



Newsletter November 2023

Editorial

Dear Reader

“One of the big challenges in Zanzibar is the lack of future prospects for young people,” report our project managers on site. “The average age of the population is 18. School education is mostly poor, apprenticeships are rare, and university places are expensive. Many Zanzibaris try to profit from the tourism industry, but insufficient education often blocks their path.”

To meet these challenges, the NGO Pamoja Zanzibar (Swahili for “together”) was founded in 2008 with a focus on (vocational) education. In this issue, discover how training centres are making a lasting difference in the lives of learners who would otherwise have few job opportunities.

Our partners in Zanzibar are convinced that “together we can shape a future that is characterised by hope, knowledge, opportunity and a great deal of potential”.

Thank you very much for your interest in this project and your support.



Martin Gurtner,
Managing Director
PartnerAid

Zanzibar: a melting pot of many cultures

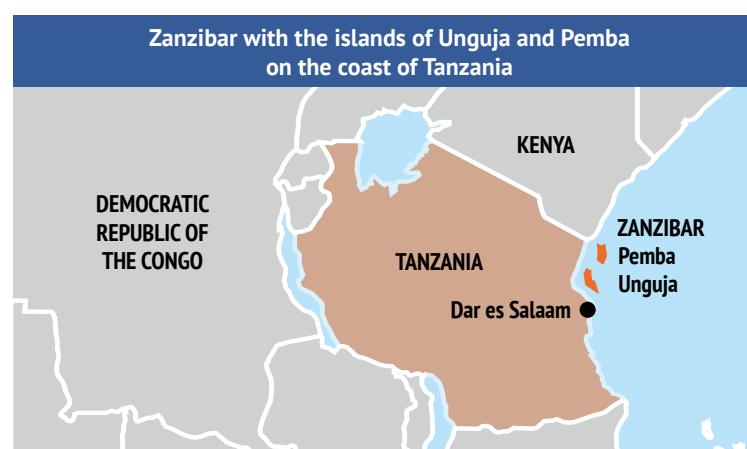
Zanzibar is a semi-autonomous state of Tanzania in East Africa, its name probably means “coast of the blacks”. Its eponymous capital is Zanzibar – also called Stonetown. Zanzibar is an archipelago and consists of the two neighbouring islands of Unguja and Pemba, subsidiary islands and the remote little Latham Island. At the 2022 census, the total population was around 1,900 000 people. Picture-perfect beaches attract every year more than a million tourists from all over the world, yet many people live in poverty and young people often lack job prospects.

Due to the changing monsoon winds that made the use of sailing ships possible, Persians, Indians and Arabs began to trade with the archipelago of Zanzibar off the east coast of the African continent – especially with slaves and ivory. Then the Portuguese established protectorates along their sea route to India on the same coast, including Zanzibar in 1503. In 1698, the Omani Arabs wrested a large part of the coastline back from them, until they were in turn replaced by the German and British colonial rulers. Under the influence of the British, the slave trade was officially banned in 1876, and from 1890 the archipelago was officially a British protectorate.

Only one year after Zanzibar’s independence from Great Britain in 1963, a revolution took place: the black African majority rose up against the Indian-Arab ruling elite and took power. The island subsequently

became a semi-autonomous state of Tanzania.

The rich cultural influence of past centuries is still reflected in Zanzibar’s society today: it is a melting pot of people with African, Indian and Arab roots. Over 90 percent of the population are Muslims. The old town of the capital Stonetown bears witness to the many different architectural styles of the changing masters.



Car mechanics for the holiday paradise

In 2008, it was clear that although Zanzibar had a booming tourism industry with great growth potential, there was a shortage of skilled workers everywhere – including in the motor vehicle sector. Who was going to repair the many vehicles that were imported to get tourists from A to B?



Precision and skill are required in the mechanic profession.



Who knows where the problem lies?
Together we are sure to find the solution.

Due to this initial situation, the choice fell on a training workshop that was set up in cooperation with a local institute, the Karume Institute of Science and Technology (KIST). The trainings started in 2009 in three apprenticeship years each. Pamoja is one of the few training centres in Tanzania that combines theory and practice. The trainees learn in a dual system both in the classroom and in their own workshops.

To enable learners to better pass their exams (they are held in English!), Pamoja offers accompanying English and computer courses. The motor mechanic qualification is certified by the state and thus recognised throughout the country.

Transition phase

The training centre for car mechanics and thus also, the ongoing workshop operations, will be handed over to KIST by the end of 2023, partly due to increased demands on the part of the government.

We are proud that we were able to give a total of about 175 young men the opportunity to graduate and thus break out of the vicious circle of poverty and lack of education. Some of our graduates are now working as chief mechanics for brands such as Mercedes Benz, VW, etc.





Concentrated at work: training as a seamstress at Pamoja Zanzibar opens up a new perspective on life for the young women.

Perspectives for young women: training as a seamstress

Even more than men, young women suffer from lack of opportunities in the country because there are additional social challenges for them. Married women usually do not get permission from their husbands to work outside the home. This often leads to economic dependence and exploitative structures.

Since 2015, Pamoja has therefore also been offering a state-recognised two-year training course for seamstresses. The training kills two birds with one stone: it enables young women to receive a sound education. Secondly, it makes it possible for them to work from home because all they need to practise their profession is a sewing machine and some space. This way, the women can secure their own income and provide for their family or parents.

Fadhila is with us

Fadhila is one of our learners. She is 26 years old and single. She is a native of mainland Tanzania and came to Zanzibar because she got a job as a housekeeper here.

Her employer kindly releases her in the mornings for the training. She is now in her second year of apprenticeship and is very grateful for this opportunity. She can already sew some clothes for women and some for men. She also sews small bags and mobile phone covers as well as overalls and workwear and has even designed a backpack. Since she already owns a sewing machine, she can use her knowledge to earn her own income and help take care of her elderly parents.



Practice makes perfect!



This is how it's done! The sewing classes are led by competent, well-trained teachers.



This seawater desalination plant gives people fresh drinking water every day.

Other activities and projects

The growing population leads to an increasing demand for drinking water and, at the same time, the tourism industry, which increases every year, needs more and more fresh water. As a result, saltwater flows underground and the groundwater becomes saline. Pamoja has been setting an example here since 2011. By means of the 15 mostly solar-powered seawater desalination plants on the islands, as well as on the coasts of Tanzania, Kenya and Somalia, people receive fresh drinking water every day, while at the same time the groundwater is conserved.

Pamoja is also active on Pemba, the second largest island in Zanzibar. The computer courses, which are held regularly, help young people to study or find jobs. Computer courses are also offered for teachers. The special feature: If at least two teachers from a school successfully complete the course, a desktop computer is provided free of charge, which simplifies the work of the entire teaching staff.

Pamoja also provides training for teachers, builds new schools and is active in the health sector. In addition to medical aid, the programme includes practical training for doctors and nursing staff.



Computer courses are in great demand, especially among women.

hygiene items, self-defence courses for children at risk of sexual abuse, computer courses for the disabled... Ideas abound, but they need financial support!

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Much is in flux

Governments come and go, but one thing remains: the Pamoja team's commitment to the islanders. It wants to continue to provide help where it is most needed: health programmes on small, forgotten islands, educational projects for young women on personal hygiene and production of reusable

Purpose of donation: Pamoja Zanzibar

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