

VOICE OF YOUTH TANZANIA GRADUATE STORIES - 2022-2026

VOICE OF YOUTH TANZANIA

Ujuzi

The Her Voice Ujuzi Wangu story magazine

SUCCESS STORIES EDITION

8/8 *graduates in this issue now earn an income*

COVER STORY

Bertha opens her own sewing shop

INTERNSHIPS

The interns who stayed

EMPLOYMENT

Sewing in the Serengeti

ENTERPRISE

Saving for a salon in Mbeya

Inside

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Six months to a skill that pays

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EIGHT WOMEN, EIGHT WAYS INTO WORK

8/8

Welcome to this edition of Ujuzi. It brings together eight young women who trained with VOYOTA's Her Voice Ujuzi Wangu programme between 2022 and 2026, and follows each of them into the work she does today.

Their routes into work are different. Bertha found a sponsor and opened a shop. Lydia and Queen turned short internships into jobs. Mwanahamisi spent a year earning and learning at our hub before moving on to better pay. Rizik is building a business in Mbeya one sale at a time, and Jackline sews for a safari company in the Serengeti.

What they share is a skill they can live on. Every one of them started with a training place, and every one of them is now earning. The last pages explain how partners can help the next cohort do the same.

VOICE OF YOUTH TANZANIA

THE GRADUATES IN THIS ISSUE


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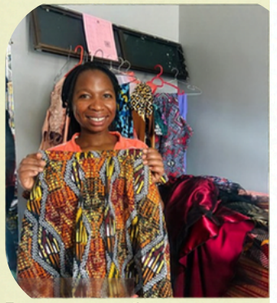

Jesca • p. 16

SIX MONTHS TO A SKILL THAT PAYS

A Her Voice Ujuzi Wangu tailoring class.

Her Voice Ujuzi Wangu is VOYOTA's skills and economic empowerment programme for adolescent girls and young women. Over six months, trainees learn a trade together with the business and life skills they need to keep earning once the course ends. After graduation, VOYOTA helps them take the next step into work.

WHAT TRAINEES LEARN

- Tailoring and fashion
- Hairdressing and beauty
- Baking
- Computer literacy
- English language
- Business development

SUPPORT ALONGSIDE

- Life skills education
- Sexual and reproductive health education
- Leadership coaching

AFTER GRADUATION

- Internships with partner businesses, a proven route into paid jobs
- The VOYOTA incubation hub, where graduates earn while a mentor builds their skills
- Entrepreneurship training for those who start their own business

FROM CLASSROOM TO INCOME

1 Enrol
Adolescent girls and young women join a training cohort.

2 Train
Six months of trade, business and life skills.

3 Practise
An internship with a partner business, or paid work at the VOYOTA hub.

4 Earn
A paid job, or a business of her own.



BERTHA

Tailoring Graduate • Shop Owner

ONE SHOP, A TEAM OF FOUR

Bertha trained as a tailor, found a sponsor and opened her own sewing shop. Three young women now work there with her.

Bertha joined the Her Voice Ujuzi Wangu tailoring class and saw the course through to graduation. She left with a trade, but opening a business takes capital, and she had none.

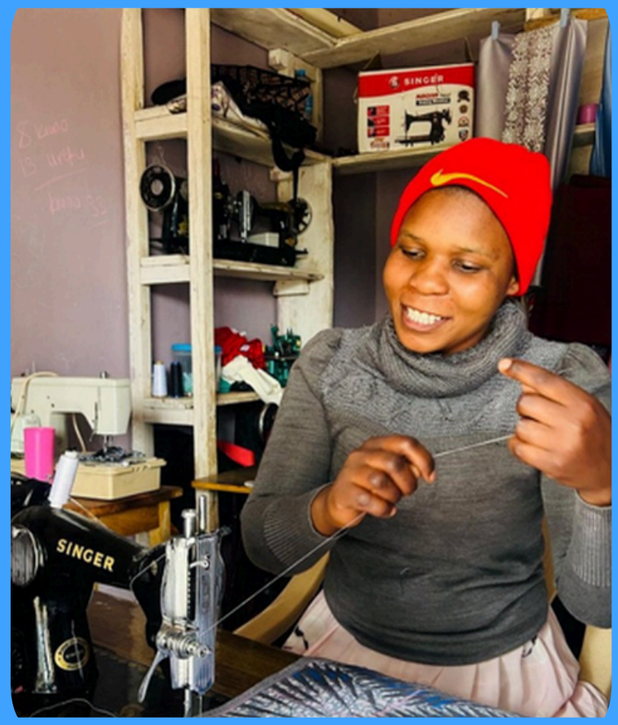
A sister from the Catholic church introduced her to a sponsor who agreed to back her. With that support, Bertha opened a sewing shop of her own.

The shop now takes orders for made-to-measure clothing, and Bertha works there alongside three other young women.

HER PATH

- Completed the tailoring course
- Introduced to a sponsor through the Catholic church
- Opened her own sewing shop
- Today: works alongside three other young women

One training place has become a workplace for four.



RIZIK

Saving for a salon, one sale at a time

A beauty and hairdressing graduate runs two small businesses while she builds the capital for her own salon.

Rizik graduated from the beauty and hairdressing course and now lives in Mibeya Region. Her goal is a salon of her own, and she is building the capital for it herself.

The entrepreneurship training she received at VOYOTA gave her the know-how to run more than one small business at a time. She makes and bottles liquid soap, and she cooks and sells snacks.

Both businesses give her an income of her own today, and every sale moves her closer to opening the salon.

HER PATH

01 Beauty and hairdressing course

02 Entrepreneur ship training

03 Soap and snack busines

04 Next: her own salon



Rizik cooking snacks for sale in Mibeya.



Above, liquid soap she makes and bottles. Below, snacks packed for customers.

THE INTERNS WHO STAYED

A short internship gave Lydia and Queen the chance to prove themselves. Both companies asked them back, and both now employ them.



Lydia — NGARAMTONI

By the end of the tailoring course, Lydia knew she wanted to become a fashion designer. She secured a one-month internship with a partner company in Ngramtoni to get real workshop experience.

Her supervisor noticed her drive and her eagerness to learn, and the company wanted to keep supporting her. After she graduated, they brought her back for three more months of training, then hired her.

Lydia now sews school uniforms and other clothing. Her salary covers her own needs and helps support her family.

Course — Internship — Three months' further training — Hired

Queen — GARMENT MAKING

Queen completed the tailoring course, which included a one-month internship with a garment company. Her diligence stood out, and the company took note.

After she graduated, the company called her back. She resumed training with them in garment making and was then taken on as an employee.

Today Queen sews a wide range of garments for the same company that first hosted her as an intern.

Course — Internship — Called back for more training — Hired



FOR EMPLOYERS

Two internships, two job offers. A business that opens its doors to a trainee may be meeting its next skilled employee.

THE HUB CLASS OF 2025



Mwanahamisi

FASHION AND TAILORING

A YEAR THAT PAID OFF

Mwanhamisi spent a year earning and learning at the VOYOTA hub. Now she is moving on to better pay.

After graduating in 2025, Mwanhamisi chose to join the VOYOTA incubation hub, where she worked for a year. She earned an income there that covered her basic needs while she kept building her skills.

At the hub she worked with a mentor who helped her master fashion and tailoring including how to make hair ties in a range of styles. The year gave her real workshop experience.

That experience has paid off. Mwanhamisi has now found a new job where she will earn more.

She earned while she learned, and the experience took her to a better job.



Sewing a hair tie, one of the styles she mastered at the hub.

HER PATH

- Graduated in 2025
- A year of paid work at the VOYOTA hub
- Mentored in fashion and tailoring
- Today: a new, better-paid job

SEWING IN THE SERENGETI

Jackline makes guide uniforms and works on tents, balloons and camp chairs for a tourism company in one of Africa's best-known wildlife parks.

Jackline trained in sewing through the Her Voice Ujuzi Wangu programme. Her skills earned her a position with a tourism company working in the Serengeti.

The work goes well beyond everyday clothing. She sews uniforms for the tour guides and works on the heavy materials a safari operation depends on: balloons, tents and camp chairs.

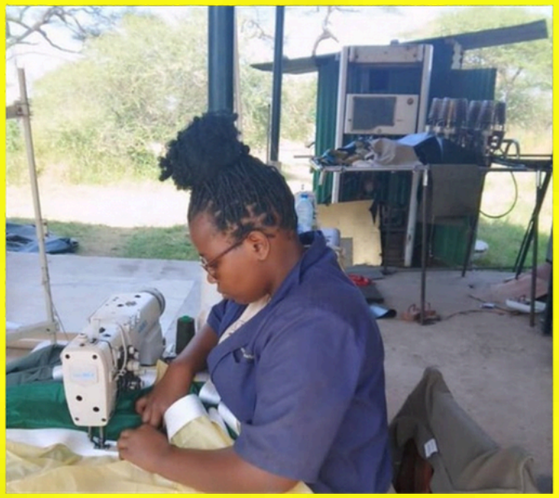
The job lets her support herself and her family. She is proud of the training she was given, and of where it has taken her.

A sewing course led her to a workshop in the Serengeti, and a wage that supports her family.

HER PATH

Sewing course → Hired by a tourism company → Uniforms, tents and balloons → Supporting her family





Heavy canvas on the industrial machine.



Canvas work from the workshop.

EMPLOYMENT - NEW JOBS, NEW STARTS



FASHION DESIGNER AND TAILOR

Dorcas

When her employer moved away, her skills found her a new job.

After completing her tailoring course, Dorcas got a job at a sewing supplies shop. Her employer gave her a sewing machine so she could keep making clothes for customers while she worked there.

She then got married and took a three- month break. While she was away, her employer relocated.

Her reputation for hard work carried her through. Dorcas found a new position, and she is now employed as a fashion designer and tailor.

HER PATH



UJUZI



CLASS OF 2026 • FASHION DESIGN

Jesca

She studied while working as a house help. Now she works in fashion design.

Jesca Mzoly joined the VOYOTA sewing class while still working as a house help, fitting her training around her job. She graduated in June 2026.

Soon after, she was hired in fashion design. She works alongside the shop owner and another woman, and she is very happy in her new job.

The job is her first step toward independence. Jesca still lives where she worked as a house help, and plans to start a life of her own after her first three months of paid work.

HER PATH



EIGHT GRADUATES EIGHT INCOMES

8/8
earn an income from the skills they learned

6
are in paid employment

2
run their own businesses

+3
more young women work in a graduate's shop

Figures describe the eight graduates featured in this issue.

WHERE THEY ARE NOW

GRADUATE	TRAINED IN	TODAY	ROUTE INTO WORK
Bertha	Tailoring	Owns a sewing shop, with three young women working alongside her	Sponsor backing
Rizik	Hairdressing and beauty	Makes and sells liquid soap and snacks in Mbeya; saving for a salon	Own enterprise
Lydia	Tailoring	Sews school uniforms for a partner company in Ngarantoni	Internship
Queen	Tailoring	Sews garments for the company where she interned	Internship
Mwanahamisi	Tailoring	Starting a better-paid job after a year at the VOYOTA hub	Incubation hub
Jackline	Tailoring	Sews for a tourism company in the Serengti	Sponsor backing
Dorcas	Tailoring	Employed as a fashion designer and tailor	Sponsor backing
Jesca	Tailoring	Works in a fashion design shop	Sponsor backing



PARTNER WITH US

Every woman in this issue started with a training place. Partners make those places possible, and they open the doors that turn training into income: internships, jobs and backing for new businesses.

Fund a training cohort

Cover trainee places, materials and trainers for a six-month course.

Equip the workshop

Provide the tools trainees learn on: sewing machines, salon equipment and computers.

Open your workplace

Host interns or hire graduates, as Lydia's and Queen's employers did.

Back a graduate's business

Start-up support helped Bertha open a shop where three more young women now work.

Voice of Youth Tanzania
P.O. Box 529, Usa River, Leganga
Arusha, Tanzania
Reg. No. NGO/R2/000297

Get in touch
info@voyota.org
+255 755 427 000
www.voyota.org

Our vision: a Tanzanian society with unlimited possibilities and transformative opportunities for youth.

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