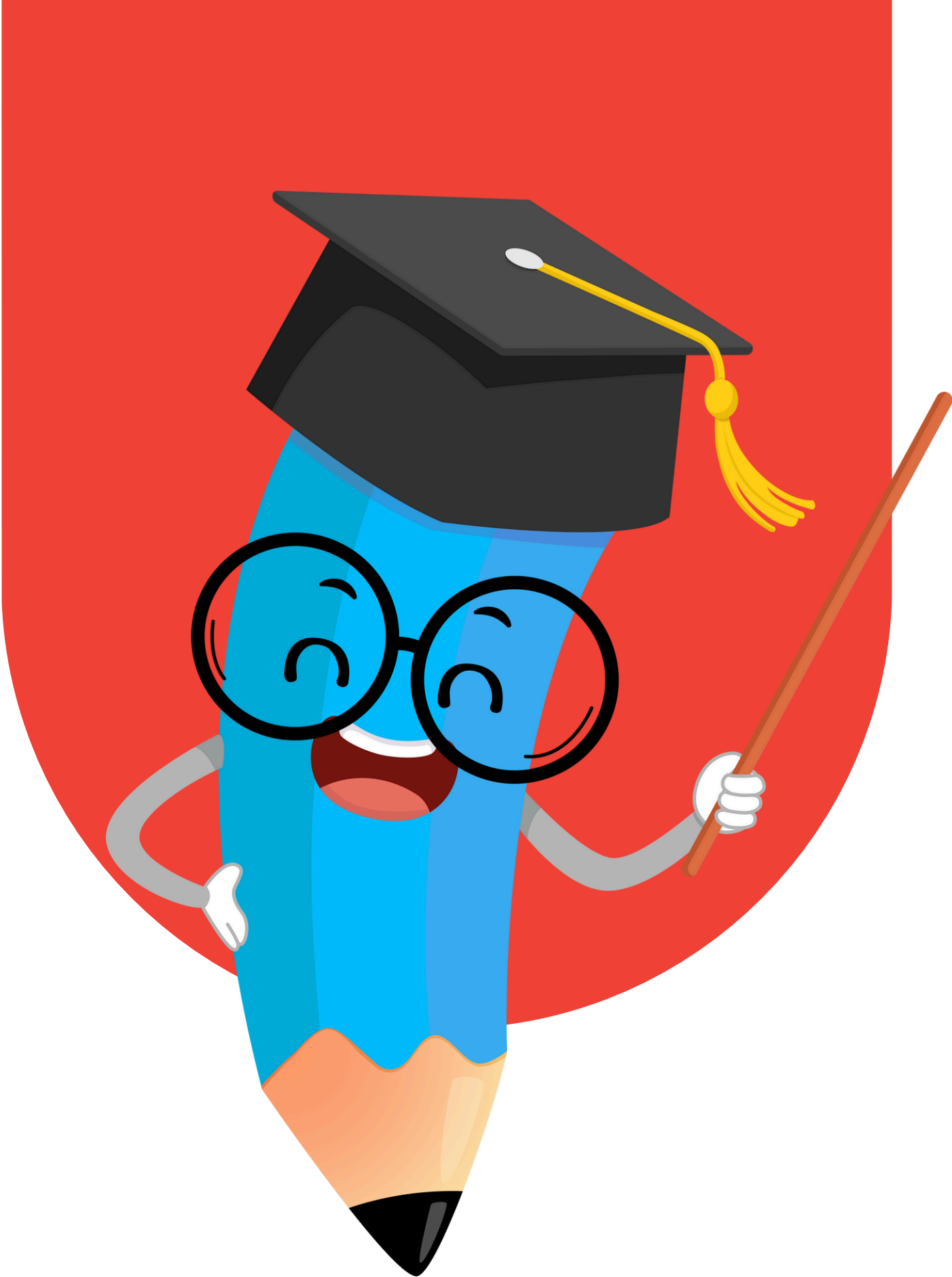




**Amani Girls
Organization**
Empowering Girls 4 Sustainable Development

AMANI GIRLS ORGANIZATION (AGO) ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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A WORD FROM THE ORGANIZATION CHAIRPERSON

Dear Partners and Friends of AGO,

As we reflect on the year 2025, we are deeply grateful for the opportunity to continue serving communities across the country. Working in close collaboration with Government structures, we have supported key areas such as Early Childhood Development, the promotion of antenatal and postnatal clinic attendance, improved health and nutrition for children under five, and strengthened community awareness on preventing violence against women and children. Our efforts have also expanded to address the critical needs of adolescent girls, including supporting school re-entry for adolescent mothers, preventing early and forced marriage, and reducing age-disparate and transactional sexual relationships between young girls and adult men. This year, despite the significant challenge posed by the conclusion of USAID My Health – Mother and Child funding and the departure of some staff, AGO demonstrated its resilience. With renewed energy and creative problem-solving, we secured support from new and existing partners who share our mission. Former USAID project staff have seamlessly strengthened ongoing programmes focused on Early Childhood Development, Adolescent Girls' empowerment, and robust Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning systems.

The events of this year reaffirm the courage, commitment, and resilience of AGO's leadership and staff. Even in moments of uncertainty, we continued to move forward with the conviction that our work remains essential for building healthier, safer, and more empowered communities. Our interventions, whether promoting girls' education, preventing teenage pregnancy and child marriage, or combating GBV, are transforming lives and contributing to a more equitable future.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all who support us: our development partners, community stakeholders, and friends who believe in our vision. Your trust and collaboration fuel our continued commitment to serve with integrity and dedication. We remain steadfast in our mission, confident that the work we do today will positively shape generations to come.

Thank you for standing with us.

Agripina John
Amani Girls Organization



ABBREVIATIONS

- ADTs – Age-Disparate Transactional Sex
- AGO – Amani Girls Organization
- AMCOS – Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies
- ASRH – Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
- ASP – Adaptive Strategic Plan
- BBC – British Broadcasting Corporation
- CMSGs – Community Managed Savings Groups
- CHW – Community Health Worker
- CoP – Community of Practice
- CRIF – Child Rights Innovation Fund
- CSA – Climate-Smart Agriculture
- CSO – Civil Society Organization
- CSOs – Civil Society Organizations
- DC – District Council
- ECD – Early Childhood Development
- ECCE – Early Childhood Care and Education
- ELCAP – Enhanced Livelihood through Commercial Agricultural Production
- ELCT – Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania
- GBV – Gender-Based Violence
- IGA – Income Generating Activity
- IGAs – Income Generating Activities
- ITV – Independent Television (Tanzania)
- MES – Mapema Education Scheme
- MERL – Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning
- MoCDGWSGs – Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women, Special Groups (Tanzania)
- NMPG – National Multisectoral Parenting Group
- NMECDP – National Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Programme
- NM-ECDP – National Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Programme
- RCH – Reproductive and Child Health
- SPGs – Social Parenting Groups
- STIs – Sexually Transmitted Infections
- ToTs – Trainers of Trainers
- UN – United Nations
- VAC – Violence Against Children
- VHNDs – Village Health and Nutrition Days
- VYA – Very Young Adolescents

2025 AT A GLANCE

45,000+

Total Individuals Reached through all direct AGO interventions in Education, Health, and Social Protection.

238,000+

Children gained access to essential health and nutrition services via our systemic coordination and advocacy role

34,000+

Children & Caregivers are directly reached with integrated early learning, health, and nutrition services.

8,000+

Adolescents & Youth empowered with life skills, economic opportunities, and vital health information.

3,114

Farmers Trained in climate-smart agricultural practices to improve food security and secure sustainable livelihoods.

44,000

Pregnant & Lactating Women received needed micronutrient supplements through our systemic coordination efforts.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2025, Amani Girls Organization (AGO) sharpened its focus on creating and measuring lasting change in the lives of Tanzania's children, adolescents, and families. Guided by our 2023-2027 Adaptive Strategic Plan, we shifted our efforts from tracking activities to understanding outcomes. This report details the tangible results of that shift across our Education, Health, and Social Protection programs.

Our interventions reached over 45,000 directly individuals. We supported over 238,000 children with integrated early childhood services, leading to measurable improvements in health and school readiness. We empowered more than 8,000 adolescents and young women with the skills and knowledge to control their health, education, and economic futures. Our social protection programs strengthened community safety nets, preventing violence for over 6,000 children and equipping 3,114 farmers with climate-resilient agricultural practices to secure their livelihoods.

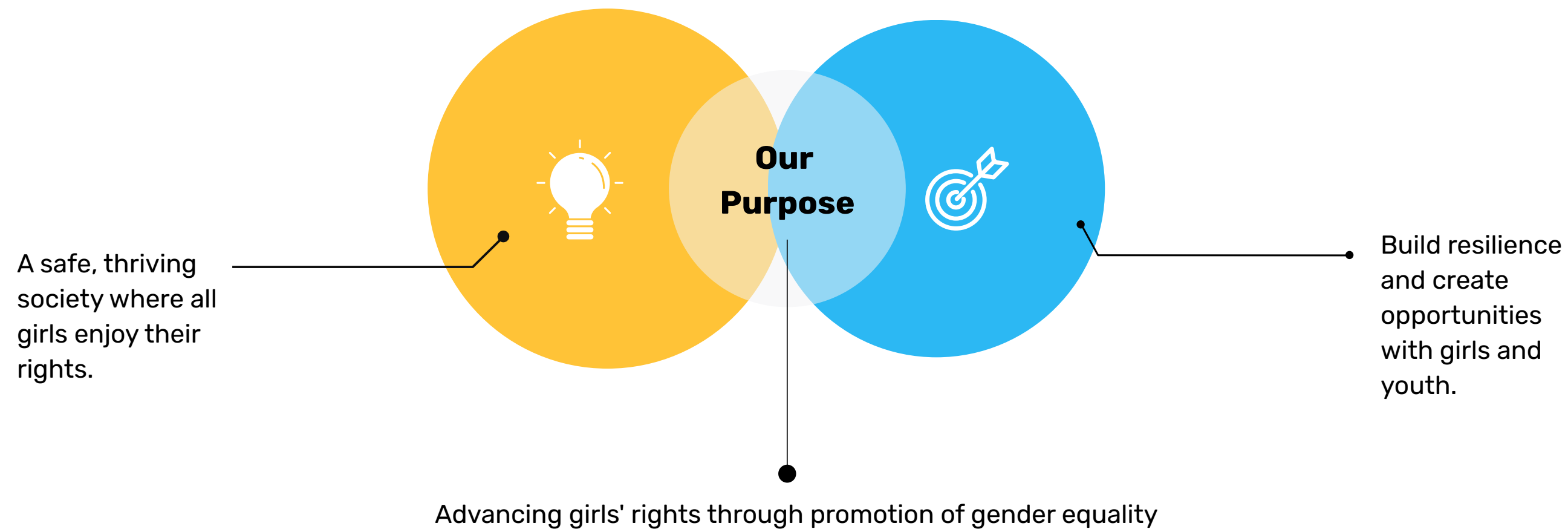
This year also brought unexpected challenges, including a sudden stop-work order on a major USAID-funded health project (My Health – Mother and Child). This event tested our organization's resilience. However, by leveraging our diverse funding base and strong community ties, we successfully navigated this disruption without compromising our core mission. The experience reinforced the importance of our adaptive strategy and our deep-rooted community presence.

The stories and data in this report show a clear pattern. When we invest in a girl's education, her family's health improves. When we support a farmer's livelihood, their children are safer and better nourished. This interconnectedness is the foundation of our strategy and the key to the sustainable, community-led change we achieved this year.

INTRODUCTION

About Amani Girls Organization (AGO)

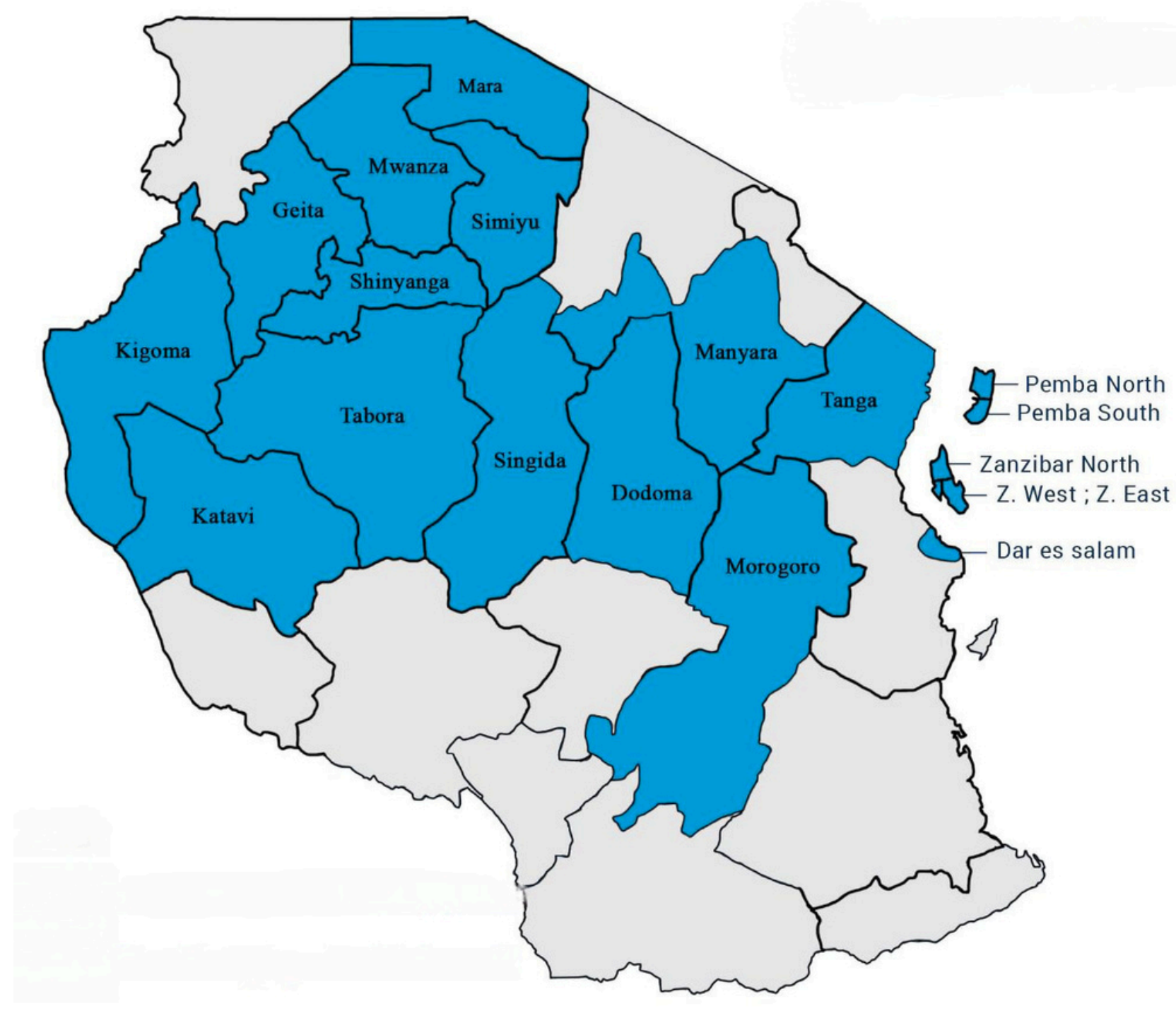
Amani Girls Organization (AGO) is a non-governmental organization registered in Tanzania since 2004 working toward gender equality, specifically empowering girls for sustainable development. We work to build just, inclusive, and resilient communities.



OUR IMPLEMENTATION COVERAGE

In 2025, AGO implemented programs across 14 regions of Tanzania Mainland:

- *Geita,*
- *Mwanza,*
- *Shinyanga,*
- *Simiyu,*
- *Mara,*
- *Tabora,*
- *Katavi,*
- *Singida,*
- *Dodoma,*
- *Manyara,*
- *Tanga,*
- *Dar-es-salaam,*
- *Kigoma,*
- *Morogoro and*
- *Zanzibar.*



OUR PROGRAMS AND INTERVENTIONS

This report presents the results of these efforts. It aligns our achievements with the strategic outcomes defined in our adaptive strategic plan and shows the real-world impact of our work.

EDUCATION

This program promotes inclusive, lifelong learning from early childhood to secondary school and beyond, with a focus on supporting adolescent mothers' re-entry into school. Key interventions include Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), the Mapema Education Scheme (MES), Mtoto Kwanza, and the Adolescent Mothers School Re-entry program.

HEALTH

This program increases the access to quality health information and services, with a focus on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) and Maternal and Child health.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

This program builds resilient communities through gender transformation, social norm changes and economic empowerment. Key interventions include Bonga and Community Managed Savings Groups (CMSGs) under the BELIEF project, Enhanced Livelihood through Commercial Agricultural Production - ELCAP, Violence Prevention with Very Young Adolescents (VYA), the LINEA project, and the Hapana Marefu Yasiyo na Mwisho project.

2025 ANNUAL RESULTS: A SUMMARY OF CHANGE

Our 2025 results are organized by the three core program areas outlined in our strategic plan. Each section details the outcomes achieved through specific interventions, moving beyond simple numbers to explain what changed for the individuals and communities we serve

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Goal: Improve the readiness and receptiveness of children ages 0-8 to learning and promote their overall health and wellbeing through access to quality early childhood development (ECD) and complementary programming for parents and caregivers.

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Mtoto Kwanza & Mapema Education Scheme (MES)

MES project aims at improving opportunities for ECD among vulnerable children aged 3-6 years that will improve children's readiness and receptiveness to learning and improve their health and wellbeing in Mwanza, Dodoma and Simiyu regions.

Mtoto Kwanza is an intervention that catalyzes the implementation of NMECDP among 26 regions of Tanzania by putting into practice the 5 components of Nurturing Care Framework which are good health, enough nutrition, responsive caregiving, opportunity for early learning and security and safety of children. AGO as the champion CSO, collaborates with regional government and ECD stakeholders to expand access and engage the general public to stimulate demand and accountability on the implementation of NM-ECDP in Simiyu region.

ECCE intervention is implemented under the BELIEF project with a focus on children in Pre-Primary school and Primary school in Singida region (Ikungi and Manyoni councils).

Opportunities for Early Learning

In 2025, AGO supported 4,141 children (2,109 girls and 2,032 boys) in Mwanza, Dodoma, and Singida with access to inclusive early childhood education across 25 community ECD centers and 23 pre-primary schools. Amongst, 21 children with special needs were supported with emotional support, and 8 of them with serious cases were supported with assistive devices. The organization improved the learning environments by renovating 3 classrooms, installing 6 swings, and distributing over 170 books and writing boards. At Kasanii Primary School, pre-primary enrollment doubled from 20 to 40 children after renovations, a direct result of the improved facilities. The increased enrolment and school retention, was also contributed by the community awareness activities through community meetings, spot messages, radio talk shows, jingles, national and international events, inter-school sports competition and couple connectedness sessions to over 6000 community members.

The physical improvements to school infrastructure directly correlate with increased enrollment and attendance. The change happened because parents saw a safer, more stimulating environment for their children, which increased their motivation to enroll them. For children, especially girls, the addition of new, inclusive latrines at Chikombo Primary School was a key factor in improving their regular attendance. This shows that "soft" infrastructure like sanitation is as critical as "hard" infrastructure like classrooms. The external support from AGO acted as a catalyst, but the change was sustained by the renewed pride and ownership teachers and parents took in their improved schools. This outcome was accelerated by addressing both the physical and psychological barriers to early education simultaneously.

"As we kept in touch with the two pupils with physical disabilities, we saw steady progress in both their learning and their wellbeing. One pupil stood out in a special way. He had moved from his village school to a school in Makiungu, and the change has been clear. His grades have gone up from a B to a B+, and he approaches his schoolwork with more confidence. He used to struggle with poor eyesight and could only follow lessons from the front row. After receiving proper glasses, he can now sit anywhere in the room and still keep up. His head teacher told us how much easier learning has become for him. Watching these shifts has shown us how much focused support and regular follow-up can change a child's path. It also reminds us how important it is when schools, families, and program staff work together."

Responsive caregiving and Children's Safety and Security

Of 1,984 parents and caregivers reached through our parenting hub and community groups, many have embraced positive parenting techniques such as; learning to protect, communicate and care for their children while reducing screen time and managing emotions. This foundation of caregiving was complemented by empowering children directly. Children gained stronger voices through Child Rights Clubs and pupil councils, with more than 165 pupils taking part in sessions on safety and reporting, and 76 pupil leaders trained to promote inclusion and good governance. In Ikungi district, intra-school debates on gender roles improved students' confidence and critical thinking. To create a safer environment for all, AGO also equipped 63 teachers and community leaders with practical skills to protect vulnerable children and women.

Across Singida, Dodoma, and Mwanza, 74 ECE teachers and 236 frontline workers were equipped with practical skills in early learning, gender-responsive teaching, nurturing care, and positive parenting, boosting their ability to create safe, playful, and inclusive spaces for young children. These trained groups went on to champion ECD and parenting work in their communities, helping more families understand how to support their children's growth. In schools and ECCE centers, a shift in pedagogy from teacher-centered to child-centered learning was achieved through the adaptation of low-cost techniques.

At national level, AGO contributed to the development of the Parenting Group Facilitator's Guideline through the National Multisectoral Parenting Group - NMPG, a team of 32 stakeholders led by the ministry (MoCDGWSGs), laying the groundwork for stronger parenting support across the country. The guideline was tested with parents in Dodoma and Mtwara and is now awaiting final approval. Through this process, the Parenting Hub Officer participated in the engagement of 430 community members (128 men, 302 women) in Dodoma, ensuring the guideline reflected real community voices and needs.



Good Health and Adequate Nutrition

On the implementation of Good Health and Adequate Nutrition components under the Nurturing Care framework, AGO reached thousands of families across Mwanza, Simiyu, Singida and Dodoma, giving parents practical knowledge and children the care they need to grow well. A total of 4,977 parents and caregivers took part in sessions on healthy living, early stimulation, disease prevention and WASH, while 3,164 (1,385 boys and 1,779 girls) children under five received growth checks, vaccination, deworming and vitamin A.

Local platforms like RCH clinics, VHNDs, SPGs and parenting groups helped 8,317 caregivers learn how to feed their children better, with many reporting quick improvements at home, and 22 malnourished children were fully rehabilitated. One powerful change came from Sengerema, where a four-month-old boy received a life-changing cleft lip surgery that restored his wellbeing and lifted a heavy burden from his family through the collaboration between CHW, AGO and Health Care workers efforts. Awareness also grew through radio, with more than 3,000 listeners in Simiyu learning about autism, cholera prevention and childhood mental health, helping communities protect their children with confidence.

The nutrition work inspired families, teachers, and parenting groups to turn new knowledge into action by setting up five gardens across Singida, Sengerema, and Dodoma. These gardens, created through school and community efforts, gave parents and teachers a practical way to improve food security and bring more fruits and vegetables into children's diets. The model kitchen garden in a parenting hub in Dodoma also became a hands-on learning spot where caregivers could see and practice better nutrition habits.

"Before the ECD nutrition session, I did not notice that my child was hardly eating any fruits. After the training, I started adding fruits to our daily meals, and within a short time I saw a real change. My child became more active, healthier, and even enjoyed the new foods. It made me see how small changes at home can make a big difference, and I am grateful for the guidance I received." A parent testimonial from Dodoma.



As a regional coordinator for the implementation of NMECDP in Simiyu region, AGO indirect reach led to strong results across health, education, and child safety. More than 238,000 children accessed health and nutrition services, and nearly 44,000 pregnant and lactating women received needed supplements. Over 183 villages held Nutrition and Health Days, helping households learn simple ways to improve hygiene and nutrition. In education, teacher training in 68 primary schools and 20 early childhood centers strengthened early learning and safeguarding. Children also became safer, with more than 13,700 birth certificates issued, 8 daycare centers supported to meet standards, and 59 villages reached with guidance on positive parenting and child protection.

Story of Change: A Lifeline for a Mother and Her Triplets

In late 2024, Flora, a Community Healthcare Worker (CHW) trained by AGO, identified a pregnant woman hesitant to seek hospital care despite a high-risk pregnancy. Flora persisted, alerting another CHW when the woman moved villages. When the woman went into labor, she was rushed to a local health center, where doctors discovered she was carrying triplets. Thanks to Flora's persistence and the quick coordination she facilitated, an emergency transfer was arranged. The mother safely delivered all three babies. In 2025, AGO's team followed up, providing nutritional support and confirming the mother and her babies are healthy and strong.

– Katunguru Village, Sengerema

This story highlights the critical role of trained and dedicated community-level workers. Flora's actions show that our investment in training frontline workers creates a vital link between the community and the formal health system, directly saving lives.



Adolescent Mothers School Re-enrollment

The focus of this intervention is on supporting adolescent mothers to complete their secondary education and promoting a more supportive environment against discrimination and stigma.

AGO empowered 31 adolescent mothers across Chamwino, Illemela, and Sengerema to rewrite their life stories by facilitating their successful re-enrollment into secondary school. Moving beyond mere enrollment, we provided a holistic ecosystem of support by addressing critical barriers with food supplies, scholastic materials, and consistent psychosocial sessions to build resilience and self-esteem. This comprehensive approach ensured their consistent attendance and academic progress, culminating in a powerful milestone: 8 young mothers proudly graduating from their studies. Their success not only reflects their renewed sense of purpose but has also begun to transform community perspectives, demonstrating that with the right support, adolescent mothers are not only students but graduates. 63 parents committed to support their daughters and track their progress. 6 Girl Mentors were trained to offer peer support, building a new, positive social structure for the re-enrolled mothers.

By providing the essential pathway of practical and emotional support, AGO turned the national re-entry policy into a tangible reality, proving that when barriers are removed, educational success is achievable.



HEALTH PROGRAM

Goal: Improve the general health and wellbeing of adolescent girls and young women as well as Maternal and Child Health in targeted regions. The program is mainly centered on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive health (ASRH) to reduce teenage pregnancy and promote positive health-seeking behaviors.

Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH)

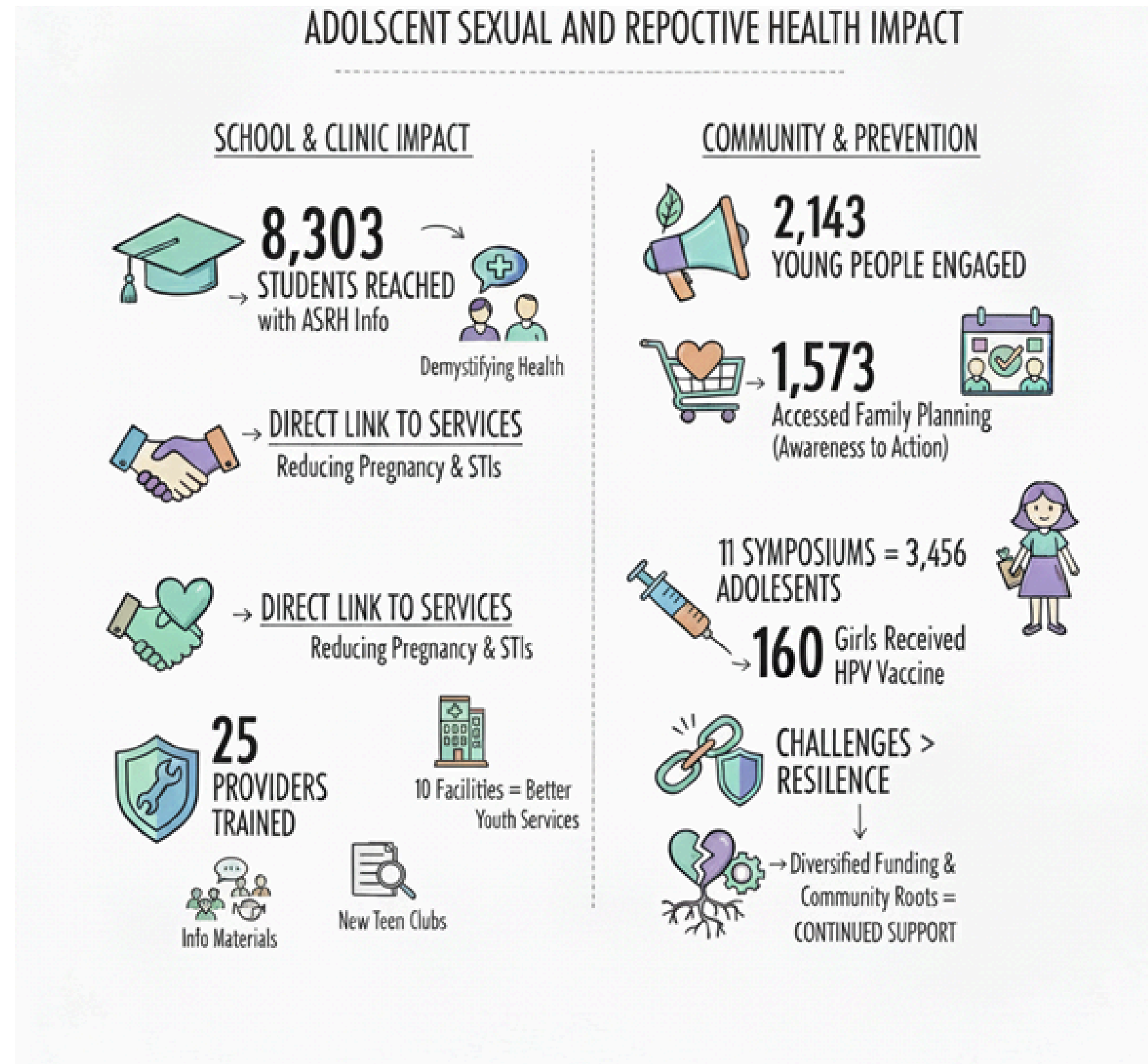
Through school health symposiums in 5 regions (Mwanza, Simiyu, Katavi, Manyara and Dodoma), AGO reached 8,303 adolescents with direct, expert-led education on sexual and reproductive health. By bringing health providers into classrooms, we demystified sensitive topics from menstrual hygiene to STI prevention and created immediate links to youth-friendly services. This approach broke down barriers of fear and empowered students with the knowledge to make informed decisions about their health.

Our community outreach translated this awareness into concrete action. After youth-led education sessions, 1,573 young people proactively accessed family planning services. This direct linkage is crucial for reducing rates of teenage pregnancy and STI's. When a sudden funder stoppage threatened this progress, our deep community roots allowed us to adapt quickly. We sustained essential health dialogues by integrating the work into other programs, proving our commitment to adolescent well-being is resilient.



School Health symposium in Ukerewe, Mwanza region, proving vital health information to students.

ADOLESCENT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IMPACT



SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAM

Goal: Foster inclusive, equitable, sustainable, and resilient communities through gender transformation, social norm change, and economic empowerment.

Implementation Achievement in line with our 2023-2027 Adaptive Strategic Plan

With support from previous Echidna Giving funding, Amani Girls Organization (AGO) strengthened its adaptive, community-driven programming for adolescent girls, advancing access to education, livelihoods, family engagement, and policy influence. This support was catalytic in deepening our evidence base, expanding effective models, and informing national dialogues on girls' rights and early childhood development.

Key Achievements Supported Through Echidna Giving Funding.

Improved Early Childhood Development Outcomes (3,783 Children): High-quality ECDE interventions improved outcomes for 3,783 children (2,002 girls; 1,781 boys) in ECDE centers and pre-primary schools. Eighty percent of children now meet developmental milestones aligned with national standards.

Strengthening the ECDE Workforce (331 Service Providers): We upskilled 331 ECDE providers, including 232 frontline workers certified as Trainers of Trainers (ToTs). Notably, 83% of ToTs remain active across 11 regions, supporting sustainable, community-led ECDE delivery.

Establishment of the Dodoma Parenting Hub: AGO launched a pioneering Parenting Hub in Dodoma, serving ECDE professionals and caregivers—78% of participants were men. Key achievements include: Standardizing the implementation of National Parenting Guidelines through collaboration with the Ministry of Community Development. Developing practical tools and processes for CSOs and local governments. Strengthening government-civil society coordination on positive parenting. Identifying priority areas for further community support and capacity-building.

Promoting Male Engagement in Parenting: In partnership with 36 organizations, AGO advanced male-inclusive parenting approaches. A combined radio and training campaign significantly increased male caregiver participation—from 11% to 17%—a key milestone for shifting gender norms.

Adaptive, Community-Based Livelihoods and Re-Entry Programming: Guided by the AGO Adaptive Strategic Plan, we expanded community-led interventions to strengthen girls' economic resilience and learning opportunities.

Through localized sessions, 114 out-of-school girls gained practical skills in sexual and reproductive health, savings, and entrepreneurship. These sessions produced immediate results: one savings group substantially increased its capital, while another rented a sewing machine to grow its tailoring enterprise. Parent engagement further reinforced these gains. Sixty-three parents across Sengerema district (Nyamatongo, Ngoma, and Katunguru wards) became active partners by providing seed capital and connecting girls to local artisans—strengthening the family systems essential for sustained empowerment.

AGO also supported 55 young mothers through training in income-generating crafts such as batik and soap making, while 43 adolescent mothers received sewing machines to advance their financial independence. A personalized inclusion plan ensured that a girl with disabilities received school supplies and coordinated welfare support.

Echidna Giving support strengthened this work by enabling the re-enrollment of 87 teenage mothers into secondary school and expanding dignified livelihood opportunities for 482 young women. As a result, 79% increased their monthly income from US\$9 to approximately US\$16—a clear demonstration of the economic impact of sustained mentorship and skills development.

Building on these strong outcomes, AGO scaled the Re-Entry and Livelihood Program to eight regions. Engagement with 160 government officials secured multisectoral buy-in, and 101 Girl Mentors collaborated monthly with Ward Education Officers to uphold program quality. A baseline assessment of 343 adolescents showed that 266 preferred vocational training, with tailoring, salon work, and entrepreneurship emerging as top aspirations—evidence that guided ongoing program adaptation.

Contribution to National ECD Networks and Policy Influence: Through complementary Firelight Foundation support, AGO expanded its ECDE footprint and strengthened partnerships with national and international networks, including TECDEN, All-In-All Learning Network, TEN-MET, WHO, UNICEF, Children in Crossfire, MoEST, and MoCDGWSG. AGO contributed to the development of Tanzania’s National Multisectoral Plan of Action for ECD, ensuring community perspectives shaped national policy.

Community-Led Advocacy and Local Policy Adoption: AGO supported 30 community change agents—parents, youth, and local leaders—to mobilize 279 signatures advocating for increased investment in preventing teenage pregnancy and child marriage. These efforts contributed to Sengerema District adopting an ordinance that allocates additional funding to girls’ education and enforces bylaws against child marriage and early pregnancies.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning (MERL): All interventions were monitored through AGO’s MERL framework, which integrates: Quantitative methods such as attendance records, training completion, service uptake, re-enrollment data, income tracking, and child development checklists aligned with NMECDP benchmarks.

Qualitative methods, including interviews, focus groups, pre-/post-assessments, and content analysis. Key systems included: Monthly participant logs and demographic tracking for the Parenting Hub. ToT monitoring through activity registers, skills assessments, and follow-up visits. Partner surveys verifying uptake of ECDE tools and parenting models. Measurement of gender-transformative outcomes through self-assessments, Malezi Radio analysis, and center-level observations. The partnership with Echidna Giving has enabled AGO to deliver evidence-driven, scalable interventions that advance girls’ education, strengthen family environments, promote gender-equitable norms, and influence both local and national systems. Guided by the AGO Adaptive Strategic Plan, these achievements reflect a cycle of continuous learning, community participation, and responsive program design—ensuring that adolescent girls and young mothers have equitable opportunities to thrive.

AGO’s Policy Vision: Catalyzing Gender-Sensitive Parenting and Girls’ Rights: AGO aims to further enhance national systems by: Translating national guidelines into practical, community-based parenting programs. Supporting inclusive, multi-stakeholder coordination for effective implementation. Advocating for policy reforms informed by evidence, community feedback, and girls’ lived experiences—particularly in child welfare, early childhood development, and gender equity.



The meeting with district level stakeholders at Igunga (left) and with GMs and WEO at Ukerewe DC to share insights, updates and progress on school re-entry and livelihood program

Story of Change: Sayuni's Ripple Effect

"While waiting for my Form Four results, I joined the AGO livelihood program and learned tailoring, cake baking, and batik making. I had no prior knowledge, so my confidence was low at first. Now I am confident in my skills. When I joined my new school, I met the Scout group who owned tailoring machines, and I joined them without fear. They even asked me to teach them what I had learned."

– Sayuni, Program Participant, Chamwino DC

Sayuni's story shows how individual empowerment creates a ripple effect. The skills she gained did not just prepare her for a job; they gave her the confidence to become a leader and a mentor to her peers, multiplying the impact of our initial training.

POWER UP

Power-Up strengthens the ecosystem of organizations that support adolescent girls through a dedicated network called the SMASH Community of Practice.

The SMASH Community of Practice (CoP), a network of over 30 organizations, solidified its long-term vision through a collaborative workshop with 17 active members. Members had an opportunity to develop a clear 3-year strategic plan, strengthening their shared leadership and commitment to advancing programs for adolescent girls across Tanzania. This inclusive process defined the CoP's main goals, set up solid ways for leadership, and established frameworks for resource mobilization, ensuring all members have collective ownership over moving girl-centered work forward in Tanzania.

To ensure the sustainability of our partners, AGO hosted a capacity-building workshop for 20 CSOs from five districts (Illemela, Nyamagana, Misungwi, Kwimba and Magu), bringing in 38 participants including directors and program officers. The main topic was Fundraising Fundamentals, covering everything from how to talk to donors to navigating the process of getting grants. This session successfully gave these organizations the knowledge and skills they need to better approach and connect with funders. By improving our partners' systems and helping them access funding opportunities, we are making sure their vital work for girls continues long into the future.

BELIEF Project: Bonga Intervention

BELIEF Project (Building empowered and resilient communities by strengthening livelihoods, inclusion, education and food security) is the project that is implemented by Amani Girls Organization in partnership with Stromme Foundation Tanzania, aims to work jointly implementing its current strategic plan (2024-2030) under the two thematic goals which are Education as well as Income generation and job creation.

BONGA – 'LET'S TALK' is an adolescent empowerment program that restores self-esteem, dignity and second chances to those that had lost hope and respect to self-reliant, confident individuals making a contribution in their homes and communities. The goal is to empower adolescents and young people (9-19) to live a dignified quality of life.

The Bonga intervention worked with schools in Ikungi, Iramba, and Manyoni to promote fair learning spaces and life skills for children. More than 1,500 pupils, 16 teachers, and 4 ward coordinators were engaged in activities like cross gender dialogues, debates, teacher training, and Bonga club support. These spaces helped pupils talk openly about equal rights and respectful relationships, the teachers' training sessions ensured lessons were fair and inclusive, while debate competitions sharpened pupils' critical thinking. Bonga clubs reached 170 adolescents with health and personal development sessions. To make school programs more impactful, AGO refurbished kitchen gardens with drip irrigation, linking learning to practical nutrition and making school feeding programs more sustainable. All these together helped to create fairer, healthier, and more supportive school environments.

Stronger support for adolescents continued in the community through 12 Bonga Centers in Manyoni, Iramba, and Ikungi. More than 340 out-of-school adolescents joined life skills and psychosocial sessions that boosted their confidence and emotional well-being, while 114 Bonga Support Team members were trained on GBV prevention and referral pathways. Parents also joined the journey, with 98 of them taking part in monthly meetings that encouraged shared guidance at home. Furthermore, community sessions in five wards brought over 800 community members, increased understanding about harmful practices like child marriages, early pregnancies, and wife inheritance, leading to stronger local actions to promote equality and girls' safety.

The program also opened doors to financial skills and real economic opportunities. A total of 410 adolescents were enrolled in the program, with 233 completing life skills sessions. More importantly, 196 adolescents graduated from vocational training in courses like tailoring, welding, driving, salon work, poultry, mechanics, and soap making. All graduates received start-up kits, helping them begin income-generating activities in their communities. To support long-term sustainability, we established 4 Bonga forums to connect adolescents, support income-generating activities, and encourage them to form saving groups, outreach, and peer support.



Bonga participants engage in a life skills session, building confidence and community.

Young Mothers in Movement Initiative

This initiative recognizes the challenges and strengths of young mothers, aiming to build their leadership capacity, challenge the systemic harms they face, and create strong networks for collective power. AGO, in partnership with the Child Rights Innovation Fund (CRIF) and Purposeful, is collaborating to build young mothers' agency and voice.

A three-day workshop strengthened the confidence and leadership skills of 20 young mothers from 6 partner organizations, preparing them to lead decision-making processes. 7 young mothers represented the organization at a regional convening in Kenya, joining 39 young mothers from two countries to share experiences, build solidarity, and enhance their collective power. A key achievement was helping young mothers to prioritize resources toward their self-identified real needs. They were able to prioritize the direct financial support to Young mothers' school re-entry, childcare, livelihood opportunities, and skills training, showing their increased ownership in designing their own path to economic well-being.



A collective network of young mothers' embracing sisterhood with their peers from Kenya

BELIEF Project: Community Managed Savings Groups (CMSGs) Intervention

This intervention gave women and youth a real chance to strengthen their income and confidence through savings groups, vocational skills, and practical mentorship in Ikungi, Iramba, and Manyoni districts – Singida region. It proved how much women and youth can grow when they have the right support. The savings groups became steady spaces for them to learn and take action. The 75 CMSG groups brought together 1,551 members who saved, borrowed, and invested with purpose. From these groups, 309 members took loans and started income-generating activities that began to ease daily expenses.

Also, 916 people gained hands-on livelihood training through apprenticeship placements and used those skills to lift their household income in a real way.

A standout change came through the youth trained at the CVET Center. The 22 graduates left with both life skills and practical skills in sewing, welding, salon work, and motorbike repair. They did not achieve the certifications only but also the tangible tools to help them thrive. They received start-up kits like sewing machines, salon sets and welding equipments to launch their Income Generating Activities immediately. At the same time, 36 families practiced the Family Development Plan. These steps helped families move from planning on paper to taking action, with 20 out of 36 families starting real progress toward better housing and stability.



CMSG members on livelihoods training and participate in a share purchase meeting, a key step in their collective economic journey.

ELCAP Project- Enhanced Livelihood Through Commercial Agricultural Production

The ELCAP project supported smallholder farmers to shift from traditional methods to climate smart practices that protect their soil, boost yields, and increase income and strengthen their collective power in the market across Ikungi, Iramba, and Manyoni districts. 3,114 farmers gained hands-on training through 450 demonstration plots, learning how to use basins, crop residues, and biochar. By the end of the year, 1,794 farmers had already adopted these practices, producing 837 large bags of biochar in preparation for the new farming season. Farmers also attended value addition sessions with SIDO, where 60 of them began processing products for sale in local markets.

Nutrition and household wellbeing improved as 978 farmers learned how to prepare complementary foods for under-five children, and 300 households set up backyard gardens that now supply fresh vegetables. The project also focused on building community infrastructure for long-term resilience. AGO coordinated farmers to form 8 marketing cooperatives (AMCOS), which now allow 941 members to buy seeds in bulk and sell their harvests collectively. To support this growth, we provided power tillers to 3 cooperatives and renovated two community warehouses, ensuring farmers can store their yields and achieve better prices.

Additionally, 12 farmer representatives sold value-added goods at the Nanenane exhibition and earned TZS 2.7 million, while 903 farmers' built networks with buyers and seed suppliers through farmer exhibitions, study tour and farm field days, connecting them with seed dealers, agro-processors, and buyers.



Smallholder farmers in training session on value addition (right photo), Smallholder farmer participating in farmers' exhibition day through selling value added products (left photo)

Story of Change: From Tradition to Transformation

"I had been farming for over 20 years using traditional methods. After joining the ELCAP project and learning Climate Smart Agriculture practices, the results were impressive. Despite a drought last season, my crops thrived. My maize harvest increased from 12 bags to 37 bags on the same one-acre plot. I am now able to store food for my family and sell the surplus to pay for my children's school fees."

– Mr. Solomon Mnkenyi, Farmer, Matongo Village

Mr. Mnkenyi's experience shows that visible success is the most effective driver of change. His dramatic increase in yield motivated his neighbors to abandon less effective traditional methods, proving that practical demonstration is more powerful than lectures for transforming agricultural practices.



Mr. Solomon Mnkenyi in his thriving maize field, a result of adopting CSA practices.

Gender Transformation and Social Norms Change

LINEA Project (Learning Initiatives on Norms, Exploitation and Abuse)

The LINEA project is designed to prevent Age-Disparate Transactional Sex (ADTS) by directly challenging and changing the harmful social norms that influence adolescent girls' and men's participation in transactional sex—identified as a major risk factor for HIV/STIs, unintended pregnancy, unsafe abortions, sexual coercion, and gender-based violence. It uses a radio drama and targeted educational curricula for adolescent girls and adult men (bodaboda riders).



The intervention is proving effective at the community level. 11 girls at Nundu Secondary School completed the curriculum, which led to important dialogues with their parents and peers about gender, power, and their rights.

Follow-up visits confirmed strong support from parents and guardians who are now part of the change process. The original curriculum's were simplified for wider use and trained 27 facilitators, building a strong foundation for national expansion (scale-up). The sessions empower girls to make safer choices and engage men in rethinking masculinity, driving meaningful social norm change. Our success led to government visits to the sites, validating the project's impact on norms. We also engaged 81 NGOs (55 actively involved) from Katavi, Dodoma, Shinyanga, Tabora and Singida regions to prepare the program for national expansion.

Girls holding their certificates after the completion of Girls Curriculum.

Hapana Marefu Yasiyo na Mwisho

The goal of this project is to strengthening collective voices across 5 regions (Mwanza, Tabora, Morogoro, Dodoma and Zanzibar) to end child marriage and promote child rights by reshaping harmful norms and values among families, leaders (specifically, traditional and interfaith leaders), and service providers. The project is implemented in a consortium of 4 members (ELCT, AGO, C-Sema and Felm).

AGO leveraged mass medias to challenge norms, with live radio and TV programs reaching over 1,000 community members and raising widespread awareness about the harm caused by child marriage. At Mwandu Secondary school, 284 adolescent girls gained crucial knowledge and advocacy skills to speak out against gender-based violence. Also, 13 pre-school teachers integrated gender-sensitive early childhood development practices into their teachings to instill positive attitudes among the young learners.

A key strategy was mentoring 25 faith leaders as Trainers of Trainers (ToTs) to become advocates within their communities, effectively turning influential voices into agents of social norms change. This was also supported by reviewing 532 video statements from ToTs, gathering credible evidence for systemic advocacy.

Violence Prevention with Very Young Adolescents (VYA)

The VYA project reached 6,225 children across 8 schools in Kwimba District with the Good School Toolkit model to prevent Violence Against Children (VAC). We established 8 school-based children's councils and pupils' courts, empowering 367 students as VAC ambassadors. We also worked with schools to update their rules and install 8 suggestion boxes as a safe reporting mechanism. These child-friendly structures (pupils councils, pupil' courts, suggestion boxes) amplified their voices and provided a safe way to use them.

The most significant change was the creation of a safe reporting culture. By installing suggestion boxes and training focal teachers, we opened channels for children to speak up. In 2025, 123 VAC cases were reported and followed up. This number does not signify more violence; it signifies more trust. Children, once silent, now feel safe enough to report abuse. This shift in school power dynamics, where students' voices are actively sought and valued, is the first and most critical step to creating a truly violence-free learning environment.



Simple tools like suggestion boxes and clear rules are empowering students and transforming school safety in Kwimba.

Communications and Media Engagement

In 2025, AGO expanded its public reach by growing its audience on social media like Instagram and YouTube and launching new pages on TikTok and LinkedIn. The organization also shared its messages on ECD, gender equality and youth empowerment through 11 major news outlets like ITV, Daily News, BBC Media Action, UN Habari, etc and by building a network with 12 media houses that further strengthened strategic partnerships for wider visibility. This was also supported by creating and sharing over 8,000 calendars, 825 flyers, 41 banners, posters and t-shirts to boost program awareness across all operational regions.

The new Communication Strategy gave AGO a clear path to grow its visibility, strengthen teamwork, and engage the right audiences. With this framework in place, the organization shared stronger stories of change through national events, media spaces, and targeted trainings. This helped more audiences understand the results of AGO's work and strengthened our reputation as a leading and influential voice in community development

Capacity Strengthening of AGO Staff

AGO staff have received comprehensive training in various areas aimed at enhancing their effectiveness and professional growth. These trainings covered key topics such as *leadership and management, fundraising, communication strategies, parenting, anti-corruption, safeguarding, audit, accounting and sustainability, as well as male involvement.*



Challenges and Management

Effective program implementation requires acknowledging and adapting to challenges. In 2025, we faced several obstacles and developed practical solutions to manage them, turning potential setbacks into learning opportunities.

Challenge	Impact on Implementation	Our Response
Sudden Funding Disruption	The stop-work order on the USAID Afya Yangu project halted a critical ASRH intervention mid-stream, risking the loss of momentum and trust built with communities and health facilities.	We immediately activated our adaptive management plan. Key project staff were reassigned to other programs to retain their expertise. We leveraged our diversified funding to continue core ASRH awareness activities through existing community structures, ensuring continuity of service.
Scheduling Conflicts with Government Officials	Key review meetings for the Mtoto Kwanza project in the Simiyu region were delayed, slowing high-level coordination and progress tracking.	We adopted a flexible scheduling approach and proceeded with on-the-ground activities that did not require immediate official oversight. This maintained momentum while we worked to find mutually available times for meetings.
Negative Gender Norms and Low Male Participation	Men's involvement in Early Childhood Development (ECD) and childcare activities was consistently low, limiting the holistic impact of our parenting programs.	We conducted formative research with male bodaboda drivers and their partners. This led to the development of a new male engagement strategy that uses these men as community champions for positive parenting, meeting them in their own spaces.

Challenge	Impact on Implementation	Our Response
Limited Referral Pathways for VAC Cases	In Kwimba District, the sole Police Gender and Children's Desk is at the district headquarters, causing delays in responding to reported cases of violence from remote villages.	We enhanced the capacity of ward leaders, village leaders, and school focal teachers on initial case handling and safe referral. This created a stronger first-responder network at the local level to support children while formal processes were initiated.
Prolonged Dry Spell	Drought conditions affected 162 of our 450 Farmer Field School demonstration plots, limiting hands-on learning opportunities for farmers in those specific areas.	We facilitated learning exchanges, organizing transport for affected farmers to visit nearby functional demonstration plots. This ensured that all participants could still observe and learn from successful CSA practices.

Lessons Learned

Our work in 2025 provided valuable insights that will guide our future strategy. These lessons are central to our adaptive management approach, ensuring we continuously improve our impact.

Organizational Resilience is Built on Diversity

The sudden halt of the USAID Afya Yangu project underscored the critical importance of a diversified funding base. Having multiple funding streams and flexible core support allowed us to absorb the shock, retain key staff, and continue essential services without interruption. This experience proved that financial resilience is a prerequisite for programmatic resilience and sustainable impact.

Cross-Sector Collaboration is Essential for Sustainability

Our most successful initiatives were those with strong buy-in from government bodies. Partnering with District Health Management Teams for ASRH symposiums and with Ward Education Officers for school re-entry programs ensured our work was aligned with national priorities. This collaboration does more than just grant access; it builds local ownership and creates a clear path for the government to sustain these initiatives long after our direct involvement ends.

Community-Led Structures Drive Engagement

Empowering community members to lead change is more effective than top-down implementation. The success of the Children's Councils in the VYA project and the farmer-led AMCOS in the ELCAP project proves this. When children advocate for their own safety and farmers manage their own marketing, the solutions are more relevant and durable. Our role is to facilitate these structures, not to run them.

Data Must Inform Design, Not Just Reporting

The baseline survey for our Livelihood Program in Chamwino was a critical turning point. It showed a clear preference for vocational skills over formal schooling. By listening to this data, we tailored our program to meet expressed needs, which led to higher engagement and better outcomes. This taught us that community consultation and data collection must happen before a project begins, not just at the end to measure results.

Integrating Services Maximizes Impact

People's lives are not siloed, and neither should our programs be. We learned that linking savings groups (CMSG) with practical skills training and market access (ELCAP) transforms livelihoods more effectively than either intervention alone. Similarly, providing psychosocial support alongside educational materials for adolescent mothers was key to their success. Future programming will focus even more on creating these integrated pathways of support

Looking Ahead: Plans for 2026

Building on the momentum and lessons of 2025, our focus for the year 2026 will be on deepening our impact and scaling successful models.

Guided by our Adaptive Strategic Plan (2023–2027), Amani seeks to: Remain responsive to Tanzania's evolving context. Strengthen and integrate programming across Education, Health, and Social Protection. Expand but limit geographic reach from 7 to 10 regions, including Zanzibar, and Review and update safeguarding and inclusion policies. Grounded in human rights and gender equality, our current priorities aligned with our Echidna Giving application include:

- 1) Advancing Early Childhood Development (ECD) through quality programming and caregiver support, integrating gender into the National Multisectoral ECD Program, and operationalizing a Parenting Hub in Dodoma;
- 2) Promoting accessibility and inclusive education, life skills training, secondary education for adolescent mothers, and youth livelihoods support;
- 3) Engaging men and boys to support girls' education and positive parenting.

The termination of USAID funding has impacted key elements of our strategy and operations, particularly in areas where we relied on this support for program implementation focused on adolescent girls' health and stakeholder engagement. This has also constrained our ability to mobilize alternative resources to rapidly address the resulting funding gap. In response, we have activated our contingency plan, which includes the following strategic pivots:

Operational Flexibility: We have prioritized critical activities and re-sequenced program timelines to minimize disruption to our strategic objectives. Non-urgent activities have been temporarily deferred or adjusted as needed.

Diversified Funding Streams: Efforts to diversify our funding sources have been accelerated. We are actively engaging with bilateral and multilateral donors, private foundations, and philanthropic partners to ensure continuity in our core programmatic areas.

Internal Coordination: Our leadership team has implemented a rapid response protocol to coordinate internal decision-making, monitor evolving developments, and adjust strategy and operations in real time.

While a shutdown presents real challenges, we are committed to adapting proactively and continuing to deliver impact with efficiency and integrity.

Amani Girls Organization will make use of the following approaches: Girl Roster: to conduct a “girl census” in select regions to identify all girls and their situations (in/out of school, mothers, disabled, victims of violence, etc.), to access as many eligible girls as possible for Phase 2 programming that is more localized and family-engaged. Family Development Plan: to facilitate family support and buy-in to support all girls in the household in achieving their goals, while supporting families to strengthen their socio-economic aspects, and strengthening community systems and structures to support girls' education. Male Engagement: engaging bodaboda riders, fishermen, and other men as parenting champions and change agents, leveraging their social reach and peer networks. This will support men to rethink their key role in the community and keep them accountable as champions of positive parenting across Tanzania.

Further Reading & Contact:

For more detailed information on our work, our strategy, and our impact, please explore the following resources or contact us directly.

Key Documents

- <https://bit.ly/LinkedIn-AGO-Stories-2025>
- <https://bit.ly/Baseline-Survey-Narrative-Report-Kwimba>
- <https://bit.ly/Pikipiki-Parenting-Study>
- AGO 2023-2027 Adaptive Strategic Plan (Available upon request)
- Our Approach to Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning (MERL) (Available upon request)

**CONNECT
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***Empowering Girls for Sustainable
Development***

