



University of Dar es Salaam

Institute of Marine Sciences

Enhancing resilience and the health of the
Western Indian Ocean: 2022-2024 Partners
Programme in the Era of COVID-19

Impacts, Interventions and Priority Areas at the
Institute of Marine Sciences



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Overview of IMS operational programmes

The UDSM Vision 2061 seeks to expand the University operations in terms of teaching, research, through increased Industrial cooperation

- IMS is a UDSM unit specialising in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in marine and coastal areas
- IMS is also mandated to undertake research work in all fields of coastal and marine sciences
- The establishment of IMS also mandates the Institute to offer Public Service (technical advice/outreach and consultancy) in the areas of coastal and marine science



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Challenges and impacts of COVID-19

- During the first wave of COVID-19 there was a freeze of teaching and research activities, the initial effects of programme stagnations were experienced
- No total lockdown but strict restrictions including temporary closures of teaching activities, travels and gatherings were experienced
- Affected areas of operations
 - Classes
 - Field research activities
 - Outreach activities such as workshops and meetings



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Challenges and impacts of COVID-19

- Shift from face-to-face consultations to online meetings in the situations of unreliable internet connectivity resulting in inefficiency and inactive/participation
- Online meetings have resulted in substantial unintended disruptions on other regular working schedules
- Delays in completion of projects
- Unplanned budgeting for putting in place protective measures



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Interventions

- Restructured semester durations (First semester shifted and shorted; second semester shortened)
- Project extensions without budgets – all projects were to be extended, some after lengthy discussions
- Cancellation of activities that were to involve physical meetings
- Change of mode of operations, e.g. work from home for those of 50+ of age, visitors and other service providers were restricted, encouraged electronic sharing of documents



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Policy recommendations

- Programme revisions to allow adoption of virtual teaching and assessment
- Invest in improved telecommunications infrastructure to enable virtual contact
- Project deliverable timelines have to be flexible