

ZANZIBAR NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND (ZANAB)

ANNUAL ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION REPORT – 2025

INTRODUCTION

This Activity Implementation Report of the Zanzibar National Association of the Blind (ZANAB) provides a comprehensive account of activities implemented during the period from January to December 2025. The report is prepared for presentation to the ZANAB National Executive Council, development partners, and the Government, for the purpose of accountability, performance assessment, and planning for the implementation of activities in the subsequent year.

During 2025, ZANAB continued to carry out its core mandate of advocating for rights, improving the welfare, and building the capacity of people with visual impairment, despite facing various financial and environmental challenges. This report highlights achievements, challenges, lessons learned, and key recommendations aimed at ensuring the sustainable development of the Association.

VISION, MISSION, AND MANDATE OF ZANAB

Vision

To see people with visual impairment empowered, dignified, healthy, and enjoying equal opportunities in society.

Mission

To strengthen and empower people with visual impairment to understand their needs, rights, responsibilities, and opportunities through awareness raising, capacity building, training, and advocacy.

CORE MANDATE

The Association aims to unite people with visual impairment in Zanzibar to speak with one voice, protect their dignity, human rights, and fundamental freedoms. It also seeks to enhance access to healthcare, education, employment, information, and other essential services, while actively participating in national and international development initiatives. Furthermore, ZANAB promotes collaboration with government and development stakeholders, the use of ICT and Braille, to enable people with visual impairment to live independent, inclusive, and productive lives.

OBJECTIVES FOR THE YEAR 2025

- To strengthen the welfare and rights of people with visual impairment
- To increase access to inclusive education and vocational skills training
- To enhance the economic empowerment of ZANAB members
- To raise community awareness on issues related to visual impairment

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES – 2025

SRF/MyRight PROJECT AND CADiR (NABP) PROJECT

A. Implementation of SRF / MyRight Project Activities

Project Title:

Strengthening Inclusive Health and Inclusive Education for Persons with Visual Impairment and Albinism and capacity building ZANAB, TAS and TLB

No.	Activity Name	Implementation Period	Brief Description and Key achievement	Completion Rate	Beneficiaries
1	Skin and eye health screening	2025	<p>A skin cancer screening activity was conducted to improve access to early detection and preventive health services for persons with albinism and visually impaired individuals. The screening aimed to identify early signs of skin cancer and provide appropriate medical advice and referrals for further treatment when necessary.</p> <p>Key Achievements A total of 68 people received skin cancer</p>	100%	Persons with albinism and people with visual impairment

			screening services. Among them, 42 were persons with albinism (28 women and 14 men), while 26 were visually impaired individuals (14 women and 12 men).		
2	Financial management and advocacy training for ZANAB & JMZ leaders	2025	<p>A training on financial management was conducted to strengthen the capacity of district leaders in managing project funds, improving budgeting skills, maintaining proper financial records, and ensuring accountability and transparency during project implementation.</p> <p>Key Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 project committee members participated in the training (13 women and 7 men). • Participants were branch leaders from Zanzibar Albinism Organization (ZAAO) and Zanzibar National Association of the Blind (ZANAB) representing Mkoani and North 'B' districts. • Participants improved their understanding of financial planning, record keeping, budgeting, and financial reporting for effective project management. 	100%	ZANAB & ZAAO leaders

3	Braille training for teachers (Pujini–Pemba & Jendele–Unguja)	2025	<p>A four-day training on Braille teaching techniques was conducted for teachers from two new inclusive primary schools, Pujini Primary School in Pemba and Jendele Primary School in Unguja. The training aimed to strengthen teachers’ capacity to effectively teach and support students with visual impairments using Braille and inclusive teaching methods.</p> <p>Key Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 20 teachers participated in the training (15 women and 5 men). • Participants were teachers from Pujini Primary School (Pemba) and Jendele Primary School (Unguja). • Teachers improved their knowledge and practical skills in Braille reading, writing, and teaching techniques to support inclusive education for learners with visual impairments. 	100%	Teachers
4	Radio and TV programs on disability rights	2025	Awareness programs were conducted to promote the rights of people with disabilities and people with albinism through mass media platforms. The programs aimed to increase public understanding, reduce stigma and discrimination, and encourage respect	100%	General public

			<p>for the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities and albinism in society.</p> <p>Key Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four awareness episodes were produced and broadcast through TV, radio, and newspapers. • The programs reached an estimated 200,000 people through various media platforms. • The initiative contributed to increasing public awareness on disability inclusion and the rights of people with albinism. 		
5	Participation in awareness days (White Cane Day & IAAD)	2025	<p>Joint activities were conducted in collaboration with TAS and ZANAB to strengthen advocacy and promote the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities. The collaboration included participation of ZANAB leaders and staff in public awareness events and advocacy campaigns.</p> <p>Key Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZANAB leaders and staff actively participated in major awareness days, including White Cane Day and the 	100%	People with albinism, people with visual impairment, parents & community

			<p>International Albinism Awareness Day (IAAD).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The joint activities strengthened partnership and collaboration among organizations working to promote the rights of people with disabilities and people with albinism. • The events helped increase public awareness and visibility of disability and albinism issues. 		
6	Advocacy in Parliament and House of Representatives	2025	<p>An advocacy meeting was conducted with members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives to promote commitment toward the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty, the African Disability Protocol (ADP), and the political inclusion of persons with disabilities. The meeting, held in May 2025 at Chukwani, aimed to sensitize policymakers to the importance of strengthening legal and policy frameworks that support the rights and access to information for persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Key Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue of the Marrakesh Treaty was formally raised in the Zanzibar 	100%	MPs, House of Representatives, PWDs

			<p>House of Representatives following targeted lobbying efforts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister of Trade and Industry committed that the Treaty would be presented before the House in 2026. • Lawmakers were sensitized on the African Disability Protocol (ADP) and the importance of its signing and implementation in Tanzania. • Five members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives, who also represent the House in the National Parliament in Dodoma, participated in the advocacy meeting. • The advocacy engagement led the Second Vice President of Zanzibar to initiate a direct consultation with the ZANAB Chairperson to further discuss the issue and gather input on advancing the agenda. 		
7	Project Steering Committee meetings	2025	Coordination meetings were conducted between TAS and ZANAB to strengthen collaboration and ensure effective implementation of project activities. The meetings provided a platform for partners to review progress, share experiences, and	100%	Project Steering Committee

			<p>discuss key issues related to project implementation.</p> <p>Key Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two steering committee meetings were held between TAS and ZANAB. • The meetings reviewed project achievements, challenges, and lessons learned during implementation. • Partners strengthened coordination, communication, and joint planning for improved project performance. 		
8	Linking people with visual impairment to vocational training institutions	2025	<p>An initiative was undertaken to connect people with visual impairments to vocational training institutions in order to improve their access to skills development and livelihood opportunities. The activity aimed to support beneficiaries in enrolling in vocational training programs that enhance their independence and economic participation.</p> <p>Key Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with visual impairments were successfully linked to vocational training institutions. 	100%	Persons with visual impairment

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiaries enrolled in vocational training programs, enabling them to acquire practical skills for employment and self-reliance. • The activity contributed to strengthening opportunities for economic empowerment and inclusion of people with visual impairments. 		
9	Household visits to identify children with albinism and blindness	2025	<p>Household visits were conducted to identify children with visual impairment and albinism who were out of school and link them to inclusive education opportunities. The activity aimed to ensure that children with disabilities are identified early and supported to access appropriate learning environments in inclusive schools.</p> <p>Key Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2025, a total of 32 children with visual impairment and albinism were identified through household visits. • All 32 children were enrolled in inclusive schools (16 girls and 16 boys). 	100%	Children with visual impairment and albinism

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The activity helped increase access to inclusive education for children with visual impairment and albinism. 		
10	Annual Project Review Meeting	2025	<p>An annual project review meeting was conducted with TAS, ZANAB, and key stakeholders to assess the progress of project implementation. The meeting provided a platform to review achievements, discuss challenges encountered during the year, and identify lessons learned to improve future project activities.</p> <p>Key Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives from TAS, ZANAB, and other key stakeholders participated in the annual review meeting. Participants reviewed project achievements, challenges, and lessons learned during the implementation period. The meeting helped strengthen coordination, accountability, and planning for future project activities. 	100%	Project team & stakeholders

B. Implementation of CADiR Project (Collective Action for Disability Rights)

During the eight-month period from May to December 2025, ZANAB implemented various activities under the CADiR Project aimed at strengthening institutional capacity, member participation, good governance, and advocacy for disability rights.

No.	Activity Name	Implementation Period	Brief Description and key achievements.	Completion Rate	Beneficiaries
1	Governance and management meetings	2025	<p>Regular governance meetings were conducted to strengthen organizational oversight, strategic guidance, and decision-making in project and organizational management. These meetings provided a platform for leadership to review progress, address challenges, and guide the implementation of organizational plans and activities.</p> <p>Key Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 4 Executive Committee meetings were conducted. • 2 Board meetings were held during the reporting period. • The meetings strengthened governance, strategic direction, and accountability in the implementation of organizational and project activities. 	100%	Executive Committee, Board, Staff
2	Participation in WBU General Assembly	2025	The Chairperson and Project Coordinator participated in the World Blind Union (WBU) General Assembly held in Brazil. The event brought together representatives of	100%	ZANAB leadership

			<p>organizations of persons with visual impairments from different countries to discuss global priorities, share experiences, and strengthen collaboration in advancing the rights of people with visual impairments.</p> <p>Key Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chairperson and Project Coordinator represented the organization at the World Blind Union (WBU) General Assembly in Brazil. • They participated in the election process for new WBU leadership. • The event provided opportunities for networking, knowledge sharing, and strengthening international collaboration on disability rights and advocacy. 		
3	Review of ZANAB Constitution	2025	<p>A review of the ZANAB Constitution was conducted to strengthen the organization’s governance framework and ensure that its policies and structures remain relevant, inclusive, and aligned with current organizational needs and legal requirements.</p> <p>Key Achievements:</p>	100%	Board member, Staff, Branches leaders, Stakeholders

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ZANAB Constitution was reviewed with the aim of improving governance and organizational effectiveness. • Key stakeholders and leadership members provided input and recommendations during the review process. • The review process contributed to strengthening transparency, accountability, and effective leadership within the organization. 		
4	Review of ZANAB policies	2025	<p>A review of key organizational policies was conducted to strengthen institutional systems and ensure that the organization operates in line with good governance, accountability, gender equality, and safeguarding standards. The review focused on the Finance Policy, Gender Policy, and Safeguarding Policy to ensure they remain relevant and responsive to the organization's operational needs.</p> <p>Key Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three key organizational policies were reviewed: Finance Policy, Gender Policy, and Safeguarding Policy. 	100%	Leaders, Members, Stakeholders

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review process helped update and strengthen organizational procedures and standards. • The activity contributed to improved accountability, gender responsiveness, and protection standards within the organization. 		
5	Recruitment of staff and volunteers	2025	<p>A recruitment process was conducted to strengthen the project implementation team by engaging a Project Coordinator and district volunteers. The aim was to enhance coordination, field-level support, and effective implementation of project activities across the target districts.</p> <p>Key Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Project Coordinator was successfully recruited to oversee project implementation and coordination. • 6 district volunteers were recruited to support project activities at the community level. • The recruitment strengthened project management, outreach, and service delivery in the target areas. 	100%	Staff & volunteers

6	Procurement of equipment and resources	2025	<p>Essential equipment and logistical support were provided to strengthen the organization’s operational capacity and service delivery. This included the purchase of a Braille embosser to support the production of accessible reading materials and an office vehicle to facilitate project implementation and field activities.</p> <p>Key Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Braille embosser was procured to support the production of Braille learning and information materials for people with visual impairments. • An office vehicle was procured to facilitate project coordination, monitoring, and field activities. • The procurement enhanced the organization’s capacity to deliver services and support inclusive programs more effectively. 	70%	ZANAB office & members
7	Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA)	2025	An Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) was conducted to evaluate the institutional capacity of ZANAB branches and identify areas for improvement in governance, management, and program implementation. The assessment aimed to support the strengthening of branch	100%	ZANAB branches

			<p>operations and overall organizational effectiveness.</p> <p>Key Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 ZANAB branches were assessed using the Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) tool. • The assessment identified strengths, gaps, and priority areas for capacity development at branch level. • Findings from the assessment will guide future capacity-building initiatives and organizational strengthening efforts. 		
8	Business investment	2025	<p>A shop was constructed to support income-generating activities and establish a financial agent service. The initiative aimed to promote financial and sustainability of the organization</p> <p>Key Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A shop was constructed to serve as a base for business and service delivery. • A financial agent business was established to provide financial services within the community. 	80%	Institutional sustainability

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The initiative contributed to strengthening income generation and economic empowerment. 		
9	Media advocacy and awareness	2025	<p>Media programs were conducted to raise public awareness on disability rights and promote the inclusion and participation of people with disabilities in social, economic, and political life. The programs were delivered through television and newspaper platforms to reach a wider audience.</p> <p>Key Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three media programs on disability rights were conducted. A TV program discussed the participation of people with disabilities in the 2025 elections. A newspaper features highlighted youth with disabilities and their participation in inclusive education, economic empowerment, and health rehabilitation. An awareness program on White Cane Day was conducted to promote awareness and recognition of the rights and independence of people with visual impairment. 	100%	Community & PWDs

10	Leadership, resource mobilization & financial management training	2025	<p>Training was conducted for headquarters and branch leaders and volunteers to strengthen their capacity in leadership, resource mobilization, and financial management. The training aimed at enhancing participants' skills in organizational leadership, fundraising strategies, and effective financial management to support sustainable program implementation.</p> <p>Key Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders and volunteers from headquarters and branches participated in the training. • Participants improved their knowledge and skills in leadership, resource mobilization, and financial management. • The training strengthened the organizational capacity to mobilize resources and manage programs effectively. 	100%	Leaders HQ & branches staff & volunteers
11	National & international disability day commemorations	2025	Commemorative events were organized to mark White Cane Day and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) to raise public awareness on disability rights and promote the inclusion and independence of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with visual impairments.	100%	Members, stakeholders

			<p>Key Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For first time White Cane Day and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities were successfully celebrated in Zanzibar. • The events increased public awareness on rights, independence, and inclusion of people with disabilities. • Stakeholders, community members, and people with disabilities participated in the events to promote disability rights and advocacy. 		
12	ZANAB AGM meeting	2025	<p>The ZANAB Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held to review the organization’s progress, discuss key organizational matters, and make important decisions for the upcoming year. Members and leadership participated in the meeting to strengthen transparency, accountability, and collective decision-making.</p> <p>Key Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2026 annual budget and work plan were reviewed and approved by members. 	100%	ZANAB leaders & members

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reviewed ZANAB Constitution was approved and scheduled to come into effect in 2026. • The meeting strengthened organizational governance, planning, and member participation in decision-making. 		
13	Development & distribution of advocacy IEC materials	2025	<p>Advocacy Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials were developed to promote awareness on disability rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities. The materials were designed to provide key information to the public and support advocacy efforts during major awareness events.</p> <p>Key Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy IEC materials were developed and produced to support disability rights awareness. • The materials were distributed during White Cane Day and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. • The activity contributed to increasing public awareness and promoting the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities. 	50%	Community & PWDs

14	Financial management training for ZANAB staff	2025	<p>Financial management training was conducted for ZANAB staff to strengthen their capacity in managing organizational and project finances. The training focused on improving skills in budgeting, financial reporting, record keeping, and accountability to ensure effective and transparent financial management.</p> <p>Key Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZANAB staff participated in the financial management training. • Participants enhanced their knowledge in budgeting, financial reporting, and financial record keeping. • The training strengthened financial accountability and effective management of organizational resources. 	100%	ZANAB staff
----	---	------	---	------	-------------

COLLABORATION WITH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

During implementation, ZANAB collaborated with various stakeholders including NAD–Zanzibar, ZAAO, TAS, SHIJUWAZA, TAMWA, MECEP–Z, THRDC, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, National Council for Persons with Disabilities, as well as international organizations such as WBU, AFUB, SRF, and NABP.

STATUS OF ZANAB BRANCHES AND COMMITTEES

In 2025, through implementation of inclusive education and health advocacy projects funded by SRF and NABP, the capacity of ZANAB branches and committees significantly improved. Branches actively participated in planning, implementation, and monitoring of project activities.

Capacity-building initiatives included training on good governance, financial management, fundraising, and advocacy. An Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) was conducted to identify strengths and gaps requiring further strengthening.

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

- Delays and reductions in donor funding due to changes in development aid policies
- Limited financial capacity of branches
- Low community awareness on disability rights
- Inadequate human resources and working tools
- Low collection of membership fees

ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

- The implementation of ZANAB activities during 2025 produced tangible results for members, branches, and the wider community. The following results demonstrate the changes that occurred after the implementation of the planned activities.
- Financial management training resulted in improved financial accountability within ZANAB branches. Branch leaders began following financial guidelines more consistently and improved record keeping of income and expenditure.
- Braille training for teachers strengthened inclusive education as trained teachers are now able to support learners with visual impairment more effectively in classrooms.
- Community awareness programs through radio and television increased public understanding of disability rights and reduced stigma toward people with visual impairment and albinism.
- Advocacy meetings with Parliament and the House of Representatives strengthened commitment from policy makers to support disability inclusion and international agreements such as the Marrakech Treaty.
- Household identification visits increased school enrolment of children with visual impairment and albinism, enabling them to access education and support services.
- Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) helped identify institutional gaps and guided ZANAB leadership in improving governance, planning, and accountability systems.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2026

- Intensify resource mobilization and diversification of funding sources
- Strengthening branch capacity through regular training and grants
- Expand community awareness programs on disability rights
- Continue strengthening internal governance and accountability systems

CONCLUSION

Overall, ZANAB successfully implemented its planned activities for 2025, achieving positive outcomes for its members and the wider community. The achievements demonstrate the importance of strengthening partnerships with development stakeholders and enhancing internal institutional capacity to ensure sustainability and impact.

ACTIVITIES PHOTO DOCUMENTATION



Photo: Sumbawanga White Cane Day – Community awareness and celebration of the rights and dignity of persons with visual impairment.

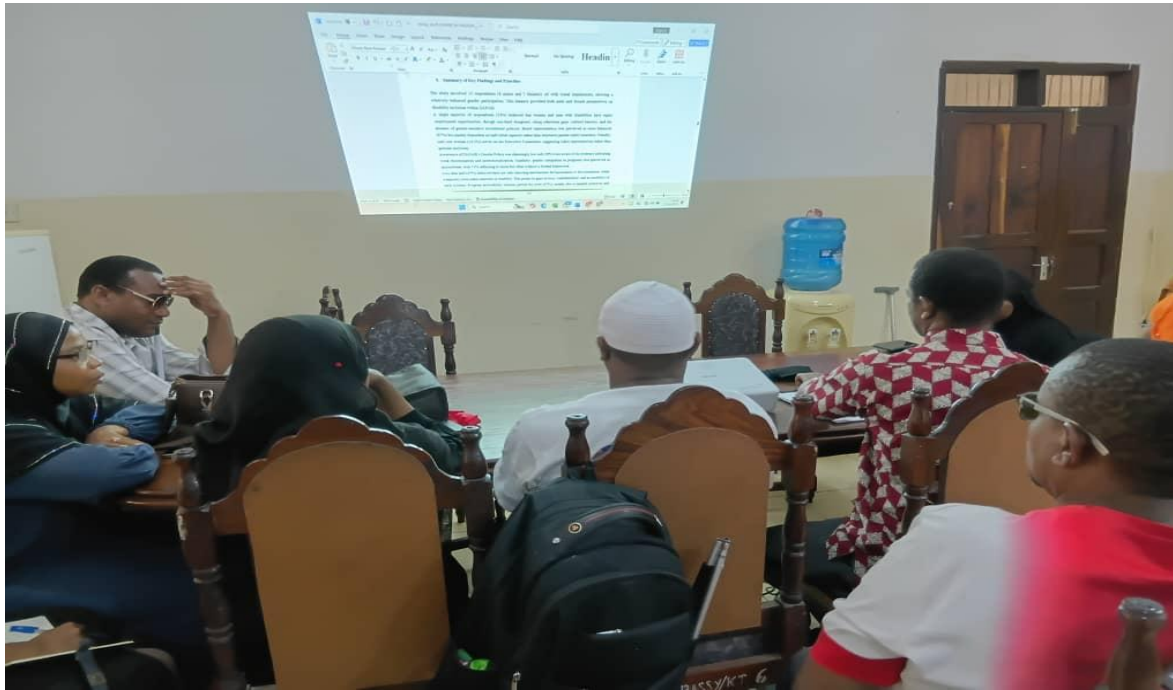


Photo: Gender Policy Review Meeting – Stakeholders discussing gender inclusion and equality within ZANAB programs.



Photo: Resource Mobilization Training for Pemba Branches – Leaders trained on strategies to mobilize resources and strengthen sustainability.



Photo: Resource Mobilization Training for Unguja Branches – Branch leaders developing action plans for fundraising and partnership building.



Photo: ZANAB White Cane Day in Unguja – Public awareness activities involving members, partners and community representatives.



Photo: Safeguarding Policy Review Meeting – Stakeholders reviewing safeguarding measures to strengthen protection within the organization.



Photo: Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) for ZANAB Branches – Assessment process conducted to evaluate governance and institutional capacity.