



Milele Zanzibar
Foundation

2025

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Consolidating Impact,
Shaping the Future



NOTE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The year 2025 marked an important milestone for Milele Zanzibar Foundation (MZF) as we concluded the Milele 2025 Strategy and positioned the organization for its next phase of impact.

Across health, education, livelihoods, and community governance, MZF delivered measurable results by strengthening systems, expanding access to services, and advancing locally driven solutions. Maternal and child health services improved through stronger community–facility linkages and the introduction of digital tools such as Mzazi Makini. In education, over 12,000 learners benefited from innovative learning approaches, while national reforms such as the 21st Century Skills Model and creativity assessment positioned Zanzibar at the forefront of competency-based education. Livelihood programs strengthened income opportunities for women and youth, with increased production, new market linkages, and growing innovation in the blue and green economy. At the community level, the Shehia Leadership Model strengthened grassroots governance and participatory development.

Beyond individual programs, 2025 reflected MZF’s continued shift toward systems change—working in close partnership with government and communities to influence policy, strengthen institutions, and scale impact.

This year also marked a transition. Building on lessons from the past five years, MZF developed its 2026–2030 Strategy, with a stronger focus on scalability, systems integration, and long-term development outcomes.



2025

A YEAR OF RESULTS AND TRANSITION

In its final year of the Milele 2025 Strategy, MZF focused on consolidating proven approaches, strengthening delivery systems, and deepening partnerships with government and communities. Across sectors, the organization moved beyond program delivery toward influencing systems, policies, and long-term development outcomes.



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Through participatory development, we have made significant strides securing a quality Level 3 health center, building two new classrooms for early childhood education, and launching initiatives to improve access to clean water and electricity. This progress reflects our strong commitment to sustainable community development.

Mchikichini Shehia Leadership Team

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The skills and knowledge I've gained in organic farming have given me the confidence to experiment and improve my yields. On my one-acre farm, I've planted maize using Mchaichai (lemongrass) compost and the 'Vuruga' organic biocide, and I expect to harvest in 90 days. I hope Milele's training continues to empower more farmers to adopt sustainable practices.

Jerome Andrea Simba, Organic Farmer, Nia Safi Group

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The Mzazi Makini App helps us register and closely support pregnant women, ensuring they receive timely care and vital information for a safe and healthy delivery. It also allows us to monitor challenges and guide mothers throughout their pregnancy. I encourage all expectant mothers to visit health facilities early and register these services are free and essential for the well-being of both mother and child.

Fatma Kessi Ali, Nurse, Bumbwisudi Health Centre

1

Strengthening Maternal and Child Health Systems

In 2025, MZF improved maternal and newborn health outcomes by strengthening the link between communities and health facilities and introducing targeted digital solutions.

Through Community Health Workers and Traditional Birth Attendants, more women accessed antenatal, delivery, and postnatal services, contributing to increased service utilization across supported facilities. The Mzazi Makini digital platform enhanced continuity of care by providing timely health information and reminders, improving awareness and adherence to care schedules to over 1,250 families.

MZF also partnered with the Ministry of Health to conduct a national blood donation campaign, collecting 1,933 units of blood and strengthening emergency response capacity.

These efforts demonstrate the impact of combining community-based systems with simple digital innovations to improve access and quality of care.



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Through the Mzazi Makini App, I was able to recognize warning signs during my pregnancy. The messages guided me to return to the hospital, where I received the care, I needed. Today, I have safely delivered my baby, and I am truly grateful.

Jesca Richard Ambulile, Mchikichini Shehia



HEALTH

9

Health facilities supported

90%+

ANC coverage achieved in high-performing facilities

1,933

Units of blood collected

~60%

Increase in maternal health awareness (digital platform)

1,250

Families provided with key messages during pregnancy and childbirth



2

Transforming Learning for the Future

MZF advanced efforts to improve both access to and the quality of education, reaching over 12,000 learners and 300 teachers through digital learning and improved pedagogy.

Tablet-based learning and interactive content increased learner engagement and supported foundational skills development. Learning was further extended beyond classrooms through radio and digital platforms, reaching over 271,000 people.

Through STEAM programs and the establishment of Zanzibar's first STEAM Innovation Center, learners developed critical skills such as creativity and problem-solving. At the system level, MZF co-developed the 21st Century Skills Model and supported the rollout of a national creativity assessment, marking a shift toward competency-based education.



EDUCATION

12,000+

Learners reached directly

300+

Teachers trained and supported

271,000+

People reached through radio and digital learning

1,700+

Learners engaged in STEAM activities

860+

Earners reached through STEAM Innovation Center

3

Building Resilient Livelihoods and Local Economies

MZF strengthened livelihoods by improving productivity, expanding market access, and promoting innovation across the blue and green economy.

Over 640 beneficiaries improved their skills in seaweed farming, beekeeping, and organic agriculture, while production increased and more than 3,000 farmers benefited from practical training through demonstration sites.

Market linkages improved, with farmer groups securing supply contracts with hotels, connecting smallholders to Zanzibar's tourism sector. At the same time, MZF contributed to sector development through initiatives such as National Seaweed Day and innovation efforts including seaweed-based bioplastics.

These efforts reflect a shift toward strengthening value chains and building sustainable, market-driven livelihoods.



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Adding value to seaweed has transformed our livelihoods we now earn three to four times more than we did from raw seaweed. With Milele's training, our cooperative, Ukweli ni Njia Safi, has grown into a fully integrated operation where we store, dry, process, and sell in one place. By producing seaweed-based beauty products, we are increasing our income and improving the well-being of our families and children.

Bi Safia, Ukweli ni Njia Safi Cooperative, Bweleo

LIVELIHOODS

640+

Direct beneficiaries
(women and youth)

3,000+

Farmers reached through
demonstration sites

12%

Increase in organic
production

2

Farmer groups secured
hotel supply contracts

4

Strengthening Community Leadership and Governance

MZF strengthened grassroots governance through the Shehia Leadership and Participatory Model, piloted in six Shehias across Unguja and Pemba.

Over 160 community leaders improved their leadership and planning capacity, with participating Shehias developing actionable community development plans. These efforts enhanced local accountability, coordination, and ownership of development priorities.



GOVERNANCE

160+

Community leaders trained

85%

Improvement in leadership capacity

6

Shehias implementing participatory development plans

4

Financial Overview

In 2025, MZF maintained strong financial performance, with total income of TZS 3.35 billion and expenditure of TZS 2.8 billion.

Resources were effectively allocated across program implementation, system strengthening, and institutional development, ensuring both impact delivery and organizational sustainability.

TOTAL INCOME



TZS 3.35B

TOTAL EXPENDITURE



TZS 2.8B

SURPLUS



TZS 546.9M

LOOKING AHEAD: STRATEGY 2026–2030

In 2025, MZF developed its new five-year strategy for 2026–2030, building on lessons and achievements from the Milele 2025 Strategy.

The new strategy places greater emphasis on:

Community led development

Systems change and policy influence

Scaling proven models

Long-term, sustainable impact

As MZF enters this next phase, the organization will deepen its role as a catalyst for change—working with partners to strengthen systems, expand opportunities, and improve outcomes, particularly for children and young people in underserved communities across Zanzibar.



5

Partnerships and Collaboration

MZF’s achievements in 2025 were made possible through strong partnerships with government, donors, and implementing partners.

The Foundation worked closely with the local and international partners like Projekt Inspire, Assalam Community Foundation and Imagine Worldwide. We also partnered closely with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Zanzibar Institute of Education (ZIE), Zanzibar Examinations Council (ZEC), District Health Management Teams, and Shehia leadership structures to strengthen systems and ensure sustainability.

MZF is deeply grateful for the support of its funding partners, including the Segal Family Foundation, Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, Dubai Cares, World Conservation Society, Youth Challenge International, Zizi Afrique Foundation, and other collaborators who contributed to program implementation and learning.

Collaboration with communities remained central, with Community Health Workers, teachers, farmers, and local leaders playing a critical role in driving impact and sustaining change.

The progress achieved in 2025 reflects the power of community-driven, partnership-based approaches to development. As Milele Zanzibar Foundation transitions into its next strategic phase, it remains committed to delivering lasting impact and advancing its vision of resilient and sustainable communities.



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THANK YOU!



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