



# ZANZIBAR STATISTICAL FORUM

*Strengthening Partnership for Better  
Coordination of Statistics*



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## ABBREVIATIONS

ANGOZA	Association of Non-Governmental Organization of Zanzibar
CGS	Chief Government Statisticians
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organization
OCGS	Office of the Chief Government Statisticians
SDGs	Sustainable Development Agenda
SUZA	State University of Zanzibar
UNFPA	United Nation Population Fund
ZADEP	Zanzibar Development Plan
ZNCC	Zanzibar National Chamber of Commerce
ZPC	Zanzibar Planning Commission
ZSS	Zanzibar Statistical System



## ZANZIBAR STATISTICAL FORUM

### Background

The importance of data for development cannot be overemphasized. Data and derived information are the basis for understanding the practicalities of the development process and outcomes, the interactions and feedbacks between different systems, and the factors that should shape decisions. Data has become more imperative at this time when countries including Tanzania works hard to meet 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (SDGs) as agreed in 2015 to monitor the progress and provide report by 2030.

Given the central role of data in development planning, there is a need to ensure that the data provided are of high quality, available and provided on timely basis. However, generation, availability and use of basic economic and demographic data including Census, Household Based Surveys etc. are not guaranteed in many developing countries. Similarly, the quality, completeness and timeliness of well disaggregated administrative data, and big data from other sources need to be strengthened and brought into the realm of data producers and users as source of data to support and guide decision around planning, implementations, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes.

When data is collected, analysed, shared/disseminated, linked and combined across sectoral and institutional or organizational boundaries, a multiplier effect occurs; unlocking new insights and understandings that are often not anticipated in the data field. It also leads to reduce duplication of efforts, wastage of resources and greater synergy amongst partners. Therefore, coordination among stakeholders working in the data and statistical field is of paramount importance to leverage capacities in financing, expertise and innovations among partners.

Over the years, UNFPA and other partners have supported national population data systems and the mainstreaming demographic intelligence within national development plans, as well as other interventions that have progressively put the foundation on data production in Zanzibar over the years. These include:

- Transformation of manual data to electronic format and scaling up of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System in the Isles.
- Supporting the review of the national population policy for the Isles

- Supporting preparation of the 2022 Population and Housing Census
- Support domestication of SDGs indicators and the availability of data for selected SDGs Indicators in Zanzibar.
- Supporting initiatives of establishing a South-South Cooperation between Office of the Chief Government Statisticians (OCGS) and Uganda Bureau of Statistics;
- Supporting the development of Sector Statistics Plans for Local Government Authorities;
- Facilitating the designing of ZanInfo dashboard which displays indicators for national, regional and global development agendas;
- Supporting the establishment and management of JUMUSHI Data base to facilitate availability and use of data for People with Disability.
- Establishment and digitization of Shehia Register Books to improve collection and availability of data at lower administration level.

#### Rationale

Currently, there is now increased data needs, emerging challenges and opportunities related to new technologies and a growing number of actors in the area of data and data systems. As such, there is an imperative to increase the collaboration among data producers and users.

However, The Office of the Chief Government Statistician Act No.9 of 2007 give the mandate OCGS to coordinate and supervise the preparation of basic statistical information relating to social and economic activities, this role is not yet well implemented due to improper coordination tools, mechanism and structure.

To produce better statistics, we need support, inventive, passionate, and above all is cooperation that is emphasized through 2030 Agenda by asking countries to enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development by multi-stakeholder partnerships for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries in particular developing countries. The issue of coordination is also emphasized in African Charter on Statistics in one among its objectives. It was stated “To contribute in enhancing coordination of statistical activities and

statistics institutions in Africa, including coordination of partners' interventions at national, regional and continental levels.”

Against these backgrounds, the Office of Chief Government Statistician (OCGS) in collaboration with technical support from UNFPA have organised a one-day session for the Establishment of Zanzibar Statistical Forum.

## Objectives

The general objective of the Zanzibar statistical Forum is to strengthen partnership for better coordination of statistics. Specifically, it aims to;

1. Create a platform for increasing coordination and identification of areas of synergies, complementarity, integration and communication and advocacy among data producers and users at different levels in Zanzibar.
2. Provide a platform for data producers and users to hold technical discussion on opportunities and challenges in data production, application and use in ways that facilitate provision of data to support the Zanzibar's medium- and long-term plans (ZADEP and Vision 2050).
3. Improve engagement of Non-State Actors and big data producers and users (Agencies, Civil Societies, Business, and Academic Communities) in the discussions, information exchange, innovations and possible application of data and information for evidence-based decision making in Zanzibar
4. Provide an opportunity to explore the possibility of embracing the Big Data opportunities and the way of integrating it into official statistics;
5. Enhance collaboration between government and stakeholders in data production technologies and methods; data analysis, disaggregation, sharing, and dissemination; data protection, privacy, transparency; use and accountability for the development of Zanzibar and Tanzania at large.

## Implementation

It is proposed to have general forum meetings once in a year. The first meeting of the Forum will be held in late September 2022.

The meetings in each year will have specific theme that target to increase data production in term of quantity, quality and coverage. At the end of each meeting, the members of the forum will come up with the progress reports of which include the way forward.

### **Identity**

Zanzibar Statistical Forum is the independent national organ that will have specific identity (logo) that identifies the presence of the statistical forum in Zanzibar. It will also have its own website for publicising all issue relating forum.

In addition, ZST shall have its own Mission, Vision and Motto.

### **Vision**

All statistical stakeholders to have equitable chance on produce and use quality statistics.

### **Mission**

To partner with all statistical stakeholders and those who support statistical programs to get better statistics for evidence decision making.

### **Motto**

Strengthening Partnership for Better Coordination of Statistics.

### **Expected results**

The presence of the Statistical Forum will result the following deliverables: -

- Strong coordination amongst OCGS and other statistical stakeholders;
- Increasing timely routine data production for assessing various development agenda;
- Increase statistical awareness to society that increase the usage of statistics; and
- Smoothing resource mobilization for statistical activities.

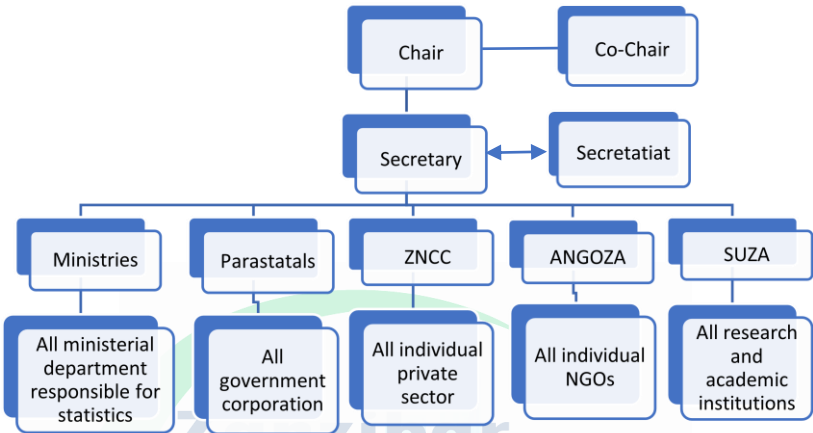
### **Stakeholders**

The Forum will comprise members who represent Zanzibar Statistical System (ZSS) from Governments institutions (Ministries and Agencies) and Non-State Actors (Private Sector, Research and Academic Institutions, Civil Society and Development Partners).

During the session, organization umbrella from Non-State Actors will appoint among its members who to attend the session depending the theme of the session.

**Structure**

The organisation structure of the Zanzibar Statistical Forum is summarized in the figure 1.



**Figure 1: The proposed organogram of the Zanzibar Statistical Forum**

**Chair:** The forum will be chaired by Executive Principal Secretary of Zanzibar Planning Commission (ZPC).

**Co-chair:** He/she should be a member from Development Partners and will be selected by members of the forum. The position of co-chair will be rotational on annual basis depending on the annual theme of the Forum. It is not preferable for the Development Partner to serve as co-chair and member concurrently of the Forum.

**Secretary:** The Chief Government Statistician will be the secretary of the forum by default.

**Secretariat:** Selected staff from OCGS and ZPC.

**Working groups:** Those are institutional groups (Umbrella) that may be selected to undertake special task that might be arisen during the forum meeting.

**Forum Member:** Individual institution from each working group. The membership of the Zanzibar Statistical Forum is mandatory for all ministries and voluntary for some Government agencies and Non-State Actors.



The strategic nature of the Forum requires the Ministerial Director responsible for Statistics and Head of Independence Institutions for each Public Institution. The Director can designate other senior staff having appropriate capacities to attend one meeting in year on behalf of he/her temporary absence, however, the regular attendance at meetings is encouraged.

Non-State Actors have the authority to appoint any of its staff who is conversant with statistical issues and make decision for his/her organisation.

## **Roles of the Parties**

### **Chair**

The chair (Zanzibar Planning Commission) in collaboration with co-chair (Development Partner) mandated to oversee effectiveness and appropriateness of implementation of the Forum performance. The Chair/co-chair also plays the following important roles:

- i. Scrutinize forum planning and budgeting by considering the alignment of Forum Annual Action Plan.
- ii. Monitor and ensure that forum programmes provide expected output.

### **Secretary**

The CGS will be responsible for coordinating the forum including organising the forum, keeping the records and disseminate the report to members. CGS also has the responsibility to oversee the secretariat.

### **Secretariat**

It plays a major role in providing strategic guidance on overall forum implementation. It is the coordination level of the forum and it is the link to the decision-making level.

### **Working Group**

They undertake special task that might be arising during the forum meeting. They lead the forum members to smoothly and effectively implement the planned program.

### **Forum Member**

Their major role is to implement forum activities in order to achieve the desired objectives.

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