

Success Story 1: *Elizabeth's Enrollment After 10 Years at Home:*



Elizabeth Laizer, an 11-year-old girl from Esilalei ward, had been denied education for years due to her hearing impairment and physical disability, harmful Maasai traditions, and gender discrimination. Her parents' repeated attempts to secure her enrollment failed, as schools rejected her. Through the *Nijali Project*, Dora, a trained Community Education Ambassador from Esilalei ward, intervened by raising awareness on inclusive education and mobilizing community support. *"It broke my heart to see Elizabeth denied*

education because of her disability, as an educated ONG community education ambassador I acted urgently to ensure her right to learn was restored. "With collaboration from Okoa New Generation and Elizabeth's mother, necessary hearing and wheelchair support facilities were provided, leading to Elizabeth's enrollment at Manyara secondary School in Monduli. Today, she is thriving as a bright and intelligent student, proving the transformative power of inclusive education and community advocacy.

Success Story 2: Regina's Journey Back to School After Teenage Pregnancy



Regina, an 18-year-old student from Losirwa, dropped out of school in 2024 after becoming pregnant while in Form 5. With no father, a mother battling mental illness, and only her grandmother's support, her hopes for education faded. Through the Okoa New Generation *Nijali Project*, Community Education Ambassador Dora intervened, counseling the family and working with Okoa New Generation and local education officers to secure Regina's return to school. In 2025, Regina has now re-joined her studies, determined to complete her studies and inspire other girls who got pregnant while in schools. Her journey demonstrates how inclusive advocacy and community support restore hope and protect girls' right to education. *"I lost hope after pregnancy, but today I'm returning to school with renewed strength to achieve my dreams."* -Regina Mollel

Success Story:3 Saving Naimi from Child Marriage

At just 15 years old, Naimi Saitoti from Makuyuni ward in Monduli, was pressured by her mother to marry a wealthy neighbor, believing it was the only way out of poverty. Influenced by harmful traditions and lacking awareness of her rights, Naimi was ready to give up education. Through the Okoa New Generation's education Project, Community Education Ambassadors from her ward counseled her on the value of schooling and guided her in reporting the case. With support from her father, local authorities, and the police gender desk, Naimi's forced marriage was stopped. She's now a form two student at Mswakini secondary school, with dreams of becoming a teacher and inspiring other girls to fight for their right to education. Her story highlights the power of community advocacy in breaking cycles of child marriage. *"I was about to be forced into marriage*

as a child, but ONG rescued me and gave me back my future. Now I am in school, confident, and dreaming of becoming a leader who will protect other girls like me."-Naimi

Success story:4 Napoi Re-enroll in School After Dropping Out;

Napoi Mollel, a 17-year-old student from Kipok secondary school in Monduli District Arusha region, dropped out of school in May 2024 after being influenced by a friend who claimed education was a waste of time. Regretting her decision, she worked in Dar es Salaam to save money and returned home in July 2024. Reflecting on her journey, she said, *"I was so stupid to listen to my friend's advice; she almost ruined my whole life. I thank God, I made it home safe."* With support from Okoa New Generation community education ambassadors and



her mother, Napoi successfully re-enrolled in school in August. Overjoyed, she shared, *"I thought I had lost my dream to become a nurse. I'm so happy that with the support from Okoa New Generation I'm back to school. I promise to study hard and never follow wrong advice again."* She also vowed to mentor other girls, saying, *"I don't wish to see any girl going through the mistakes I made. I will be a mentor to my friends here in school and out."*

Success Story: 5 Transforming Young Girls into Confident Leaders

Through Okoa New Generation's school club's programs, 2201 adolescent girls from Olesokoine



secondary school and 26 out of school girls from Sekei ward gained critical leadership and life skills, boosting their confidence, self-awareness, and decision-making abilities. Engaging in mentorship, group exercises, and interactive sessions, these girls are now empowered to advocate for their rights, mentor peers, and lead positive change in their schools and communities. One

participant reflected, *"I now believe in myself and know I can lead and inspire others."*, four out of 26 out of school girls contested forward council and one won the post, *"Before the training, I never believed I could lead my community. ONG showed me my potential and gave me the skills to make a difference. Today, as a ward councilor, I am proud to represent and empower other young girls like me."*- Rehema Mzirah. by investing in programs like this, Okoa New Generation and donors can directly contribute to shaping a generation of resilient, informed, and capable young female leaders.

Success Story: 6 Supporting 678 Girls with Menstrual Health Supplies

Okoa New Generation reached and supported 678 secondary school girls from Manyara secondary school and 67 girls from Olorieni primary school with reusable and disposable sanitary pads, addressing a critical barrier to their education menstrual health management.

sessions
sanitary
falling



Many girls previously missed class during their periods due to lack of materials, leading to absenteeism and behind in studies. With the provision of these pads, girls reported increased school attendance, confidence, and participation in class. One beneficiary shared, *“Now I can attend school without fear or shame during my period. I feel confident and focused on my studies.”*

This intervention has not only improved the girls’ health and hygiene but also empowered them to continue their education with dignity and consistency, creating a stronger foundation for their future.

Success story: 7 Improving Menstrual hygiene practices

Okoa New Generation (ONG) has transformed the lives of adolescent girls in Meserani secondary school and 565 (293 female and 272 male) community members from Meserani ward through menstrual hygiene awareness sessions and community outreach events. Girls gained essential knowledge on menstrual health, hygiene practices, and overcoming stigma, leading to increased school attendance, confidence, and active participation. Engaging men (fathers), teachers, and 4 (2male,2female) community leaders from Meserani ward shifted perceptions and norms, with men now supporting girls by providing sanitary materials, creating safe spaces, and promoting open discussions.

One girl shared, “Now I attend school confidently, and even my father encourages me to take care of my hygiene.”

These initiatives have empowered girls and fostered lasting positive changes in community attitudes toward menstruation.



Success Story: 8 Changing Community Norms Through Community Education Ambassadors

Okoa New Generation (ONG) has successfully trained 14 Community Education Ambassadors group mainly comprising of (influencers, religious leaders, traditional leader, women leaders) (7 male and 7 female) working across six wards Esilalei, Makuyuni, Majengo, Monduli Juu, Meserani, and Mswakini in Monduli District. These CEAs are leading efforts to challenge harmful socio-cultural norms that prevent girls and children with disabilities from completing secondary education, such as early marriage, teenage pregnancies, exclusion of the disabled, and gender inequality.



Through dialogues meetings, community outreach, and school club sessions the CEAs have raised awareness among parents, leaders (religious, traditional and LGAs), and girls on the importance of education for all. Their efforts have shifted mindsets families are delaying early marriages, schools are becoming more inclusive of children with disabilities, and communities are increasingly supportive of girls' right to education. As one parent noted,

"We now understand that educating our daughters is investing in the whole family's future."

This initiative demonstrates how grassroots engagement can transform long-standing cultural barriers, creating an enabling environment for girls and marginalized children to thrive in education.

Success Story: 9



At just 9 years old, she escaped early marriage and today, she dreams of becoming a Surgeon.

At just 9 years old, *Nasira* (name changed for protection) from Monduli Juu ward was being prepared for an early marriage, a practice still rooted in some Maasai communities. Fearful and confused, she faced losing her childhood and right to education. Through Okoa New Generation's (ONG) community awareness efforts and the vigilance of trained Community Education Ambassadors, her case was quickly identified. The team intervened by working with local leaders, her family, and government authorities to stop the marriage and secure her safety.

With support from ONG, *Nasira* was enrolled back in school, where she

now learns with confidence and dreams of becoming a teacher. Smiling, she says, *“I am happy because I can go to school like other children. I want to study hard and help other girls like me.”* Her parents, once bound by tradition, now stand proudly by her side, acknowledging the importance of education for their daughter’s future.

Nasira’s story is a powerful reminder that with the right support, harmful practices can be challenged, and the lives of vulnerable girls can be transformed. Through community engagement and advocacy, ONG continues to protect girls like Nasira, ensuring they grow up with dignity, education, and hope for a brighter future.

Success Story: 10 Men as Allies in Menstrual Hygiene and Gender Equality



For many years, menstruation and gender equality were considered “women’s issues” in pastoral communities particularly in Emairete village, leaving girls and women face stigma, silence, and limited support. Through Okoa New Generation’s (ONG) outreach programs, men including fathers, teachers, religious leaders, and community elders were deliberately engaged in conversations on menstrual hygiene management and gender equality.

This male engagement has brought remarkable change. Fathers now openly provide sanitary materials to their daughters, male teachers ensure safe and supportive spaces in schools, and community leaders speak publicly against stigma and discrimination. By breaking cultural barriers, men have become advocates for safe menstruation and equal opportunities.

One father proudly shared, *“Before, I thought menstruation was not my concern, but now I see that supporting my daughter’s hygiene and education is my responsibility. I want her to succeed.”* These shifts have created safer environments for girls both at home and in school, reducing absenteeism and building confidence.

By turning men into allies, ONG has fostered communities where women and girls are supported, respected, and empowered to reach their full potential.

Success Story: 11 Giving 107 Girls a Second Chance in Education

In Monduli District, 107 girls from Rift valley secondary school were on the verge of dropping out not because they lacked the will to learn, but because they lacked the basics: school uniforms, shoes, books, and personal hygiene supplies. Many of them faced humiliation from peers, missed classes during menstruation, and struggled with low self-esteem. Their dreams of education seemed to be fading.



Through Okoa New Generation's support, these girls received school uniforms, stationery, shoes, and hygiene kits. The transformation was immediate and powerful. With renewed dignity, the girls returned to school with confidence, their attendance improved, and their focus on learning was restored.



One girl joyfully said, *"I used to feel ashamed and thought of leaving school, but now I walk proudly in my uniform, ready to achieve my dream of becoming a doctor."*

Today, these 107 girls stand as a testament that small interventions can create big changes. By restoring their hope and removing barriers, ONG not only kept them in school but also reignited their belief in a brighter future.

Success Story: 12 From Learners to Mentors – 289 Girls Leading Change in SRHR

In Arusha, Moshi and Monduli District, 289 out-of-school girls from Arusha district (Iemala, Levulosi, Sekei and Olorieni ward) once faced high risks of unplanned pregnancies, early marriages, and exposure to HIV/AIDS due to limited knowledge of their sexual and reproductive health (SRHR). Many of them had little or no access to information on family planning, menstrual hygiene, or disease prevention, leaving them vulnerable and without control over their futures.

Through Okoa New Generation's (ONG) comprehensive SRHR training, these girls were empowered with knowledge and practical skills on family planning methods, the menstrual cycle

(calendar method), HIV/AIDS prevention, and the importance of informed decision-making. The training sessions not only equipped them with life-saving information but also built their confidence to speak openly about reproductive health, a topic often silenced in their communities.

The transformation has been remarkable. Today, these 289 girls are not only practicing safer choices in their own lives but are also serving as mentors and peer educators to others. They organize small group discussions, support younger girls, and advocate within their communities to break harmful taboos. One participant proudly shared, *“Before this training, I knew nothing about my body. Now I protect myself, and I teach my friends to do the same. I feel like a leader.”*

As a result, cases of unplanned pregnancies, early marriage and sexually transmitted infections among these girls have significantly reduced, proving that when young women are informed and empowered, they can change the direction of their lives and positively influence their peers. The story of these 289 girls is a powerful example of how education and mentorship can transform vulnerability into leadership.

Success Story: 13 A Safe House Giving 17 Girls a Second Chance



17 secondary school girls from Olesokoine secondary school faced the heartbreaking reality of dropping out of school due to early marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), economic hardship, parental separation, and lack of learning materials. Each girl carried a heavy burden fear, stigma, and uncertainty about her future. Without intervention, their dreams of education and a better life would have been lost.

Through Okoa New Generation's Safe House program, these girls found refuge, protection, and hope. The Safe House not only provided them with accommodation, food, and academic materials but also offered counseling and mentorship to help them heal from trauma and rebuild their confidence. For the first time, they experienced a safe environment where education and dignity were prioritized.



One of the girls shared, *“Before coming here, I thought my life was over. Now I feel safe, I have school materials, and I can study without fear. I want to finish school and become a lawyer to fight for other girls like me.”*

Today, all 17 girls are back in school, motivated and determined to succeed. Their resilience and progress stand as proof that safe spaces can break

cycles of oppression and restore hope. The Safe House is not just a shelter it is a foundation for new beginnings, transforming vulnerability into strength and giving every girl the chance to rewrite her future.