

**kwa waZee**

# **SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

Advancing Social Protection and Community-Based Support  
for Older People and Children



***"I followed the exercises every day. Now I return to the farm pain-free."***

**JANUARY - JUNE 2025**

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## Key Impacts and Data



### *Pension Support*

- 566 older people and 78 grandchildren received monthly pensions in three wards.
- 157 elders supported under Universal Pension Pilot in two wards.
- Outcome: Improved food security and dignity; reduced financial stress.



### *Advocacy & Legal Support*

- 22 elders (14 women, 8 men) received legal assistance on abuse and property rights.
- 43 widows trained in legal literacy on inheritance and marriage laws.
- 20 widows trained in upcycling plastic waste for income generation.
- Outcome: Increased empowerment, justice access, and income diversification.



### *Psychosocial & Livelihood Support*

- 4 water tanks built, improving safe water access for elders.
- 50 Improved stoves contracted, reducing firewood use and health risks.
- 50 older leaders trained in sustainable farming and leadership.
- 749 elders engaged in goat-rearing project; 49 kids born, 6 goats sold for income.
- Outcome: Enhanced health, food security, and economic resilience



### *Health Interventions and Self Protection*

- 905 elders screened via mobile clinics for hypertension (353), diabetes (80), malaria (125), joint pain (550), UTIs (10), hernia (3).
- 200 trainers in 12 wards equipped older people with skills to prevent and report abuse
- 60 assistant health trainers equipped to promote wellness and home care.
- TSh 627,000 raised from elders groups to assist 113 sick elders.
- Outcome: Improved health and mobility, stronger community care, and increased confidence among older people to seek help and protect themselves.



### *Child Protection & Education (Tatu Tano Program)*

- 2,533 children in 408 groups supported with mentorship, education, and protection.
- 2,476 school uniforms, 1,800 exercise books, and other materials distributed.
- 43 self-defense groups trained 2,891 girls on safety and life skills.
- 64 boys trained 2305 boys in gender equity and violence prevention; positive behavior changes observed.
- 6 schools received 80 boxes of menstrual hygiene pads targeting 675 girls.
- Outcome: Safer schools, empowered children, and improved education access.



### *Bicycle Sales & Mobility (VBC & Bike to School Program)*

- 329 bicycles sold generating TSh 71.6 million revenue.
- 200 bikes prepared for students in remote schools to improve access.
- Outcome: Enhanced mobility and school attendance.



## Introduction

From January to June 2025, Kwa Wazee continued to support vulnerable older people and children through intergenerational solidarity, social protection, and psychosocial support. In addition to steady program delivery under HAD, EGMONT, VELAFRICA, THEIRWORLD, KWA WAZEE CH, and TATUTANO CH, the period was enriched by learning exchanges and key partner visits.

Highlights included technical support to HOPE NGO for a self-defense training in April, and a learning visit to HAKIZETU in May, focusing on youth-led innovations and menstrual health. We also hosted donor René and his daughter Lili, as well as Mr. Peter Gondwe from Life Concern Malawi, both of whom commended our community-based work in dignifying lives in our society.

## Comprehensive Details of the Activities Implemented

### Pension Fund

Kwa Wazee provided monthly pension support to 566 older people and 78 grandchildren in Ngenge, Kishuro, and Rwigembe, as well as 157 elders under the Universal Pension Pilot (UPP) in Ikondo and Nsisha. The pension helped beneficiaries meet essential needs such as food, soap, and basic health care, while restoring dignity and reducing financial stress. Follow-up visits confirmed timely delivery, particularly for non-self-collecting elders. Many expressed appreciation for the regularity of the support.



***"Even with little,  
I no longer sleep  
hungry.  
I feel respected -  
someone  
remembers me."***

Maria Petro 72 yrs - Ngenge Village

### Advocacy

During reporting time Kwa Wazee's advocacy efforts focused on addressing abuse, gender-based discrimination, and property rights violations against older people across Muleba District. Legal support, community awareness, and mobilization helped empower elders and promote justice.

During this period, 22 older people (14 women, 8 men) from 20 wards received assistance through legal referrals, case follow-ups, and transport support for court appearances.





## Comprehensive Details of the Activities Implemented

Many, like Mama Teresia (73) from Kimwani, shared how the intervention restored their dignity.



***“I had lost hope after being beaten by my own son. But when Kwa Wazee intervened, I got justice and counseling that helped me heal.”***

Another powerful case was that of Bi. Clezensia Ichumbaki (71), who had been denied inheritance:

***“I was about to give up... now I have hope of reclaiming what is mine.”***

Within the reporting cycle, Kwa Wazee facilitated advocacy reflection meetings, legal education, and skills training to empower older people, especially widows.

A reflection meeting gathered 25 older representatives (13 men, 12 women) from island wards (Ikuza, Mazinga, Bumbire, Kerebe, and Goziba) to share experiences and challenges, particularly poor access to health and social services.

***“Now I know how to push for older people’s needs in my community,”***

Said by Ezekiel Damian 70 years old  
From Mazinga Ward





## Comprehensive Details of the Activities Implemented

A one-day legal literacy session reached 43 widowed women from 43 wards, covering inheritance and marriage laws to build awareness and confidence.



***“This training gave me the courage to claim what is legally mine,”***

Shared Mama Lucia (66 years old)  
From Rulanda Ward

In addition, 20 widows from Muleba and Nshamba were trained in upcycling plastic waste into products like mats and baskets, boosting both income and environmental awareness.



***“Turning trash into treasures gave me back my confidence,”***

Said Mama Ashura (67 years old) from Nshamba Ward

### ***Psychosocial Support***

As part of the mid-year implementation phase, Kwa Wazee delivered psychosocial support interventions that strengthened the dignity and resilience of older people through improved water access, energy solutions, sustainable farming, and group livelihoods.



### ***1. Safe Water Access***

Four water tanks were built for older people in Kakoma (Burungura Ward) and surrounding villages. The tanks reduced the physical burden of fetching water, improved hygiene, and minimized risks from unsafe sources.



***“When the water tank was built at my home, I felt deep relief. My granddaughter no longer follows her siblings to the dangerous pond... Now, we all have peace.”***

Mariana Elizeus (72), Kakoma Ward

### ***2. Construction of Improved Stoves***

50 improved cooking stoves were constructed in Kimwani, Buhangaza, and Kabirizi Wards. These stoves saved firewood, reduced smoke-related health issues, and eased the workload for older caregivers.



## Comprehensive Details of the Activities Implemented

### 3. Food Security & Leadership Training

Fifty (50) older group leaders from four wards were trained in leadership, sustainable farming, and food storage to improve household nutrition and group coordination. Agricultural officers were linked for ongoing guidance.

***“These sessions opened our eyes. Farming today is like raising a child without nutrition—they won’t grow. We don’t want to become beggars in old age.”***

Gregory Philipo (72), Ikondo Ward

### 4. Group Monitoring & Economic Empowerment

Seven groups received follow-up on pineapple, peanut, and handcraft projects. Tumaini Group earned TSh 142,000 from pineapple sales and launched a small internal loan system. Vigara handcraft groups made TSh 70,000 from basket sales.

***“Selling just a few pineapples helped us start a loan system. Now we support each other.”***

Mzee Jafari From Buhangaza Ward

### 5. Goat Project Monitoring

Follow-ups with 36 elders showed progress in the goat project, which now benefits 749 participants. Forty-nine goats were born, and six goats were sold to cover basic needs. Manure use improved harvests, and some beneficiaries used goat milk for nutrition.

***“These goats helped me fix the shelter and buy feed for my children.”***

Sauda Omali (70), From Mzinga Village

***“Since I received this goat two years ago, it has changed my life. I use its manure to improve my land, and my crops are now healthier than ever. To me, this goat is more than just an animal – it’s an asset I can rely on in times of emergency.”***

Joel Kamugisha - From Buhangaza Ward

### Health Support

#### 1. Assistant Health Trainer Program

60 assistant trainers were trained across five wards to promote physical activity, healthy eating, and home-based support.

Outcomes:

- Improved daily function and mobility
- Increased fruit and vegetable consumption
- TSh 627,000 raised to help 113 sick elders
- Home visits for immobile older people



***“I followed the exercises every day. Now I return to the farm pain-free.”***

Astelia Clemence 71 years old - From Ngenge Ward





Comprehensive Details of the Activities Implemented

2. Health Screening & Medical Support

Kwa Wazee conducted mobile clinics in five wards, reaching 905 older people with screenings and treatment for both communicable and non-communicable diseases. Serious cases received follow-up care, medication, and referrals.

Condition	Cases Identified	Support Given
Hypertension	353	Medication & lifestyle guidance
Diabetes	80	Referral & Education
Malaria	125	On-site treatment
Joint/ Back Pain	550	Medication & Counseling
UTIs	10	6 Treated on-site
Hernia	3	Referred for further care



Health education sessions covered nutrition, stress, exercise, and substance avoidance. Nutritional and transport support was also provided to the most vulnerable



*They treated my infections and gave me advice on what to eat. I didn't know people still cared for us like this."*

Mama Juliana (74 years old - From Rulanda Ward

***"I used to collapse without knowing why. They found my blood pressure was too high. After treatment, I feel stronger and walk better."***Mzee Banjuki (81), Ijumbi Ward

Mzee Banjuki (81 years old - From Ijumbi Ward





## Comprehensive Details of the Activities Implemented

### Self Protection

- Over the first half of the year , Kwa Wazee trained 200 assistant trainers across 12 wards to help older people prevent and respond to abuse. The sessions focused on building legal awareness, safety, and the ability to take action during threats.
- Key Achievements includes older people in most areas reported reduced violence and mistreatment. Families and local leaders showed greater respect and support. Some communities even formed local security groups to address issues like livestock theft. Elders are now more confident in reporting abuse and protecting their rights.



Case: Bi. Malia Mganyizi (75), Bisheke Village. When attacked by her son at night, Bi. Malia used skills from the training to call for help, and neighbors saved her from harm.

***“When he came with a machete, I screamed for help, just like we were taught. That scream saved me.”***

Astelia Clemence 71 years old - From Ngenge Ward

### Protecting Older People from Climate Change

#### *Livelihood Support through Climate-Smart Agriculture.*

One of the persistent challenges facing the Kagera Region is the impact of climate change, which continues to disrupt agricultural productivity and threaten food security. This has disproportionately affected older people, who in some communities are wrongly blamed for environmental changes. In response, our organization has intensified its efforts to both educate communities and directly support older farmers through climate-resilient interventions.

During this reporting period, we successfully distributed improved, drought-resistant seedlings to 750 older farmers—375 women and 375 men—across five districts: Karagwe, Muleba, Missenyi, Bukoba DC, and Biharamulo DC (150 farmers per district). In collaboration with district and ward-level agricultural and environmental officers, these efforts were carefully coordinated to ensure maximum impact. Additionally, the beneficiaries were trained on climate-smart agricultural techniques aimed at sustaining food production despite erratic weather patterns.

**Through these initiatives, we are not only improving food security but also challenging harmful narratives and restoring dignity to older people in our communities.**



As one elder in Muleba shared during the seed distribution

***“I feel recognized not as a burden, but as someone worth investing in.”***



### ***Tatu Tano***

Tatu Tano is a community-based initiative supporting vulnerable children many living with grandmothers, in female-headed or child-headed households through peer group activities and structured mentorship. From January to June 2025, the program supported 2,533 children across 408 small groups.

Children were empowered through education support, economic empowerment and protection from violence (through life skills, awareness sessions, and community-based safeguarding structures). These activities help children build confidence, resilience, and the ability to make informed life choices.



From January to June 2025, Kwa Wazee supported vulnerable children's access to education by distributing school materials worth TZS 42,000,500. These included:

- 2,476 school uniforms (1,349 boys, 1,127 girls)
- 1,800 primary school exercise books (960 boys, 840 girls)
- 772 counter books for secondary students (444 boys, 328 girls)
- 195 dictionaries and 110 sweaters across levels

In addition, children in learning groups strengthened their literacy and numeracy skills using African Storybooks (Std 1–3) and math workbooks (Std 1–6).

38 students submitted requests for support to join Form Five and technical colleges. Although contact continues with enrolled students via phone, limited funds have delayed responses to current education needs.

- 8 students who completed Form 6 have requested introduction letters to apply for government student loans and join university.

***"I like reading the African Storybooks with my friends. Now I can read better and solve math problems too!"***

Elivn David - Student Nyakatanga Sec.





### ***Economic Empowerment***

In the past six months, Tatu Tano strengthened youth-led agriculture and livestock projects as key tools for food security and economic empowerment.

### ***Fighting Climate Change Through Resilient Agriculture and Animal Husbandry***

Through 122 girls' self-protection groups and cluster meetings, young members engaged in farming and livestock activities. 3 agro-facilitators trained groups on animal care, climate-smart farming, and feeding practices. Highlights include:

- 7 groups produced 9 goats
- 2 groups produced 2 sheep
- 3 groups raised 13 rabbits
- 4 groups produced 20 eggs for hatching
- 2 groups harvested 13 liters of honey
- 107 groups stored maize and bean seeds; 46 used them to plant in the March season
- 16 groups contributed harvested food to support school meals
- 21 girls' groups have already produced chicks, rabbits, and goats

Tatu Tano continues to monitor and support these initiatives to ensure sustainability.



### ***Protecting Children Against Violence***

#### ***Empowering Girls Through Self-Defense***

- 43 self-defense groups trained 2,891 girls weekly, with support from 96 assistant trainers.
- Topics covered: body autonomy, reproductive health, life skills, sexual violence, assertiveness, safe environments.
- A mini-assessment of 505 girls from 8 schools found:

*44% experienced sexual violence (Dec 2024–Apr 2025)*

*Only 25% reported to parents, 10% to teachers, and 11% in groups*

***“Self-defense has changed how our girls see themselves. They are not just safer, but also bolder and more confident.”***

Halima Kiwanuka, Gwanseli Secondary

- New outreach strategies: Household visits encouraging non-participating girls to join.
- Teacher training (15 teachers): Boosted girl confidence and addressed implementation issues.
- Additional training held for 60 girls at Nyakahama & Ibuga schools over 12 days; included both physical and psychosocial empowerment.

**Key Testimonies revealed high-risk areas: rivers, isolated paths, abusive male peers and some teachers.**





## Comprehensive Details of the Activities Implemented

### Boys as Allies: Peace Is a Decision (PiaD)

- 64 PiaD assistant trainers facilitated gender-equity and anti-violence education.
- Training in two schools reached 50 boys who helped form 66 groups (2,305 members).
- 16 sessions covered masculinity, emotional regulation, puberty, and non-violence.
- Boys showed:

*Increased respect for girls, Engagement in domestic chores (70% now cook, fetch water, clean) and Readiness to report violence and act as role models*



***“Now boys respect girls and work with them to make school safe.”***

Assistant Trainer, Muleba

- Challenges: 30% of boys face resistance at home, and boys themselves identified parental violence as a root issue (e.g. suicide, street children).



**Recommendation:** Extend training to parents, especially fathers.

### Menstrual Health and Ending Period Shame

- 28 teachers trained to support girls' menstrual needs; many shifted mindsets.



***“I had never seen a pad before. Now I understand my role in supporting students.”***

Male Teacher, Mashekuro Primary

- 1,920 pads distributed to 675 girls across 6 schools (Total: 3,744 pads to 1,395 girls).



- Campaigns reduced:
  - Absenteeism: Down by 70–80%*
  - Bullying: Reduced by 60–70%*
  - Boosted self-esteem for 85% of girls*



## Comprehensive Details of the Activities Implemented

### Community Child Protection Committees (CPCs)

40 participants (leaders & CPC members) trained in Kagoma Ward.

Key child protection issues identified:

- Sexual/physical abuse: 78%, Corporal punishment: 75%, Child labor: 65% , Lack of education: 60% and Malnutrition: 55%
- New bylaws (Rwazi & Rwanganilo): Parents to be held accountable if children are found at markets or lakes during school hours.
- In Mshabago, Nyakatanga, Kishanda, Buganguzi:
- 30 abuse cases resolved
- CPCs gained strong community trust, new volunteers joined, forming peer support groups.

### "I Feel It" Program: Empowering Younger Children (Aged 6-10)

- 342 children engaged in emotional development and assertiveness sessions.
- Key topics: Communication, Saying Yes/No, Inner voice listening, Sharing fears safely.
- Sessions held through cluster group meetings, fostering safe expression and decision-making.

Significant progress has been made in child protection, self-awareness, and community-led interventions. However, remote areas, younger children, and male parental involvement remain critical gaps.



***"CPCs are more than child defenders, they build unity in villages."***

Community Member, Nyakatanga

### SOMA NA MTI

#### Climate Change Education & School-Based Action

20 teachers from 10 schools were trained using a simplified climate change guide.

Schools received waste bins and footballs to support student-led clubs promoting environmental care.

Ongoing monitoring shows teachers continue to educate students on tree planting and conservation, with each pupil taking responsibility for tree care. While climate challenges persist, schools are steadily fostering climate awareness and action.



***"With collective effort, every child can grow up confident, protected, and able to defend their rights."***

Mariam Juma ,Community member - Itongo Village



### *Vijana Bicycle Center Project*

No container of bicycles was received from Velafrica during this period. All sales were made using the remaining stock from December 2024.

#### **Sales Overview**

- Nshamba VBC (185 bikes): TZS 41,490,000/=
- Spare parts sales: TZS 2,264,400/=
- Institutional sales (98 bikes): TZS 15,401,000/=
- Muleba (45 bikes): TZS 8,228,000/=
- Bukoba (21 bikes): TZS 4,250,000/=
- Total Revenue (Jan–June): TZS 71,633,400/=



#### **Marketing & Institutional Engagement**

- Visited 16 institutions to promote bicycle sales on credit.
- Bicycles were successfully distributed to 13 institutions, totaling 98 bikes sold on credit.

#### **Bike to School (B2S) Program**

- 200 bicycles were prepared for the program at subsidized rates.
- Conducted outreach in Biharamulo, Muleba, and Bukoba districts.
- Three schools were identified where students walk long distances to attend classes.



Between January and June, we conducted monitoring in nine secondary schools that benefited from the Bike to School project. The aim was to assess the impact of the project on students' education and well-being. Girls reported feeling safer when cycling to school, and teachers confirmed a noticeable decrease in absenteeism and an improvement in academic performance among students using bicycles compared to the period before the intervention.

**As the world faces the growing challenge of non-communicable diseases, we at Vijana Bicycle Center are committed to raising community awareness on the importance of regular physical activity—especially cycling—as a healthy and sustainable lifestyle choice.**

Adelphinus Alexander - VBC Manager



### Conclusion

Over the first half of the year, Kwa Wazee remained steadfast in its commitment to dignifying the lives of vulnerable older people and children across Muleba District. Despite economic and logistical constraints including the absence of a new bicycle container from Velafrica our programs across social protection, advocacy, psychosocial support, health care, child protection, and economic empowerment made tangible, life-enhancing impacts in the communities we serve.

The voices and stories captured throughout this period reflect not only restored dignity, but also growing confidence, resilience, and agency among elders, widows, and children. Our work has been further strengthened by strategic learning exchanges, capacity-building sessions, and strong community engagement underlining the value of locally rooted and rights-based approaches.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our partners, donors, volunteers, local leaders, and community members for their continued trust and collaboration. Your commitment and solidarity have made it possible to reach thousands of lives with practical support and renewed hope.

As we look ahead to the second half of the year, we call for continued support financial, technical, and moral to sustain and expand this transformative work. Together, we can ensure that no one is left behind, and that every older person and child is seen, valued, and supported to thrive.

## Kwa Wazee – In dignity, together.



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