

Songambele Initiative Organization 2025 Impact Report



Assitive devices Provided

1,350

Economically Empowered

1,154

Advocacy & Awareness

35,680

Sports for Inclusion initiative

1,206

Inclusive Climate Action

3,766

Peer-to-peer Education

214

Our Mission

- To promote and encourage good health, education, well-being, and social inclusion for women, girls, and children with disabilities in Tanzania.

Our Vision

- Empowering Women, Girls, and Children with Disabilities to Live Independently with Dignity and happiness.

A word from the Director

Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

As we reflect on this past year at Songambele, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the milestones we have reached together. With your continued support, we have strengthened our mission to empower people with disabilities, promote inclusive opportunities, and advance sustainable development across Tanzania.

This year, we expanded peer education and advocacy initiatives, deepened community awareness on disability inclusion, and enhanced economic empowerment programs.

While progress is evident, barriers to accessibility, economic participation, and equal opportunity remain. In the coming year, we are committed to scaling our impact, strengthening partnerships, and advocating for policies that leave no one behind.

On behalf of the entire Songambele team, thank you to our donors, volunteers, partners, and dedicated staff. Together, we are building a more inclusive and equitable future.

With gratitude,

Faustina J. Urassa

Spotlight Africa – NYC

Our Chief Operations Officer co-hosted a Spotlight Africa session titled “Inclusive Technology & Sustainable Practices in Assistive Devices: The Role of Local Innovation & Manufacturing.” The discussion emphasized how local innovation and sustainable practices can drive the future of assistive devices and enhance accessibility across Africa.

SPOTLIGHT AFRICA

Inclusive Technology & Sustainable Practices in Assistive Devices: The Role of Local Innovation & Manufacturing

SEPTEMBER 24
11AM-12PM



Coleman Mbatia
Co-Founder & CEO
Kibera Assistive Tech



Maria Oduro
Founder & Executive Director
The Action Foundation



Shana McDonald
Founder & Executive Director
Shana's Social Enterprise



Tessa Waziri
Chief Operating Officer
Songambele Initiative Organization

Comes and Goes

This year, Songambele Organization hosted 16 interns 6 men and 10 women from Tanzania and abroad. The internship strengthened their understanding of disability inclusion and Songambele’s community-based work.

One intern shared,

“Before joining Songambele, I had little knowledge of disability and inclusion, but this experience changed my mindset. I am now equipped to promote the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities in my community.”



Dorothy's story of Strength and Hope

At just 29, a devastating spinal cord injury left her paralysed from the waist down. With three young children to care for, fear and despair consumed her. **"I cried every day,"** she recalls, unsure how she would provide for her family or regain her sense of purpose. Feeling invisible and hopeless, everything changed when she heard about an independent, inspiring woman in a wheelchair at Songambele. **"I reached out immediately, and that changed everything."**

Through peer-to-peer meetings and life changing guidance, Dorothy began rebuilding her life. Songambele provided more than a customized wheelchair it restored her dignity, her dreams, and her belief in a future. Surrounded by shared stories and supportive hands, she rediscovered her strength and purpose.

Today, Dorothy is not just surviving she is thriving. She stands, with courage, in front of a classroom as a teacher. She is advancing her studies to specialize in educating children with visual and hearing impairment and intellectual disabilities.

From hopeless tears to boundless possibility, Dorothy is proof that resilience, community, and the right support can transform even the darkest moments into powerful new beginnings.



Programs and Activities

Peer-to-Peer Education

Hospital Visits

Peer supporters visited KCMC, engaging 51 spinal cord injury (SCI) patients 35 men and 16 women. The visits restored self-esteem, renewed hope, and encouraged active rehabilitation. One patient shared: ***“Seeing someone who has walked this journey gave me the strength to believe in my recovery.”***

Group Discussions

We conducted a peer-to-peer training reaching 114 participants 77 men and 37 women including new peer supporters and family members. An occupational therapist from KCMC provided key insights on spinal cord injuries, strengthening skills, and long term support. One family member noted:

“Through these discussions, I gained the knowledge and confidence to support my husband not just to survive, but to live independently with dignity and hope.”



Home Visits

We conducted home visits to 67 individuals 36 men and 31 women to identify new beneficiaries, assess their progress, provide suitable wheelchairs, and conduct physical therapy. During the visits, we also provided each household with caring asn support materials for support. Beneficiaries expressed deep gratitude for both the assistance and the care shown.

One shared, **"I feel truly cared for, and knowing that someone is thinking about my needs, it gives me hope and strength every day."**



Provision of Assistive devices

We provided assistive devices including appropriate wheelchairs, tools to manage bowel and bladder function, a transfer bed, and a commode to improve mobility, support independent living, and restore hope and dignity among persons with disabilities (PWDs). One beneficiary who received both a wheelchair and a urine bag shared with gratitude, **“For the first time in many years, I feel I can live with dignity, independence, and hope again.”**

In addition, we extended care and support to elders and PWDs by providing much-needed food and clothing donations to help meet their basic needs and improve their well-being. A total of 145 individuals 85 women and 60 men, including 66 PWD's received support materials.



Sports for Inclusion

We engaged 1,205 students 607 girls, 598 boys, and 7 children with disabilities from primary schools in Machame Mashariki Ward in inclusive sports activities. The sessions promoted mental and physical health, teamwork, and social interaction, while fostering an inclusive environment where every student feels valued and supported.

One student shared, **“Before these activities, I was often shy and inactive, but playing sports with my classmates has made me more confident, energetic, and excited to participate in school and community life.”**



Inclusive Climate

We engaged 1,205 students 607 girls, 598 boys, and 7 children with disabilities from primary schools in Machame Mashariki Ward in inclusive sports activities. The sessions promoted mental and physical health, teamwork, and social interaction, while fostering an inclusive environment where every student feels valued and supported.

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Additionally, we put significant effort into advocating for public buildings to be accessible and inclusive for all, successfully supporting the construction of ramps and commode chairs.



Economic Empowerment

We successfully engaged a total of 107 participants, including 69 women and 38 men, with 8 individuals benefiting from the TWT entrepreneurship training. The training empowered participants with practical skills, strengthened their confidence, and enhanced their ability to pursue sustainable business opportunities. One participant shared, ***"The training has helped me keep accurate records of my business, which has improved my organization and decision-making."***

Also a total of 1,047 participants 610 women, 419 men, including 88 individuals with disabilities (PWDs) took part in our economic empowerment training. The sessions focused on digital entrepreneurship, online business management, and digital marketing, equipping participants with practical digital skills and enhancing their capacity to create sustainable impact in their communities.

One participant shared, ***"The knowledge and skills I gained have changed my mindset and the way I do business for good. I feel truly fortunate and thankful for this opportunity to be trained in the world of digital business. I also deeply appreciate that persons with disabilities were remembered and given a chance"***



Partnering , confrencing and Networking

We participated in partner meetings to enhance coordination, deepen engagement, and maximize the overall impact of our efforts. These meetings help strengthen and improve future implementation. In addition, we participated in various conferences, allowing us to share experiences, learn from others, and expand our network to advance our mission further.



Capacity Building

Capacity building is one of the most important components for Songambele staff, as it strengthens their skills, knowledge, and confidence to deliver quality programs and achieve sustainable impact through learning opportunities both within the country and internationally.

Thank you for your support !



CONTACT US

 www.songambebe.org
 info@songambebe.org
 +255 742 299 801

Our wheels, Our dreams