

PROJECT LAUNCH REPORT

1.0 Introduction

Background

Human Dignity and Environmental Care Foundation (HUDEFO) is a Non-Governmental Organization established in February 2016 under the Non-Governmental Organization Act, 2002 with Registration No.ooNGO/R/0308 engaging on sustainable waste management, environmental conservation, and climate change through advocacy, training, and consultation.

The Jamii Ustawi na Mikoko Project is a one-year initiative implemented by HUDEFO in partnership with Klima und Natur, Funded by Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung. This project is implemented at Mbanja street in Lindi Urban district, Lindi Region, an area known for its extensive 23000 acres of mangrove forests with Mbanja having 130 acres. These critical ecosystems, however, face significant threats from both human activities and natural factors, including land reclamation by salt pans, deforestation, pollution, and global warming. The project was developed in response to the urgent need to combat coastal degradation, biodiversity loss, and community vulnerability due to climate change. Its aim is to restore 30 actres of degraded mangroves by planting 10,000 mangroves and establishing mangroves nurseries, enhance community resilience, develop 4 alternative livelihood options for surrounding communities, and raise awareness of mangrove conservation at Mbanja village in Lindi.

Launching Event Overview

The official Launch of the Jamii, Ustawi na Mikoko project was successfully conducted by HUDEFO on 28th June 2025 at Mbanja football playground. The event was marked by implementation of three core activities establishment of mangrove nursery, planting mangrove propagules and awareness session to the community members. The Launch event was exceptionally well attended with over 175 participants including key stakeholders such as representatives from Tanzania Forest Service (TFS), LGA representatives, Tanzania Girl Guide, Agha Khan Foundation, LANGO, Village Natural Resource Committee and Media Outlets such as ITV, Mashujaa and Mwananchi. The event commenced with establishment of mangrove nursery with 1310 seedlings, followed by planting 3473 mangrove propagules. The day concluded with mangrove conservation awareness session to all participants.

This integrated approach ensured that the launch not only marked the official commencement of the Jamii, Ustawi na Mikoko project but also immediately engaged the community in practical conservation efforts and vital

environmental education where 175 participants attended the sessions whereby 103 were females and 72 were males.

2.0 Objective of the Event

The general objective of the project launch event was to officially inaugurate the Jamii Ustawi na Mikoko Project, simultaneously initiating key conservation activities and fostering broad community and stakeholder engagement towards mangrove restoration and sustainable development in Mbanja Street.

3.0 Activities Implemented

Pre-Launch Activities and Event Preparation

The successful execution of the Jamii, Ustawi na Mikoko project launch event on June 28, 2025, was underpinned by a series of preparatory activities and strategic stakeholder engagements. These efforts ensured all logistical, administrative, and technical requirements were met.

Key preparatory activities included:

- **Acquiring Permit:** Follow-up was conducted to obtain necessary permit letters from both Lindi Municipal Council and Tanzania Forest Service (TFS). This ensured full compliance with local regulations for the planned activities.
- **Village Natural Resource Committee (VNRC) Engagement and Site Preparation:** A planning meeting was held with the Village Natural Resource Committee (VNRC). During this meeting, a pre-visit to the site was undertaken to assess its suitability and finalize logistical arrangements. Also, VNRC with the support from HUDEFO team facilitated the collection of mangrove seedlings which were used for mangrove 1nursery establishment and planting activities on launch day.
- **Stakeholder Planning Meetings:** Engagement meetings were held with key stakeholders, including representatives from the Tanzania Forest Service (TFS), Lindi Municipal Council and Mbanja Ward Local Government. These sessions were instrumental in coordinating roles, finalizing the event agenda with the aim of leveraging the expertise and support of all involved parties.

These preparatory steps were fundamental in laying the groundwork for a well-organized and impactful project launch, demonstrating HUDEFO's commitment to thorough planning and collaborative execution.



Mangrove Nursery Establishment

In a collaborative effort with the Village Natural Resources Committee (VNRC) a crucial mangrove nursery was successfully established at the selected Mbanja site during the project launch.

The establishment involved preparation of the soil and seedbeds, followed by the careful sorting and planting of mangrove seedlings. A total of 1,310 mangrove seedlings were successfully planted in the nursery on the launch day. This significant initial effort marks a foundational step towards the project's more ambitious goal of cultivating over 10,000 seedlings by the end of the current year (2025).

The VNRC demonstrated strong commitment to the project's sustainability by pledging to expand nursery efforts. Starting July 2025, regular planting sessions are scheduled twice a month, specifically on the 10th and 20th of each month, ensuring a continuous supply of healthy seedlings for future restoration activities with this commitment HUDEF0 will support in terms of purchasing any necessary materials, as well as logistical support to the VNRC committee.



Mangrove Propagules Planting Activities

To celebrate the official launch of the Jamii, Ustawi na Mikoko project, A significant mangrove restoration activity was undertaken with the participation of 175 individuals. This diverse group included representatives from Lindi District Council, personnel from local media outlets, Agha Khan Foundation, Tanzania Girl Guide, staff from HUDEF0 and Village Natural Resource Committee (VNRC), along with members of local communities, actively contributed to the initiative.

Through this collaborative effort, a total of 3,473 mangrove propagules were successfully planted. This achievement marks a substantial initial step toward restoring the affected coastal area, with the ambitious project goal of planting 100,000 mangrove propagules by the end of its implementation phase.

Mangrove forests play a crucial role in coastal ecosystems. They act as natural barriers, protecting coastal communities from the impacts of storms, floods, and rising sea levels. These dense stands of trees also provide critical habitats for a diverse range of marine life, including fish, crustaceans, and birds. Furthermore, mangroves contribute to carbon sequestration and water quality, helping to mitigate climate change by absorbing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide.

The successful planting of 3473 mangrove propagules is a significant step towards restoring the ecological balance of the coastal environment.



Mangrove Conservation Awareness

As a core component of our project launching event, we facilitated an intensive education and awareness session for community members. This session focused on critical aspects of mangrove conservation, highlighting the importance of mangroves to coastal communities, and exploring various alternative livelihood options that can reduce pressure on these vital ecosystems. The aim was to equip participants with knowledge and practical insights, fostering a deeper understanding of sustainable practices and the long-term benefits of mangrove protection.



4.0 Lessons Learnt

- community involvement fosters long-term project ownership and awareness.
- Early stakeholder engagement ensures smoother coordination and community support.
- Linking practical conservation with climate education helps build interest and action among young people.
- Establishing structured planting and nursery schedules promotes consistency and progress tracking by using GIS.
- Support from government officers (especially agricultural and community development officers) adds technical value and local sustainability.

5.0 Challenges Faced

- There was a gap in knowledge among some participants regarding benefits for mangrove conservation
- weather patterns along the coast occasionally affected the timing and smooth execution of planned field activities.
- On occasion, there was limited cooperation from certain local government leaders, which posed minor coordination challenges.

6.0 Way Forward (Next Phase)

- Scale up mangrove nurseries to produce over 10,000 seedlings by end of 2025.
- Conduct monthly mangrove planting events, especially on environmental observances.
- Introduce beekeeping activities with technical support from Tanzania Forest Services (TFS).
- Establish a Shamba Darasa (demonstration Farm) in Mambulu village for year-round vegetable farming.
- HUDEFo to coordinate regular meetings and follow-ups with VNRC and government officers for project accountability.
- Proceedings with awareness sessions on different groups specifically youth, women and children on different environmental aspect.
- HUDEFo will be empowering VNRC committee with capacity building and training on regenerative agriculture, sustainable bee keeping and mangrove conservation

7.0 Conclusion

The successful launch of the Jamii Ustawi na Mikoko (JUMP) Project marks a significant milestone in our collective efforts to combat coastal degradation and enhance community resilience in the Mbanja Ward of Lindi Region. The event not only officially inaugurated this vital initiative but also immediately translated project goals into action through the establishment of a mangrove nursery, the initial planting of over 3,400 propagules, and a crucial awareness session that engaged over 175 participants and stakeholders.

This promising start, made possible through the dedicated partnership of HUDEFÖ, Klima und Natur, and the Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung, along with the strong commitment from local authorities, the Village Natural Resource Committee (VNRC), and the enthusiastic Mbanja community, lays a solid foundation for the project's ambitious goals.

Photo Link

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/BxHVVjskZiQkHFEX8>