



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Zanzibar, 2026

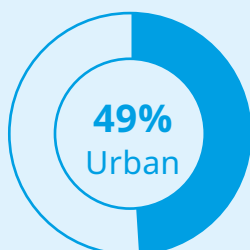
Growing up in Zanzibar



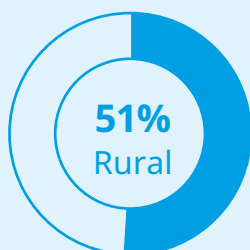
Population^{1,2}

The country's population is expected to grow significantly in the coming decades, while the proportion of people living in urban and rural areas is expected to remain relatively stable.

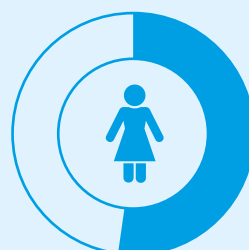
Total: **1,889,773** in 2022, with a projected increase to **3,637,096** by 2050



projected to be
49.2% by 2050



projected to be
50.8% by 2050



47.2% Nearly half of the population are **children** aged 0–17 years, with an **equal split between girls** (50.2%) and **boys** (49.8%) in 2022

Adolescents and youths as a proportion of the total population in 2022:



10–19 years: **22.7%**



15–24 years: **20.4%**



Poverty^{3,4}

Just over a quarter of the population live below the national poverty line, while nearly 1 in 10 people live in extreme poverty.

26.7% People living below the national basic needs poverty line



9.3% People living below the national food poverty line



Children aged 0–17 years



While 1 in 3 children do not have their basic needs met, just over 1 in 10 children live in extreme poverty.

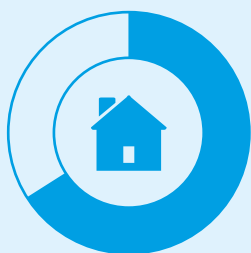
30.1% of children live **below the national basic needs poverty line**

11.4% of children live **below the national food poverty line**

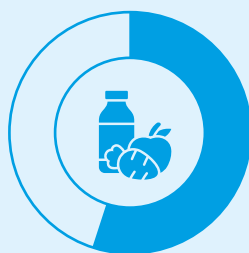


34% of children live in **multidimensional poverty (at least 3 deprivations)**

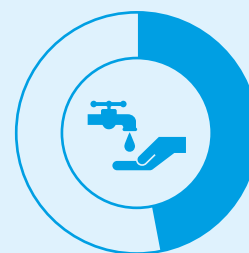
Highest deprivations in:



Housing: 66%



Nutrition: 55%



Water and sanitation:* 47%



1 in 6 children live in both **multidimensional poverty and below the national basic needs poverty line**

* Includes indicators for water source, time to water and form of sanitation

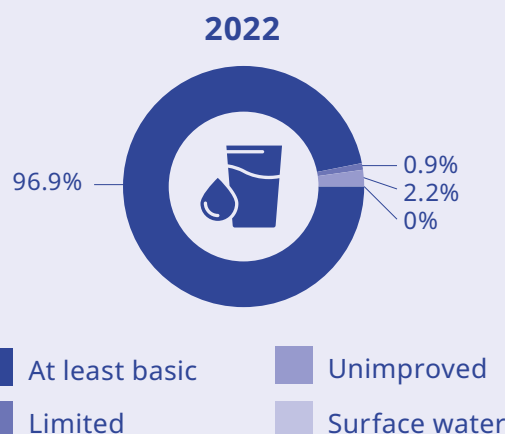
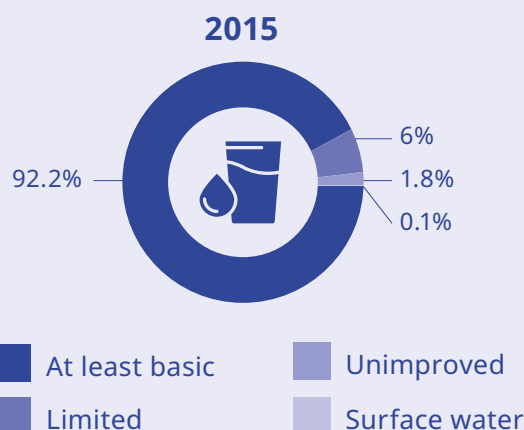
WASH** in households^{5,6}



Water

While most people have access to basic drinking water and there has been improvement in the availability of safe drinking water at home, drinking water treatment practices have declined.

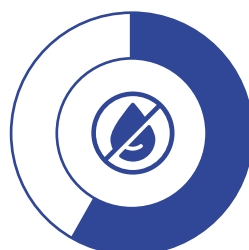
Household population access to drinking water services



Drinking water access in 2022



97.8% of people relied on an **improved source**, down from 98.2% in 2015



58.2% of people had **access to enough drinking water when needed**



83.7% of people had **on-site drinking water**, up from 57.1% in 2015

Water treatment



People using appropriate water treatment methods

24%
in 2015

vs

23.7%
in 2022



People who do not treat drinking water

67.9%
in 2015

vs

73.3%
in 2022

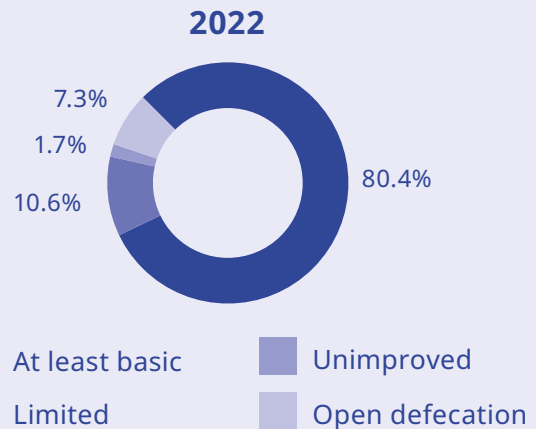
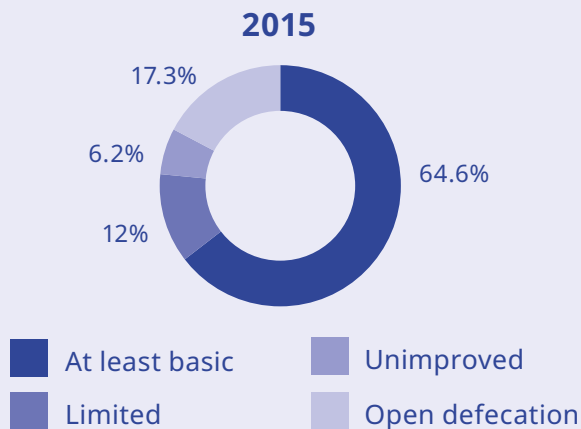
**WASH = water, sanitation and hygiene



Sanitation

Most households have access to improved sanitation and safe excreta management. While there has been substantial progress in reducing open defecation, safe-disposal practices for young children's stools have worsened slightly.

Household population access to sanitation services



In 2022, **90.8% of households** had access to an **improved sanitation facility**, up from 77.5% in 2015

Excreta management

In 2022, **89.4%** of the household population had **access to safe wastewater management**

46.8% of children under 2 years living with their mothers had **their faecal matter disposed of safely** in 2022, down from 48.4% in 2015



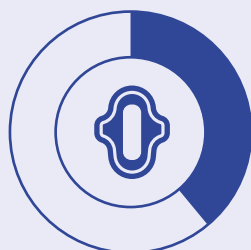


Hygiene

Adolescent girls report high levels of privacy and use of appropriate menstrual hygiene materials.

99.6% of girls aged 15–19 years **wash and change in privacy and use appropriate materials during menstruation**

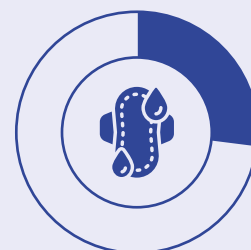
Most appropriate menstrual protection methods used:



Disposable
sanitary pads: 39.3%



Cloth:
52.3%



Reusable sanitary
pads: 27.1%

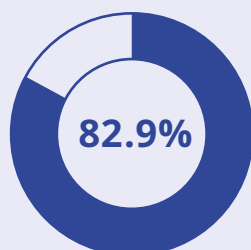
WASH in schools⁷



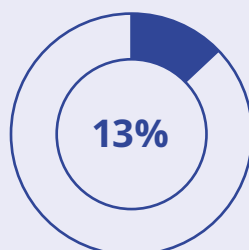
Water

Almost all schools provide some drinking water facilities, with about 8 in 10 schools providing basic services.

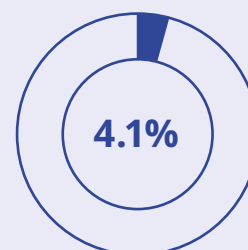
Drinking water access in 2018



Basic services



Limited services



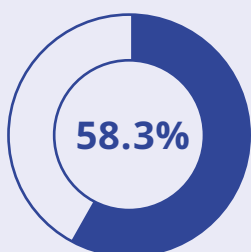
No services



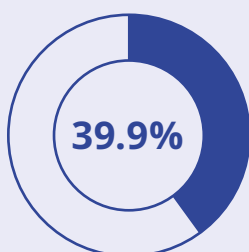
Sanitation

Almost all schools provide some sanitation facilities, with almost 6 in 10 schools providing basic services.

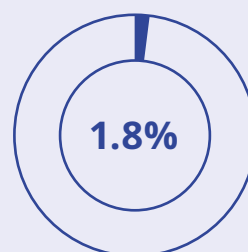
Sanitation services at schools in 2018



Basic services



Limited services



No services

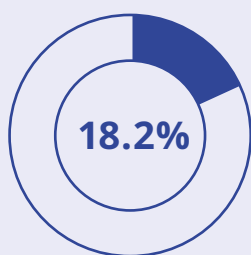




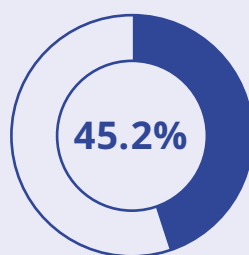
Hygiene

While some form of handwashing and menstrual hygiene management facilities are available in most schools, almost 4 in 10 schools lack any hygiene services.

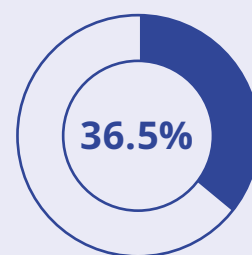
Hygiene services (soap and water) at schools in 2018



Basic services



Limited services



No services



73.9%

of schools have
**handwashing
facilities
next to toilets**



17%

of schools meet
the **recommended
ratio of pupils to
latrines**



21.3%

of primary and
secondary schools have
**menstrual hygiene
management services**

26.9% of girls **miss school** for **menstruation-related reasons** (pain, fear, lack of menstrual-materials and -friendly WASH facilities)^{*** 8}

^{***} From a survey report of 19 district councils in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar



Sources

- 1 Ministry of Finance (United Republic of Tanzania) et al., *The 2022 Population and Housing Census: Age and sex distribution report – Volume 2A*, United Republic of Tanzania, 2022, available at <https://www.nbs.go.tz/nbs/takwimu/Census2022/Age_and_Sex_Distribution_Report_Tanzania_volume2a.pdf>.
- 2 National Bureau of Statistics (Mainland Tanzania) and Office of the Chief Government Statistician (Zanzibar), *National Population Projections 2023–2050*, United Republic of Tanzania, 2024, available at <<https://www.nbs.go.tz/uploads/statistics/documents/en-1764575980-National%20Projection%20Report%20%E2%80%932023-2050.pdf>>.
- 3 Office of the Chief Government Statistician (Zanzibar), *2019/20 Household Budget Survey: Main report*, Office of the Chief Government Statistician, Zanzibar City, 2020, available at <<http://ocgs.go.tz:8037/znada/index.php/catalog/8/related-materials>>.
- 4 Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar [RGoZ] and United Nations Children's Fund [UNICEF], *The State of Zanzibar's Children: Evidence from the Zanzibar Household Budget Surveys (2010–2020)*, RGoZ and UNICEF, Zanzibar City, 2022, available at <<https://www.unicef.org/tanzania/media/2826/file/State%20of%20Zanzibar's%20Children.pdf>>.
- 5 Ministry of Health (Mainland Tanzania) et al., *Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey and Malaria Indicator Survey (TDHS–MIS) 2022: Final report*, Ministry of Health (Mainland Tanzania), Ministry of Health (Zanzibar), National Bureau of Statistics (Mainland Tanzania), Office of the Chief Government Statistician and ICF, Dodoma and Rockville, Maryland, 2023, available at <<https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR382/FR382.pdf>>.
- 6 Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children [MoHCDGEC] (Mainland Tanzania) et al., *Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey and Malaria Indicator Survey 2015–16*, MoHCDGEC (Mainland Tanzania), Ministry of Health (Zanzibar), National Bureau of Statistics (Mainland Tanzania), Office of the Chief Government Statistician (Zanzibar) and ICF, Dar es Salaam and Rockville, Maryland, 2016, available at <<https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR321/FR321.pdf>>.
- 7 National Bureau of Statistics (Mainland Tanzania), Office of the Chief Government Statistician (Zanzibar) and United Nations Children's Fund, *2018 School Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Assessment: Main report*, United Republic of Tanzania, Dar es Salaam, 2020, available at <<https://www.unicef.org/tanzania/media/2356/file/National%20School%20WASH%20Report%202020.pdf>>.
- 8 National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) and Public Health Laboratory Ivo de Carneri, *Menstrual Health and Hygiene Among School Girls in Tanzania: Research report*, NIMR, Dar es Salaam, 2021, available at <<https://www.unicef.org/tanzania/reports/mhh-school-girls-tanzania>>.

