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# PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

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Title: Jamii Safi Bila Taka – Community Zero Waste Initiative, Dodoma City,  
Implementing Organization: Tanzania Education Co-operation  
Duration: 24 Months. Location: Kikuyu Kaskazini & Viwandani Wards – Dodoma  
City Reporting Period: Final Completion Report – December 2023



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## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The *Jamii Safi Bila Taka project* was successfully implemented for 24 months from January 2022 to December 2023 to address severe plastic and solid waste mismanagement in two rapidly urbanizing wards of Dodoma City. The project strengthened community-led solid waste systems by establishing two fully operational Zero-Waste Hubs, training youth and women in waste recovery and compost production, promoting household waste segregation, and mobilizing community participation through structured competitions, public awareness, and partnerships with private businesses and local government authorities.

By project completion, the initiative diverted an estimated 10,800 tonnes of recyclable and organic waste from open dumping and burning, increased household waste segregation by 46%, empowered 340 youth and women through hands-on training, and supported the creation of 44 micro-enterprises producing biodegradable waste baskets and compost products. Community participation exceeded expectations, reaching over 31,200 residents through behaviour-change campaigns.

The project demonstrated a sustainable, replicable circular economy model that integrates environmental action, youth empowerment, women-led enterprises, and digital coordination tools. Local ward authorities have formally integrated the zero-waste hubs into their Ward Development Plans, ensuring long-term continuity.

## **2. PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Goal**

To strengthen community-based plastics and solid waste management systems through a zero-waste circular economy model that reduces pollution, promotes recycling and composting, and empowers youth and women through green livelihood opportunities.

### **Specific Objectives**

1. Reduce plastic pollution and open dumping through waste segregation, recovery, and composting.
2. Build the youth and women's capacity to participate in the circular economy and green enterprises.
3. Strengthen community awareness and behaviour change toward sustainable waste practices.
4. Establish two community zero-waste hubs as permanent resources for environmental action.
5. Enhance coordination among communities, private businesses, and local authorities.

### **3. KEY RESULTS ACHIEVED**

The *Jamii Safi Bila Taka* project was implemented in Kikuyu Kaskazini and Viwandani Wards in Dodoma as a community-centered initiative aimed at strengthening sustainable plastic and solid waste management systems through a zero-waste circular economy model. The initiative was developed in response to the increasing environmental and public health challenges caused by poor waste management practices in urban communities, particularly open dumping, uncontrolled waste burning, weak waste segregation systems, and limited recycling and composting mechanisms. The project aligned with local and global environmental sustainability priorities and was enlightened by the Environmental Management Act (EMA) by promoting waste recovery, composting, recycling, environmental conservation, and green livelihood creation among youth and women groups.

The project was implemented by Tanzania Education Co-operation, an organization committed to advancing community-led sustainable development through environmental stewardship, circular economy approaches, climate action, environmental education, and youth empowerment. The organization integrates waste management and sustainable development approaches with practical community solutions that address environmental degradation, unemployment, and poverty while strengthening local participation and resilience.

The project specifically targeted densely populated urban areas where household activities, informal businesses, and market operations contribute significantly to the generation of plastic and organic waste. Through community participation, practical field learning, environmental awareness campaigns, and partnerships with local authorities and businesses, the initiative aimed to establish sustainable community-led waste management systems while improving livelihoods and environmental health.

#### **Establishment of Community Zero-Waste Hubs**

One of the major achievements of the project was the successful establishment and operationalization of two community zero-waste hubs, one in each target ward. These hubs were designed as central community facilities for waste segregation, composting, environmental learning, and circular economy coordination. The hubs were equipped with 20 waste segregation units, four composting systems, sorting tables, safety equipment for 100 users, water access facilities, and other operational tools required for effective waste management activities.

The zero-waste hubs became important focal points for daily community waste recovery and environmental conservation activities. Trained youth and women groups coordinated the daily operations of the hubs, including waste collection, sorting, compost production, and management of recyclable materials. The operationalization of the hubs significantly improved local waste management practices and created visible environmental improvements within the target communities. The hubs also served as demonstration and

training centres where community members learned practical approaches to waste segregation, composting, and recycling.

### **Implementation of Community Field Schools and Skills Development**

The project successfully implemented 11 practical field schools and training cycles aimed at building technical capacity among youth and women on sustainable waste management and circular economy practices. A total of 340 participants were trained, exceeding the original target of 330 trainees. Among the participants, 65% were youth, while 35% were women, demonstrating strong inclusion and participation of vulnerable and economically active groups within the community.

The training modules focused on practical and applied learning approaches using demonstration sites, peer-learning systems, and hands-on field activities. Key training areas included waste segregation at source, compost production, safe handling of waste materials, environmental conservation, record keeping, entrepreneurship development, and circular economy practices. Participants received practical exposure on converting organic waste into compost fertilizer and recovering recyclable materials for reuse and income generation.

The field schools contributed significantly to strengthening local technical capacity and empowering community members with skills that could support both environmental conservation and economic activities. Many trainees actively participated in waste collection, compost production, and recycling activities after completion of the training sessions, contributing to improved community ownership of the zero-waste initiative.

### **Community Awareness and Behaviour Change Campaigns**

Community mobilization and public awareness formed a critical component of the project. The initiative successfully reached approximately 31,200 people through extensive behaviour-change and environmental awareness campaigns conducted across 10 streets within the target wards. The awareness activities focused on promoting household waste segregation, proper waste disposal, environmental cleanliness, and community participation in circular economy systems.

To strengthen local participation and outreach, the project trained and engaged 60 community champions who conducted door-to-door sensitization, street meetings, and practical demonstrations within the communities. In addition, 37 market demonstrations were conducted to educate traders, households, and residents on waste separation and environmental conservation practices. Faith-based institutions also played an important role in community mobilization, with environmental awareness activities conducted in 12 churches and mosques.

The project further expanded its outreach through three local radio campaigns that provided environmental education messages to wider audiences within Dodoma City. These campaigns contributed to increasing public understanding of the dangers associated with poor waste management and promoted practical household-level waste segregation practices. The awareness interventions contributed to visible

improvements in community cleanliness, reduced illegal dumping, and increased participation in waste recovery systems.

### **Women-Led Circular Economy Enterprises**

A major component of the project focused on strengthening women's economic participation within community waste management systems. Through the project interventions, 44 women-led micro-enterprises were established to support circular economy activities and green livelihood generation. These enterprises specialized in the production of biodegradable waste-collection baskets, compost fertilizer, seedling trays, and small recycled products using locally available materials.

The women's groups received practical training, starter inputs, and technical support that enabled them to engage in income-generating environmental activities linked to waste reduction and resource recovery. The biodegradable baskets produced by the groups supported household waste segregation, while compost produced from collected organic waste was used for urban agriculture and environmental conservation activities.

The establishment of these enterprises created economic opportunities for women and youth while strengthening community ownership of sustainable waste management systems. The initiative also demonstrated how environmental conservation can be integrated with livelihood creation and local entrepreneurship development.

### **Zero-Waste Competitions and Community Engagement Activities**

To strengthen community participation and long-term behaviour change, the project organized several environmental competitions and public engagement activities across schools, streets, and community institutions. A total of 10 school-based zero-waste competitions and eight street-level environmental cleanliness competitions were conducted during the implementation period.

The competitions encouraged schools, households, and communities to practice waste segregation, composting, environmental cleanliness, and waste recovery activities. Schools actively participated through environmental clubs and practical recycling activities, while street-level competitions motivated households to maintain cleaner environments and reduce illegal dumping practices.

In addition, four community clean-up campaigns were conducted with active participation from youth and women groups. These activities promoted environmental conservation while mobilizing communities to collectively address waste management challenges within their neighbourhoods.

The project also established two cohorts of Youth Zero-Waste Ambassadors who played an important role in promoting environmental awareness, community mobilization, and peer education within the target communities. These youth ambassadors became strong advocates for sustainable waste management and environmental stewardship.

### **Digital Tracking and Coordination System**

The project successfully introduced and operationalized a digital coordination and tracking tool to strengthen waste management monitoring and decision-making processes. The mobile-based digital system was designed to capture important project data, including waste volumes collected, training attendance, household participation rates, compost outputs, and operational activities at the community hubs.

The system improved project coordination, strengthened accountability, and enabled regular monitoring of community participation and environmental performance. Youth and women hub managers received practical training on the use of the digital platform, enabling them to manage operational records and support evidence-based planning and reporting.

The introduction of the digital tracking system enhanced project efficiency and supported adaptive management approaches by allowing regular analysis of waste management trends and operational challenges within the communities.

### **Private Sector Engagement and Partnerships**

The project successfully engaged the private sector in supporting community environmental conservation and zero-waste initiatives. A total of 17 local businesses participated in the project through financial and in-kind contributions aimed at strengthening environmental campaigns and community competitions.

The businesses collectively contributed approximately TSh 9.3 million in the form of materials, transportation support, prizes, and logistical assistance for environmental activities. Several businesses also participated directly in community clean-up campaigns and environmental awareness events organized by the project.

The involvement of the private sector strengthened local ownership, improved the sustainability of project interventions, and reduced dependence on external support. The partnerships also demonstrated the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration in addressing urban environmental challenges and promoting sustainable waste management systems.

### **Local Government Integration and Institutional Support**

The project worked closely with local government authorities to strengthen institutional ownership and sustainability of the community zero-waste model. Five joint planning and coordination meetings were conducted with local government officials, ward leaders, and community representatives to integrate project activities into local environmental management systems.

As a result of these engagements, waste segregation and community zero-waste activities were incorporated into ward-level development plans. Ward Executive Officers (WEOs) and MTAA Executive Officers (MEOs) were also assigned as advisory officials to support the community hubs and environmental activities. The integration of project activities within local government structures strengthened long-term

sustainability and increased the potential for replication and scale-up beyond the project implementation period. Local government integration is significant to enabling informed environmental policies within our country.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning, and Sustainability**

The project implemented a practical Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning, and Adaptation System (MELAS) to support evidence-based implementation and continuous improvement. Baseline, midline, and endline assessments were successfully conducted to monitor project progress, environmental improvements, and community participation.

In addition, four quarterly learning and reflection reviews were organized to assess implementation performance, identify lessons learned, and improve operational approaches. These learning sessions strengthened adaptive management and facilitated continuous stakeholder engagement throughout the project period.

A sustainability plan was also developed and adopted by community structures and local stakeholders to guide the continuation of project activities beyond the funding period. The sustainability strategy focused on strengthening local ownership, institutional support, private sector engagement, and continued operation of the community zero-waste hubs.

## **4. OUTCOME-LEVEL RESULTS**

<b>No</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Achieved Result</b>
<b>01</b>	Waste diversion	10,800 tonnes diverted from dumping and burning
<b>02</b>	Capacity building	340 trained; 240 actively practicing after the project
<b>03</b>	Household adoption	46% increase in segregation practices
<b>04</b>	Green livelihoods	44 micro-enterprises supporting 500 households
<b>05</b>	Community behaviour	Cleaner streets, reduced dumping, and school-wide adoption
<b>06</b>	Data system	100% activities tracked digitally
<b>07</b>	Business engagement	Sustained sponsorship expected in future cycles
<b>08</b>	Government ownership	Zero-Waste hubs recognized in Ward Development Plans
<b>09</b>	Sustainability	Operational hubs functioning with local management teams

## **5. SUCCESS STORIES**

### **5.1 Women Baskets Cooperative - From Waste to Income**

One of the most inspiring success stories emerging from the *Jamii Safi Bila Taka* project is the transformation of women's groups in Kinyali Street through biodegradable basket production and circular economy entrepreneurship. Before the implementation of the project, many women in the area depended mainly on seasonal casual labour, small informal activities, and unstable household income sources that provided very limited financial security. Most of the women had little access to stable employment opportunities and struggled to support their families due to increasing living costs and limited economic empowerment opportunities within the community.

Through the project's women-led circular economy initiative, the women received practical training on the production of biodegradable waste-collection baskets using locally available and environmentally friendly materials. The training also covered entrepreneurship, waste segregation, composting, and group business management. After the training, the women organized themselves into cooperative production groups and began producing baskets that are now widely used by households, local vendors, and market traders for waste separation and organic waste collection.

The initiative not only promoted environmental conservation through reduced plastic usage but also created sustainable income-generating opportunities for women within the community. The biodegradable baskets became highly appreciated because they supported household waste segregation while also being affordable and reusable. As demand for the baskets increased across the wards, the women's groups expanded their production activities and strengthened their local market networks.

As a result of the intervention, the average monthly income of participating women increased significantly from approximately TSh 45,000 before the project to nearly TSh 120,000 after active engagement in basket production and related circular economy activities. This improvement enabled many women to contribute more effectively to household expenses, school fees, food security, and healthcare needs for their families. Some women also reinvested part of their earnings into small businesses and savings groups, strengthening their economic resilience and long-term financial stability.

Beyond income generation, the initiative improved confidence, leadership, and social participation among women within the community. Many women who previously had limited involvement in community decision-making are now recognized as environmental champions and local entrepreneurs contributing to cleaner neighbourhoods and sustainable waste management practices.

### **5.2 Youth Compost Innovators**

The project also created a positive transformation among youth groups engaged in compost production and organic waste recovery activities. Before the project, many young people in the target wards faced unemployment and limited livelihood opportunities, making them vulnerable to economic hardship and social challenges. Through the practical field schools and hands-on training conducted at the community

zero-waste hubs, youth participants gained technical skills in waste segregation, compost production, safe waste handling, and circular economy entrepreneurship.

Using organic waste collected from households, markets, and community collection points, the trained youth groups began producing high-quality organic fertilizer through the project's composting systems. The compost produced at the hubs quickly gained attention from urban and peri-urban farmers in Dodoma due to its affordability, environmental friendliness, and effectiveness in improving soil fertility for vegetable and crop production.

As production capacity increased, the youth groups organized themselves into small compost supply networks and established relationships with local farmers and urban gardening groups. Through collective marketing and distribution, the youth are now generating approximately TSh 400,000 per month from compost sales and related environmental services. This income has provided many young participants with improved economic opportunities, greater independence, and practical experience in green entrepreneurship.

The success of the compost initiative has also contributed to reducing organic waste accumulation and uncontrolled dumping within the community. Organic waste that was previously burned or discarded in open spaces is now converted into valuable fertilizer, supporting both environmental conservation and sustainable agriculture. In addition, the youth participants have become active ambassadors for zero-waste practices, promoting environmental awareness and encouraging other young people to participate in circular economy activities.

### **5.3 Cleaner Markets and Healthier Streets**

The project has also produced visible environmental and public health improvements within the target communities, particularly in local markets and residential streets. Before the intervention, many areas experienced serious waste accumulation caused by poor waste disposal practices, weak waste segregation systems, and uncontrolled dumping in public spaces and drainage areas. Open burning of waste was also common, contributing to air pollution, unpleasant odors, and increased health risks for residents and market vendors.

Through continuous community awareness campaigns, street-level clean-up activities, waste segregation training, and the establishment of community zero-waste hubs, significant improvements in environmental cleanliness have been achieved. Market leaders and local authorities report an estimated 70% reduction in scattered waste within market areas and surrounding streets compared to the situation before project implementation.

The improved waste management practices have created cleaner business environments, reduced blocked drainage systems, and minimized open waste burning in many sections of the wards. Community members have increasingly adopted household waste separation practices and actively participate in organized waste collection and recycling activities coordinated through the hubs.

Residents and traders have also reported improved sanitation conditions and a healthier environment, particularly for women, children, and food vendors operating within market areas. The reduction in scattered waste and smoke from burning has contributed to better public hygiene and enhanced community awareness regarding environmental conservation and public health protection.

The cleaner streets and markets have further strengthened community pride and ownership of local environmental management systems. Community leaders now recognize the zero-waste initiative as an important model for improving urban sanitation, reducing environmental pollution, and promoting sustainable community development in Dodoma City.

## 6. CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS

Table 1.

Number	Challenge	Mitigation
01	Low initial adoption of segregation practices	Door-to-door education improved adoption
02	Seasonal movement of youth participants	Flexible training sessions and peer mentoring
03	Limited business engagement at the start	Incentive-based partnership model introduced
04	Community skepticism	Showcasing success stories increased trust

## 7. PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

The sustainability of the *Jamii Safi Bila Taka* project has been strengthened through strong community ownership, local institutional integration, and income-generating circular economy activities established during project implementation. One of the key sustainability strategies involved integrating zero-waste and waste segregation activities into Ward Development Plans, ensuring continued support and recognition from local government authorities beyond the project period. Ward Executive Officers (WEOs) and community leaders continue providing technical guidance and coordination support to the community zero-waste hubs.

The establishment of women- and youth-led micro-enterprises has also created sustainable financial mechanisms that support the maintenance and operation of the hubs. Income generated through the sale of biodegradable baskets, compost fertilizer, and recycled products contributes to operational costs, equipment maintenance, and continued environmental activities within the communities.

In addition, local businesses continue sponsoring environmental competitions, clean-up campaigns, and awareness activities through financial and in-kind contributions, strengthening public participation and

reducing dependence on external funding. Community Zero-Waste Committees established in both wards now oversee daily hub operations, waste collection coordination, and community mobilization activities.

Youth Zero-Waste Ambassadors also continue conducting peer education and awareness activities within schools and neighbourhoods. As a result of these combined efforts, the community zero-waste hubs are currently operating independently without donor funding, demonstrating strong local ownership and long-term sustainability.

## 8. FINANCIAL REPORT (CLOSING BUDGET)

**Table 2: Budget vs Actual Expenditure**

Activity	Approved Budget (TZS)	Actual Expenditure (TZS)	Variance	Justification
Establish Zero-Waste Hubs	10,000,000	10,350,000	+350,000	Additional safety gear purchased
Field Schools Training	10,000,000	9,800,000	-200,000	Efficient use of community spaces
Awareness & Behavior Change	13,500,000	13,200,000	-300,000	Printing costs lower than estimated
Women-Led Seed Models	11,000,000	11,400,000	+400,000	Higher material costs for biodegradable tools
Competitions & Community Events	18,000,000	17,650,000	-350,000	Sponsorship from businesses
Digital Platform	40,000,000	39,700,000	-300,000	App optimized with a local developer
MELAS System	10,000,000	9,900,000	-100,000	Savings on survey logistics
Coordination & Overheads	5,000,000	5,000,000	0	As planned
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>117,500,000</b>	<b>117,000,000</b>	<b>-500,000</b>	<b>Efficient implementation</b>
Surplus of TSh 500,000 used to provide additional safety masks and gloves to community youth.				

## 9. CONCLUSION

The *Jamii Safi Bila Taka* project has successfully demonstrated that community-driven zero-waste and circular economy approaches can provide practical and sustainable solutions to the growing challenges of plastic and solid waste management in urban communities. Implemented in Dodoma, the project transformed waste management from a major environmental and public health concern into an opportunity for environmental restoration, community empowerment, and local economic development.

Through the establishment of community zero-waste hubs, practical field schools, environmental awareness campaigns, women-led green enterprises, and youth engagement initiatives, the project significantly improved waste segregation, composting, recycling, and community participation in sustainable environmental management. The initiative not only contributed to reducing pollution, illegal dumping, and waste burning but also promoted cleaner markets, healthier neighbourhoods, and improved public awareness regarding environmental conservation and responsible waste handling practices.

One of the most significant achievements of the project was its ability to create sustainable livelihood opportunities for youth and women through biodegradable basket production, compost fertilizer generation, recycling activities, and other circular economy enterprises. These interventions strengthened household incomes, promoted entrepreneurship, and empowered local communities to become active agents of environmental change. At the same time, the integration of local government authorities, private sector partners, faith institutions, schools, and community groups strengthened institutional ownership and long-term sustainability of the initiative.

The project exceeded several of its planned targets, including the number of trainees reached, community awareness coverage, women-led enterprises established, and participation in environmental competitions and clean-up campaigns. The introduction of a digital tracking and coordination system further enhanced accountability, operational efficiency, and evidence-based decision-making throughout implementation.

Importantly, the impacts of the project continue to extend beyond the grant period. The zero-waste hubs remain operational under community management, local businesses continue supporting environmental activities, and youth ambassadors are sustaining awareness and training efforts within their communities. These achievements position the *Jamii Safi Bila Taka* initiative as a strong and scalable model for replication in other urban and peri-urban communities across Tanzania. The project demonstrates that with strong community participation, local partnerships, and practical circular economy solutions, sustainable urban environmental transformation is both achievable and sustainable.