

ALAMA

Realizing the Potential of Every Young Person

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Program
Highlights
SYP Tanzania



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Overview of Safeguard Young People Program

Safeguard Young People (SYP) is a regional programme which started in 2013 for countries within Southern Africa, that is, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Its goal is to improve the health and wellbeing of adolescents and young people aged 10-24 years. The programme has three phases in which each phase lasts three years. The SYP Programme has a governance and management architecture agreed upon with the Government of Switzerland that is co-funding this programme with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In 2020/21, SYP has been expanded to include countries in the Eastern Africa Region: Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania. In Tanzania the program was officially launched in April, 2022.

Safeguard Young People Program in Tanzania

The Safeguard Young People (SYP) Programme is being implemented in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar with a focus on regions with poor adolescent social, reproductive health and rights indicators including on teenage pregnancy, HIV, child marriage, and gender-based inequalities. The programme complements priorities of the nation in general and is aligned to the UNFPA 9th Country Program Documents. The overall goal is to contribute to Tanzania's efforts in improving the health and wellbeing of adolescents and young people aged 10-24 years. The programme has three dimensional objectives focusing on (i) Enabling the environment, that is; Support the government to create conducive environment and scale up implementation of policies that promote and protect adolescent and young people's rights; (ii) Demand, that is; create awareness to adolescent on informed decision making on sexual reproductive health and rights and (iii) Supply, that is; increase access to quality adolescents and youth friendly integrated SRHR, GBV and HIV services.

The Safeguard Young People is a co-funded programme by UNFPA and the Embassy of Switzerland, implemented in Tanzania on a three-year phased modality. The first three years phase started in 2021 until 2023, costing \$5,100,000. The program is implemented in five

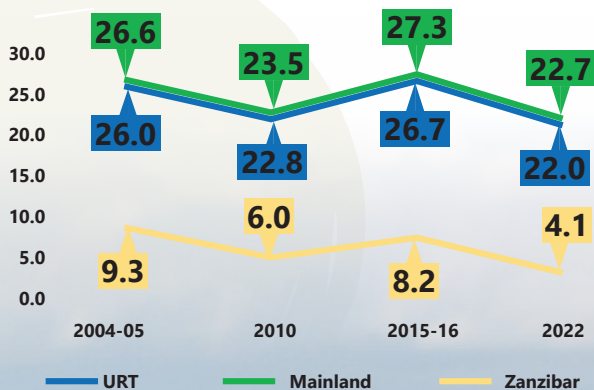


selected regions in Tanzania Mainland, that is, Kigoma, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Dodoma, Dar es Salaam; and in Zanzibar (Unguja and Pemba).

The SYP program compliments UNFPA's existing work on improving the sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights (SRHR) status of young people, promoting self-awareness and youth participation and it acknowledges and builds on the role of young people as change agents.

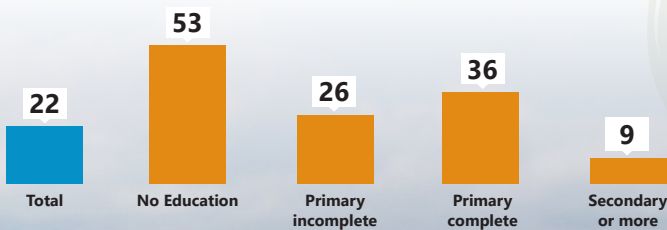
The program is in line with the Government's National Accelerated Action and Investment Agenda for Adolescent Health and Wellbeing (NAAIA-AHW). This support is aimed at advancing the vision and priorities of the United Republic of Tanzania building on national development needs and priorities as articulated in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) which outlines a coherent plan of action and enables a coordinated UN response to contribute more efficiently and effectively to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the national development goals of the third National Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP III) and the 2021-2026 Zanzibar Development Plan (ZADEP).

Trends in teenage pregnancy



Teenage pregnancy by education level

Percentage of women age 15-19 who have ever been pregnant





The SYP Programme has three main outcomes.



Improved policy and legal environment for addressing young people's issues, policies and programs at the national and sub-national levels.



Increased adolescents and young people's knowledge and skills towards the adoption of protective sexual behaviors.



Strengthened integrated SRH and HIV services for adolescents and young people are of quality and scaled up.



UNFPA working modality under the SYP Program

UNFPA works with government ministries, departments and agencies, and Civil Society Organizations (CSO)s as Implementing Partners for SYP interventions. This includes ministries responsible for youth, health and education (both on mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar), Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS), Zanzibar AIDS Commission, AfriYAN, FEMINA, Restless Development, KIWOHEDE, Tanzania Men As Equal Partner in Development (TMEPiD), and Karibu Tanzania Organization (KTO) for supporting alternative education for adolescents (young mothers) in the Folk Development Colleges (FDCs) while more broadly addressing the policy of reintegration into school for school drop-outs.



SYP Implementation Status for July-Dec 2022

Legal and Policy Environment including Youth participation, Empowerment and Coordination

Awareness and advocacy sessions were held in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma regions for 30 youth organizations and 102 key stakeholders, including healthcare workers, social welfare officers, and police from gender and children desks on the revised HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control Act, the Tanzania HIV Impact Survey Study Report, and the Report on HIV and AIDS Legal Environmental Assessment on HIV Response in Tanzania. The sessions aimed to create legal knowledge on new provisions and procedures related to the age of consent for voluntary HIV testing and voluntary HIV self-testing which is now allowed by law for 18 years and above.

The review of the National Youth Policy in mainland Tanzania is ongoing. A situation analysis was conducted in 14 regions to evaluate the effectiveness of the National Youth Development Policy (2007) implementation. A draft National Youth Development Policy, together with the Implementation Strategy, has been submitted for review to the cabinet secretariat and later to the Inter-ministerial technical committee and ministerial cabinet for approval.

Dialogues focusing on investing for young people were conducted in Dodoma, Dar es Salaam, and Pemba regions, with the participation of 102 (55 males and 47 females) decision-makers at the district level. The sessions aimed to create awareness and



mobilize commitments to ensure that more youth groups are able to access funds from the Government (Youth Fund). The sessions were able to mobilize commitments at the district level in each council to include and prioritize youth issues in the council plans. 30 new youth-led organizations from SYP regions were recruited, and 182 youth network members were oriented on leadership and advocacy in an effort to strengthen the AfriYAN Tanzania chapter. The recruitment and continuous capacity building of new and existing AfriYAN members provide an avenue for effective empowerment towards strengthened leadership and participation of youth networks in international, regional, and national decision-making and accountability platforms.

To ensure effective coordination of the SYP program in the country, three quarterly meetings and a joint field monitoring visit in Kigoma Region were conducted with the objectives to learn and monitor the progress of implementation of the SYP-related interventions towards achieving the program's targets, identify and resolve potential implementation shortfalls and obstacles, and agree on remedial actions. Success stories and best practices from the sites were identified to be documented, and other programmatic observations in relation to supporting peer educators, first-time young mothers, and youth-friendly corners have been included in the 2023 work plan.

In Zanzibar, quarterly coordination youth stakeholders' meetings were conducted to bring together different MDAs, NGOs, and development partners to explore synergies, share progress and opportunities for young people, network, avoid duplication of activities, ensure the meaningful participation of young people, and address any challenges and bottlenecks that hinder effective implementation of activities.



Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Social Behaviour Change Communication

96,250 copies of the FEMA magazine Issue number 64 were produced and distributed to youth school clubs (FEMA Clubs) with the purpose of providing awareness of SRHR and Gender Based Violence to young people. The theme of issue no. 64 ("I Dare You") is on Gender Based Violence and Violence Against Children. Copies of this issue has been distributed to reach all Fema Clubs in 2500 secondary schools across Tanzania and help young people gain knowledge on GBV and VAC as well as skills to report and prevent the same from happening. The issue content was collected from various regions of Tanzania and covered various real-life cases/experiences related to GBV and VAC. It includes links to services such as child help line 116, One Stop Centres and Gender and Children's desks. The content also provokes self-reflection and calls for the reader to act, both individually and collectively.



In making sure that young people are making informed decisions about their bodies, and their lives, UNFPA together with the PMO-LYED finalized the review of the National Life Skills Training Guide and Manual for Out of School Youth for mainland Tanzania. Both Swahili and English Versions of the National Life Standards and Training Manual for Out of School Youth are expected to be signed and printed in the first quarter of 2023. Further plans to develop popular version/user friendly materials of the national documents including development of braille version for the blind and visually impaired, and dissemination of the documents are on the way.

Zanzibar Aids Commission finalized the magazine titled JIHADHARI (Take Caution) and about 300 copies were disseminated to schools and to local civil society organizations. The magazine provides a forum to young people to discuss and gain knowledge on Sexual Reproductive Health, HIV and life skills through Televisions and radios. The magazine carries a wide range of information, including knowledge related to HIV, COVID-19, PMTCT services and stigma education. Other articles include economy and HIV, the role of the House of Representatives against HIV, involvement of religious leaders in ending HIV and men's encouragement to access HIV services.

Anti-sextortion campaign was conducted in Shinyanga region to raise awareness among staff, students and participants of Folk Development Colleges (FDCs) and their surrounding communities about the effects of sextortion in colleges and community. Sextortion as a form of corruption and gender-based violence, has negative effects on girls and women development. The objective of the three-months campaign was to raise awareness of the impacts of sextortion from an individual, community, and national level; and call for preventive actions towards combating sextortion. The main message for the campaign was "Be brave, say no to sextortion" (Kuwa Jasiri, Kataa Rushwa ya Ngono)". All FDCs have developed their strategies and action plans for three months of implementing the campaign and some have started to establish anti-sextortion club at the colleges.

Access to Integrated Sexual Reproductive Health Services

One health facility (Murufiti) in Kasulu Town Council, Kigoma Region was refurbished to strengthen provision of youth friendly reproductive health services whereby about 473 (400 M, 73F) young people received SRH services from health care workers in the period of October to December. The equipment's procured include, one examination bed, one screen curtain, two waiting chairs (airport bench), two steel cabinets, one bookshelf, two office tables, two office chairs, four visitor's chair, one coffee table, a TV set (Hisense 50") and a TV decoder, one DVD player, and one solar power system. The purchased furniture and equipment are expected to contribute to the functionality of the facility in providing adolescent friendly reproductive health services as per national protocol.

145 peer educators were trained on SRHR/GBV/FP in Dar Es Salaam (25), Shinyanga (25) and from higher learning institutions (UDSM, St. Augustine and University of Iringa (95), and about 62,757 (29,248 male, 33,509 female) young people were reached with SRHR information and 74 (42 male, 32 female) were referred to the facilities for services by peer educators. The peer educators conducted 385 outreach services and are expected to be the change agents and support to create demand for the use of SRHR services among fellow youth and were given the role of cascading the SRHR information to fellow students and young peoples in the communities.

A photograph of two women standing in a pharmacy. The woman on the left is younger, with dark skin and braided hair, wearing a black top and a black and white striped skirt with a large gold LV belt buckle. The woman on the right is older, with dark skin and hair pulled back, wearing a white lab coat over a patterned top. They are standing in front of shelves stocked with various boxes of medicine. A Dell monitor is visible in the foreground on the right.

SUCCESS STORY

**TMEPiD Promotes Youth
Involvement in Planning,
Managing, Monitoring
Development Plans and
Reproductive Health Priorities**


Sabina Lister Mwanjabala is a young, energetic, open-minded woman from Mbutu Ward in Kigamboni District, Dar es Salaam. In May 2022, she joined the SYP Program, which promotes youth representation in decision-making structures and prioritizes Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) issues in districts and councils. Sabina was initially not open-minded, but the advocacy and awareness sessions conducted by the program helped her become a member of the Youth Champions and the chairperson of a youth group in Mbutu Ward.

Sabina's youth group works with healthcare providers and the district to advocate for equitable allocation and use of public resources for health, as well as SRHR issues. They offer sexual reproductive health rights information and education to the community and attend community meetings to provide SRHR information and to be involved in health planning meetings.

Sabina's advocacy work has led to her being selected as a member of the Comprehensive Council Health Plans (CCHP) Committee, which has 12 members (five males and seven females). The committee works to strengthen the social accountability roles of relevant parliamentary committees, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), youth groups, and the media. Sabina and her youth group work closely with the committee and the health facility-in-charge to ensure emergency services are offered to youths during holidays and weekends. The committee recognizes their work and invites them to attend community meetings.



Mbutu Health Centre. Photo: Grace Michael

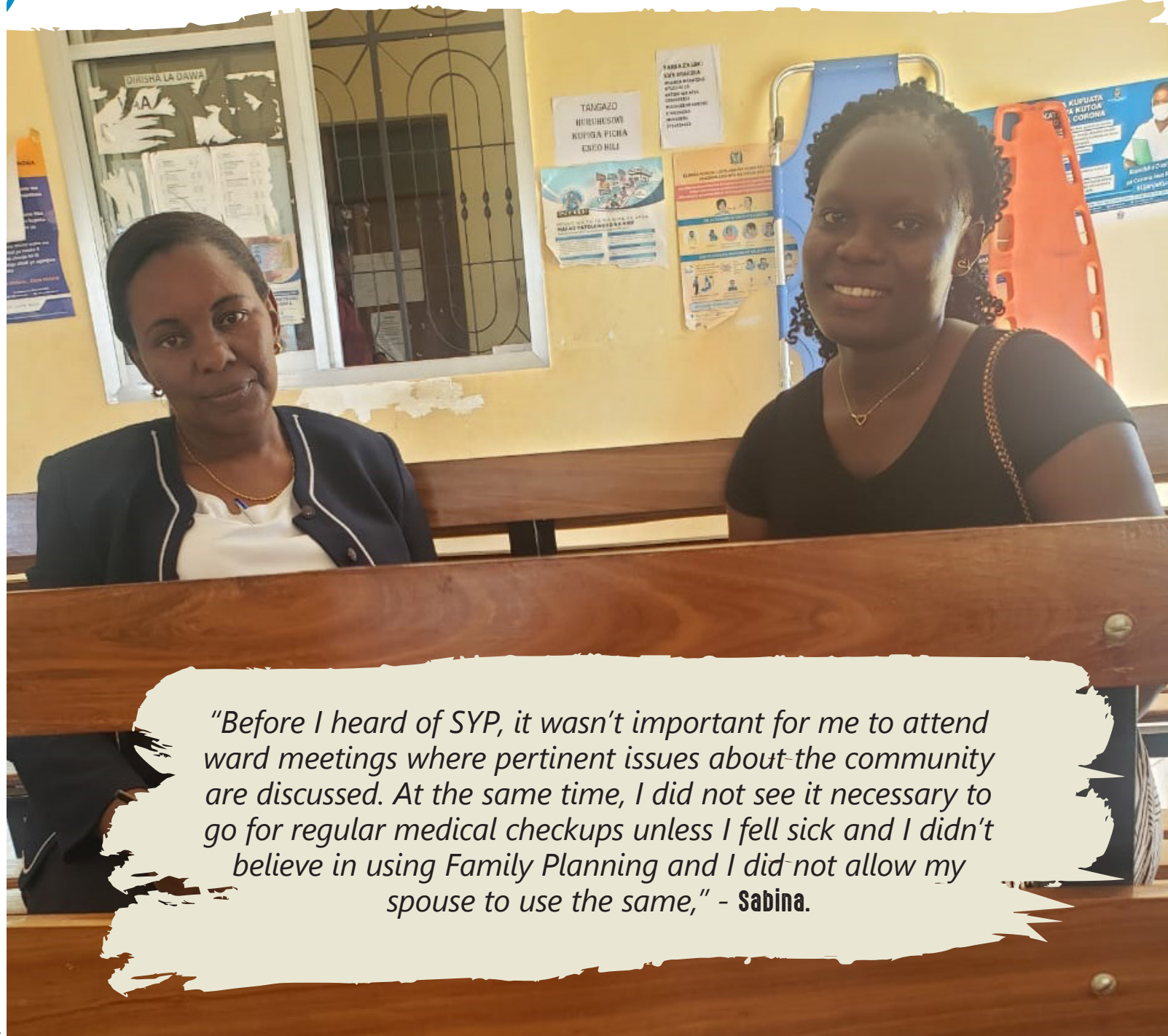
A photograph showing a woman in a white uniform, Sabina, walking away from the camera down a covered outdoor corridor. On either side of the corridor, several women are seated on wooden chairs and benches. Some of the seated women are holding infants. The corridor has a concrete floor and a light-colored wall on the left with some papers posted on it. The background shows a clear blue sky and some greenery.

Sabina during her visit at Mbutu Health Facility to follow up on SRH Friendly Service delivery to Young People.

"Through TMEPiD intervention, there has been positive development among the youths as they now attend meetings; they are now being trusted by elders and have attracted representation in various committees such Comprehensive Council Health Plans (CCHP) preparation committee, environmental committee as well as Ward Council, which helps them to present their issues and find solutions," - Sabina.

Sabina's story demonstrates the importance of youth engagement in decision-making processes, especially regarding SRHR issues, and the positive impact of advocacy and awareness programs. By becoming a member of the CCHP Committee and working closely with healthcare providers and the district, Sabina and her youth group can effect positive change in their community.

Through her work with the SYP Program, Sabina has learned the importance of being involved in her community's development agenda. She has also realized the value of progressive thinking and the positive impact it can have on the lives of the people in her community. Sabina now encourages her fellow youths to attend community meetings and raise issues affecting them, especially in the health sector. She believes that by being actively engaged in health facility governing committees and other decision-making structures, youths can make a significant difference in their communities. Sabina's story is a testament to the transformative power of advocacy and awareness programs in promoting youth inclusion and engagement in decision-making processes.



"Before I heard of SYP, it wasn't important for me to attend ward meetings where pertinent issues about the community are discussed. At the same time, I did not see it necessary to go for regular medical checkups unless I fell sick and I didn't believe in using Family Planning and I did not allow my spouse to use the same," - Sabina.

A woman with a colorful patterned headwrap and a white t-shirt is standing outdoors. She is holding a key in her right hand. The background shows a blurred tree and a building. The text "SUCCESS STORY" is in the top left corner.

SUCCESS STORY

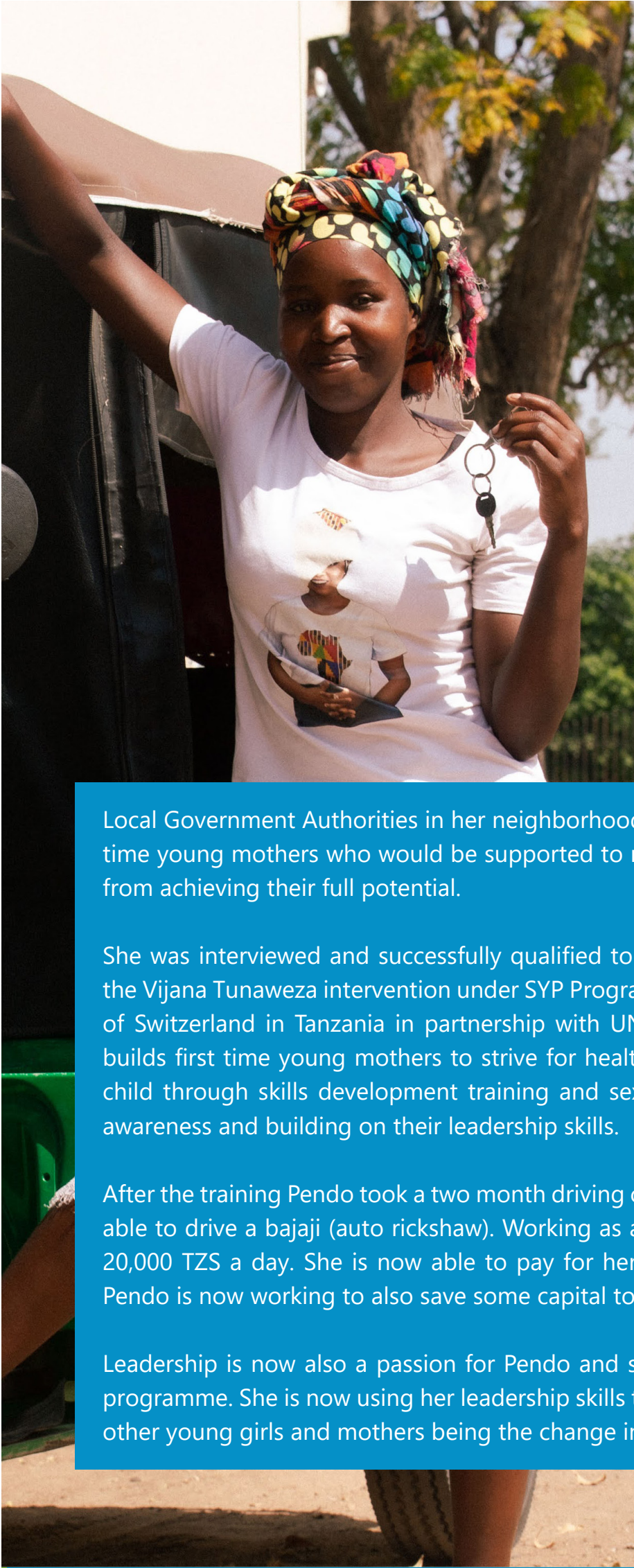
**How Bajaj helped Pendo
to take care of her family
and pay for her baby's
school fees**



Pendo is a 21-year-old first time young mother who lives in Somanda ward-Bariadi District in Simiyu Tanzania. She finished primary school then went on to attend secondary. Unfortunately, her family was no longer able to finance her education therefore she was sent to live with her uncle who promised to support her in continuing her education. Now living with her uncle she still was not able to get basic needs as young girls such as sanitary towels, meals and even transport to go to school.

In 2019 she encountered a bad experience when she got forced into having sex in exchange for paying up her uncle's debt. She got pregnant at a young age and was left to look after her child all alone. Life for Pendo became even more difficult because she had a baby to provide for with no money, no job, no business or support.

At the verge of giving up hope. Pendo heard news from one of her colleagues that



"The Knowledge I got was life changing. It brought back my confidence to fully participate in my community as a responsible individual. I want to help other young girls who have encountered similar experiences. Being a mother at a young age is not easy. I'm glad I no longer feel isolated, lost or an irresponsible parent but rather committed to build a great future for me and my child.," - Pendo.

Local Government Authorities in her neighborhood were looking for marginalized first time young mothers who would be supported to remove the barrier that blocks them from achieving their full potential.

She was interviewed and successfully qualified to be one among the beneficiaries of the Vijana Tunaweza intervention under SYP Program financially supported by Embassy of Switzerland in Tanzania in partnership with UNFPA Tanzania, an intervention that builds first time young mothers to strive for healthy futures for themselves and their child through skills development training and sexual reproductive health and rights awareness and building on their leadership skills.

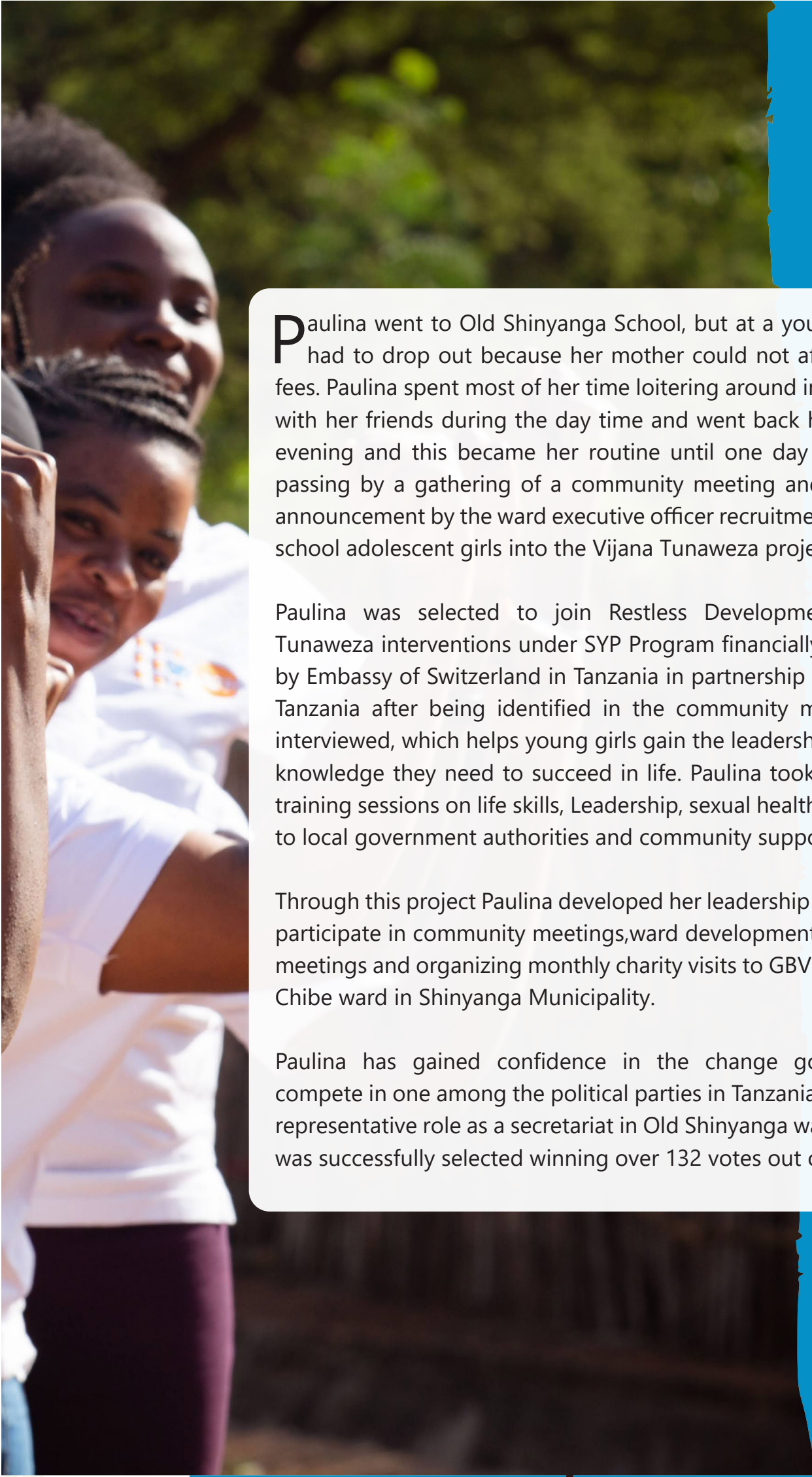
After the training Pendo took a two month driving course and got a driver's license now able to drive a bajaji (auto rickshaw). Working as a driver she is now able to generate 20,000 TZS a day. She is now able to pay for her daughter's expenses and her rent. Pendo is now working to also save some capital to buy her own bajaji in the future.

Leadership is now also a passion for Pendo and she has gained confidence with this programme. She is now using her leadership skills to pass on the knowledge she has to other young girls and mothers being the change in her community.



SUCCESS STORY

**From loitering in the streets,
to being elected as a youth
representative**



Paulina went to Old Shinyanga School, but at a young age she had to drop out because her mother could not afford school fees. Paulina spent most of her time loitering around in the streets with her friends during the day time and went back home in the evening and this became her routine until one day as she was passing by a gathering of a community meeting and heard the announcement by the ward executive officer recruiting out of school adolescent girls into the Vijana Tunaweza project.

Paulina was selected to join Restless Development's Vijana Tunaweza interventions under SYP Program financially supported by Embassy of Switzerland in Tanzania in partnership with UNFPA Tanzania after being identified in the community meeting and interviewed, which helps young girls gain the leadership skills and knowledge they need to succeed in life. Paulina took part in the training sessions on life skills, Leadership, sexual health and access to local government authorities and community support.

Through this project Paulina developed her leadership going on to participate in community meetings, ward development committee meetings and organizing monthly charity visits to GBV survivors of Chibe ward in Shinyanga Municipality.

Paulina has gained confidence in the change going on to compete in one among the political parties in Tanzania for a youth representative role as a secretariat in Old Shinyanga ward and she was successfully selected winning over 132 votes out of 148.



"Economic independence and Leadership skills are an essential tool to end violence against women and girls. When you are economically independent you are able to make your decisions and men will respect you."

- Paulina.






SYP

Safeguard Young People
PROGRAMME

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