



KWA WAZEE

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

EMPOWERING GENERATION, ENRICHING LIVES



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DIRECTOR`S MESSAGE

Dear partners, stakeholders, and friends,

As we wrap up 2024, I am filled with gratitude for our collective achievements at Kwa Wazee. Together, we have made significant strides in empowering older individuals, advocating for their rights, and supporting education and economic development.

Through your support, this year the Cash Transfer Program provided essential financial support to over 857 elderly individuals and 79 children, easing financial burdens and restoring dignity. Our advocacy efforts have led to over 2,010 elderly participants engaging in community dialogues, resulting in immediate actions such as access to free medical care. Additionally, 1,094 older individuals benefited from mobile health screenings, improving their well-being through timely interventions. The installation of energy-efficient stoves in 50 elderly households further enhanced quality of life and community resilience.

Through Tatu Tano, we supported 46 students in vocational training and developed learning materials for over 2,400 children. Our economic empowerment programs reached 2,603 children, promoting sustainable agricultural practices in response to climate change.

Looking ahead, I am excited for the continued progress we can achieve together. Thank you for your unwavering support in making a lasting impact.

With appreciation,
Lydia P. Lugazia
Director, Kwa Wazee



Our Profile

Kwa wazee is an NGO registered under the Tanzania NGO Act of 2002 with registration No. OONGO/R1/OO975. Established in 2003 by Dr. Kurt Madoerin as voluntary support to the elderly who are the main carers of orphan children as a result of HIV/AIDS impacts in Muleba-Kagera Tanzania, Kwa Wazee works towards sustainable development goals through social protection for the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of the elderly, young people, and people living with HIV.

The organization offers the learning process and disseminates findings to other stakeholders through a minimum cash transfer to the elderly, empowering young and old people through self-help groups and economic support, building resilience, accountability, mobility, health, preventing violence against young and older people, and advocating for the rights of the targeted groups.

Vision

A community where older and young people are capable of living dignified, healthy and secure lives.

Mission

Empowerment of older and young people through the advancement of policies and practices in Tanzania.

Programs



Economic Empowerment



Advocacy and Rights



Gender and Protection



Health and Wellbeing

2024 At Glance



Cash transfer

857

Older people



Mobile clinics on
NCDS

1094

Older people



Advocacy Dialogues

3000

Older people



Revolving scheme

122

Goats distributed



Economic
empowerment

2603

Children



Education Support

2576

Children

A Vision Restored: Gozbert Kabutelana's Journey to Hope

Gozbert Kabutelana, an 86-year-old resident of Nyakatanga village in Nyakatanga ward, lives with his son. His life took a drastic turn in 2016 after the passing of his wife and two daughters. This tragic period marked the beginning of his struggle with blindness. It started in one eye, with his vision clouding over before complete blindness set in. Soon after, his second eye followed the same trajectory, leaving him entirely blind. Financial constraints prevented Gozbert from seeking medical attention. For seven long years, he remained confined to his home, fully dependent on his son for care. Despite this, his son never lost hope and diligently supported him through the challenges.

A turning point came when Kwa Wazee, brought an eye screening program to Gozbert's village. During the screening, medical professionals diagnosed Gozbert's condition and recommended eye surgery. Kwa Wazee facilitated his treatment, arranging for him to undergo surgery at Ndolage Hospital.

After the operation on one eye, Gozbert began to see again, albeit with some haziness. Following the prescribed medication regimen, the haze gradually cleared, and his sight improved. For the first time in seven years, Gozbert could see the world around him. His newfound vision brought immense joy as he discovered that his married son has been blessed with a grandchild. Gozbert was overwhelmed with gratitude as he gazed at his family and surroundings once again.

Reflecting on his journey, Gozbert expressed profound thanks to Kwa Wazee Nshamba and its dedicated team, as well as to his son, whose unwavering support had been a pillar of strength during his darkest years. Today, Gozbert's story is a testament to the transformative power of Kwa Wazee community interventions to lives of older and young people

Our Impacts

2

Health Promotion

To enhance healthcare access to older people the project has reached the following,

- Village outreach screening clinics for non-communicable disease in Kabilizi, Nyakatanga, and Mubunda wards in partnership with government health facilities, reaching 1,094 older individuals. 413 were diagnosed with severe hypertension, some experiencing paralysis or facial asymmetry, 187 tested positive for malaria and received medication and preventive education. At the same time, 546 reported musculoskeletal issues, such as knee, back, or hip pain.
- Eye care services were extended to the Nyakatanga ward, where 68 received eyeglasses, 88 were provided with medication, and out of 97 older people screened, 10 older people underwent cataract surgery at Ndolage Hospital.

Also, the project conducted seminars for 100 health facilitators across 19 wards. These sessions aimed to refresh existing facilitators and train new ones, addressing challenges like aging and attrition. They also evaluated the progress, successes, and challenges faced by health groups. The health group's mutual support facilitated financial and material aid worth TZS 882,500 to older people in need around their areas, including food items like bananas, flour, rice, and sugar, directly benefiting 154 older people in their groups.

Three exercise clubs were also established in Kabilizi, Burungura, and Ijumbi wards to promote physical activity within the community. These clubs engaged 24 participants and emphasized the importance of physical fitness. The promotion of physical fitness and mental well-being through exercise clubs and the empowerment of older individuals with knowledge and resources enhance their ability to safeguard their rights and well-being.

1 Cash transfer Program

The cash transfer program aims at reducing extreme poverty among older people through monthly cash support. This year we have provided monthly cash support to 687 (589 female and 98 male) older individuals and 79 children under their care through the pension fund and 170 (112 Female and 58 Male) older people in the universal pension pilot project. These funds helped mitigate the rising costs of essential goods, such as soap and food, ensuring stability and dignity for the beneficiaries. The financial support through the pension fund enabled older people to afford essential items, reducing anxiety over daily expenses.



Our Impacts

3 Advocating for older people`s rights

Throughout 2024, the following activities were done,

- Community dialogues were conducted in 15 out of 43 wards in Muleba District. aimed to raise awareness about protecting the elderly against acts of violence. A total of 2,010 elderly individuals (1,039 women and 971 men) participated. Community leaders also attended to address issues and resolve challenges faced by the elderly. Key issues raised included dispossession of property, neglect by children, lack of access to free medical care, and the need for legal assistance. Immediate interventions during the dialogues included contacting the District Medical Officer (DMO) to ensure low-income elderly individuals received free medical care.
- 41 elderly individuals (26 women and 15 men) were assisted in resolving disputes with close relatives. Additionally, 26 elderly individuals (9 men and 17 women) received financial support to manage legal cases. Alarming, 72% of reported cases involved pressure from children to transfer land ownership, contravening inheritance laws. Furthermore, 9% of the elderly reported feeling ostracized, while 18% faced unfounded accusations of witchcraft. To address severe depression among the elderly, special advisory committees were formed and trained in Muleba, Ijumbi, Nyakatanga, and Kabirizi wards.
- On June 15, 2024, we facilitated district-level commemorations of the International Day of Elder Abuse Awareness attended by government representatives. A total of 197 elderly individuals (106 women and 91 men) attended. Key concerns raised included being denied services by children and lack of medical care.
- Launched awareness campaigns to educate the public on protecting older people from violence and witchcraft accusations linked to climate change with 150 representatives of older people across five wards in Karagwe, highlighting violence perpetrated by close relatives.
- The 2024 commemoration of the International Day of Older Persons was held on October 8 in Kibanga Ward, under the theme: “IMPROVE SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY: AGE WITH DIGNITY.” Over 3,000 elders from 166 villages in Muleba District attended. The event brought elders closer to political and government leaders, including the Guest of Honor, Dr. Abel Nyamahanga, Muleba District Commissioner



Key Issues Presented on International Day of Older Persons:

1. Enacting a Law for the 2003 Elderly Policy: Elders urged the government to enact the 2003 National Policy into law, emphasizing its importance for consistent service delivery.
2. Improvement of Healthcare Services: Elders called for tailored healthcare services.
3. Protection Against Climate Change Challenges: They highlighted the vulnerability of older people to issues exacerbated by climate change.
4. Inclusion in Decision-Making Bodies: Elders requested representation in governance forums.
5. Universal Pension: They advocated for a universal pension system, citing extreme poverty among elderly individuals without retirement benefits.

Government Response:

The Guest of Honor assured elders that their concerns would be forwarded to national authorities. He emphasized the importance of involving elders in decision-making and instructed healthcare workers to prioritize services for the elderly. Free healthcare services, including screenings and treatments, were provided to 678 elders during the event.

Our Impacts

4 Psychosocial support (PSS)

The following are key 2024 achievements under this project,

- built energy-efficient stoves for 50 elderly households. Beneficiaries noted significant reductions in firewood usage and smoke exposure. Jacinta from Ijumbi village reported that her firewood expenses decreased by 50%, allowing her grandchildren to spend less time collecting firewood and more time on education and leisure.
- Five water wells were constructed for elderly households. Hawa Khalid of Ngenge village, an elderly woman with limited physical ability, expressed her relief at no longer needing to walk long distances or face conflicts at communal water points. Her household's hygiene and overall health improved significantly by accessing water nearby. Neighbors also benefited from accessing the wells, fostering a sense of community
- 45 leaders from elderly PSS groups in Buganguzi, Kishanda, and Buhangaza were trained in leadership, record-keeping, and participatory decision-making. Using interactive discussions and role-playing, participants gained practical skills for managing their groups effectively. Follow-up sessions will be done in 2025 to reinforce these concepts.
- supported elderly farmers engaged in cultivating pineapples, groundnuts, beans, and maize. In Buhangaza, four groups planted 5,697 pineapple seedlings, with promising growth reported. However, beans suffered due to erratic weather conditions. Despite these challenges, the farmers remained hopeful about the yields of other crops.
- The revolving goat project supported 22 elderly individuals with goats to improve food security and generate income. Monitoring visits in Nshamba, Kasharunga, Mubunda, Bulyakashaju, Magata Karutanga, Ikondo, and Nsisha revealed that a project has a total of 714 goats, with 488 females and 226 males. Additionally, 35 newborn goats were recorded—17 males and 18 females. Beneficiaries reported using goat manure to enhance crop production, consuming goat milk to improve nutrition, and selling offspring to address financial needs, such as medical expenses and school fees.



Our Impacts

5 Protecting Older People from Climate Change Challenges

Climate change is having a profound impact on agriculture, health, and social well-being in the Kagera Region. . In extreme cases, unusual weather events have led to harmful accusations of witchcraft against the elderly. For instance, in Biharamullo District, some elders were threatened with violence, and others had their homes burned down, all in connection to the lack of rainfall.

In response to these urgent challenges, Kwa Wazee is implementing the "Protecting Older People from Climate Change Challenges in the Kagera Region" project, aimed at supporting and safeguarding the well-being of 138,055 older people (69,595 women and 68,460 men) across five district councils: Biharamulo, Karagwe, Bukoba, Misenyi, and Muleba. The main activities done this year were raising community awareness of Climate Change and dispelling myths about witchcraft through;

- dialogue sessions in each of the five districts, bringing together district officials such as District Executive Directors, District Council Chairs, Environmental Officers, Social Welfare Officers, Agriculture Officers, and representatives of the District Older People Forums. A total of 40 people (18 women and 22 men) participated in these sessions aimed to familiarize district leadership with the project's objectives and align its goals with the needs of older people in the community.
- Media advocacy workshop for 15 journalists from both community and national media outlets in the Kagera Region aimed to equip journalists with the knowledge and sensitivity needed to report accurately and ethically on issues of violence and abuse against older people.
- Partnership with district officers and four local radio stations—Kwizera FM, Fadeco Radio, Karagwe FM, and Kasibante FM—to air 48 episodes addressing climate change, aging, disabilities, and the role of communities in protecting older people from witchcraft accusations. The programs reached an estimated audience of 25,000 listeners per episode, significantly raising awareness and promoting community involvement.

Through dialogues, the views of participants show that climate change-related stressors are increasing social conflict and violence against the elderly, which highlights the need for broad-based education to dispel myths and promote understanding.



Our Impacts

6 Protection of older people against violence

To empower older people, workshops for 120 facilitators across 19 wards were conducted, focusing on self-protection techniques and strategies to combat violence against older people. A meeting with government leaders and development stakeholders was organized in Ngenge ward, involving 200 participants to strategize on preventing elder abuse. Community awareness campaigns were initiated, targeting primary and secondary schools, village meetings, and community gatherings to address violence against older individuals.

A regular monitoring of 105 groups was done to assess progress and identify challenges. Achievement reported were resolved family and neighborhood disputes for seven older individuals through government leaders, groups' income-generating activities, such as coffee sales and mat weaving which have also enhanced group sustainability. Notably, the Tupendane group in Nyakashenyi Mubunda provided school supplies for 20 orphans, showcasing the community's commitment to supporting vulnerable groups.

Despite these efforts, challenges remain. Persistent issues of elder abuse include theft of livestock and accusations of witchcraft. These cases were addressed through government interventions, including fines and warnings to perpetrators



7 READY Project

The READY project comprehensively addresses the social and health needs of adolescents and young people through peer-to-peer support, health system strengthening, economic empowerment through skills on saving and lending model, sexual and reproductive health and rights, life skills, and HIV services among others. The program has enrolled 378 young people aged 10-24 living with HIV/AIDS and by December, almost 97% of beneficiaries had suppressed their HIV viral loads was phasing over in 2024. This year the following achievements were reported

- Enrollment of 176 new beneficiaries
- 378 beneficiaries got HIV services through home visits
- Peers Mentors' group savings increased to 1,250,000 Tanzania shillings
- 350 parents and community members engaged in dialogues regarding stigma and support for adolescents living with HIV
- 97% of enrolled beneficiaries suppressed their HIV viral loads
- Community awareness session on HIV prevention and treatment reached more than 500 community members.



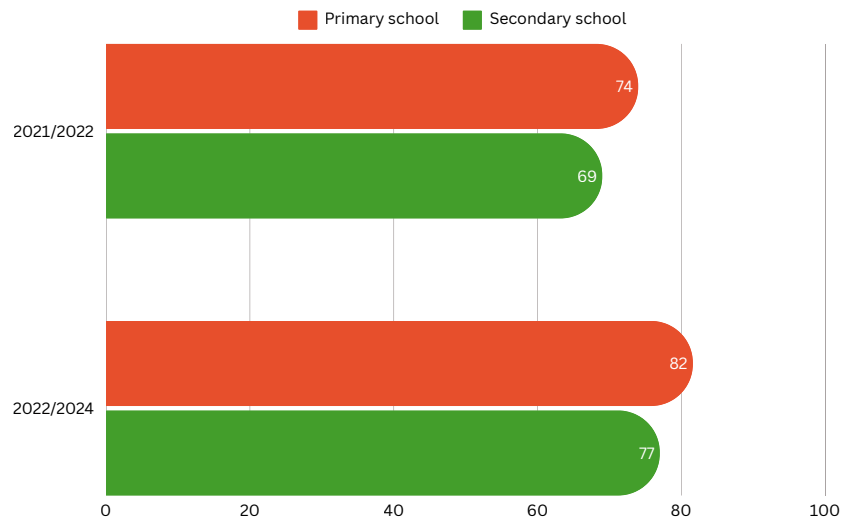
Our Impacts

8 TatuTano-Education Support

Kwa Wazee--TatuTano contributes to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals by supporting access to education for vulnerable children. The following was done in 2024.

- Distributed school materials worth 48 Tz Million to 2476 vulnerable children around Muleba District.
- contribute to the payment of fees for 46 Tatu Tano students who are in colleges and form 5 and 6 (35 students from colleges and 11 students from form 6, the amount paid is 4,500,000/=)
- A meeting with 32 facilitators of learning groups was held. The aim of the meeting was for the facilitators to share experiences on the methods used to teach young children of standards 1-3, to share experience on using mathematics handouts for standards 4 to 6, and to share challenges they faced during teaching and consult on new teaching methods. Facilitators also received teaching materials such as chalk, flipcharts, marker pens, mathematics and Swahili copies, masking tape, and African storybooks.

The progress report of members of TatuTano groups shows increased performance of members in two years 2021/2022 and 2023/2024. The table below shows the percentage as per collected results.



9 TatuTano-Economic Empowerment

In 2024, managed to conduct monthly cluster meetings every month in the 16 clusters with 480 small children groups where each group shared their activities done within that month, achievements, and challenges facing group progress. In our Reality check" we held with the question: Do projects help children increase resilience? The children gave the following answers.

- Projects help us be creative and become entrepreneurs
- Projects help us increase our income and know how to save
- We make new friends through projects
- We know breeding, and agriculture and know how to make medicine and natural Manure

Over 300 households were recently displaced following landslides that hit Muleba District's Ilemela village, Bushabo hamlet, damaging 14 houses completely. In contrast, over 300 families were displaced, impacting 92 members of TatuTano whose gardens and fields were swept. In July, Tatu Tano distributed 24 packets of maize seeds, 330 kilograms of Nyota beans, vegetable seeds, and 82 bar soaps to 6 groups of Tatu Tano and households that lost their fields and houses.

Also 376 kilograms of groundnuts were distributed to 150 groups, 52 kg of NYOTA beans, and 92 kilograms of other types of beans to 88 groups, and in September we distributed vegetable seeds to 105 groups, bean seeds to 85 groups, and corn seeds to 98 groups.



Our Impact

10

Child protection against violence

The child protection program aims at empowering girls and boys to end violence against children while creating safe and secure communities.

- Training of 14 teachers to lead self-defense groups at schools. As the result, there is an increase in students in self-defense groups after the motivation of teachers. (eg Ruhanga Sec: from 64 to 500 students, Kimwani Sec: from 60 to 103 students, Kibanga Sec: from 54 to 72 students, Gwanseli Sec: from 170 to 250 students)
- Peace is A decision training to 100 schools boys from Kabirizi Primary School, Rulongo Secondary, Runazi Primary, and Kasharunga Primary on how to be good men and advocates of violence prevention. Through simple surveys and community feedback, we have noticed significant progress as follows: 94% of trained boys this year demonstrated an improved understanding of child rights and protection and expressed strong support for gender equality and non-violent acts, and 84% of members of PiaD groups reported actively intervening in situations to prevent violence among peers at schools and communities.
- 15 teachers from 6 primary schools attended the workshop aiming at equipping them with knowledge to educate students and parents about biological changes experienced during menstruation, proper use and placement of sanitary pads, and hygienic disposal methods. Special emphasis was placed on teaching boys not to mock or stigmatize girls during their menstrual periods, fostering a supportive environment for all students.
- 1824 packs of non-reusable sanitary pads were distributed to six primary schools targeting 720 female students.
- Trained and formed 3 Child protection committees in 3 wards which engaged 600 community members through outreach meetings, raising awareness about child rights and parental responsibilities, visited 10 primary schools, reaching more than 2,000 students, and identified challenges facing older people.



11 “SOMA NA MTI” Project

“Soma na Mti” project was implemented in 10 primary schools in Muleba District to promote environmental conservation through awareness and tree planting, empowering students as future leaders to share their knowledge with their communities on environmental conservation.

Each school received 1,200 trees, including fruit trees (mangoes and avocados) and timber trees. Importantly, before distributing the trees, each school was allowed to choose the types of trees they preferred, while students, parents, and teachers collaborated in preparing planting areas, digging holes, and applying fertilizers. Eight schools planted all trees during the project, while two opted to store their trees until reopening. Training was provided to students on proper planting techniques and tree care, with each student assigned a tree to nurture. The training went together with conservation education sessions targeted students, teachers, and parents. Students were encouraged to share this knowledge at home, with each tasked to inspire their families to plant at least five trees.

The project will equip students with conservation skills, fostered community awareness, and strengthening collaboration among schools, students, and parents. The “Soma na Mti” initiative has laid a solid foundation for sustainable environmental practices in the region.



Success stories

Transforming Lives through Self protection Training : Salome`s Story

Salome, a 68-year-old resident of Nyarugando village in Nyakatanga ward, lives with her grandchildren. After the passing of her husband, Salome and her children divided the family property. However, over time, her sons began accusing her of witchcraft, claiming she was harming their children and wives. Feeling overwhelmed and isolated, Salome turned to her local self-protection group for advice. Encouraged by their support, she reported the harassment to the village chairperson. The chairperson summoned her sons and confronted them about their actions. They shockingly declared that Salome did not belong in the family and should return to her parents' home, as she was not entitled to inherit her late husband's property.

Devastated but determined, Salome requested the village chairperson to document the matter formally, ensuring accountability if further harm occurred. Expressing her disbelief, she said, “I never imagined my own children would call me a witch and drive me away. Why would I harm the very children I gave birth to? If I had malicious intentions, wouldn't I have acted long ago when they were small?”

Salome's case underscores a powerful truth: violence often originates from those closest to us. However, her story also highlights the transformative power of self-protection training. These sessions empowered her to recognize her rights, build confidence, and seek justice. Salome's success is just one of many examples demonstrating the impact of self-protection training for the elderly. In 2024, we successfully trained 120 facilitators across various wards in Muleba district. These facilitators are now equipped to lead self-protection sessions, ensuring that more elderly individuals can stand up against abuse and reclaim their dignity.

Together, with community collaboration and continuous support, we are hopeful that these efforts will significantly reduce, if not eliminate, violence against the elderly. Salome's story serves as an inspiration and a testament to what can be achieved when we empower those who are vulnerable to protect themselves.



Acknowledgments

Looking back at 2024, we see numerous people who have supported us in many ways, big and small. There is a lot of work to do to make Tanzania a more equitable place for older and young people, but thanks to this support we have made important progress. We know that we are headed for another exciting year in 2025.

We would like to express our gratitude for the generous support of our donors and volunteers below.

- Kwa Wazee Switzerland
- HealpAge Germany
- Egmont Trust
- REPSSI Tanzania
- VelAfrica
- Tanzania Development Trust
- COA
- TatuTano Switzerland
- TheirWorld
- Individuals and friends

We remain committed to addressing the pressing issues facing our communities and advancing our vision of a more dignified, healthy and secure world. With your continued support, we are confident that we will achieve an even greater impact in the years to come.

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