy was higher in rural (23.7 per cent) versus urban areas (7.7 per cent). As a comparison, 13.9 per cent of men in rural areas and 2.6 per cent of those in urban areas were illiterate. There is, thus a notable gender illiteracy gap in Zanzibar.¹⁰⁷

Higher education attainment is low, but increasing.

The same data indicates that in 2019/2020, 2.8 per cent of the population had a university education (2.6 per cent of women and 3 per cent of men). Although the figures are very low, they represent an increase from 2009/2010, when only 0.3 per cent of men and 0.1 of women had a university education. Both men and women are equally likely to obtain other certificates (2.5 per cent).

¹⁰³ RGoZ 2006 Zanzibar Education Policy 2006

¹⁰⁴ Protection of Spinster and Single Parent Act, 2005

¹⁰⁵ April 2015; Sik, I; Early Motherhood in Tanzania: Exploring the Education, Health and Employment Challenges of Dar es Salaam's Adolescent Mothers: Thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Honours BA International Development Studies (Co-op) Specialist Presented to University of Toronto Scarborough

¹⁰⁶ The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training in Zanzibar, Mr Ali Khamis Ali Speaking at a meeting on 21 April 2021 to receive an evaluation report about a re-entry policy which allows female students to continue with studies after delivery see: <https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/zanzibar-pushes-for-girls-school-re-entry-after-giving-birth-3348796> accessed on 5th May 2021

¹⁰⁷ HBS 2019/20

TVET training

The Zanzibar Vocational Education Training Policy of 2005 aspires to develop specific programmes that will be introduced from the early stages to counteract and eliminate the negative aspects of sex stereotyping. The Policy also aims to provide access to diverse learners, including out-of-school youths, women and under-skilled or under-prepared adults.¹⁰⁸

Education Infrastructure

Toilet facilities: All schools in Zanzibar have toilet facilities. Average pupil latrine ratios are low at the primary level, with 168 boys and 161 girls per toilet in 2015.¹⁰⁹ At the secondary level, on average, there were 62 boys and 72 girls per toilet.¹¹⁰

The use of improved sanitation facilities was higher in urban schools (96.0 per cent) than in rural areas (86.6 per cent). On the other hand, 12.8 per cent of schools in rural areas used unimproved toilet facilities compared to 3.9 per cent of schools in urban areas.¹¹¹

Single-sex sanitation facilities: 58.3 per cent of schools had usable toilets separated for boys and girls. 49.0 per cent of schools had at least one usable toilet accessible to pupils with a physical disability or impaired vision.¹¹²

Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Facilities: School access to running water increased between 2004–2005 (85.8 per cent) and 2014–2015 (90.5 per cent), while access to improved sanitation increased from 37.7 per cent in 2002 to 68.3 per cent in 2012.¹¹³ Given the multiple challenges that adolescent girls face concerning inadequate menstrual hygiene management services in schools, MHM is an important step toward safeguarding the dignity and bodily integrity of women and girls.

Accessibility of drinking water sources: All schools in Zanzibar (96.0 per cent) obtained their drinking water from an improved source. Furthermore, 2.4 per cent of schools in Zanzibar used unimproved drinking water sources.¹¹⁴ Although the water supply in schools is good, the flow is intermittent, compounded by poor quality and lack of chlorination.¹¹⁵ Inadequate WASH services in schools result in obstacles that mostly affect adolescent girls through puberty. For adolescent girls, the absence of privacy and dignity due to the lack of improved sanitation facilities negatively impacts health and safety, self-esteem, education and well-being.

12. GENDER AND HEALTH

Life expectancy is slightly higher for women: The life expectancy in Zanzibar is estimated at 65.2 years.¹¹⁶ Women and those in rural areas live longer (3.8 years and 1.9 years, respectively). There are also regional differences, with the lowest life expectancy being 62.3 in Kusini Unguja and the highest in Kaskazini Unguja at 66.6 years.¹¹⁷

Morbidity: In 2019/2020, 54.32 of the population aged 15–64 reported illness or injury in the past four weeks. Women are more likely to report illness or injury in the 15–64 age group but less likely in the other age groups (Figure 6).

108 Programme 4: Technical & Vocational Education of the Zanzibar Education Plan 2018–2022

109 Zanzibar Education Plan 2018–2022

110 2020 UNICEF Report on the 2018 National School Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Assessment

111 2020 UNICEF National School WASH report

112 2020 UNICEF Report on the 2018 National School Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Assessment

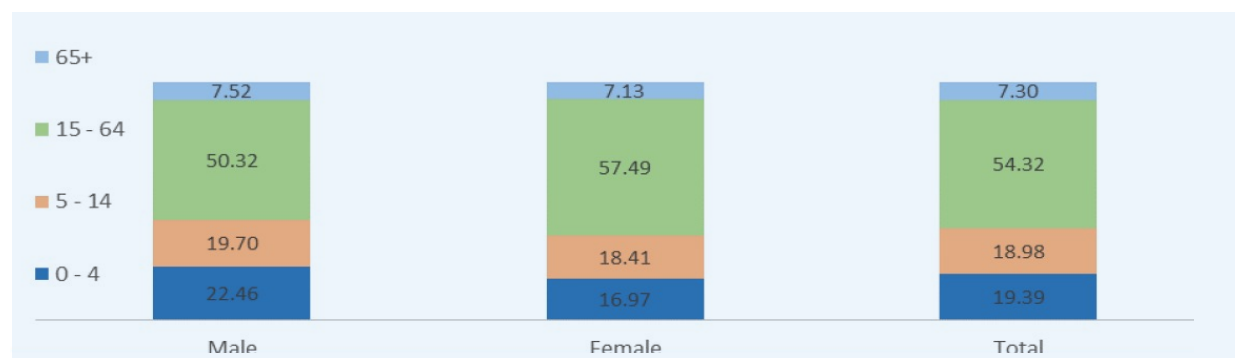
113 National Census, 2012).

114 2020 UNICEF Report on the 2018 National School Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Assessment

115 2020 UNICEF Report on the 2018 National School Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Assessment

116 TDHS 2015/16

117 2017 Mid Term Review of the Zanzibar Health sector Strategic Plan-III 2013/14–2018/19

FIGURE 6**Percentage of Individuals Reporting Illness or Injury in the Past Four weeks by sex**

Source: 2019/2020 HBS

Over the years, Zanzibar's disease pattern has changed from communicable to non-communicable diseases (NCDs).¹¹⁸ For instance, women are more likely to suffer from anaemia than men.¹¹⁹ Furthermore, the data from the 2019/2020 HBS shows that women are two times more likely to suffer from hypertension than men (16.7 per cent versus 8.2 per cent). In addition, women are slightly more likely than men to suffer from diabetes (1.5 per cent versus 1.2 per cent).

Cervical cancer awareness and testing

Awareness of cervical cancer was higher in the urban areas than the rural areas, and among women aged 25-29 years (17.1 per cent),¹²⁰ followed by those aged 20-24 years (16.5 per cent) and those aged 30-34 years (15.3 per cent). Testing for cervical cancer was higher among women in urban areas (11 per cent) than those in rural areas (5.9 per cent), and overall testing increases with age.¹²¹ At the district level, Mkoani had the highest proportion of women being tested for cervical cancer (19.1 per cent), followed by Mjini, Kusini, Magharibi A, and Magharibi B districts with about 11 per cent each.¹²²

Malnutrition and obesity: In 2015/2016, 13.8 per cent of children under five were underweight.¹²³ According to the TDHS 2015/16, 38.9 per cent of women of reproductive age were overweight and obese, which is as high as 47 per cent in the highest wealth quintile. Rural areas are more affected by undernutrition, while urban areas are more affected by obesity.¹²⁴

Maternal Health:

Maternal mortality:¹²⁵ The 2012 Population Census and the TDHS surveys suggest a high maternal mortality ratio in Zanzibar.¹²⁶ Institutional maternal mortality has decreased from 310 per 100,000 live births in 2013 to 237 per 100,000 live births in 2015/16.¹²⁷ There were marked differences in maternal mortality ratio across regions in Zanzibar, ranging from the highest of 475 deaths per 100,000 live births in Kaskazini Unguja region to the lowest of 241 deaths per 100,000 live births in Kusini Unguja region.¹²⁸ The majority of maternal deaths in Zanzibar occur during childbirth and the immediate postpartum period. The major direct causes of maternal mortality include haemorrhage, pregnancy-induced hypertension, obstructed labour, infection, and unsafe abortion.¹²⁹ Maternal

118 HBS2019/20

119 TDHS 2015/16

120 HBS 2019/20

121 HBS 2019/20

122 HBS 2019/20

123 TDHS 2015/16

124 MTR Review 2017

125 Population level data on maternal mortality in Zanzibar is available only from the 2012 housing and population census; at 307/100,000 live births. TDHS data; combined for both Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar for United Republic of Tanzania suggests a high ratio (454 in 2010 TDHS and 556 in 2015/16 TDHS) in the region.

126 2015/16 TDHS

127 2017 Mid Term Review of the Health Sector in Zanzibar

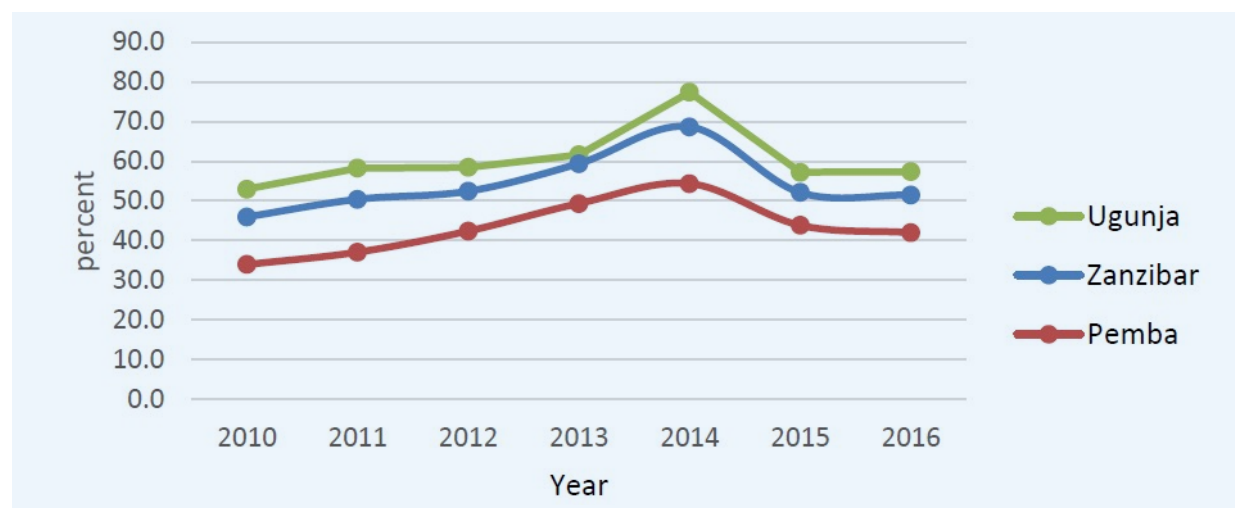
128 2017 Mid Term Review of the Health Sector in Zanzibar

129 2017 Mid Term Review of the Health Sector in Zanzibar

mortality, preventable, is due to the shortcomings of maternal healthcare systems in many low- and middle-income countries.¹³⁰

Zanzibar's Government addresses preventable maternal mortality in national and global agendas but hasn't achieved universal safe childbirth goals.¹³¹ The share of women delivering in health facilities increased from 49 per cent in 2010 to 64 per cent in 2015/2016, and skilled deliveries increased from 54 per cent in 2010 to 69 per cent in 2015/2016. However, these figures are still relatively low and may explain Zanzibar's high maternal mortality rates.¹³² Similarly, Figure 7 indicates that the proportion of pregnant women delivered in health facilities declined from 59.4 per cent in 2013 to 51.5 per cent in 2016.¹³³ There were also wide inequalities in institutional deliveries and skilled birth attendance by regions, urban-rural location, education level, and wealth status.¹³⁴ For instance, in the 2015/16 TDHS survey, the absolute urban-rural difference was up to 32 per cent for skilled birth attendance and 30 per cent for institutional deliveries. In the 2010 and 2015/2016 TDHS surveys, the rates of institutional deliveries and skilled birth attendance were higher for women who were more educated and wealthier.¹³⁵

FIGURE 7:
Trends in rates of institutional deliveries by zone.



Source: 2017 Mid-Term Review of the Health Sector in Zanzibar

All pregnant women in Zanzibar make at least one antenatal visit during pregnancy, with data showing 99.4 per cent in 2010 and 99.7 per cent in 2015/2016, but only half (49 per cent in 2010 and 53 per cent in 2015/2016) make at least four ANC visits.¹³⁶ The proportion of pregnant women attending their first ANC visit declined from 91.5 per cent in 2013 to 77 per cent in 2016, as indicated in Figure 8. Inadequate human resources to provide services, the poor quality of care, the frequent lack of supplies, and informal financial requirements have been identified as reasons behind this decline.¹³⁷

¹³⁰ Herklots T, van Acht L, Meguid T, Franx A, Jacod B (2017) Severe maternal morbidity in Zanzibar's referral hospital: Measuring the impact of in-hospital care. PLoS ONE 12(8): e0181470. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0181470> Accessed on 3rd May 2021

¹³¹ 2017 Mid Term Review of the Health Sector in Zanzibar

¹³² 2017 Mid Term Review of the Health Sector in Zanzibar

¹³³ Ibid

¹³⁴ Ibid

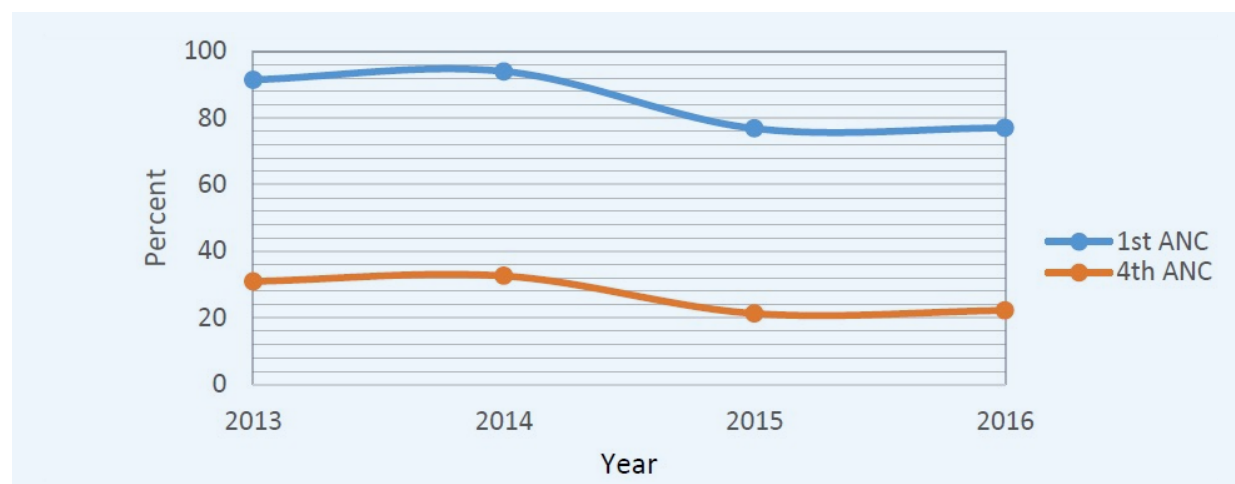
¹³⁵ 2017 Mid Term Review of the Health Sector in Zanzibar

¹³⁶ 2017 Mid Term Review of the Health Sector in Zanzibar

¹³⁷ 2017 Mid Term Review of the Health Sector in Zanzibar

FIGURE 8:

Trends in the proportion of pregnant women that made one and four ANC visits



Source MTR 2017

Reproductive health

Zanzibar's high fertility rate (a total fertility rate of 5.1 children per woman) has also likely contributed to a persistently high maternal mortality ratio.¹³⁸ Similarly, 50 per cent of the female population is in their reproductive years (15–49 years old), and 22 per cent of these women are adolescents. Only 14 per cent of married women are inclined to use modern contraceptives, with the highest percentage in Unguja (16 per cent), and the lowest in Pemba (9 per cent).¹³⁹

TABLE 23

Distribution of the female population by age group and residence

Age Group	Total	Rural	Urban
Total female population, 0-80+	672,892	356,245	316,647
10 – 14 years	83,269	44,678	38,591
15 – 19 years	74,541	38,158	36,383
20 – 24 years	67,737	32,510	35,227
25 – 29 years	54,707	26,325	28,382
30 – 34 years	44,238	21,218	23,020
35 – 39 years	38,619	19,462	19,157
40 – 44 years	30,765	16,198	14,567
45 – 49 years	28,400	15,136	13,264
Total, 15-49 years	339,007	169,007	170,000
Percent of total females, WRA	50%	47%	54%
Percent of WRA, Adolescent 15-19 years	22%	23%	21%
Percent of WRA, Youth 15-24 years	42%	42%	42%
Percent of WRA, Young 10-24 years	47%	49%	44%

138 The Zanzibar Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan 2018 – 2022 pg. 2

139 2015-16 TDHS pg. 132-133

HIV/AIDS and TB: In 2016–2017, HIV prevalence in the general population of Zanzibar was less than 1 per cent. However, there is a high prevalence among key populations (KPs),¹⁴⁰ namely sex workers (SWs), people who inject drugs (PWID), and men who have sex with men (MSM). It is estimated that 6,393 residents of Zanzibar currently are living with HIV. Amongst them, 5,146 (80 per cent) are aged 15–49 years and 551 (8.8 per cent) are children below age 15.¹⁴¹

POLICY AND PROGRAMMATIC IMPLICATIONS

Several policies and programmes can be adopted to close the gender gaps identified in this gender profile brief.

- **Health:** To lower maternal mortality, Zanzibar needs better access to prenatal and postnatal care, emergency obstetric services, and audits to understand maternal death causes. Encouraging contraception via sexual education and NGO partnerships can curb unwanted pregnancies and high birth rates. Improving neonatal care, monitoring under-five children, promoting pre-conception care, and gathering gender-specific COVID-19 data are crucial to reducing infant mortality.
- **Education:** Policy priorities should target rural women's literacy and address gender-based educational segregation early. Closing the gender gap in education doesn't necessarily mitigate employment segregation; it is influenced by educational choices and streaming in secondary schools.¹⁴² Effective policies challenge biases via teacher and parent involvement, mentorship, female role models, and wage awareness. TVET needs similar support.
- **Labour markets and entrepreneurship:** Policies promoting work-life balance and equal sharing of unpaid work boost women's labor market participation. Free/subsidized childcare aids their entry and retention. Shared parental leave reshapes caregiving norms, while private-sector HR reforms are crucial. For example, employers can use online tools to check for gender-biased language in job ads (<http://gender-decoder.katmatfield.com>).
- Flexible hours, extended parental leave, and data collection can aid Zanzibar's female entrepreneurs. Training, mentorship, and specialized financing can tap into untapped markets, bridging gender gaps in finance.
- **Access to productive assets:** Implement policies reducing gender gaps in finance, internet access, and tailored credit/debit cards. Develop specialized financing and borrowing products for women. For example, the African Development Bank's (AfDB) Wi-Fi program, Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) which seeks to improve the access of women SMEs (WSMEs) to finance across the African continent and overcome institutional challenges constraining women's access to finance. The program provides customized financial products, credit enhancement, institution training, and initiatives for WSMEs' business environment.
- **GBV:** Enhanced implementation of GBV protocols, victim support, anti-violence campaigns, improved policies for psychological aid, faster court resolutions, NGO collaboration, better shelters, media and political discourse, journalist/law enforcement training, and involvement of faith-based groups.
- **Women's representation in politics and decision-making:** Establishing gender quotas for ministers, carrying out periodic gender assessments of government policies and research on salient gender issues, and facilitating networking with organizations and institutions in Zanzibar are promising policy options.
- **Addressing the gender data gap:** Effective policies cannot be designed without relying on robust gender-disaggregated data. This profile identifies several areas where gender-disaggregated data in Zanzibar is scarce – including gender and climate change, gender and infrastructure, and gender and COVID-19.

¹⁴⁰ Zanzibar Health Sector HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan, 2017–2022 (ZHSHP III)

¹⁴¹ Ibid

¹⁴² Das and Kotikula (2019)



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