

Scaling Global South Climate Solutions | Zero Waste School Program - Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



Our Zero Waste Schools solution supports Tanzanian students aged 7 -17 years to take practical climate action by integrating source segregation of waste, organic gardens, organic waste diversion and composting, recycling, and upcycling, enabling students, teachers, and school communities to reduce waste, lower methane emissions from organic waste, and build sustainable circular-economy practices from early ages.

Challenge

Tanzania's schools generate significant amounts of organic and recyclable waste that is often mixed, openly burned, or disposed of in uncontrolled areas, contributing to greenhouse-gas emissions, air pollution, soil and water contamination, and loss of valuable resources. The problem directly affects students, teachers, school staff, surrounding communities, and local authorities, while also increasing the cost and burden of waste management. It is particularly urgent now because rapid urbanization, growing school populations, increasing consumption, and climate impacts are intensifying waste volumes, while schools provide a strategic entry point for developing a new generation of climate-conscious citizens.

Solution

Engage, Educate, Empower is our program approach addresses this by integrating climate literacy and education through practical learning from school setting on diverting organic waste into compost and school organic gardens, recovering recyclables, and upcycling materials, turning waste from an environmental liability into a resource while contributing to significant climate resilience, circularity, and practical climate education. To make it possible we have embedded our program with the use of GIS and Kobo toolbox to collect data, analyse and make decisions.



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[Website](#)

[Instagram](#)



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Impact

- 10 schools implementing the Zero Waste Schools approach, up from 1 school in 2023.
- 12,000+ students reached through practical environmental education and participation in waste reduction, recycling, composting, upcycling, and organic gardening.
- 120 teachers trained and empowered to integrate zero-waste and climate-action practices into school management and learning.
- 5,000+ tonnes of plastic waste collected for recycling, preventing valuable materials from entering dumpsites, waterways, or being openly burned.
- 15,000+ tonnes of organic waste diverted from disposal and channelled into composting and school food gardens.
- Using the IPCC default methane emission factor of 4 kg CH₄ per tonne of waste treated through composting, the composting process itself is estimated to generate approximately 60 tonnes (60,000 kg) of CH₄; however, the methane emissions avoided through diversion from landfill/dumpsites should be calculated separately using the IPCC landfill methodology, as the actual avoided quantity depends on waste composition, disposal conditions, methane correction factors, and other site-specific parameters.
- Students are actively producing and consuming fresh organic vegetables from school gardens, linking waste diversion and composting with nutrition, food security, practical climate education, and healthier school environments.



Partners

- Funder: PKN, A German based foundation, NABU International
- Partner Implementers: Tanzania Cleanup and Conservation Initiative, Local Government

