KOICA, the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training and UNOPS hand over school science labs in Zanzibar

The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT), and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) held a hand over ceremony at Machui Secondary School to mark the official handover of science laboratories in 10 secondary schools in Zanzibar. The ceremony took place on 13 Dec 2023 at Machui Secondary School, Ugunja, Zanzibar and was presided by Hon. Lela Muhamed Mussa, Zanzibar Minister of Education and Vocational Training, Mr. Manshik Shin, Country Director for KOICA Tanzania, and Mr. John Fofanah, UNOPS Project Manager.

As part of KOICA’s Enhancing the Quality of Secondary School Education through a holistic approach in Zanzibar (EQSSE-Z) project, UNOPS constructed science laboratory facilities
and procured laboratory equipment for 10 secondary schools in Unguja (5) and Pemba (5). In Unguja, the secondary schools include Bumbwiní, Fukuchani, Jendele, Machui and Jongowe; in Pemba; the schools include Chambani, Chanjamjawiri, Shumba, Uondwe and Wambaa Secondary schools. Each of the multipurpose science laboratories can accommodate a maximum of 40 students, at a time, and have been equipped with equipment and reagents necessary for conducting physics, chemistry, and biology science classes. The project has been funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) valued at USD 3 million.

The overall objective of the EQSSE-Z project is ensuring better teaching and learning in secondary schools through the development of teachers’ capability, improvement of the teaching and learning environment, and quality assurance in education with community-based monitoring. UNOPS’ role was to support KOICA in the delivery of the infrastructure component of the EQSSE-Z project to address the lack of science laboratories for learner-centred teaching and learning. In addition, the project supported the community during the construction period; creating employment for women who were able to support their families.

The project contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, which seeks to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
Hon. Lela Muhamed Mussa, Zanzibar Minister of Education and Vocational Training, said; “The laboratory is large and meets the needs for the students of those schools to learn practical science lessons and bring efficiency in teaching. The government hopes that the performance of science students in these secondary schools will increase following the existing good infrastructure”.

Mr. Manshik Shin, Country Director for KOICA Tanzania, said; “We believe that this investment is meaningful as it aligns with the objective of improving schools’ infrastructure and ensuring better teaching and learning in secondary schools through the development of teacher’s capability, improvement of the teaching and learning environment, and quality assurance in education with community-based monitoring”.

Mr. Rainer Frauenfeld, Director of UNOPS Office for East and Southern Africa, said; “We appreciate the opportunity to take part in this impactful project of enhancing secondary education in Zanzibar. UNOPS remains committed to supporting the Government and the people of Zanzibar in promoting inclusive and equitable quality education for all”. 
Notes to the editors:

**Press contact details:**
Leticia Wanyagi  
Communications  
UNOPS East and Southern Africa  
Email: leticiaw@unops.org

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**About KOICA**

Established in 1991, KOICA is a representative development cooperation agency of Korea. KOICA strives to realize universal values such as poverty eradication in developing countries and to be faithful to its original task of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Read more: [www.koica.go.kr](http://www.koica.go.kr)