System Capacity Grant Annual Progress Report Template

Status: Accepted

Country	Grant ID	Grant Agent	Grant Effectiveness/Start Date
Tanzania - Zanzibar	GPE0016353	SCG	01/02/2024

Grant Amount	Timeframe Examined in this Report		Date of Report Submission
614,782 (USD)	From Date	To Date	09/09/2025
	01/31/2024	06/29/2025	

Area(s) and activity group(s) covered by grant

Window 1: Strengthen gender-responsive planning and policy development for system-wide impact

- Gender-responsive sector planning, including operational planning and budgeting
- Supporting policies and plans to identify and address multiple forms of exclusion (planning for children with disabilities, system resilience and inclusion of displaced children)
- Strengthening evidence-based diagnosis of critical implementation bottlenecks and identifying potentially scalable, transformative solutions

Window 2: Mobilize coordinated action and financing to enable transformative change

- Strengthening sector coordination, including local education groups, joint sector reviews and monitoring the effectiveness of the country-level partnership
- Establishing and operating pooled funding mechanisms
- Strengthening budget processes and ministry of finance engagement; identifying opportunities to improve the equity and efficiency of education expenditure, including processes toward gender equality
- Cross-sectoral convening

Window 3: Strengthen capacity, adapt, and learn, to implement and drive results at scale

- Strengthening data systems, including on improving the availability and use of sex-disaggregated data, and data on children with disabilities
- Training and support for government staff and central and decentralized levels, including on the uptake and use of data and evidence
- Support for implementation capacity, including sector plan implementation monitoring, gender responsiveness of the sector and evaluation of sector plans and policies/programs in priority areas; assess monitoring, evaluation and learning capacity, including use of evidence in policy process

Implementation Progress

Overall Project Progress this Reporting Period

Overall progress this reporting period [1]	Previous Rating
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	NA

Detailed Description including factors that lead to an upgrade/downgrade in the rating

The status implementation shows progress is uneven across windows with Window 1 (Gender Mainstreaming) and Window 3 (Capacity Development) showing moderate progress (23% and 32% expenditure respectively) while Window 2 (Education Financing and Spending Tracking) showing no financial execution as of June 2025. Window 2 lack of expenditure is due to delayed decision on what approach to be used for the proposed systems. The decisions have now been made and hence it is expected that implementation under this Window will take place in FY2025/26.

There is good progress in foundational activities with notable milestones including completion of gender diagnostic study draft; implementation of pilot and main Early Grades learning assessments; drafting of Master M&E Framework; and approval obtained for starting development of the online M&E system. delays are primarily linked to dependency and sequencing where activities such as guideline development and orientation await the finalization of the Gender Diagnostic Study; development of M&E online system is pending finalization of the M&E Framework; financial tracking and SOB improvements await full Presidents Office Finance and Planning engagement.

Grant Implementation Progress, by Grant Window

Grant Window	Level of Progress this Reporting Period [2]	Previous Rating
Window 1: Strengthen gender-responsive planning and policy development for system-wide impact	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	NA

Detailed Description:

CONDUCT GENDER DIAGNOSTIC STUDY AND RECOMMEND BEST POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS FOR GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR

The Gender Diagnostic Study was scheduled for implementation between March and April 2025. In preparation, the Ministry selected members of the Task Team to collaborate with the consultant, including two representatives from the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children. Draft Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Task Team were developed, and a formal letter requesting approval for the participation of the Task Team members was submitted to the Permanent Secretary (PS) by the end of February. All preparatory activities were successfully completed. The consultant, working closely with the Task Team, successfully conducted the fieldwork using the tools developed during the inception phase. In end June 2025 the consultant had completed the first draft report. Ministry Task team and management are expected to review and provide inputs for improvements. It is expected that the consultant will undertake a stakeholder's working session in July to present the draft report and proceed with its completion for submission by end of August 2025.

DEVELOP EDUCATION GENDER MAINSTREAMING/ HARDWIRING GUIDELINES (EXPAND ON THE MINISTRY OF GENDER TOOLKIT)

The consultant supporting the drafting of the guidelines was successfully selected earlier in the process. Although the initial contracting process was dependent on the commencement of the Gender Diagnostic Study which forms the foundation for the guideline content, this has since been resolved. Accordingly, the consultant has already prepared the inception report, which has been submitted for approval by the Ministerial Technical Committee (KTE). With the draft Gender Diagnostic Study now completed, the development of the guidelines is scheduled to formally commence in August 2025.

ORIENTATION OF EDUCATION OFFICERS ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING/ HARDWIRING IN EDUCATION

This activity is awaiting completion of activity 1.1.2 because the guideline will be the main input for the orientation. In order to ensure proper alignment and robust implementation, the same Task Team for undertaking the gender diagnostic study will also be involved in development of the guidelines as well as orientation of the education officers. The consultant to develop the guidelines will be engaged to facilitate the orientation working sessions.

UNDERTAKE ZESTP APPRAISAL

It was proposed that a formal appraisal of the plan should not be undertaken at this stage, as the Government had already been implementing the plan for over two years, and it had been disseminated nationwide. Instead, it was recommended that the plan proceed as scheduled towards its Mid-Term Review in FY2026/27, at which point it would incorporate emerging priorities, including the revised Vision 2050 and the updated Education Policy. Additionally, during a meeting with Sida and GPE Secretariat in June 2025, it was proposed that the Budget Model be appraised to provide the Government with recommendations for improvement. After careful considerations, it was deemed more effective that a review of the existing Model be done in line with the ZESTP Mid Term Review (MTR) scheduled for FY2026/27. The review will consider changes that have occurred in the sector during the first years of the ZESTP implementation including projected population growth as per the 2022 Housing and Population Census, new indicators outlined in the Vision 2050, the National Five-Year Development Plan 2025/26-209/30 and the revised Education Policy.

Grant Window	Level of Progress this Reporting Period 2	Previous Rating
Window 3: Strengthen capacity, adapt, and learn, to implement and drive results at scale	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	NA

Detailed Description:

UNDERTAKE REVIEW/SELF-ASSESSMENT OF MOEVT M&E STRUCTURES AND RECOMMEND MASTER M&E FRAMEWORK

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework is in draft form and currently under review by the Task Team. Once their inputs are incorporated, the framework will be shared with a broader group of stakeholders for additional feedback before finalization. The same consultants responsible for developing the Ministry's online/electronic Planning and M&E system were responsible for developing the framework to ensure consistency and alignment between the framework and the online-based system.

DEVELOP ONLINE MASTER M&E SYSTEM

During an assessment of the requirements for establishing a comprehensive online Master M&E system for the entire education sector, it was recognized that such an initiative would be highly ambitious given the current resource constraints. As a result, it was agreed that the system would be developed in phases, beginning with an online/electronic Planning and M&E system specifically for Ministry of Education and Vocational Training. Future phases may include the integration of more advanced features, such as a national education dashboard reflecting the sector's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

In relation to the above activity, a blueprint of the system was developed in 2024; however, its finalization was deferred pending the completion of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework. Once the M&E framework report is completed, the blue print will be revised to capture any additional features from the framework prior to initiating the process for development of the online system. Meanwhile, the MoEVT has secured approval from the e-Government Agency to proceed with the development of the online system, and work is set to start in July 2025.

CONDUCT FIRST LEARNING ASSESSMENT AT THE LOWER GRADES (SAMPLE BASED)

Three key milestones guided the implementation of the learning assessment: development of a plan and assessment tools along with team orientation; conducting a pilot study; and undertaking the main study. The Zanzibar Examinations Council (ZEC) was tasked with leading the process. ZEC coordinated with NECTA, UWEZO, RTI, and the NIRAS TAS team to plan, sample, and develop tools. By the end of January 2025, ZEC had finalized the assessment instruments and data collection software with technical support, conducted four stakeholder workshops on EGRA/EGMA, and held a sampling workshop in collaboration with NECTA and the OCGS. Additional support was provided by the NIRAS TAS for the sampling framework and inception report, and training sessions were held for MoEVT officials and district stakeholders.

By the end of April 2025, ZEC had successfully conducted the pilot study across a representative sample of schools in Unguja and Pemba, including inclusive education schools. Following this, the team carried out a thorough analysis of the data collected, and the drafting of the pilot Study report was completed.

The Main study was conducted in April/May 2025 following completion of the pilot study. A draft report of the main study is expected to be shared beginning July 2025 after approval of the KTE. The reports key findings and recommendations will be presented to stakeholders for validation. Once completed its findings will be utilized to inform policy and enhance learning outcomes in the early grades.

CONDUCT MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE COMPACT

The Government has decided to allocate some of the remaining funds within the SCG to finance activities for the Mid Term Review (MTR) of the Partnership Compact. The Partnership Compact was launched in February 2022 and informed the interventions in the GPE SCG and STG. The MTR is a requirement by the GPE in order to identify any additional priority interventions for future financing from the GPE, in particular the 2030 Strategy. Planned activities include Task Force meetings to prepare Compact MTR TOR, Roadmap; review implementation of the Enabling Factors Analysis and ITAP report recommendations; holding of a stakeholders meeting including DPs and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). This is aimed to ensure alignment of development partners on the priority reform and proposed new areas for the Compact. The Task Force will also review the STG and SCG progress reports. Once the Compact has been revised, a stakeholders' meeting will be held to endorse the revised Compact. Sida will provide Technical Assistance Support to facilitate the process and consolidation of the various documents including filling in the GPE Compact MTR Framework.

During week of January/February 2025, Sida held a meeting with the MoEVT to discuss the need for initiation of the process for conducting the Compact MTR by end 2025. This resulted into preparation of the ToR for the Compact MTR. However, further discussion was held between the Government, Sida and the GPE Secretariat in June 2025 at which it was agreed that the Compact MTR be moved to beginning of 2026 to coincide with the Annual Joint Education Sector Review field visits and working session usually held end Feb/beginning March.

PARTICIPATION IN M&E LEARNING WEEK TO GAIN EXPERIENCE ON M&E
Three M&E Officers from the MoEVT attended the 3rd Tanzania Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Week Conference themed: “Transforming Service Delivery with Technology-Driven Monitoring and Evaluation: Building a Culture of Evidence-Based Decision Making”. The Conference was held on 17th to 20th September 2024 at the Golden Tulip Airport Hotel Zanzibar. The aim of the conference was to consolidate MEL practices, foster sustainable development, and support the decolonization of evaluation practices through local leadership and participatory approaches. The Themes of the conferences included: Innovations and Embedding Technologies in MEL; Strengthening demand and supply side MEL Capacities; Evaluation and Accountability in Development; Cascading SDGs, Regional, National Frameworks MEL, and Diversity and Social Inclusion Progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Investment, Collaboration and Partnerships for improving sector MEL systems; and Empowering Young and Emerging Evaluators for Future Development Impact.

Grant Window	**Level of Progress this Reporting Period** [2]	**Previous Rating**
Window 2: Mobilize coordinated action and financing to enable transformative change	Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	NA

Detailed Description:

ESTABLISH SYSTEMS TO ‘TRACK EDUCATION SECTOR SPENDING’

The MoEVT, in collaboration with the President’s Office, Finance and Planning (POFP), through the Budget Commission, has held two joint meetings in April and May 2025 to discuss the implementation of this activity, given that the COFOG (Classification of the Functions of Government) system falls under the mandate of POFP. As a result of these discussions, two sets of Terms of Reference (ToRs) have been drafted 1) ToRs for Technical Assistance (TA) for the Development of COFOG Manual and Technical Note on PFM System Alignment and Upgrade 2) ToRs for Capacity Building for Budget Officers on COFOG Application and Reporting on Education Budget and Spending. Once approved, the ToRs will be forwarded to the Procurement Unit to initiate the process of engaging a consultant to undertake the assignment.

DEVELOP SYSTEM FOR SCHOOL OPERATING BUDGETS (SOB)

The Ministry continues to implement the School Operations Budget (SOB) initiative, with funds currently being disbursed to schools through MoEVT. During the joint meetings with the President’s Office, Finance and Planning (POFP), through the Budget Commission, the issue of improving the efficiency of SOB fund disbursement particularly ensuring timely and full transfers was thoroughly discussed. It was agreed that the current system of disbursing the School Operating Budget (SOB) to schools through the MoEVT will continue. MoEVT will follow up with the Planning Commission after the approval of the 2025 national budget (end of June 2025) to discuss the possibility of classifying SOB as a project under MoEVT’s development budget. This would help ensure full budget transfers during the execution phase.

Lessons, innovative/promising practices

The implementation of this grant highlighted the importance of fostering synergies and collaboration with other development partners. Engaging with the Ministry alongside partners such as the World Bank and USAID enabled joint planning and financing, particularly in strengthening the Ministry’s Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system and advancing the learning assessment activity. Rather than starting from scratch, the program leveraged existing expertise, tools, and resources provided by partners. This experience underscored that aligning efforts and working collaboratively towards shared goals enhances efficiency, avoids duplication, and maximizes impact.

Impact stories

Not available during this reporting period

Tangible Outputs, Knowledge Products, Results Framework and other Supporting Documentation

#	File Name	Document Type	Description
1	SCG RF status as of Feb 2026.docx	Results Framework	The progress is as of February 2026

The documents listed were submitted with the progress report. If you'd like access to them, please contact the grant operations officer for your country.

Financial Reporting & Grant Management

Financial Reporting on GPE Grant

Cumulative Financial Absorption Rate

Approved Budget to Date	Cumulative Expenditure	Cumulative Financial Absorption Rate	Level of Financial Absorption
614,782	126,211.68	20.53	Off Track

Since the financial absorption is not rated as 'on track', please provide an explanation that identifies the main activities that have been delayed and their corresponding unspent amounts, as well as reasons for the delay and steps taken to ensure that expenditure absorption gets on track in the next reporting period.

The report indicates steady progress on foundational activities, with key milestones achieved including completion of the draft Gender Diagnostic Study, implementation of pilot and main EGRA/EGMA assessments, drafting of the Master M&E Framework, and approval to begin developing the online M&E system. However, lower expenditure levels (only 21% of allocated funds utilized) are primarily due to dependencies and sequencing issues. For example, guideline development and orientation are on hold pending finalization of the Gender Diagnostic Study; development of the online M&E system is awaiting completion of the Master M&E Framework; and financial tracking and SOB improvements are dependent on engagement with POFP.

To accelerate implementation and improve expenditure rates, the Government will address these bottlenecks by fast-tracking critical dependencies, strengthening coordination with key stakeholders, and streamlining approval processes. This will enable timely roll-out of subsequent activities and ensure more efficient utilization of planned resources.

Budget Variance Analysis for the Current Reporting Period

Total Approved Budget for the Current Reporting Period
596,308.16

Total Expenditure for the Current Reporting Period
126,211.68

Explanation for underspending or overspending in excess of 10%

Management Performance

Level of management performance
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)

Detailed Description

The management arrangements during the reporting period both supported and, at times, constrained implementation of the grant.

On the positive side, Sida-financed rolling audits enabled capacity strengthening for the Procurement Unit and implementing departments. The procurement training addressed earlier weaknesses and is expected to improve efficiency and compliance going forward. Similarly, the Ministry's decisive intervention in clarifying institutional mandates for the learning assessment resolved delays and established clearer accountability, creating a stronger foundation for timely delivery of future assessments.

However, there were notable management-related shortcomings. Poor planning led to delays in the procurement of consultants for the gender diagnostic, which slowed progress toward achieving related gender equity outcomes. Additionally, confusion over institutional roles and responsibilities delayed the learning assessment process. Both issues hindered timely progress toward planned results during the period under review.

Corrective measures have been implemented: (i) targeted procurement training to address capacity gaps and reduce future delays, and (ii) management-level decisions clarifying institutional mandates to prevent duplication or confusion in the conduct of assessments. These steps are already strengthening implementation arrangements and are expected to mitigate recurrence of similar issues

Revisions to the grant

This period, have there been any revisions to the grant other than those submitted to the Secretariat for their approval?

No

How likely is that the grant agent will submit a request for revision to the Secretariat in the next 12 months for their approval?

Unlikely

Annexes

Annex 1: List of Acronyms

Acronym	Description
POFP	Presidents office Finance and Planning
SOB	School Operating Budgets
MOEVT	Ministry of Education and Vocational Training
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
SUZA	State University of Zanzibar
ZESTP	Zanzibar Education Sector Transformation Plan
ZEC	Zanzibar Examinations Council
COFOG	Classifications of the Functions of Government

1 Highly Unsatisfactory- The grant has major shortcomings or delays that limit or jeopardize the achievement of one or more outputs and a resolution is unlikely. Unsatisfactory - The grant has significant shortcomings or delays that limit or jeopardize the achievement of one or more outputs and a resolution is uncertain. Moderately Unsatisfactory - The grant has moderate shortcomings or delays that limit or jeopardize the achievement of one or more outputs but a resolution is likely. Moderately Satisfactory - The grant is expected to achieve most of its major outputs efficiently with moderate shortcomings or delays. Satisfactory – The grant is expected to achieve almost all of its major outputs efficiently with only minor shortcomings or delays. Highly Satisfactory - The grant is expected to achieve or exceed all of the major outputs efficiently without significant shortcomings or delays.

2 Highly Unsatisfactory – The window has major shortcomings or delays that limit or jeopardize the achievement of one or more outputs and a resolution is unlikely. Unsatisfactory – The window has significant shortcomings or delays that limit or jeopardize the achievement of one or more outputs and a resolution is uncertain. Moderately Unsatisfactory – The window has moderate shortcomings or delays that limit or jeopardize the achievement of one or more outputs but a resolution is likely. Moderately Satisfactory – The window is expected to achieve most of its major outputs efficiently with moderate shortcomings. Satisfactory – The window is expected to achieve almost all of its major outputs efficiently with only minor shortcomings or delays. Highly Satisfactory – The window is expected to achieve or exceed all of the major outputs efficiently without significant shortcomings or delays.

3 tooltip