



~~2024~~ ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



Contents

> About Us	3
> Letter from the Team	4
> 2024 Achievements:	
○ Enhancing Access to Education	5
○ Women’s Economic Empowerment	12
○ Women’s Voice, Rights and Agency	17
○ Climate Change Resilience & Water Provision	21
○ Health and Well-being	24
○ Scaling PWC’s Impact through CBO’s Capacity Building	27
> How to Get Involved	29





About Us

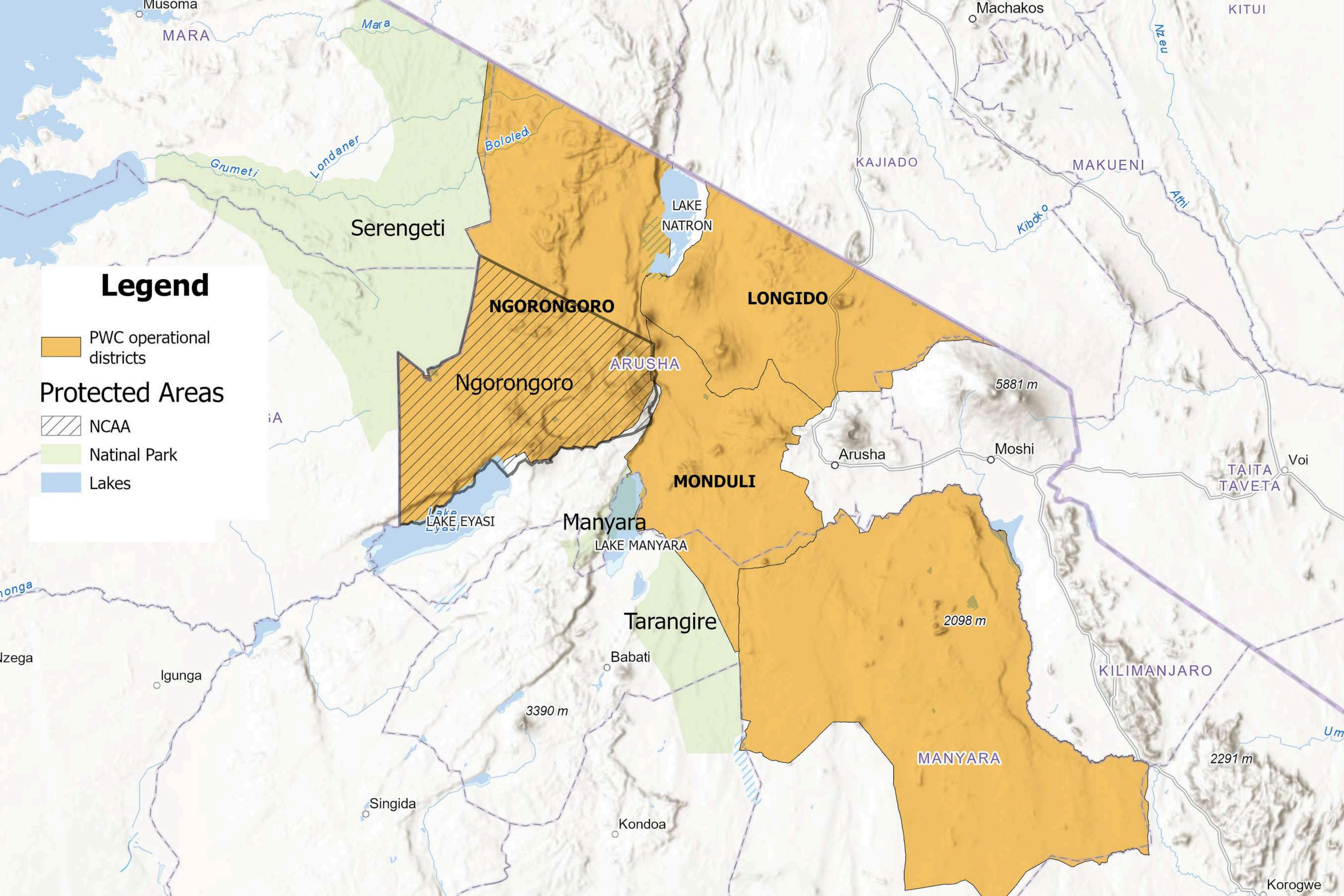
Pastoral Women's Council (PWC) is a Tanzanian membership organization empowering over 7,000 Maasai women across Ngorongoro, Longido, and Monduli Districts. Founded 26 years ago, PWC champions pastoralist women's rights, economic empowerment, and access to quality services.

Our Mission

Our mission is to sustainably empower pastoralist women and girls in northern Tanzania to ensure their rights and voices are respected, they are economically empowered, and they have access to quality social services.

Our Vision

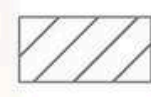
Our vision is a developed society, which respects human rights and justice for all.



Legend

 PWC operational districts

Protected Areas

 NCAA

 National Park

 Lakes

Letter from the Team

Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

In 2024, Pastoral Women's Council (PWC) reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that pastoralist women and girls remain at the forefront of transforming their communities, driving change, strengthening resilience, and shaping more equitable futures. This year exemplified the power of collaboration between communities, civil society, and government in advancing inclusive, community-driven development.

The Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) model pioneered by PWC in northern Tanzania to bridge schools, parents, and communities proved highly successful in enhancing safer and more inclusive learning environments, leading to its integration into Tanzania's national education policy through the Ushirikishwaji wa Wazazi na Walimu (UWAWA) framework. Similarly, Village Climate Action Plans (CAPs) collectively developed by women, men, and youth in their respective villages were adopted and financed by district councils, embedding Indigenous-led climate adaptation into government planning and budgets. These milestones highlight how bottom-up innovations led by Indigenous women can influence policy and public investment, ensuring that community-driven solutions are recognized, scaled, and sustained.

As our communities continue to navigate the challenges of insecure land tenure, women across northern Tanzania are championing their rights to individual and collective ownership of land and natural resources, shaping climate justice and advocating for community-led conservation models that protect livelihoods, biodiversity, and cultural heritage.

PWC remains deeply committed to advancing women's economic self-reliance, leadership, access to justice, and resilience, ensuring that Indigenous pastoralist women are not only included but recognized as architects of lasting change for their families, their communities, and the planet.

GOAL 1:

Championing Pastoralist Children's Right to **Quality and Transformative Education**

In Northern Tanzania, indigenous pastoralist girls grow up in a society that limits their choices and silences their voices in both subtle and obvious ways. From childhood, they are taught that marriage matters more than education, that their choices are secondary, and that their voices do not matter. These messages become ingrained in their identity, while harmful practices like forced marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), along with structural barriers such as period poverty (lack of menstrual hygiene access) and time poverty (heavy household chores), further restrict their opportunities. Rooted in gender bias at home and in school, these factors contribute to low enrolment, retention, and completion rates steadily eroding opportunities for girls to thrive.

For Pastoral Women's Council (PWC), advancing girls' education is not just a service, **it is a holistic, transformative strategy to disrupt cycles of inequality and foster agency in future generations.** Through a multi-pronged approach that ensures that girls access, stay in and succeed at school while advocating for quality, safe and inclusive education. PWC is transforming how girls see themselves, how communities value them, and how the future is being shaped, thereby catalysing a complete generational shift in Indigenous pastoralist communities in Northern Tanzania.

Impact & Metrics

Educated girls become bold women who lead resilient, healthy, climate-smart and inclusive families and communities.

71 Girls supported in Primary School

171 Girls supported in Secondary School

52 Girls supported in College & University

300,000,000 + TZS Invested in comprehensive scholarships

Bridging Vulnerability to Opportunity: Pre - Form One Programme

The annual Pre-Form One programme supports an average of **100 girls each year** during the transition from primary to secondary school, a critical period when many are at risk of early marriage and permanent exclusion from education. This three-month boarding course strengthens foundational literacy, numeracy, and life skills, while easing the shift from Swahili instruction in primary school to English instruction in secondary school. While many girls progress to public secondary schools, those not assigned due to low exam scores are prioritised and given a spot at Emanyata Secondary School, ensuring they can continue their education in a safe and supportive environment.

◦ A Deeper Look

- 109** Girls supported in Primary School
- 100%** Of girls transitioned into secondary school
- 50%** Were enrolled at Emanyata Secondary School through PWC scholarships



Emanyata Secondary School: A Model for Inclusive, Safe, Transformative Education

Emanyata Secondary School (ESS) offers a lifeline to pastoralist girls excluded from further education due to systemic and social barriers, not lack of ability. Rooted in positive pastoralist values, the school blends cultural pride with academic excellence and practical agricultural skills, providing a holistic English-medium education. Through donor-funded scholarships and a strong focus on self-reliance and psychosocial support, **Emanyata empowers girls to become confident thinkers and future leaders, many of whom go on to champion justice, equality, and lasting community transformation.**

As a mixed boarding school, ESS ensures safety, scholarships, psychosocial support, and a low student-teacher ratio of 17:1, well below the regional average. Students benefit from full wraparound care, including meals, healthcare, and mental health services, while gaining hands-on training in regenerative agriculture, skills that not only sustain the school but also strengthen food security and resilience in their communities.



◦ A Deeper Look

180

Girls enrolled (100% boarders)

70%+

Were not placed in public school due to low primary exam scores

68%

Are survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV)

100%

Pass rate in Form II and IV national exams (2021, 2022, 2023)

CASE STUDIES

ESS Girls in STEM: Veronica's Story

Veronica Maingo was raised in a Maasai village by her single mother, who faced significant challenges in supporting her education following a violent separation from her husband, which left her without any property despite having contributed to creating the family's wealth.

At 14, Veronica was recruited through the Pastoral Women's Council scholarship program to attend Emanyata Secondary School in 2014. There, she found a supportive environment that nurtured her love for learning and ignited her passion for a career in health, inspired by motivational speakers from the health sector through the school's health club. Veronica excelled academically at Emanyata and advanced secondary school in Arusha, ultimately enrolling at Huruma University of Health and Allied Sciences in Moshi, where she earned a diploma in nursing and midwifery, graduating in 2023. Following her graduation, she volunteered at her hometown district hospital for six months before taking a position at Jema Hospital in Dodoma, where she now works in a specialised ward for premature and critically ill newborns. At 25 years old and now a mother of one, Veronica is committed to her work and plans to pursue further education in pediatric and neonatal care to improve child health in her community. During visits to her home village, she returns to Emanyata Secondary School to speak with girls from similar backgrounds, inspiring them to pursue STEM subjects and other fields traditionally dominated by men and boys. Veronica has and continues to challenge societal expectations, mentoring young girls to turn their adversities into opportunities and become agents of change in their communities.



Parental Engagement: **Scaling Impact Through Parents and Teachers Associations (PTAs)**

Most parents in pastoralist communities would rarely set foot in their children's schools. **Why?**

Many parents speak only their indigenous languages and have little or no formal education, while teachers use Swahili or English, the national languages. This language and education gap leaves parents intimidated and unable to discuss lessons, grades, or concerns, making education seem solely the teachers responsibility and learning stop at the classroom door.

PTAs have helped bridge this gap by creating inclusive spaces and practical hacks that enable all parents, regardless of literacy or language, to engage meaningfully in their children's education. PTAs have strengthened school-community collaboration by enabling all parents, even those who cannot read, to engage in their children's learning through simple tools and regular meetings. Parents now reduce chores, create study spaces, stay in touch with teachers, and mobilize resources while also protecting girls from early marriage and harmful practices. These efforts have boosted attendance, performance, and retention, leading PWC to advocate for PTAs as a key strategy to improve education.

Read more about PTA's [**HERE**](#)

◦ **LOCAL IMPACT**

Building on the success of 9 pilot PTAs, District Councils in Ngorongoro and Longido adopted the model for all public schools. In partnership with the councils of Ngorongoro, Longido, and Monduli, PWC has since trained 51 PTAs, engaging 1,530 education champions and reaching nearly 30,000 students, strengthening community participation in education.

NATIONAL IMPACT ◦

Through its engagement with the Tanzania Education Network (TEN/MET), PWC successfully advocated for PTAs to be integrated into national education policy, leading to the adoption of the UWAWA framework now implemented in primary schools nationwide. PWC's role in this systemic change was recognized by the Ministry of Education during its 30th anniversary of inclusive education in September 2024.

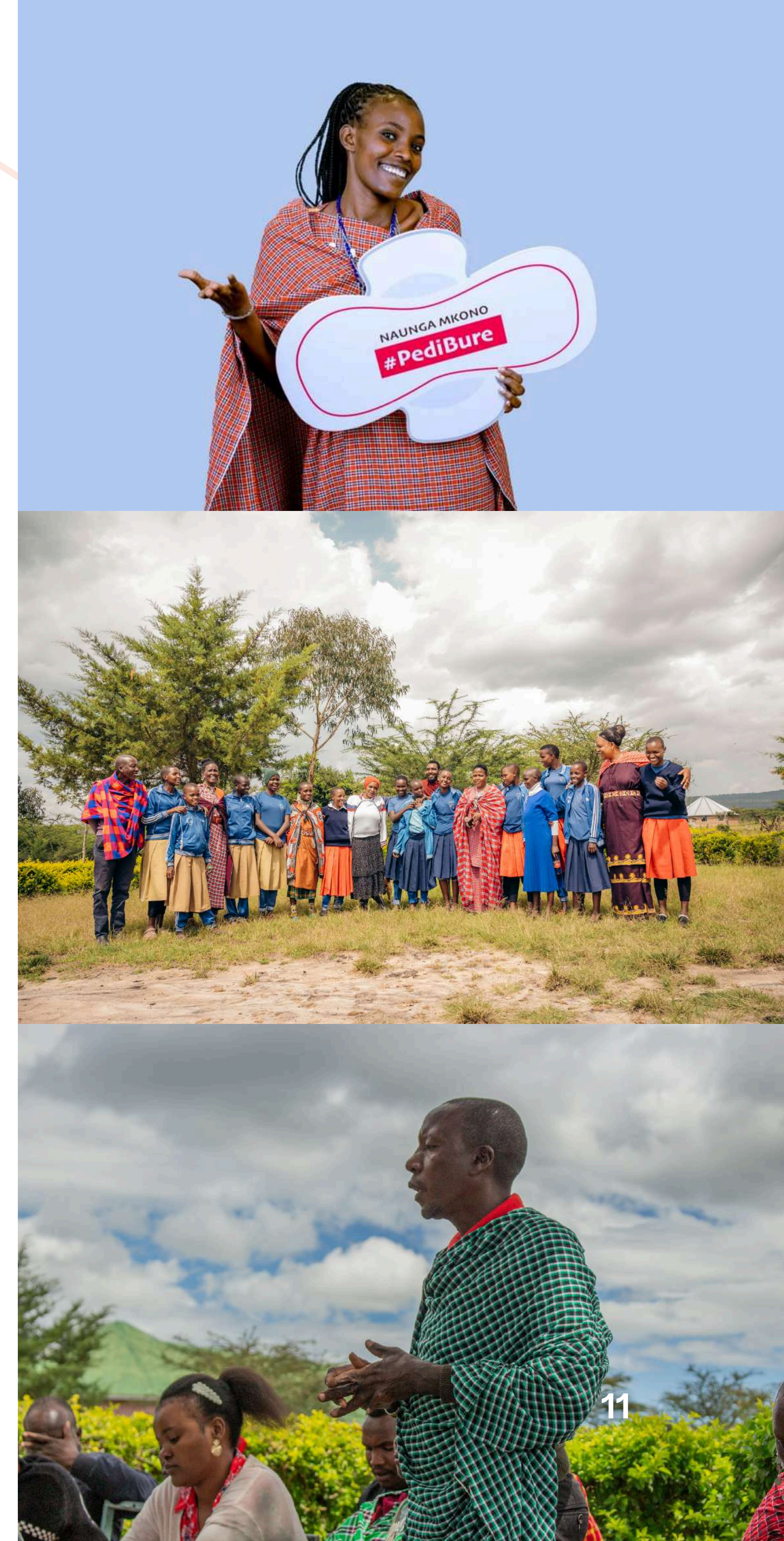
Ending Period Poverty: “Pedi Bure Pedi Bila Malipo” Campaign

In collaboration with Msichana Initiative, PWC co-led a national campaign addressing menstrual health and period poverty.

The campaign featured a girls-led strategy conference in Dar es Salaam with **50 girls**, including 15 from PWC project areas, alongside youth-led theatre and advocacy that reached over **5,000 pastoralists**. It also mobilized a national petition targeting 10,000 signatures and culminated in a high-level policy dialogue with Parliament and the Ministries of Health and Finance. Supported by Health Minister Hon. Ummy Mwalimu, the campaign pushed to classify menstrual pads as essential medical supplies and The East African Legislative Assembly Parliament saw most member states endorse a 0% tariff on raw materials for pad and diaper production.

Closing Learning Gaps Through Gender Responsive Remedial Support

The Remedial Program helps children catch up before national exams. In 2024, PWC and three partner Community Based Organizations (CBOs): ENCO, COSITA, and Genesis Community Foundation, implemented it in **11 schools** for Grades 3–5. **Seventeen volunteer teachers supported 1,329 learners (609 girls, 720 boys), with 65% catching up in six months and over 80% within a year.** To enhance impact, 193 teachers (99 women, 94 men) were trained in child protection policies and the “Teaching at the Right Level” approach.



Strengthening **Foundational Learning** in Public Schools

While primary education in Tanzania is officially free, persistent challenges, such as a shortage of qualified teachers, limited infrastructure, minimal teaching materials, and an overreliance on rote memorization, undermine the quality of learning, especially in rural and pastoralist areas. As a result, many children complete primary school without acquiring basic literacy and numeracy skills.

To address early learning gaps, PWC supports foundational learning through targeted remedial classes for early learners in public schools who are falling behind. These classes focus on building core competencies in reading, writing, and arithmetic within a supportive, student-centered environment.

To ensure effective pedagogies, PWC in collaboration with three partner CBOs trained **193 teachers** (99 female and 94 male) in the **Rapid Learning Approach (RLA)** and adaptation of the **Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL)** approach, which groups students by learning level rather than age or grade, and equips educators with practical tools for inclusive instruction. Additionally, PWC provided training in **gender-responsive pedagogy**, enabling 45 teachers (25 female and 20 male) to create safe, inclusive, and empowering classrooms for girls, who often face cultural and social barriers to learning. Together, these efforts help close learning gaps early, build student confidence, and lay a strong foundation for long-term academic success.

Read more about PWC's Impact on Education [**HERE**](#)



GOAL 2:

Economic Empowerment of Pastoralist Women

When pastoralist women gain access to financial tools, training, and support, they transform not just their lives, but the resilience and prosperity of entire communities. **Once sidelined from household decisions and economic participation, Indigenous women are now leading income-generating ventures, investing in their families, and becoming visible agents of change.**

PWC's approach to women's economic empowerment is rooted in trust, solidarity, and skills. We work with women at the grassroots to create Village Community Banks (VICOBA) micro-credit and savings groups that serve as springboards for entrepreneurship, confidence-building, and community influence.

Beyond the finances, women receive structured training in:

- Business and entrepreneurship
- Market and financial literacy
- Reproductive health and rights

The women also take part in activities such as tree planting and kitchen gardening, efforts that not only promote food security but also contribute to reforestation and environmental preservation.

These interventions specifically target Indigenous pastoralist and agro-pastoralist women, including young women and those living with disabilities, to ensure inclusive and sustainable impact.

Impact & Metrics

112 New VICOBA groups established

853 Total VICOBA groups

19,000 (47% youth) Total members

TZH 2,044,000,000 (~\$817,600) Total savings circulating

5–10% Annual profit per member

51 Female, 9 Male Trainers of Trainers (TOTs) trained in 2024

102 Female, 18 Male Current TOTs

7 Average groups supported per TOT

CASE STUDIES

From Savings to Strength: The Pastoralist Women in Loisirwa Village are Building Prosperity Together

Two years ago, 30 women in Loisirwa formed a VICOBA the majority beginning with no income, little education and low confidence. With support from PWC, they received training in savings, lending, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and leadership.

At first, progress came through trial and error, testing small businesses, learning from mistakes, but slowly with continued mentorship and support from peers and the PWC team, they began finding their footing in the local market.

Their share value quadrupled in just three cycles, and they reinvested earnings into both household needs and a group business, renting more than 100 chairs and a sound system for local ceremonies and events. Individually, each woman also launched small enterprises, from trading vegetables to selling meat.

The results are tangible: all 30 women now have stable incomes, own healthier and safer homes, and 27 have adopted clean gas stoves, reducing firewood dependence. Beyond income, the group has gained dignity, confidence, and decision-making power.

Their journey shows that financial inclusion is also about collective and intersectional empowerment, better quality of life, stronger voices in households and communities, and climate-smart choices that secure a resilient future.

Read Loisirwa VICOBA Full Case Study [HERE](#)



Engishon Microfinance Ltd (EML): Advancing Toward Financial Sustainability.

In 2024, EML made strong progress toward financial sustainability and is now well- positioned to reach profitability by 2026. Key performance indicators showed significant growth, driven by operational improvements and a deeper focus on financial inclusion for underserved rural communities, especially women and youth.

With a strong foundation and a data-driven, community-focused model, Engishon is driving meaningful change in rural Tanzania. Continued support and new partnerships will be key to scaling impact in 2025 and beyond.



“ This loan helped me realise the importance of access to affordable loans, especially for women striving to uplift their families. From the outset, we faced challenges from people who doubted women could succeed in business. But we stayed strong, grew our businesses, and proved them wrong. ”

-Maria John,
Engishon Beneficiary

Impact & Metrics

VICOBAs groups accessing loans: 45 → 187

Members in these groups: 1,125 → 4,675

Individual borrowers (focused on women & youth): 163 → 220

Total women borrowers: 1,035 → 4,675
(2025 target: 6,000)

Revolving loan fund: > 1 Million TZS for 2025

Women's Solidarity Bomas

On July 28, 2024, a graduation ceremony at the Nalepo Mayan Women Solidarity Boma in Njoroi Village brought together about 400 women to celebrate the success of their livestock initiative. The programme has supported 34 families with 197 sheep, 21 cows, and provided school supplies to three students. Women were recognized for their contributions to community growth, particularly through VICOBA education, which has enhanced their livestock-keeping skills. Graduating members each received four sheep and one cow, symbolizing empowerment and the strength of women's unity and visibility in society.

Naramatisho Women's Centre: A Hub for Women's Economic Empowerment and Cultural Stewardship

Launched in December 2024 and set to begin full operations in 2025, the Naramatisho Women's Centre is a women-led initiative driving community development, enterprise, and cultural preservation in pastoralist communities. The centre serves as a space for capacity building and women empowerment, offering training in leadership, financial literacy, enterprise development and so much more to help women turn their ideas into impact. Located along key routes to Tanzania's national parks, Oldonyo Lengai, Lake Natron, and the Serengeti, connecting cultural tourism with women's empowerment.

Naramatisho also works to shift perceptions of pastoralist life by documenting and sharing Indigenous knowledge and traditions. It highlights the vital role pastoralist women play in protecting biodiversity, while ensuring that the benefits of conservation and tourism reach them directly. At Naramatisho, women have come together, and they keep coming, every day. It is a place where they work side by side towards a shared goal and dream: to uplift their communities, preserve their culture, and claim their rightful place in shaping the future.

Visit Naramatisho Womens Website [HERE](#)

CASE STUDIES

Shola's story: A Young Mother's Journey to Self-reliance through Vocational Training

At just 26 years old, Shola has already faced challenges that most people never encounter in a lifetime. After losing her father, her mother struggled to raise four children, and financial constraints cut short Shola's schooling. Married young and shortly after widowed with two children, she was left to shoulder the full weight of responsibility. With little education and no property to rely on, opportunities were scarce, but she never stopped seeking a better life.

In 2024, alongside 9 other pastoralist youth, she seized an opportunity with the Pastoral Women's Council's Youth Vocational Training Program, supported by Trias. Already determined to provide for her children, Shola joined the first training cohort to strengthen her skills in sewing, design, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy.

With training and a starter kit, she opened a small tailoring shop and joined three savings groups, where she now saves about 1.5M TSH (\$600) and accesses loans over 4.5M TSH (\$1,800). These enabled her to expand into school-uniform tailoring and later a cereal shop. Her steady income has improved her home, funded a new house, and secured education, food, and healthcare for her children.

Read Shola's Full Case Study [HERE](#)



GOAL 3:

Strengthening Pastoralist Women's Rights, Voices, and Agency

Pastoralist women in Northern Tanzania **face dual marginalization**, as members of historically underserved communities that also face patriarchal systems that limit their autonomy, decision-making power, and access to resources. These systemic barriers, compounded by climate-related challenges, make it difficult for women to build resilience and drive change.

PWC is addressing this imbalance by investing in the leadership, voice, and agency of women and girls. Through platforms such as Women's Rights and Leadership Forums (WRLFs), Court User Committees (CUCs), and tailored leadership and legal training, pastoralist women are increasingly stepping into roles of influence in their homes, communities, and governance structures.

“We are not just the voices for the change, we are role models for the entire community to change, and we are preparing the young generation to change the future community.”

-Noormiruturut Punuka,
Member of the Oldonyowas WRLF

Impact & Metrics

43 (1,075 women, 215 men) New WRLFs formed

113 Total WRLFs

3,390 (2,825 women, 565 men) Active gender equality champions

92 GBV cases reported via WRLFs & CUCs

119 (45 men, 54 women, 20 youth) Community members trained with Securing Your Family's Future (SYFF) curriculum

2,500+ Community members reached with justice & GBV campaigns

1,705 Women elected to civic leadership positions (2024) in Monduli, Ngorongoro, Longido and Simanjiro

Strengthening Local Structures for Access to Justice

In 2024, Pastoral Women's Council (PWC) formed and strengthen **43 new Women's Rights and Leadership Forums (WRLFs)** across its program areas. These community-rooted, women-led platforms provide safe spaces for dialogue, learning, and grassroots advocacy on key issues such as land rights, gender-based violence (GBV), early marriage, and women's leadership.

This brings the cumulative number of these women-led platforms for mobilisation and organising around women's and girls' agendas to **113** with **3,390 informed and passionate male and female change-makers** challenging systemic inequity and advocating for a just and equitable pastoralist society across Northern Tanzania.

Each Women's Rights and Leadership Forum (WRLF) brings together 25 women leaders and 5 male traditional leader allies who work jointly to challenge harmful gender norms, mentor aspiring women's rights advocates, and build collective power for justice and women's participation in leadership across both private and public spheres.

Together, these forums are strengthening local structures for women to access justice, fostering a new generation of rights-conscious, accountable and empowered community leaders.

CASE STUDY **Shifting Norms Through SYFF Training**

Through the "Securing Your Family's Future" (SYFF) curriculum, PWC trained **119 community members** on gender equality, property rights, and shared decision-making. The sessions were designed to challenge deeply held norms and inspire shifts in behavior around land ownership, inheritance, and leadership.

- **40 women** and **23 men** pledged to write wills
- **41 women** and **35 men** committed to co-register land with their spouses
- **45 women** and **39 men** pledged to bequeath land to their daughters
- **211 women** expressed intent to run for public office in the 2024–2025 elections

These outcomes reflect not only increased awareness, but a growing commitment to gender justice, legal empowerment, and inclusive governance at the household and community levels.

Supporting Survivors Through Court User Committees (CUCs)

Court User Committees (CUCs) are a PWC-pioneered model that brings together local justice actors, community members, legal officers, paralegals, and government officials, to promote access to justice for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). These multi-stakeholder platforms provide legal aid, monitor case progress, and raise community awareness on legal rights and reporting pathways.

◦ A Deeper Look

- **In Longido District**, 3 fully operational CUCs were supported in Noondoto, Gelai Merugoi, and Sinya, with active collaboration from local government authorities.
- **In Monduli District**, 35 participants (22 women and 13 men) were trained to form a new CUC. Within its first month, the committee supported 24 legal cases, an indication of both need and effectiveness.
- Joint learning exchanges between **Longido and Monduli** districts helped foster shared strategies and strengthen CUC implementation.



Cultivating Intergenerational Agency and Movement Building among Pastoralist and Agro-pastoralist Girls and Women to lead transformative change in their communities

In 2024, the Pastoral Women's Council (PWC) hosted a three-day **Youth Feminist Retreat** in Ngorongoro, bringing together young girls from pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities. The retreat created a safe space for participants to reflect, connect, and strengthen their voices against patriarchal norms.

Selected for their leadership and passion for advocacy, the girls explored feminist principles of equality, solidarity, and collective power. Through dialogue, interactive sessions, and storytelling, they built confidence, empathy, and resilience. Personal stories of overcoming challenges, including harmful practices like FGM, fostered solidarity and a shared commitment to creating more just and inclusive communities.

The retreat was guided by an inspiring team of feminist leaders and professionals:

- Mrs. Flora Zelothe, a seasoned pastoralist political leader
- Dr. Miriam Matinda, legal advocate and gender researcher
- Dr. Theresia Kimario, a chemistry and environmental toxicology expert and assistant lecturer at the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology.
- Nambayo Koriata, a grassroots activist and anti-FGM and fistula advocate.

Testimonies from women with similar experiences showed the girls that leadership begins with courage and self-belief, while sessions on career paths expanded their vision for the future. By the end of the retreat, they left more confident, connected, and ready to champion equality in their schools and communities. As part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign, participants also joined a public march, watched educational films, and engaged in awareness-raising events on gender-based violence.

GOAL 4:

Building Pastoral Communities Resilience to Climate Change

In 2024, PWC facilitated the development of **15 new local Climate Action Plans (CAPs)** in Longido and Ngorongoro districts. These plans reflect nearly a decade of work supporting Indigenous pastoralist women and their communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

1.

Community Sensitization

PWC staff, community champions, and local officials raise awareness on climate change impacts on pastoralist livelihoods and ecosystems.
2.

Identification and Assessment

With the Pamoja Voices Toolkit, community members, identify local climate challenges and priorities.
3.

Development of CAPs

Communities plan actions like reforestation, water protection, and income diversification, guided by gender-equitable committees.
4.

Advocacy and Adoption

PWC helps local leaders integrate CAPs into village and district plans to ensure alignment, funding, and action.

Through these efforts, PWC continues to promote Indigenous-led, gender-inclusive solutions that strengthen climate resilience from the ground up.

Impact & Metrics

Collaborative Planning and Resourcing of Indigenous Peoples led Climate Solutions through Climate action Plans

42 CAPs developed across three districts

15 village CAPs approved and adopted in 2024

4,500 pastoralists engaged in planning

\$12,000 secured from Longido District Council for CAP implementation (FY 2023/2024)

Enhancing Access to **Clean Water**

In 2024, PWC continued to strengthen water security and environmental resilience in pastoralist communities. Three new deep-water boreholes were drilled in Ngorongoro and Longido districts, reducing the burden on women who previously walked over 20 kilometers to access water. **These water points now support not only households and livestock but also schools and health facilities in remote villages.**

In Ololosokwan Village, the availability of water prompted the District Council to allocate funds for a new primary school near the borehole. In Malambo and Empopong'i, the government installed solar and electrical systems at borehole sites to ensure sustainable operations.

To promote water conservation and climate adaptation, PWC also installed 50 new rainwater harvesting demonstration sites, bringing the total to 95 across three districts.

Impact & Metrics

3 new deep-water boreholes drilled in 2024

27 boreholes cumulatively drilled and equipped by PWC

30,000 community members and livestock benefiting

50 rainwater harvesting sites installed

23 gender-equitable, operational water committees with 630 trained members

1,480 trees planted by VICOPA groups over two years

Land Restoration through **Grass Seed Banks**

In 2024, PWC members from **six villages** secured and restored **77 acres of degraded land** through the establishment of grass seed banks, a community-led effort to reverse land degradation and improve local livelihoods.

Despite ongoing challenges such as livestock grazing, wild animals, low rainfall, and pest invasions, the women showed remarkable resilience. Their efforts yielded **73.5 kg of grass seeds** and **501 bales of hay**, generating **TZS 4,896,000** in income. These earnings were reinvested into group capital, strengthening their financial base and commitment to sustainable land management.

CASE STUDIES

Piloting **Energy-Saving Stoves** to Reduce Firewood Use

Neema's journey has been filled with trials, resilience, and remarkable transformation. Her life was turned upside down four years ago when her husband passed away. As a mother of four children, she suddenly faced the world alone. Before her husband was even buried, his family took everything, livestock, and even the land ownership documents that she and her husband had purchased together. Every day was a battle, raising her children under extreme hardship.

In 2024, PWC introduced its energy-saving stove project in Makuyuni village, aiming to reduce deforestation, make kitchens safer, and cut down on cooking time and smoke exposure. Neema was among the women trained, learning both the science behind climate change and the practical skills to build her own stove. For Neema, this was more than training, it was the start of a new chapter. Using her new knowledge, she constructed more than 30 stoves for other women in nearby villages, selling each one for 15,000 Tanzanian Shillings. What began as a single household solution grew into a small business, bringing Neema income, dignity, and the ability to provide more for her children.

Neema became not just a provider for her family, but also an educator and change-maker in her community. Today, she is a successful businesswoman, a dedicated environmental advocate, and a powerful role model for women everywhere.



GOAL 5:

Improving Pastoralist Women's Health and Wellness

Across pastoralist communities, women and girls often face limited access to health services, safe childbirth, and reliable information. Community health initiatives are changing this reality by empowering women with knowledge, care, and support that directly improve their lives and the wellbeing of their families.

Through our health program, we are working hand in hand with communities to expand access to vital services and information for women and girls.

Our outcomes reflect meaningful progress: women gaining autonomy over their bodies; experiencing safer motherhood; and benefiting from stronger community support systems. By enabling informed and healthier choices, we are building more resilient households and communities while laying the groundwork for sustainable resource use and climate adaptation.

For each community health worker trained and supported, the returns are significant: **around 150 women gain access to accurate, culturally sensitive education; more mothers deliver safely with skilled health professionals; and lives are saved.**

These investments save lives, lower preventable health costs, and equip women to lead lasting change in their communities.

Impact & Metrics

Community Health Workers: **15** new + **30** retrained → **71** active frontline workers, reaching **6,000+** women annually

Community members engaged (Sexual and Reproductive Health, wellness, women's rights): **5,456** (3,774 women, 1,682 men)

Adolescents reached with health education: **3,438** (1,817 girls, 1,621 boys, across 12 schools)

Women accessing lifesaving care in remote areas: **384** (including caesarean sections, laparoscopies, obstetric fistula repair, cervical cancer treatment)

A network of **60+** trained **Traditional Birth Attendants** (TBAs) who combine indigenous wisdom with modern medical practices to improve prenatal, birth, and postnatal care.

Building the **Local Healthcare Workforce**

To strengthen healthcare access in pastoralist communities, PWC trained **15 new community health workers** in 2024 and refreshed the skills of **30 existing workers**, having in total **71 community health workers**. These frontline health workers, collectively reach more than 6,000 women each year, offering trusted guidance on maternal and reproductive health, nutrition, and preventive care.

Raising **Community Awareness**

In partnership with healthcare professionals from the Longido, Ngorongoro, and Monduli District Councils, PWC facilitated structured community meetings with **5,456 participants** (3,774 women and 1,682 men). These sessions addressed critical issues including family planning, maternal health, cervical cancer, HIV/AIDS, and the prevention of FGM and were conducted as safe and dialogic spaces, allowing community members to ask questions, dispel harmful myths, and strengthen local support for women's health and rights.

Educating **Adolescents**

Through a dedicated adolescent health education program, **3,438 secondary school students** (1,817 girls and 1,621 boys across 12 schools) learned about menstrual hygiene, abstinence, contraception, healthy relationships, and informed decision-making. This intervention is already reducing early pregnancies and school dropout while promoting gender-equitable behavior among youth, creating ripple effects that will shape future generations.



Facilitating Access to Patient-Centered Care

For severely marginalized women in remote areas, timely access to advanced healthcare is lifesaving. In partnership with socially driven hospitals, PWC facilitated care for **384** women, ensuring access to caesarean sections, laparoscopic surgeries, obstetric fistula repairs, and cervical cancer treatment.

This collaboration not only saved lives but also restored dignity, demonstrating the value of patient-centered, high-quality healthcare for women who are often left behind.

CASE STUDY

Early Detection, Renewed Hope

In March 2024, PWC organized a two-day mobile medical clinic in Lemooti village, providing vital health education, free medical check-ups, and medication to community members.

Among those who attended was Theresia Lenkuriny, a 25-year-old mother of three.

During her examination, doctors discovered that Theresia had early-stage cervical cancer. Though initially frightened, she received immediate counseling, medical advice, and a referral for further treatment, with the reassurance that the disease had been detected early and was fully treatable with timely care. Theresia has since continued to attend regular follow-up visits and remains under medical supervision.

“I am grateful to have discovered this dangerous disease while it is still curable. I am full of hope that I will recover fully.”

Her experience has inspired her to raise awareness among other women in her community about the importance of regular screening and early diagnosis. Through initiatives like the mobile medical clinic, PWC continues to make life-saving health services accessible to women in remote pastoralist communities empowering them with knowledge, access, and hope for healthier futures.

Scaling PWC's Impact through CBO's Capacity Building

PWC's capacity-building programme is empowering **12 Community-Based Organizations** (CBOs) through tailored training, mentorship, and coaching that respond to their unique needs. CBOs are organized into learning clusters to foster peer exchange, collaborative problem-solving, and the sharing of best practices. To enhance sustainability and impact, PWC offers sub-grants to strengthen CBO operations and organizes learning exchanges and site visits.

Key Activities in 2024:

- **Governance & Advocacy Training:** 19 CBO leaders trained in leadership, transparent decision-making, and advocacy to strengthen community voice.
- **Gender Mainstreaming:** Support to integrate gender-responsive strategies, ensuring inclusive participation and benefits.
- **"Securing Your Family's Future":** Financial literacy and income-generation module to build household resilience.
- **Culturally Relevant Materials:** Training educators to design learning resources rooted in local language and culture.
- **Data & Financial Management:** Practical sessions on Kobo Collect for data and QuickBooks for financial accountability.
- **Report Writing & Documentation:** Refresher training on effective reporting and record-keeping.



CBO Strengthening Strategy **At a Glance**

1. Targeted Selection Process

CBOs identified through nominations, not open calls

- Initial baseline assessment conducted by an independent consultant
- Due diligence to verify:
 - Women-led or women-focused mandate
 - Mission alignment with PWC
 - Capacity needs and gaps

2. Tailored Onboarding

One-on-one inception meetings with selected CBOs

- Customized Capacity Development Plans co-created with each CBO
- Development plans determine which trainings are needed and who participates

3. Capacity Building & Support

- Targeted training sessions based on each CBO's plan
- Hands-on support in system and structure development
- Ongoing monitoring and mentorship

4. Milestone-Based Subgrants

- CBOs that meet milestones receive sub-grants
- Funds used to scale services and implement learned systems
- Sub-grants enable co-implementation of programs with PWC
- Gradual transition to independence

5. Peer Learning & Exchange

- Field exchange visits every 3–6 months
- Exposure to PWC models like CIF, PTA, and VICOBA
- CBOs select and contextualize models to fit their mission

6. Donor Linkages & Visibility

- Facilitated networking with donors and technical experts
- Introductions and referrals to aligned donors in PWC's network
- Support to attend local and international events (financial + logistical)
- Sharing of online/physical opportunities for growth and visibility

How to **Get Involved**

The Pastoral Women's Council (PWC) is a nonprofit organization committed to protecting and advancing the rights of pastoralist women and girls in Tanzania. For decades, indigenous pastoralist communities have faced deep inequalities, from harmful cultural practices and gender-based violence to land dispossession and lack of access to quality education and healthcare. Too often, women and girls are left voiceless in decisions that shape their lives and their futures.

With the support of incredible partners, and both national and international allies, we have been able to create life-changing opportunities for change. Yet, the need remains immense. Every day, women and girls are waiting for their chance to rise and you can stand with them.

By donating, partnering, or collaborating, you help us reach more communities, strengthen our programmes, and expand our impact. But support is not only financial. More than anything, we invite you to **become a voice**.

A voice for women who have been silenced for too long. A voice for indigenous girls and women whose basic human rights have been denied. A voice for justice, equality, and dignity. The challenges facing pastoralist communities in Tanzania are real and urgent, but so is their courage, resilience, and hope.

Together, we can amplify that. **Together, we can build a future where every woman and girl has the power to thrive.**

Donate [HERE](#)



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