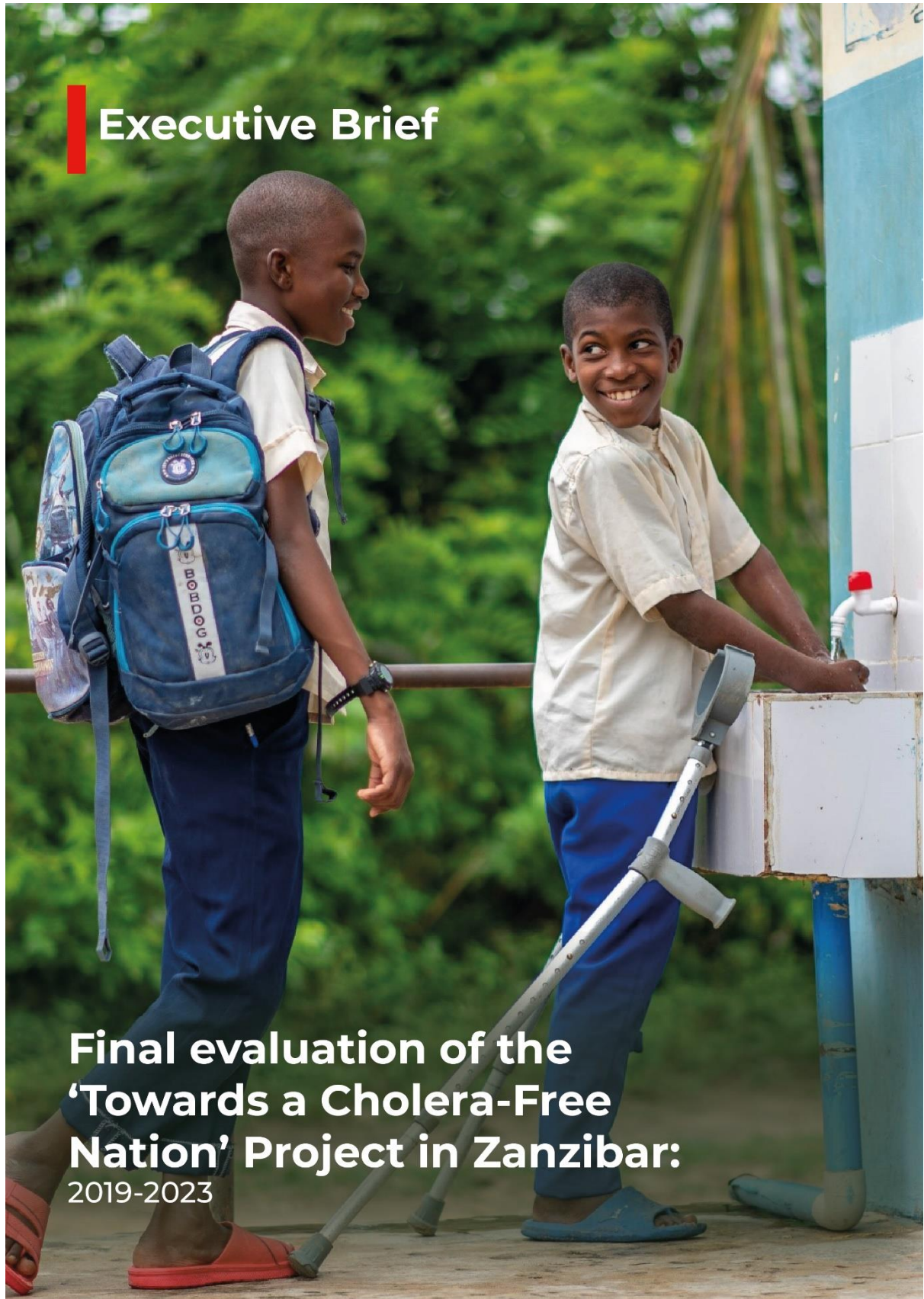




Executive Brief



Final evaluation of the 'Towards a Cholera-Free Nation' Project in Zanzibar: 2019-2023

Introduction

This executive brief summarizes the final evaluation of the 'Towards a Cholera-Free Nation' project, implemented in Zanzibar from 2019 to 2023. The project aimed to support the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar's (RGoZ) cholera elimination efforts under the Zanzibar Comprehensive Cholera Elimination Plan (ZACCEP) 2018-2027. The evaluation covers the project's **impact, relevance, effectiveness, coherence, monitoring, sustainability, and gender and equity focus** across five hotspot districts: Mjini Magharibi A, Magharibi B, Micheweni, and Wete.

Project Overview

- **Title:** Towards a Cholera-Free Nation Project
- **Duration:** May 2019 - December 2023
- **Funder:** KOICA, CDC, UNICEF/UNDP (Green Shark Challenge)
- **Focus Districts:** Unguja (Mjini Magharibi A, Magharibi B) and Pemba (Wete, Micheweni)
- **Primary Goal:** To eliminate cholera through improved coordination, WASH services, health systems, and community behaviour change, particularly for children.

The project delivered three components as follows:

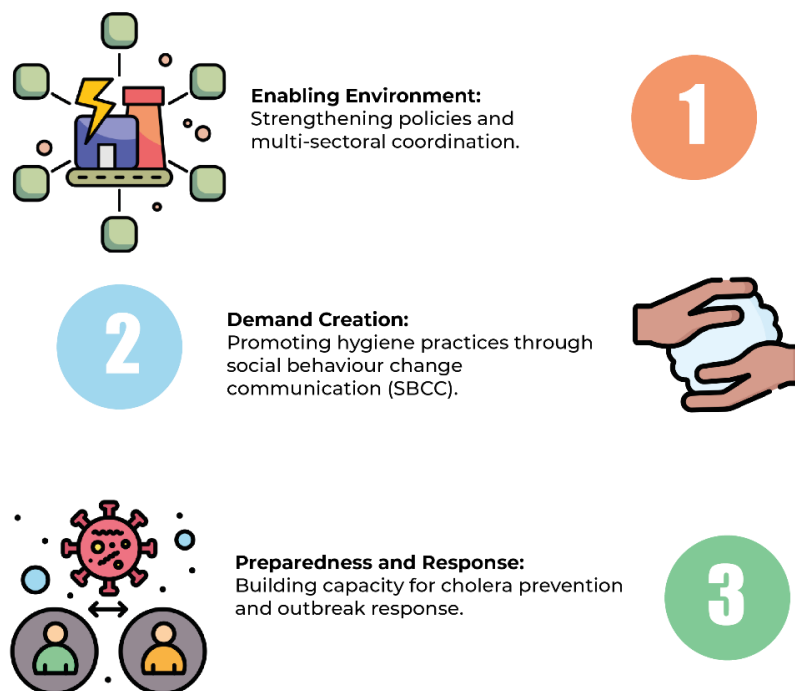


Figure 1: Key Components of the Project

Endline Evaluation Findings

Effectiveness and impact

- The project contributed significantly to improved water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) situation in Zanzibar.

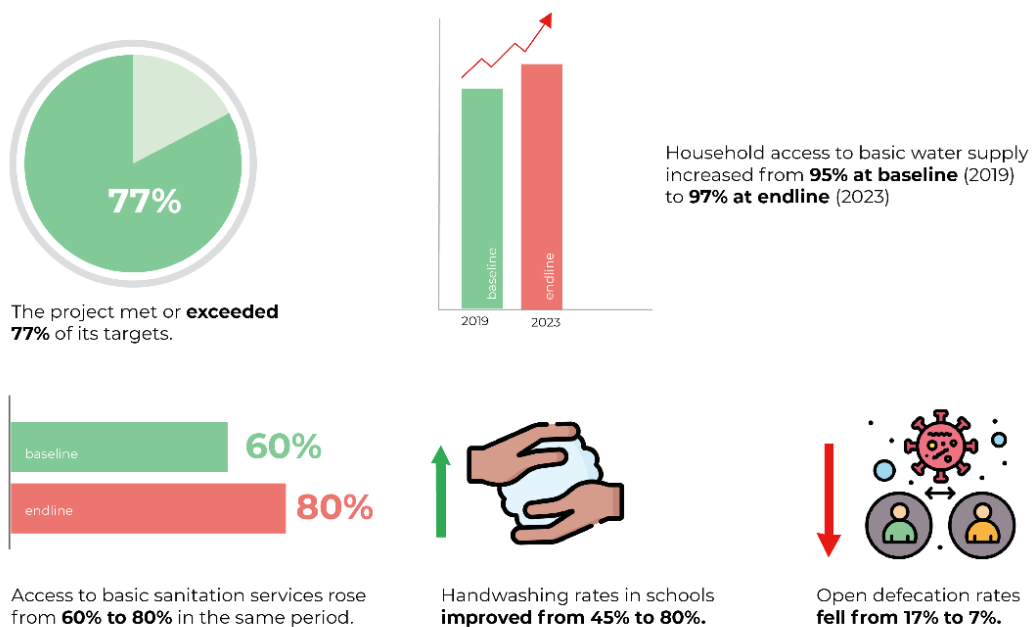


Figure 2: Impact of the project on WASH

The project interventions led to a large increase in water supply and quality:

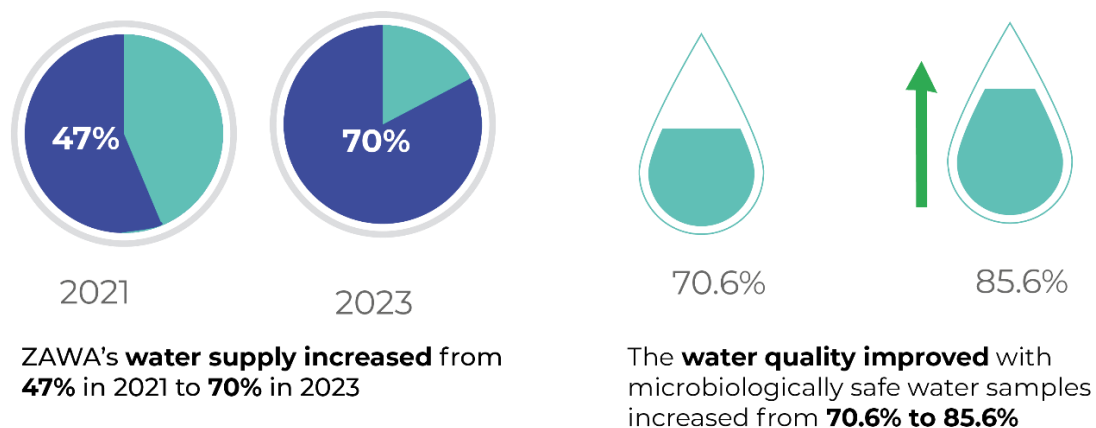


Figure 3: Impact of the project on water supply and quality

- There was increased leadership and political commitment to improving the WASH situation in Zanzibar. This was exemplified by the budget for WASH increasing from **2.8% of the total government budget in 2017/18 to 17.8% in 2022/23**, with a focus on water infrastructure.
- Households having access to basic water supply increased nationally from 95% at baseline (2019) to 97% at end line (2023), with access to basic sanitation services also increasing from 60% to 80% between baseline and end line

- The SBCC activities contributed to improved hygiene practices, particularly in schools, as reflected by the increase in handwashing rates and the decrease in OD rates.

These achievements contributed significantly to reducing the frequency of cholera outbreaks and improving overall public health in Zanzibar.

Relevance and coherence

- The project aligned well with Zanzibar's national policies, particularly the ZACCEP 2018-2027.
- The leadership of the 2nd Vice President's Office strengthened multi-sectoral collaboration between ministries. This was facilitated through the **ZACCEP Steering Committee**, involving various stakeholders. However, coordination at the district and community levels was sometimes hindered by unclear structures and limited resources.

Sustainability

- The project, to a large extent, through integration in government structures, was designed and implemented to ensure ownership and sustainability. For example, the ZACCEP structures, led and overseen by government, will continue to support coordination and resource mobilisation for WASH in Zanzibar.
- The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy whose development was supported by the project, will likely support resource mobilisation and sustaining of the gains of the project
- However, **lack of structured oversight** on sustainability and insufficient **human and material resources** will likely affect long-term outcomes and their sustainability, particularly in Pemba.

Gender and equity focus

- The project used various platforms to engage men, women, adolescents and children. Although sex disaggregated data was collected, analysed and reported on, collection of other disaggregated data in the form of locations (by Island, By District, Urban vs Rural) or diversity at project design, implementation, monitoring and reporting was largely limited.

Challenges

The project faced several challenges that undermined its effectiveness.



Low human resources capacity, insufficient financial resources, and delays in fund disbursements from the Ministry of Finance affected project coordination.



Electricity shortages and **low revenue collection** limited ZAWA's ability to supply treated water.



Limited integration of **nutrition interventions** and weak **protection measures** for vulnerable populations.

Lessons Learned

Lesson Learnt 1

The **multi-sectoral coordination and implementation nature** of cholera prevention and response actions is an effective approach, but attention needs to be paid to areas that can undermine efficiency and effectiveness.



Lesson Learnt 2

Introducing new and different vaccines at the same time to the same targeted populations may result in low **vaccination coverage** of both vaccines especially if there are strong objections for one of the vaccines.



Lesson Learnt 3

Elimination of WASH-related diseases such as cholera and covid-19 need to be sustained by continued risk communication and **community engagement** beyond the project within the relief, recovery, and development continuum.

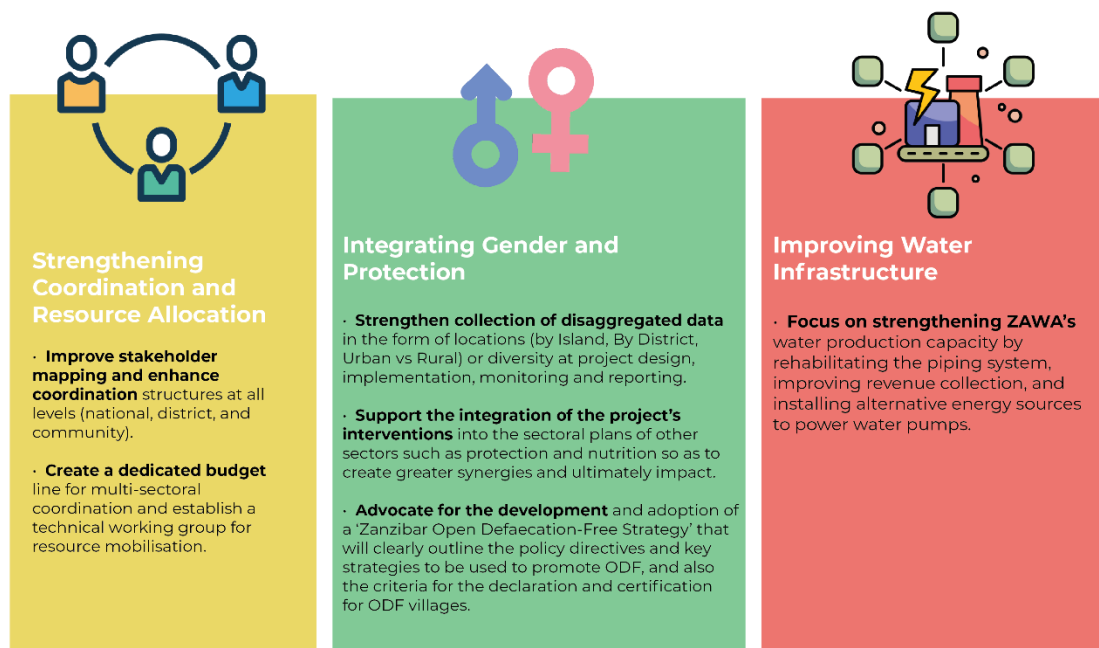


Lesson Learnt 4

A cholera elimination project premised on a strong gender analysis at design will **enhance systematic mainstreaming of gender** and with it, deeper WASH and Health outcomes.



Recommendations



Conclusion



The 'Towards a Cholera-Free Nation' project demonstrated relevance and adaptability in Zanzibar's evolving context, achieving notable successes in improving WASH services and public health outcomes. However, sustainability, gender integration, and infrastructure challenges for Water and Sanitation (sewage) remain areas for improvement which will require significant investment from the government and donors. The project provides a robust foundation for future interventions under ZACCEP and should serve as a model for other cholera elimination efforts in the region and beyond.

Figure 4: Map of Zanzibar, Tanzania