



Annual Impact Report

January - December 2025



Photo: Zanzibari children at the Assalam International School



Contents

5 About us

10 Economic impact

11 Our core activities

18 Partnerships & sustainable development goals



Foreword – 2025: Growing Peace Together

This year, nearly 360,000 people were reached through Assalam's initiatives. Behind that number are 15,000 households supported with food, over a quarter-million warm meals served, children discovering science and art for the first time, women launching businesses, and communities strengthened through solidarity.

Through our integrated PEACE model — Permaculture, Education, Arts & Cultural Heritage, Community Solidarity, and Empowerment — we continue building not isolated projects, but a living ecosystem.

Our permaculture gardens turned waste into soil, rain into water reserves, and sunlight into sustenance. Our school provided nearly 190 students with free, international-standard education, while 20,000 more children across the island accessed STEAM programs and experiential learning through our outreach initiatives. Cultural programs revived crafts, empowered local artists, and strengthened identity. During Ramadan alone, more than 10,000 people gathered at shared iftar tables, and 15,000 families received food assistance. Meanwhile, micro-entrepreneurship support achieved a 70% survival rate, generating over 100 new jobs.

What makes Assalam unique is integration. The food grown in our gardens nourishes our students. The children educated today will shape Zanzibar's tomorrow. The women empowered economically strengthen entire families. Each branch supports the other — growing peace from the ground up.

We are increasingly recognized as a model of holistic, community-rooted development. Yet beyond growth and recognition lies a simple truth: responsibility expands with capacity. As we build, we remain aware that impact is not about control, but trust.

Assalam may still be a young tree — but its roots are deepening, its branches expanding, and its fruits beginning to show.

To everyone who contributed through partnership, support, and prayer: this story belongs to you as well.

Let us continue growing peace together.

Management Assalam Community Foundation



Hatice Colak Ali,
Director & Founder,
Assalam Community
Foundation



Sadiki Mohamed Ali,
General Secretary,
Assalam Community
Foundation



2025 was a year of gratitude — and growth.



About Us

Who We Are

Assalam Community Foundation is a dynamic organisation combining the strengths of an NGO and social enterprise. We are dedicated to empowering communities and fostering sustainable growth through our globally replicable PEACE model

Purpose

To regenerate ecovillages, educational systems, livelihoods and culture through a scalable, faith-rooted PEACE Model Toolkit, enabling community-led transformation across Zanzibar and beyond.

Vision

To be a globally recognised regenerative model, self-sufficient through social enterprises, home to a world-class African art school and community, and the leading implementer of the PEACE model in 10 countries by 2030.

Mission

To operationalise the PEACE Model as a practical, values-driven, and regenerative development approach through education, arts, culture, ecological design, and empowerment initiatives.

Our Journey

Since our inception, Assalam has touched over 1,2 million lives, launched 7 social enterprises and partnered with 50+ organisations worldwide. From grassroots projects to global collaborations, we continue to create impactful change in education, permaculture, art, community and empowerment.



Assalam's Global Family



Volunteering at Assalam has been an eye-opening experience. The guidance from the leadership team and the inclusivity of the global community make it a place where every effort feels meaningful and impactful.

Mama Rahma

Head Chef, Assalam Community Foundation

Strategic Leadership Tiers

Assalam's work is guided by a multi-tiered decision-making structure. The Board of Trustees provides strategic oversight, the Village Committee ensures community involvement, and the Executive Committee drives daily operations. This collaborative framework balances global vision with local engagement, ensuring effective and inclusive impact.

3

50+

Over 40 Nationalities

With over 40 nationalities represented among our volunteers and staff, Assalam embodies inclusivity and cultural exchange. This diversity strengthens our ability to connect globally while staying rooted in local communities.

60+

Global Partnerships

Through collaborations with over 50 partners worldwide, Assalam amplifies its reach and impact. These partnerships enable knowledge-sharing, resource pooling, and innovative solutions that transform lives and communities.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2025 marked a period of unprecedented growth and transformative impact for the Zanzibar Initiative for Sustainable Transformation (ZIST). Our programs, meticulously designed and executed in alignment with the Zanzibar Development Vision 2050 and the Zanzibar Development Plan (ZADep) 2021–2026, have successfully reached approximately 363,659 people across the Zanzibar and part of Of Coastal zone Pwani, Tanga and Arusha

Our interventions have directly contributed to key government priorities, including enhancing food security, promoting quality education, fostering gender equality, preserving cultural heritage, and driving inclusive economic growth. In 2025, we created over 100 jobs, empowered 1,166 women with economic opportunities, and provided essential support to 15,000 households.

Notably, our permaculture programs boosted local farm income by an estimated 10–15%, our STEAM initiatives reached over 3,500 students, and our women-led enterprises now contribute approximately 5% to local market activity in targeted wards.

These outcomes were made possible through strategic partnerships with government bodies, including the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar and local Shehas, as well as international partners like European Union Solidarity and the TUI Care Foundation and individual Donors who contribute their time and donation to make things possible. Despite challenges such as logistical constraints and funding gaps, our adaptive strategies and strong community engagement ensured program resilience and success.

Impact numbers:



363,659 people reached



15,000 households supported



1,166 women empowered



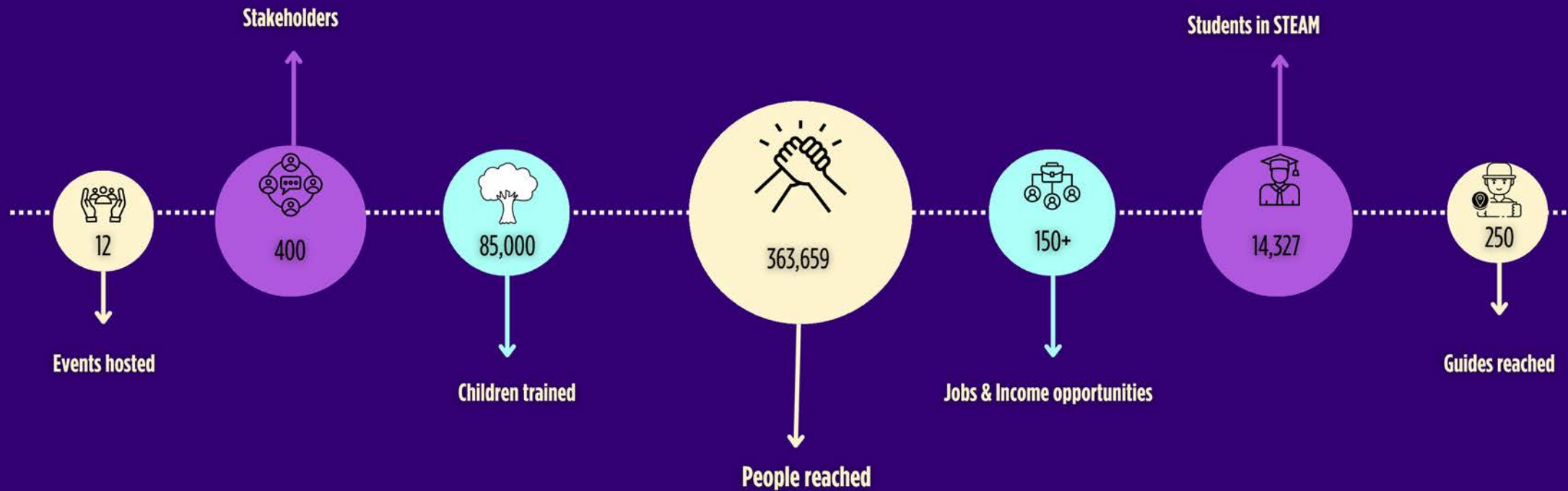
225,000 meals distributed



“When I was sick and had no one to help, Assalam took me to the hospital and saved my life. Today, I own land, built my house, and am honored to serve as a board member. I’ll always pray for Assalam to grow and empower others like me.”

Kidawa
Board Member

2025 at a Glance





“During an orphan camp, our goalkeeper broke his hand but stayed silent until his hand swelled—just to avoid missing the rest of camp. That moment showed me how much Assalam means to these children: a paradise they never want to leave.”

Amir
Young Leader: Orphan Camps

A global Blueprint for transformation

The PEACE model



01

A Holistic Approach The PEACE model integrates five interconnected pillars—Permaculture, Education, Art, Community, and Empowerment—to address diverse needs while fostering harmony between people, culture, and the environment.

02

Interdependence of Pillars Each pillar complements the others; for instance, permaculture principles align with education by teaching sustainable practices, while art and culture preserve identity and inspire community empowerment.

03

A Replicable Blueprint By rooting its initiatives in local values and creating adaptable solutions, the PEACE model provides a framework that can be replicated globally to empower communities to thrive sustainably.

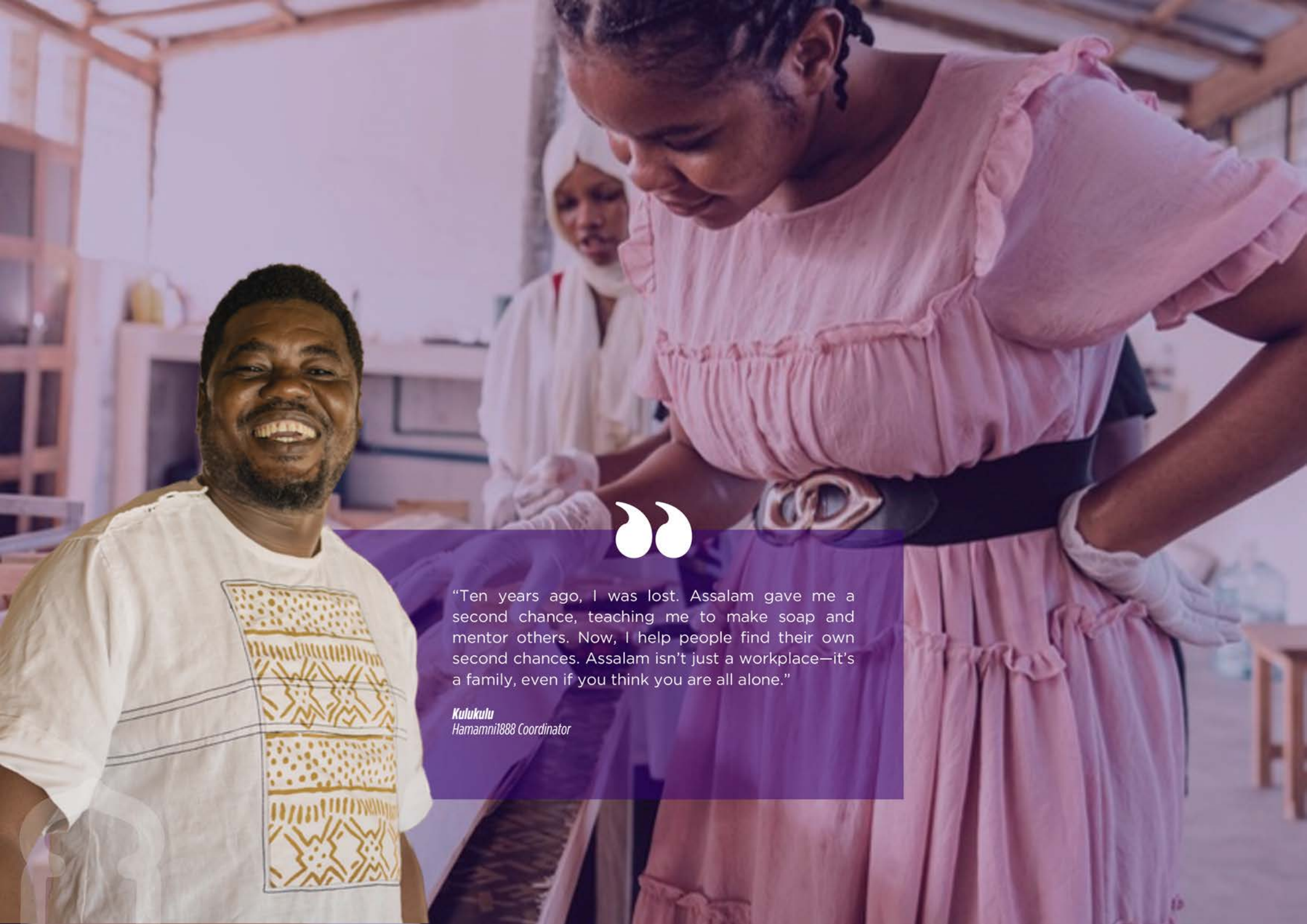
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Guided by Values Anchored in principles of social justice and holistic well-being, the PEACE model ensures that every action contributes to ethical, inclusive, and impactful change, creating long-term growth across all areas.



“Our ultimate goal is to see the PEACE model adopted worldwide, empowering communities to address their challenges sustainably while preserving their unique identities.”

Hatice Colak Ali
Director & Founder



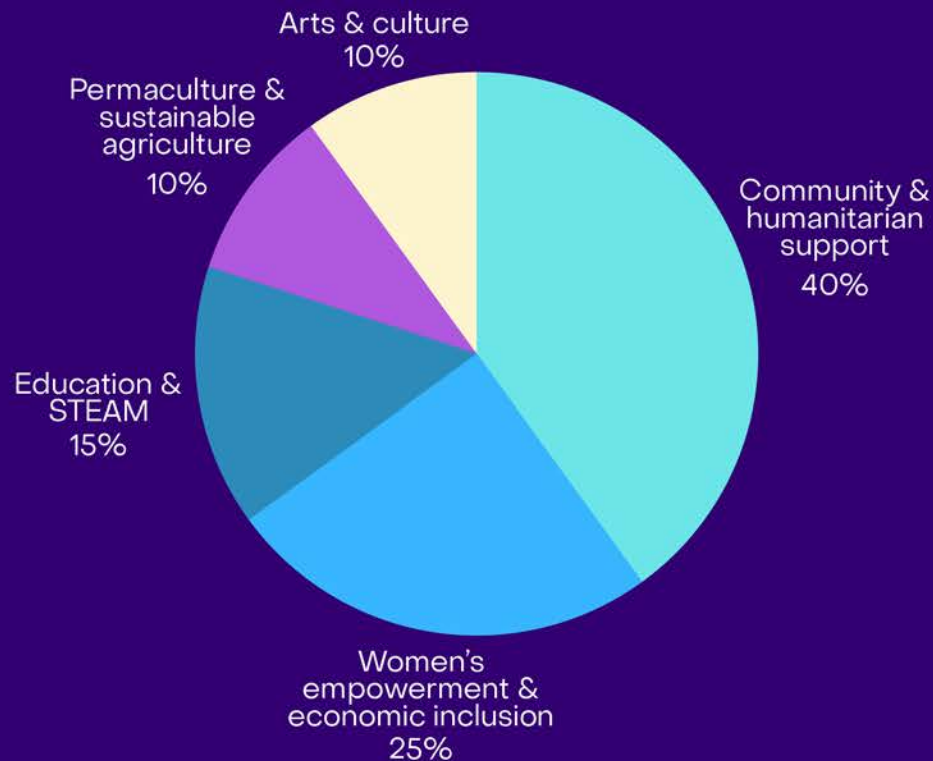
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“Ten years ago, I was lost. Assalam gave me a second chance, teaching me to make soap and mentor others. Now, I help people find their own second chances. Assalam isn't just a workplace—it's a family, even if you think you are all alone.”

Kulukulu
Hamamni1888 Coordinator

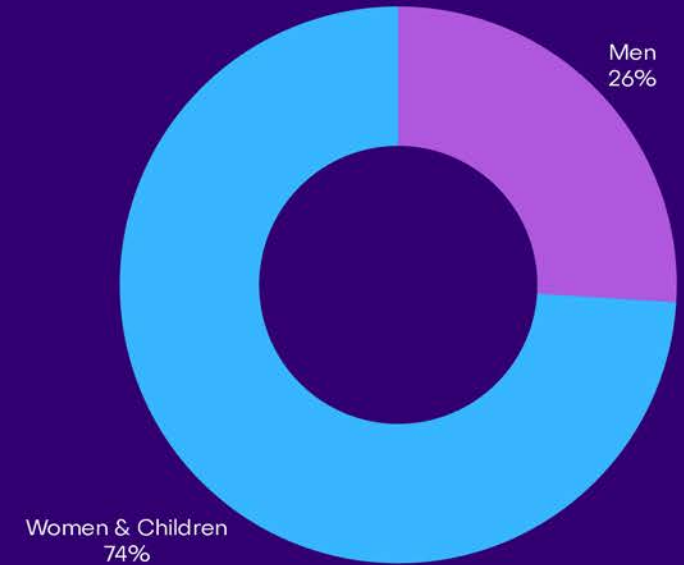
ECONOMIC IMPACT

Resources were strategically allocated to maximize community impact and sustainability.



Indicators:

- Program completion: 85-95%
- Sustainability score: 8:2/10



Our programs prioritize women, youth and vulnerable groups.

ACF operates with deep local engagement and strategic expansion.
Bullets

- Southern Unguja – primary hub
- Mainland Tanzania – Arusha, Kibaha & Tanga
- Urban & rural balance

A Self-Sustaining Vision

Together, these two pillars form a sustainable ecosystem, where the social enterprise funds and supports the NGO's work, creating a holistic model of community-driven development that is replicable worldwide.

The social enterprise arm of Assalam is the engine that drives sustainability and empowerment. It operates seven distinct brands, including Kanga Africa, Eco Villa Africa, and Samani 1888, each designed to harness local talent and resources to generate income while creating meaningful opportunities.

The NGO arm of Assalam is dedicated to community empowerment through education, social welfare, and skill-building initiatives. From supporting 20,000+ orphans annually to providing microfinance loans for women and small businesses, the NGO focuses on uplifting the most vulnerable.



Through initiatives like the Permaculture Training Centre and the Hamamni 1888 handmade soap brand, the social enterprise focuses on promoting environmental sustainability, cultural preservation, and economic self-reliance. Revenue generated from these ventures supports community development programs and ensures the long-term viability of Assalam's mission.

It also leads impactful programs such as vocational training, community iftaars, and international collaborations, all aligned with the PEACE model (Permaculture, Education, Art, Community, Empowerment).



PEACE **Activities**

Assalam Community Foundation is a dynamic organisation combining the strengths of an NGO and social enterprise. Rooted in Zanzibar, we are dedicated to empowering communities and fostering sustainable growth through our globally replicable PEACE model.



Permaculture

Permaculture is not just farming, it's a sustainable way of living that addresses global challenges like climate change and food insecurity. In Zanzibar, it empowers communities to adapt, reduce waste, and foster self-reliance while aligning with Assalam's PEACE philosophy.

Promoting food security, climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods...

60%

increase in food security



500 households producing food



253 farmers trained



85% adoption of sustainable practices

Permaculture

Infrastructure Development



Constructed **outdoor classroom's** to teach organic & sustainable building techniques.



Built **greenhouses** to protect crops from saline soils, pests, and unpredictable weather.



Launched three farms (**animal, mushroom, aquaponic**) to diversify food systems.



Created **composting systems** to transform organic waste into fertilizer, enhancing soil health.

Environmental Impact

60%

60 % Increase in **food security** achieved in participating villages through permaculture initiatives.



Installed two **500-liter rainwater harvesting tanks** and expanded freshwater access through government-approved pipelines.

150+

150+ Trees planted annually to supporting reforestation and ecological health.



1-Acre Food Forest: Established to provide sustainable food sources and restore ecosystems.

Zero-Waste Initiative



Implemented **zero-waste program** to recycle organic waste, supporting both campus and village farming needs.



Composting systems developed to reduce waste and enhance soil health.

Training & Education



20

Women Graduates

20 Women graduates completed six-month agriculture programs, contributing to family income.



500

Families Benefitted

300 Families are growing their own food thanks to ACF's permaculture and sustainable agriculture training, ensuring food security and reducing reliance on external aid.



50+

Individuals Trained

50+ Individuals received hands-on training in permaculture design and implementation.



253

Local Farmers Trained

200 Local farmers were trained in sustainable farming methods, reducing reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Children in orphan camps taught the importance of environmental stewardship through permaculture integration.



Sustainability & Renewable Initiatives

Feeding Black Soldier Flies



Utilising

70%

of food waste to support eco-friendly waste solutions.

Recycling Plastics



Repurposing

30%

of plastic waste, including bottles, for sustainability.

Creating Compost



Transforming

40%

of organic waste into nutrient-rich compost for gardens.

Managing Waste



Diverting

40%

of total garbage through efficient waste management.

Lighting Pathways



Illuminating

6

Malsheshe Campus areas with solar-powered streetlights.

Harnessing Solar



Covering

10%

of daily energy needs across office, kitchen, school, and security.

Education

Assalam's education initiatives are dedicated to nurturing future leaders through quality schooling, vocational training, and community-based learning. By blending academic excellence with practical skills and cultural heritage, we equip students and youth with the tools to thrive and contribute meaningfully to society.



168 students enrolled



3,500 students reached through STEAM

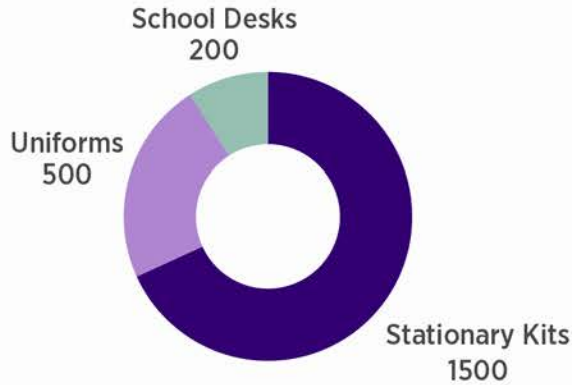
+40% interest in science



Increased participation of girls

Education

At Assalam, we believe education is the foundation for sustainable growth and thriving communities. Through Assalam International School, we provide quality education to rural children, fostering creativity and curiosity. Our curriculum integrates arts, STEM, and practical skills, nurturing well-rounded learners prepared to tackle future challenges. To support educators, we host workshops that empower local teachers with innovative and culturally relevant teaching methods.



School desks produced and distributed to underserved villages, enhancing learning environments.

Stationery kits and **uniforms** distributed to orphans and children in need.



Hosted Book Week, involving readings, drama competitions, and creativity-focused activities.



Organized Zanzibar Debates, empowering youth from across the region to develop confidence and critical thinking.



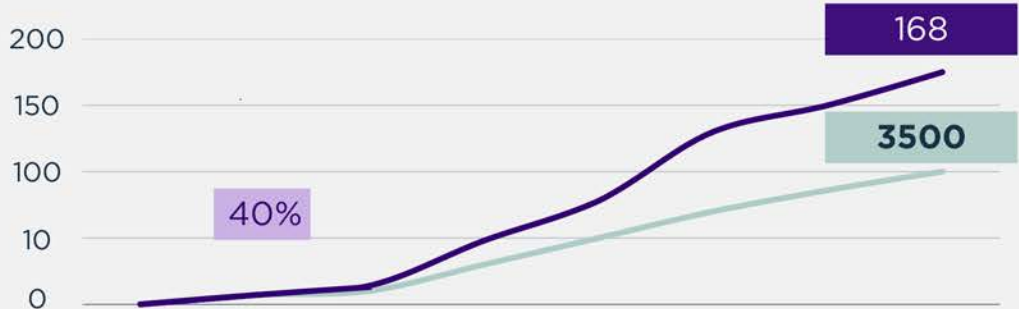
Conducted 25+ empowerment workshops for disabled children and their caregivers.



Initiated the Science Learning Hub featuring VR and interactive tools, fostering STEM education in Zanzibar.



Hosted Saudi School Camp, fostering cross-cultural exchange and learning opportunities.



168+ Students enrolled at Assalam International School

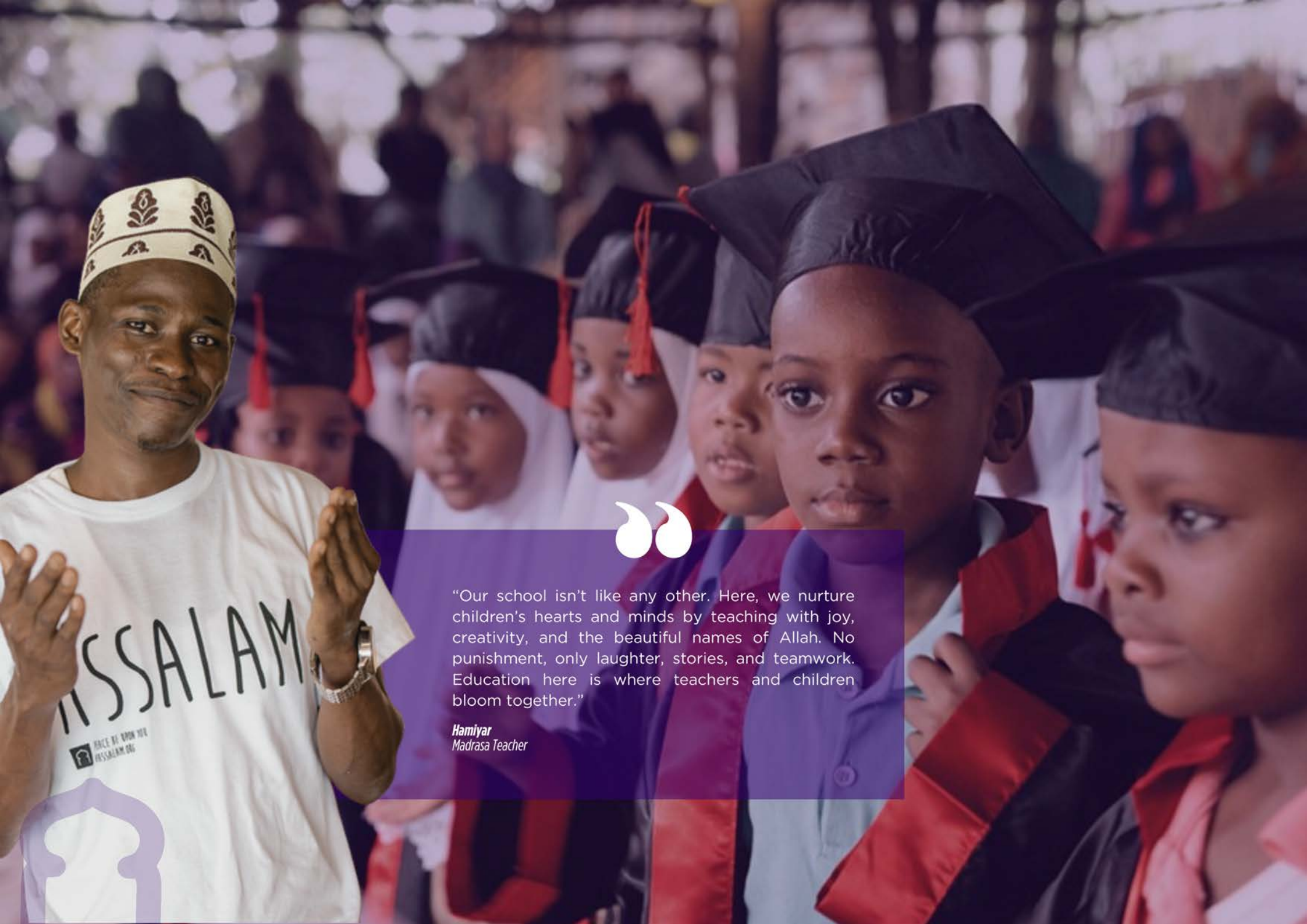
growing from just 7 in its early years

33 vocational graduates

now skilled in fields such as art, crafts, digital media, and permaculture.

3500

students reached through STEAM



“Our school isn’t like any other. Here, we nurture children’s hearts and minds by teaching with joy, creativity, and the beautiful names of Allah. No punishment, only laughter, stories, and teamwork. Education here is where teachers and children bloom together.”

Hamiyar
Madrasa Teacher



Art & Culture

Assalam's art and culture programs celebrate Zanzibar's rich heritage while fostering creativity and innovation. Through workshops, exhibitions, and collaborations with local and international artists, we preserve traditions, revive Islamic art, and inspire a new generation to explore and express their cultural identity.



20,000 people reached



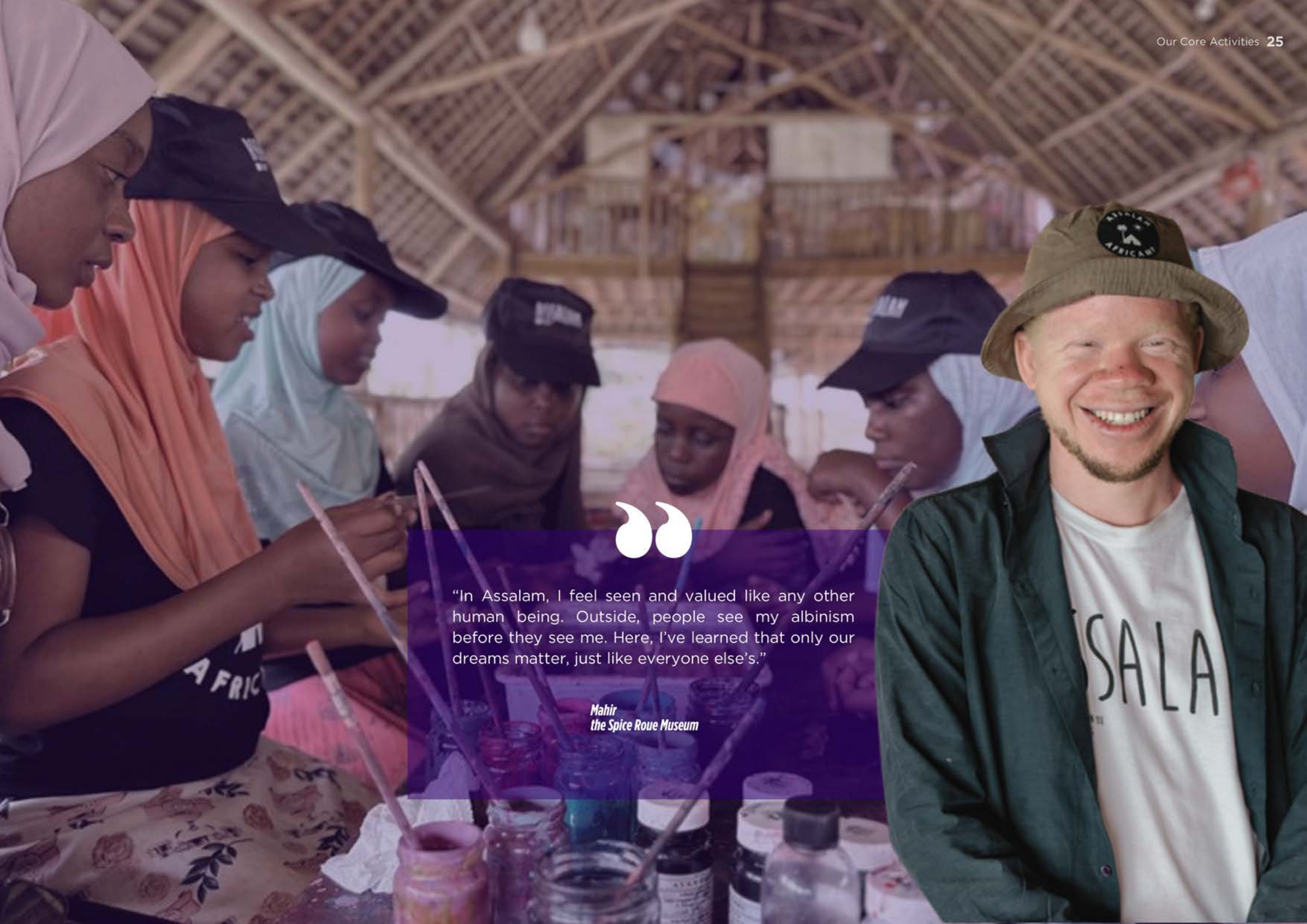
80 artists trained



+75% income increase



18 cultural events



“

“In Assalam, I feel seen and valued like any other human being. Outside, people see my albinism before they see me. Here, I’ve learned that only our dreams matter, just like everyone else’s.”

*Mahir
the Spice Roue Museum*



“Assalam is a home of peace, a place for everyone, regardless of gender, class, tribe, or religion. It taught me to face my fears and embrace life. Whatever comes your way, just try it—because Assalam believes in you.”

Sam
Art & Culture Coordinator

Community

Assalam's community initiatives aim to uplift Zanzibar's most vulnerable populations by addressing immediate needs and fostering long-term growth. Through education, social support, and sustainable enterprises like Cafe Afrika and Kanga Africa, we empower individuals and strengthen local resilience, ensuring inclusive development for all.



225,000 meals distributed



15,000 households supported



95% community participation



Reduced school absenteeism

Addressing immediate needs while strengthening long-term resilience.

Photo: Community Iftaar hosted by Assalam in one of our local villages

Community

Assalam's community programs focus on supporting Zanzibar's most vulnerable populations by addressing their immediate needs and creating opportunities for long-term growth. Through outreach efforts, partnerships, and volunteer initiatives, we provide essential services, including education and social support. Social enterprises like Cafe Afrika and Kanga Africa play a key role in offering sustainable livelihoods and fostering community-driven solutions. These programs aim to strengthen local resilience and promote development that benefits everyone involved.

Local Engagement

95%

Achieved a 95% increase in local participation, empowering residents to engage in decision-making and governance.



Launched projects to strengthen neighborhoods through social services and leadership development.



Partnered with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar to ensure community-driven and culturally relevant solutions.

Youth & Orphan Initiatives



Engaged over 550 orphan children in our **Orphan Retreats** to support with confidence-building, leadership activities, and meaningful experiences.



Developed programs that instill resilience, leadership, and entrepreneurial skills, shaping the next generation of community leaders through initiatives such as: **Orphan Retreats, Young Leaders Camp, Permaculture Training, Cultural Heritage Workshops & Vocational Training Courses**

Community Impact & Humanitarian Support

225,000

Distributed over 225,000 meals via zakat, sadaqa, and soup kitchens to ensure no vulnerable family goes hungry

15,000

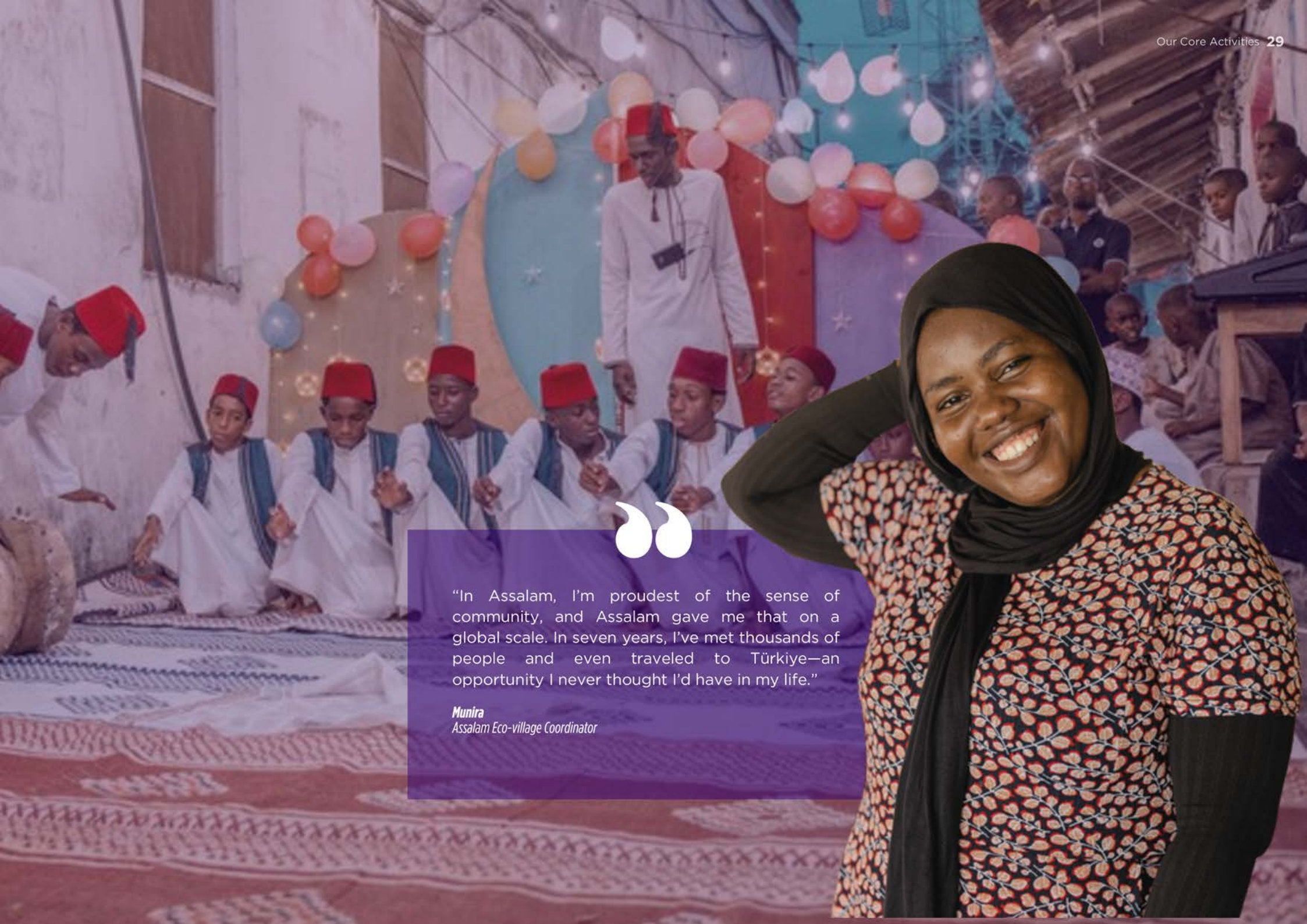
Over 15000 families supported through outreach programs including food distribution, health clinics, and education.

14000+

Beneficiaries in Ramadan iftars and community gatherings, fostering connection and solidarity.



Provided hygiene kits, school sponsorships, and community aid during Ramadan through street iftars and other events.



"In Assalam, I'm proudest of the sense of community, and Assalam gave me that on a global scale. In seven years, I've met thousands of people and even traveled to Türkiye—an opportunity I never thought I'd have in my life."

Munira
Assalam Eco-village Coordinator

Empowerment

Assalam's empowerment programs focus on providing women and youth with the tools, skills, and financial support needed to achieve independence and create sustainable livelihoods. Through microfinance, vocational training, and capacity-building initiatives, we enable individuals to lead impactful lives and drive positive change within their communities.

Supporting economic independence and sustainable livelihoods.



1,037 women received financial support



100+ jobs created



70% business sustainability



+40% household income increase

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Community-driven enterprises supporting income generation and skills.



Kanga Africa



Cafe Africa



Karibu Assalam



Hammamni 1888



The Spice Route museum

Dolls and bags distributed to the orphans (1500 bags, 200 dolls)

City hub for learning, collaboration and tourism engagement

Eco living village experiences and daily workshops / tours

300+ trained in soap and essential oil production

1000+ students engaged in cultural learning

“

“Before Assalam, my days were spent diving, fishing, and breaking stones for uncertain income. Getting a job here gave me stability and purpose. I feel myself much more valued, especially after I discovered the 500,000-year-old cave under Assalam that now carries my name.”

Adam
Gardener



Partners & Sustainable Development Goals

At Assalam, our partnerships play a vital role in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through collaborations with over 50 local and global organizations, we've amplified our impact across areas such as education, empowerment, sustainable agriculture, and community resilience. Each of our PEACE pillars aligns with specific SDGs, reflecting our commitment to fostering a more equitable, sustainable, and inclusive world. [HERE](#)

CSAI

Our Partners

At Assalam Community Foundation, partnerships are the cornerstone of our success. By working with over 60 trusted local and international organizations, we amplify our reach and impact across all our initiatives. From educational programs and vocational training to community development and cultural preservation, each partner brings unique expertise and resources that strengthen our efforts.

This year, collaborations with esteemed organizations like TUI Care Foundation, Turkish Airlines, UNICEF, and Safe Hands have allowed us to deliver innovative solutions, empower vulnerable communities, and create sustainable change. Whether it's facilitating skill development, providing humanitarian aid, or supporting microfinance initiatives, these partnerships represent shared values and a commitment to improving lives.

We are proud to feature the logos of our partners as a symbol of unity and shared purpose. Together, we strive to build resilient, empowered communities in Zanzibar and beyond.



Partner Projects

Heritage Hands with TUI Care Foundation

This project focuses on preserving Zanzibar's rich cultural heritage while empowering local women and youth through skills training in traditional crafts. By providing artisans with the tools, training, and platforms they need, Heritage Hands enables them to showcase their work both locally and internationally. The initiative has not only kept cultural traditions alive but also created sustainable livelihoods for participants. In partnership with TUI Care Foundation, the program ensures that Zanzibari craftsmanship receives global recognition, fostering economic empowerment and cultural pride.



Zanzibar Legal Aid Collaboration

Assalam has partnered with the Zanzibar Legal Aid Department to expand access to justice for marginalized communities, especially women and children. This collaboration focuses on providing free legal support, raising awareness about legal rights, and addressing systemic issues like gender-based violence (GBV). Through community workshops, legal aid clinics, and advocacy, the project empowers individuals to protect their rights and navigate legal challenges. This partnership has been pivotal in promoting social justice and fostering resilience within vulnerable communities.



Sustainable Farming & Permaculture Training with Practical Permaculture Institute of Zanzibar & Msonge Farm

This initiative equips local farmers and communities with sustainable agriculture techniques that promote food security and environmental conservation. Through training programs, farmers learn about permaculture design, water-saving irrigation methods, and eco-friendly farming practices. Participants are empowered to grow their own food, reduce reliance on chemical fertilizers, and implement zero-waste systems. The partnership with the Practical Permaculture Institute of Zanzibar and Msonge Farm has enhanced the scope of this initiative, ensuring widespread adoption of sustainable farming practices across Zanzibar.



Global Aid Ambassador Program with Erasmus+

This international initiative connects Zanzibari youth with global opportunities for cultural exchange and skill-building. Under the Erasmus+ program, participants travel abroad to engage in humanitarian aid projects, gain new perspectives, and build cross-cultural networks. The Global Aid Ambassador Program empowers youth to act as agents of change in their communities while fostering collaboration and understanding between nations. This partnership highlights the global reach of Assalam's programs and its commitment to nurturing future leaders.



Community Resilience Programs with Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar

In collaboration with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, Assalam has launched community-driven projects aimed at strengthening neighborhoods and enhancing local governance. These programs focus on leadership development, social services, and education to empower residents to take active roles in shaping their communities. By fostering local engagement and resilience, this partnership ensures that solutions are culturally relevant, sustainable, and inclusive, directly addressing the needs of Zanzibar's most vulnerable populations.



We support the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Permaculture



Through sustainable farming practices, zero-waste initiatives, and composting systems, our permaculture programs teach communities to live sustainably and reduce waste.



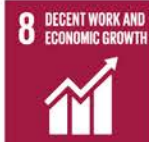
Our efforts in reforestation, biodiversity conservation, and organic farming practices help restore ecosystems and protect the natural environment in Zanzibar.

Education



By operating the Assalam International School and offering vocational training programs, we ensure inclusive, equitable, and quality education. We also provide life skills training to youth and adults, equipping them with tools for a brighter future.

Art & Culture



Our art and culture initiatives empower local artists, create sustainable income opportunities, and celebrate Zanzibar's rich heritage. Programs like traditional craft workshops and global showcases drive economic growth while preserving cultural heritage.

Community



Through humanitarian aid, food distribution, and microfinance programs, we address immediate needs while empowering families to break the cycle of poverty.



Our community resilience programs, local collaborations, and social enterprises contribute to creating inclusive and sustainable communities in Zanzibar.

Empowerment

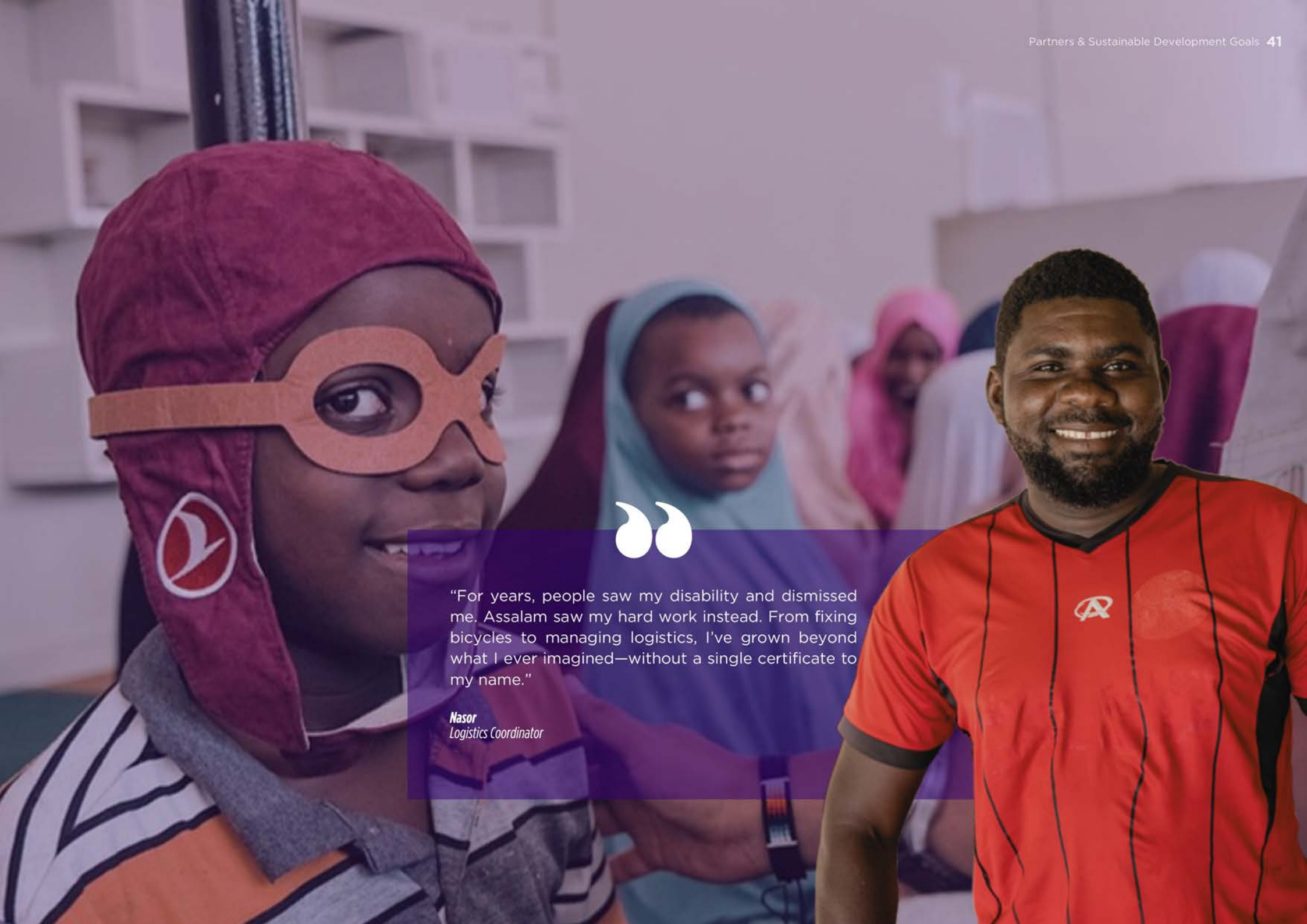


Our women's empowerment programs, including microfinance, vocational training, and leadership development, support women in gaining financial independence and achieving equality.



By teaching sustainable practices in soap-making, tailoring, and agriculture, we empower individuals to adopt eco-friendly solutions and build businesses rooted in sustainability.





“

“For years, people saw my disability and dismissed me. Assalam saw my hard work instead. From fixing bicycles to managing logistics, I’ve grown beyond what I ever imagined—without a single certificate to my name.”

Nasor
Logistics Coordinator

ASSALAM
OPENING
DOORS

WE SERVE THE CHILDREN
AND WOMEN OF
Africa

COME
and JOIN
US!



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