

## Summary of Reflections

Adriaan and Adam reflected on the overall experience of the meeting in Zanzibar, expressing gratitude for the turnout and participation, though recognising some challenges. Initially, the attendance was low due to participants travelling from different parts of the island, but it eventually grew to about 11 or 12 people.

One key observation was the language barrier. While a few participants were comfortable with English, most relied heavily on Swahili. The facilitation team had to use a translator, which posed challenges, especially when the translator left unexpectedly during the meeting. Despite these obstacles, there was adaptability among the group, with some participants stepping up to help with the translation and facilitation. This demonstrated resilience and cooperation among the participants.

Adriaan and Adam acknowledged that while language differences and logistical issues slowed down the process, the raw data collected in Swahili might be of higher quality since participants could express themselves more freely in their native language. However, the challenge remains in accurately translating and interpreting the data for analysis and reporting.

## Key Takeaways for Further Reflection

- 1. Language and Cultural Sensitivity:** The reliance on translation underscored the importance of cultural and language sensitivity in the research process. The research team must consider how language influences the depth of the conversations and be prepared to adapt to these challenges in future sessions. There is also an opportunity to explore the role of indigenous languages in shaping the narratives of resilience and crisis.
- 2. Adaptability in Facilitation:** The experience demonstrated the team's ability to adapt to unexpected changes, such as the departure of the translator. This adaptability is crucial when working in diverse contexts with limited resources. It also highlights the need for contingency plans, particularly when language barriers are present.
- 3. Timing and Structure of Sessions:** The reflection mentioned the challenge of time management, especially when sessions went over the allotted time. Starting the sessions earlier, as suggested by Lydia, could help alleviate this issue in the future. Writing down questions beforehand and being more direct in group assignments could also help streamline the process and make it more efficient.
- 4. Religious and Cultural Discrimination:** One of the more unique aspects of the Zanzibar context was the emphasis on religious discrimination. With the island's Muslim majority, Christian leaders and their congregations experience subtle forms of discrimination, such as exclusion from resources and opportunities. This adds a unique layer to the discussions of resilience and crisis in Zanzibar, compared to other regions where challenges like economic hardship or institutional failures were more prevalent.



- 5. Polycrisis and Layering of Crises:** The concept of polycrisis, where multiple crises are layered on top of each other, was highlighted. In Zanzibar, religious discrimination appears to be a foundational issue that exacerbates other crises, such as economic hardship or social exclusion. This raises the question of whether foundational crises, like religious discrimination, can magnify other challenges, creating a unique dynamic that needs to be explored further in other regions.

## Conclusion

The reflection emphasises the need for continued learning and adaptation as the team moves forward in the research. The unique challenges in Zanzibar, such as religious discrimination and language barriers, offer valuable insights into the broader dynamics of resilience and crisis in the region. Moving forward, the team will take these lessons into account as they continue their journey through East Africa, ensuring that they remain open to listening, learning, and asking better questions.

