VOICE OF YOUTH TANZANIA

The voice of young people in Tanzania, and the work that amplifies it.



SAUTI YA VIJANA

SKILLS TO EARN, A VOICE TO LEAD: OUR THIRD QUARTER

In July, 26 young women began six months of vocational training with Her Voice Ujuzi Wangu, and some are already making liquid and bar soap. In Monduli, 126 training places helped adolescent girls and young women build income skills and the confidence to lead. Through Going Beyond, 96 young people learned to market and run their businesses online. We carried young people's concerns to district and national policy forums, trained students and male allies on menstrual justice in four schools, and completed our first U HUB mentoring cohort, where confidence rose by 24%. Full stories inside, from page 4.

Q3 · JUL–SEP 2026

IMPACT MAGAZINE · ISSUE 3





KEEPING YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE COMES FIRST

No safeguarding concerns were reported this quarter. Our Safeguarding Officer leads the work across every project, backed by clear policies, a code of conduct, parental consent and young people's own assent, home visits to trainees' families and referral pathways for survivors of GBV. Read the full update on page 13.

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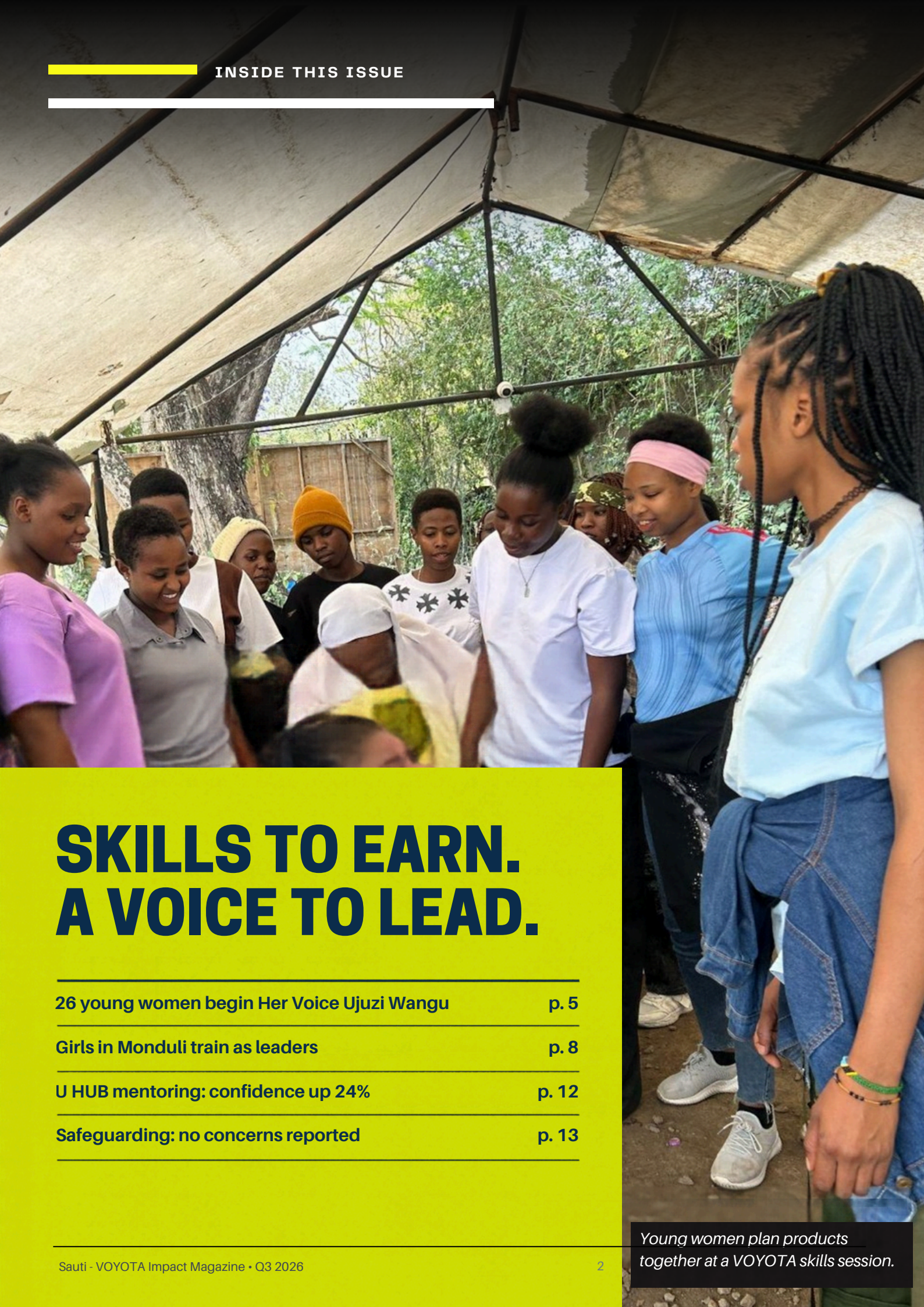

Young women plan products together at a VOYOTA skills session.

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ABOUT VOYOTA

A youth-led, non-profit organisation based in Usa River, Arusha, VOYOTA began in 2012 as the Talanta Mtaani youth movement and registered as an NGO in 2017. We work with young people aged 15-35 on livelihoods, health, civic voice, the environment and skills.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE DID WITH WHAT THEY LEARNED

Dear partners and friends,

This quarter was about young people putting new skills to work. In July, 26 young women began Her Voice Ujuzi Wangu. Within weeks some were making liquid and bar soap, and three young women are now working at our Hub. In Monduli, adolescent girls trained as leaders and spoke up on health and rights at International Youth Day.

We also carried young people's concerns into the rooms where decisions are made: the Monduli NGO Forum, the launch of the national strategy to end FGM, and the first stakeholder meeting on Tanzania's new adolescent health and well-being programme.

Not everything went to plan. Some trainees cannot practise digital selling because they do not own a smartphone, long distances made outreach harder, and we still need proper SRH teaching aids and a certified instructor. This issue sets these out plainly, with what we are doing and where a partner could help.

Keeping young people safe comes first. No safeguarding concerns were reported this quarter, and we keep strengthening consent, family engagement and referral in every project.

Thank you to every partner, council, school and family who made this work possible.

Vincent Uhega

Executive Director, Voice of Youth Tanzania

AT A GLANCE • JULY-SEPTEMBER 2026

THE QUARTER IN NUMBERS

26
young women enrolled
Her Voice Ujuzi Wangu, from July

96
young people reached
Going Beyond digital and enterprise skills

126
training places in Monduli
Her Voice AFYA income and leadership training

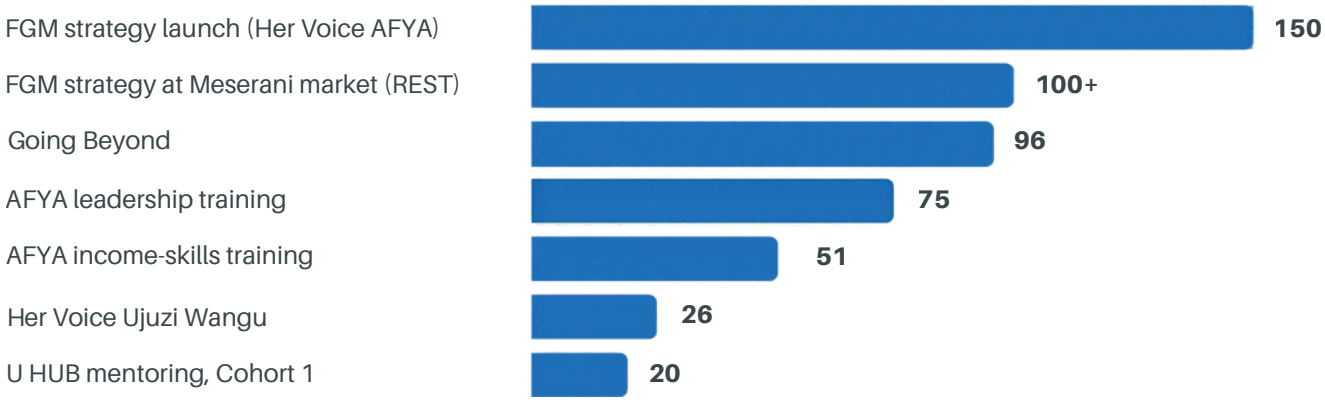
4
Partner schools
TPEN menstrual health and justice training

3
Policy forums joined
District and national, through REST

0
Safeguarding concerns
reported across all projects

PEOPLE TAKING PART, BY ACTIVITY

Q3 2026 - participants recorded at each activity



Counts are per activity and are not added together, because some young people took part in more than one. *100+* is drawn at 100.

WHERE WE WORKED: MONDULI DISTRICT

Her Voice AFYA in Sepeko, Engutoto and Monduli Juu wards; REST outreach at Meserani market; TPEN in four partner schools.

WHERE WE WORKED: ARUSHA AND MERU

Ujuzi Wangu classes and Hub, Going Beyond sessions, U HUB mentoring and the national adolescent health stakeholder meeting.



HER VOICE UJUZI WANGU

LEARNING A TRADE, STARTING TO EARN

Six months of vocational training, with business, health and life skills alongside. In July, a new group of 26 young women began classes.

Trainees put their skills into practice at the Hub.

FAMILIES ON SIDE FROM DAY ONE

Before the first class, our team visited every trainee at home. We wanted to understand how she lives, confirm that the training was right for her, and explain the programme to her parents. The visits also built trust between VOYOTA and each family.

A parents' meeting followed. Parents met the teachers, saw where their daughters study and heard about graduation and the Hub. They promised to support their daughters through to the end of the course.

Trainees also took their products to Adult Education Week, where they explained the project to other young people and built new contacts.

26 young women enrolled in July

6 learning areas, from tailoring to mental health

3 young women now working at the Hub

A TRAINEE'S PATH THROUGH THE PROGRAMME

1. Interview and home visit
2. Classes begin in July
3. Practice at the Hub every Wednesday
4. Show products in public
5. Graduate into work or the Hub

WHAT THEY LEARN

- Sewing, fashion and tailoring
- Hairdressing and salon
- Entrepreneurship and digital business content
- Mental health
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Team building

WHAT THEY MAKE

Liquid soap | Bar soap | Shampoo | Tile cleaner | Bleach (Jik) | Body oil

Some trainees are already making liquid and bar soap on their own, the first step towards selling it.

The Hub is still operating. Three young women have joined it and now work there, and every Wednesday current trainees go to the Hub for practical sessions.

GOING BEYOND • DIGITAL AND ENTERPRISE SKILLS

DIGITAL SKILLS, WITH SOMETHING REAL TO SELL

96

young people reached and engaged this quarter

Going Beyond is a youth economic empowerment initiative running in Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Côte d'Ivoire. It is funded by the Mastercard Foundation under its Young Africa Works strategy, led globally by the Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT) and delivered in Tanzania by E-MAC Tanzania. Through it, VOYOTA helps young people in Arusha spot opportunities, then gives them the digital and practical skills to act on them.



Sell online

Marketing a business on social media, running digital business operations and keeping records digitally.



Get formal

Using online public services: the YES portal, TRA services and the platforms for business licences.



Make products

Hands-on production of liquid soap, tie-and-dye (batiqi), shampoo and other household goods.



Save together

How to join and make the most of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and VICOBA groups.

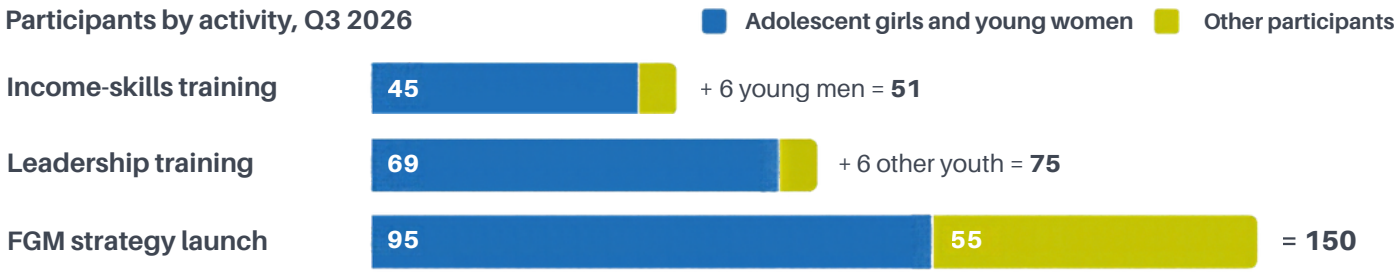
WHAT WE LEARNED

Pairing digital business skills with real products to make and sell keeps young entrepreneurs engaged. Our facilitators also grew more confident mentoring young people across a wide range of social and economic issues.

CONFIDENCE TO LEAD, SKILLS TO EARN

Her Voice AFYA works with adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in Monduli District, where many face poor access to health services, gender-based violence, early pregnancy and harmful practices such as FGM. This quarter we tackled two barriers head on: too few ways to earn, and too few chances to take part in decisions.

WHO TOOK PART



INCOME SKILLS

Soap that can become a small business

Few jobs and weak business skills keep many young women dependent. 51 young people, 45 of them AGYW, learned liquid soap production and basic business management, so they can start small businesses and earn their own income.

LEADERSHIP

Finding a voice in community decisions

75 young people, 69 of them AGYW, worked on leadership, self-confidence and public speaking. They shared what stops girls taking part, and practised stating their views, defending their rights and joining community structures.

9 IN 10 training places this quarter went to adolescent girls and young women: 114 of 126 across the income-skills and leadership sessions.

GIRLS' VOICES IN PUBLIC SPACES

AUG

International Youth Day

With Monduli District Council, we joined the district's celebrations. The Guest of Honour, District Commissioner Ms Gloriana, urged young people to prevent HIV through correct condom use and regular testing, and to protect themselves from TB and malaria. Girls and the wider community were urged to reject FGM and early marriage. Our AFYA champions encouraged their peers to use youth-friendly health services and to put their skills to work.

HIV | TB | Malaria | Drug abuse | Sexual and reproductive health | FGM

Q3

Regional Technical Group

We presented results and lessons from Sepeko, Engutoto and Monduli Juu wards to civil society, government and funding partners. The meeting showcased our work on GBV prevention, girls' leadership and economic empowerment, and opened conversations on technical support, partnerships and funding.

150

Ending FGM: Strategy Launch

At the Monduli launch of the National Multisectoral Strategy to End FGM 2025/26-2029/30, 150 people took part, 95 of them adolescent girls and young women. We shared what AFYA has achieved against GBV and FGM. Our champions explained their role in community meetings and awareness work, and spoke frankly about how hard it still is for girls to reach protection, health and support services.

Building on a Policy Win

AFYA's 2025 baseline led to an MoU with Monduli District Council and to by-laws on girls' and young women's participation in decision-making, validated in January 2026. This quarter's leadership training prepares girls to use that space.

REST • REPRODUCTIVE EQUITY STRATEGY • WITH DSW-TANZANIA

YOUNG PEOPLE'S HEALTH AND RIGHTS, TAKEN INTO POLICY ROOMS

13 JULY • DISTRICT

Monduli Annual NGO Forum

More than 50 NGOs met government officials, social workers and financial institutions to discuss child protection policies, tax compliance, NGO financing and how Police Gender Desks respond to and report GBV cases.

21 JULY • COMMUNITY

Ending FGM, at Meserani market

With government partners we shared the National Multisectoral Strategy to End FGM with over 100 community members: why FGM happens, the harm it does, how to protect girls, and how to report violence against children through the free helpline 116.

17-18 SEPTEMBER • NATIONAL

A new national adolescent health programme

At the first stakeholder meeting on the National Multisectoral Adolescent Health and Well-Being Programme 2026/27-2030/31, convened by the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, participants named weak coordination, poor data, mental health and FGM as gaps. They agreed adolescents, including those out of school, must help shape research and policy.



Community members at Meserani market receive materials on ending FGM.



Police, government and NGO representatives at a district forum this quarter.

Rest Since 2022 • Meru and Monduli Districts

39
GBV survivors linked to services (32 female, 7 male)

120
VAWC committee members and community leaders trained

10
health providers trained (5 women, 5 men)

14
partner health facilities



A menstrual health session at a partner school in Monduli.

TPEN · WITH THE PERIOD EQUALITY NETWORK AND IRISE INSTITUTE

MENSTRUAL HEALTH IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

Our project, *Strengthening Local Capacity for Community-Led Menstrual Justice in Monduli District*, moved from start-up and baseline into the classroom. Using TPEN guidelines and period-education materials, we trained students in four partner schools and challenged the myths, stigma, shame and discrimination around periods.

Eight male allies and teachers trained alongside them, so that boys and school staff help make school a safe and supportive place for girls.

WHAT STUDENTS LEARNED

- ✓ Puberty and menstruation
- ✓ Good menstrual hygiene
- ✓ Why clean water, soap and privacy matter
- ✓ What decent facilities look like
- ✓ Myths, stigma and shame
- ✓ Menstrual justice

8 male allies and teachers trained

PARTNER SCHOOLS

- Nanja Secondary
- Irkisongo Ole Secondary
- Sokoine Primary
- Enyorata Primary



Standing up for a #PeriodFriendlyWorld with school and community partners.

THE LESSON WE TAKE FORWARD

Menstrual justice cannot be won with information for girls alone. Boys, male allies, teachers, families and school leaders all have a part in ending stigma.

U HUB • USHAURI YOUTH HUB • WITH UMD

MENTORING THAT BUILDS CONFIDENCE

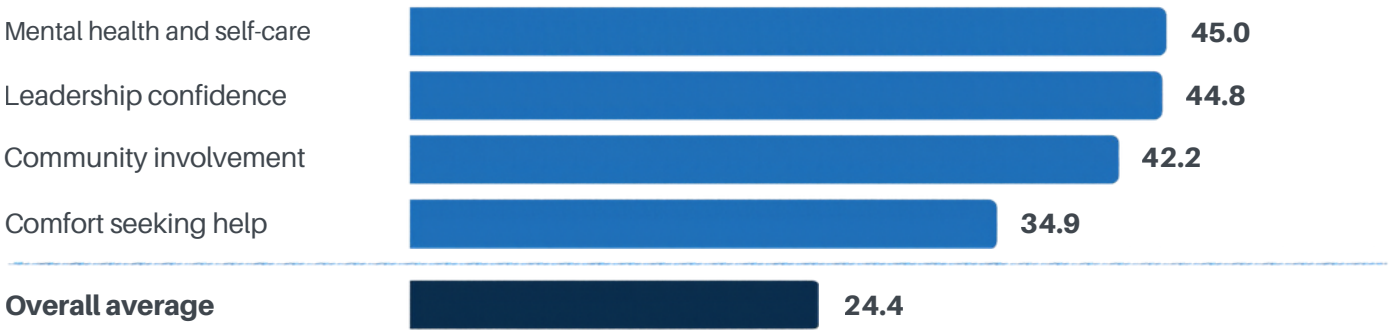
U HUB pairs young people with experienced mentors, in partnership with the University of Maryland School of Public Health (UMD). Cohort 1 brought together 20 participants, ten mentor-mentee pairs, for an 11-week programme of in-person sessions with VOYOTA and virtual modules from the University of Maryland. Participants rated themselves before and after.

3.53 → 4.39
average self-rating out of 5, before and after

+24.4%
overall improvement across all measures

WHERE PARTICIPANTS GREW MOST

Change in average self-rating, before to after the programme (%)



Self-ratings on a 1–5 scale. Pre-programme survey: 13 respondents. Post-programme survey: 16 respondents, 11 of them matched to a pre-programme response.

87.5% rated their one-to-one sessions with UMD excellent or good, and all want them kept

13/16 participants say they are ready to become mentors themselves

WHAT WE WILL CHANGE FOR THE NEXT COHORT

Not every pair received the one-to-one sessions we planned, so we will build more of them into the schedule. We will also use the improved survey questions UMD suggested from the first week, since this cohort finished before they could be added.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE - JULY-SEPTEMBER 2026

KEEPING YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE COMES FIRST

0 safeguarding concerns or incidents were reported across VOYOTA's projects this quarter.

A quiet quarter is not a reason to relax. These are the systems that keep it that way.

A dedicated lead

Jackline Mshana, our Safeguarding Officer, leads safeguarding across all projects and is the first contact for any concern.

Consent first

For anyone under 18, a parent gives consent and the young person gives their own assent before they take part or share personal information.

Referral pathways

Through REST, survivors of GBV are linked to medical and legal help, working with Police Gender Desks and social welfare: 39 survivors since 2022.

Clear policies

Safeguarding, PSEA and child protection, and whistleblowing policies, with a code of conduct for staff, volunteers and youth champions.

Families involved

This quarter our team visited every Ujuzi Wangu trainee at home and met parents before and during training.

Helpline promoted

At Meserani market we showed community members how to report violence against children on the free national helpline, 116.

HOW TO RAISE A CONCERN

If you are worried about the safety of a young person, or the conduct of anyone connected with VOYOTA, contact our Safeguarding Officer at info@oyota.org or +255 755 427 000. To report violence against a child, call the free national helpline: **116.**

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS

WHAT GOT IN THE WAY, AND WHAT WE ARE DOING ABOUT IT

CHALLENGE	EFFECT	RESPONSE, AND WHERE A PARTNER CAN HELP
Not every trainee owns a smartphone	Digital skills fade and online selling is out of reach	**Help:** a shared device pool so trainees and graduates keep practising
No specialised SRH teaching aids (such as the "red bucket" kit) and no certified SRH instructor	Ministry of Health messages may not land fully	We teach to national policies and guidelines. Help: teaching kits and instructor certification
Stigma in mixed-gender discussions, and language barriers in some communities	Some students and community members hold back	Translate or clarify where needed, with accurate, respectful terms; give male allies and teachers clear actions
Long distances between target areas	Hard to reach young people regularly for digital business training	**Help:** transport and outreach support for facilitators
Irregular attendance at some centres; some drop-outs when sessions clash with daily routines	Fewer young people complete the training	Plan sessions around routines and school exams; track attendance and follow up with absent trainees

FOUR LESSONS WE ARE ACTING ON

Menstrual justice needs everyone

Boys, male allies, teachers, families and school leaders all have a role. Messages must be reinforced in everyday school life, not left to one session.

Schools need the basics

We will encourage partner schools to review clean water, soap, private changing spaces and safe ways to dispose of or wash menstrual materials.

Work closely with government

REST showed again that change sticks when district and national government are partners from the start.

Measure as we go

Simple pre- and post-session questions, participant feedback and attendance records will show what is working and what to change.

LEGACY · YEFFA – AJIRA YANGU · WITH AGRA

TWO YEARS, 300,000 YOUNG PEOPLE

YEFFA (Youth Employment in Agriculture) reached closeout in mid-2026. Across eight regions it set out to show young Tanzanians that farming can be a profitable, dignified career. These are its results to close.

300,000+ young people mobilized	**119,274** trained in agribusiness and agronomy	**5,442** jobs created	**800** Village-Based Advisors trained
124 youth groups formed	**198** cooperatives strengthened	**130** youth-led organisations supported	**8** regions

Regions: Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida, Dodoma, Rukwa, Katavi and Kagera. YEFFA also promoted digital farming tools, including Kilimo BANDO.

COMING NEXT · OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2026

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE



Students at the Youth Policy Dialogue, Monduli.

30–31 OCTOBER · MONDULI

Youth Policy Dialogue, with SOS Children's Villages Tanzania

Under the theme *Ijue Sera, Paza Sauti, Tuchukue Hatua Pamoja* (Know the policy, raise your voice, act together), young people agreed resolutions on day one and council decision-makers answered with commitments on day two.

NOVEMBER–DECEMBER · MERU AND ARUSHA DISTRICT COUNCILS

SIO POA – Tokomeza Ukatili wa Kijinsia: 16 Days of Activism

With CHRAGG and the Office of the District Commissioner, Arumeru: training for gender desks, police, courts and social welfare officers; youth consultations on how GBV cases are handled; an awareness caravan; and an online campaign against violence.

PARTNER WITH US

WHERE YOUR SUPPORT GOES FURTHEST

Each opportunity below comes straight from what this quarter taught us. Any one can be funded on its own or as part of a wider partnership, and we report back on what your support achieves.

1 **Sponsor the next Ujuzi Wangu cohort**

Six months of trade, business, health and life-skills training, with home visits and practice at the Hub.

2 **Keep graduates connected**

A shared smartphone pool so trainees and graduates keep practising digital marketing and can sell online.

3 **Equip our health educators**

SRH teaching kits, including the "red bucket", and certification for a dedicated SRH instructor.

4 **Make schools period-friendly**

Clean water, soap, private changing spaces and health programs to washing in our four Monduli partner schools.

5 **Reach young people further out**

Transport and outreach so training reaches young people in distant villages every week, not now and then.

6 **Back youth voice in policy**

Help youth champions take part in council and health committee meetings, and carry their evidence into national policy.

THE PROGRAMMES IN THIS ISSUE ARE FUNDED, LED OR SUPPORTED WITH

DSW-Tanzania · The Period Equality Network (TPEN) and Irise Institute · Mastercard Foundation · Digital Opportunity Trust · E-MAC Tanzania · University of Maryland School of Public Health · AGRA · SOS Children's Villages Tanzania · CHRAGG · Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups · Monduli and Meru District Councils · partner schools, health facilities and families

TALK TO US

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ASANTE SANA





EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY, TRANSFORMING TANZANIA TOMORROW

OUR VOICE IS OUR POWER

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

PARTNER WITH VOYOTA

Every opportunity in this issue, from the next Ujuzi Wangu cohort to period-friendly schools, can be funded on its own or as part of a wider partnership. To discuss funding, technical support or a visit to our programmes, contact Vincent Uhega, Executive Director, at uhega@voyota.org or info@voyota.org, or call +256 755 427 000. P.O. Box 529, Usa River, Leganga, Arusha · NGO registration NGO/R2/000297.

WHAT WE WORK ON

- Youth empowerment and economic development
- Civic engagement and leadership
- Health education and wellbeing
- Education and skills development
- Environment and sustainability

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