

AHADI Impact Stories

Year 5 – Volume 2

Six stories from young people taking part in the AHADI Project in Tanzania, told in their own words.

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Abbreviations used in this document

GBV	Gender-Based Violence	SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	TAHEA	Tanzania Home Economics Association
KIWOHEDE	Kiota Women Health and Development Organization	TANESCO	Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited
S4T	Savings for Transformation	UE	University Examinations
SIDO	Small Industries Development Organisation	VETA	Vocational Education and Training Authority
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health		



JAMALI ISSA'S SUCCESS STORY

From Learning to Earning: How AHADI Project Opened New Doors for Jamali Issa

My name is Jamali Issa Juma, I am 20 years old. I am the first-born child in a family of four children. Growing up, my family's financial situation was challenging. Although I completed secondary education, I was unable to continue my studies due to limited financial resources. Like many young people in my community, I had no clear direction for my future and spent most of my time without meaningful opportunities for personal or economic growth.

My journey changed when my mother heard about the AHADI Project through an announcement made by our local government leaders. She encouraged me to register because she believed it was a valuable opportunity that could transform my life. I decided to join the project with an open mind, eager to learn and discover what it could offer.



Joining the AHADI Project became a turning point in my life. Through the project, I received vocational training in Domestic Electrical Installation, where I gained practical technical skills that prepared me for employment. After successfully completing the training, I secured a job, which has enabled me to earn an income, support myself, and gradually improve my standard of living. Today, I am more confident about my future and have a clear vision of the life I want to build.

Beyond vocational skills, the AHADI Project equipped me with essential life skills. One of the sessions that had the greatest impact on me was the education on Family Planning. Before joining the project, I had limited knowledge about family planning. Through the training, I learned that family planning enables couples to make informed decisions about the number and spacing of their children, allowing families to provide better care, education, and opportunities for every child.

These lessons have changed my perspective on family life. When I eventually start my own family, I intend to apply the knowledge I gained to become a responsible husband and father who plans for the future and provides a stable and supportive environment for my children.



“The **AHADI Project** did not only give me technical skills it gave me hope, confidence, and a vision for my future.”

I am sincerely grateful to the AHADI Project for investing in my future. The opportunity to acquire vocational skills and life knowledge has transformed my life from one of uncertainty to one filled with hope, purpose, and opportunity.

My hope is that the project continues to reach more young people, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds who, like me, lack opportunities due to financial hardship. Expanding the programme and engaging more community leaders to mobilize youth will enable many more young people to build productive, independent, and successful lives.

HABIBA MWELELA'S SUCCESS STORY

Skills, Confidence and Opportunity, Mwelela's Journey to Self-Reliance

My name is Habiba Ramadhani Mwelela, a 21-year-old young woman and a secondary school graduate (Form Four). I am the first-born in my family of two siblings and currently live with my mother at Chamazi ward. Before joining the AHADI Project, my life was unstable and lacked direction. I struggled with self-confidence and found myself deeply discouraged after being forced to discontinue my higher education. I had enrolled in a college certificate program, but due to severe structural financial constraints, my mother who is our sole breadwinner could not afford my tuition fees while also supporting my younger sibling's high commuting and academic expenses for secondary school. Consequently, I was barred from sitting for my Semester 1 University Examinations (UE). I left college and returned to the streets, completely hopeless, broken-hearted, and with no clear vision or path to raise the required fees.

I firstly heard about the AHADI Project through my peers in the neighborhood who served as local youth leaders. They were conducting door to door community mobilizations to register young people aged 10 to 24 whom the project was seeking to support. Hearing about how the program empowers young people to build resilience, discover their value, and create positive change, I became deeply interested because I felt a profound need to transform my life and escape the cycle of stagnation I was trapped in.

After joining the AHADI Project, I began to experience important changes in my life. I did not immediately specialize in a vocational trade; instead, I first received vital foundational education on self-awareness, gender, civic responsibility, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). The project sessions and guidance taught me the importance of accountability and gave me the psychological strength to stand firm and 'say no' to negative pressures or exploitation. This initial phase helped me understand my own value, regain my shattered self-confidence, and believe that my current socioeconomic situation did not define my future.

As I continued participating actively in the AHADI Project, I was subsequently selected as one of the promising youth to receive advanced entrepreneurship training through the project's specialized crash course under KIWOHEDE. This became the ultimate catalyst for my economic transformation. I learned practical, market-driven skills in professional baking and the chemical formulation and manufacturing of cosmetics, such as body lotions and petroleum jelly. This high-tier entrepreneurial education, which would typically cost a fortune at formal institutions like SIDO, was provided to me entirely free of charge.

Today, I can confidently say that I am a completely changed young woman. I have successfully established my own business enterprise and chapa (brand), manufacturing and marketing my own cosmetics and pastries. The income I generate allows me to fully sustain my livelihood and has dramatically alleviated the financial burden on my mother. Furthermore, I have grown into a prominent youth leader and role model in Chamazi ward. I am now cascading this impact downward by mentoring and teaching other vulnerable young people in my community the same entrepreneurship and life skills I acquired.

Although the journey was not easy especially transitioning from the despair of losing my academic path to becoming a self-reliant business owner. I overcame every barrier through sheer determination and the holistic support of the AHADI Project. Looking forward, I highly recommend that the project continues to reach more struggling youth. I also recommend providing startup seed support for top-performing youth to scale their businesses. Finally, for those of us whose dreams of reaching a university degree were cut short by family poverty, I pray for academic scholarship pathways so we can ultimately fulfill our educational aspirations. The AHADI Project has the power to restore broken dreams, just as it completely transformed mine.



From Losing Direction to Becoming an Independent Bajaj Driver.

“I am now happy and at peace because I have found a positive path that will improve my future.”



Tummy Juma Maiko is a 22-year-old adolescent who successfully completed the AHADIIM sessions in Chang'ombe Ward during Cohort 1 in 2024. He currently lives in Mnadani Ward, Mwatano Street, with his aunt. Tummy completed Form IV at Umonga Secondary School in 2021 but was unable to continue with higher education.

After completing secondary school and failing to secure an opportunity to continue with his studies, Tummy became involved with peers who encouraged him to engage in risky behaviors, including smoking cigarettes, using marijuana, and drinking alcohol. These behaviors caused him to lose direction and focus in life.

One day, while he was in his neighborhood, Tummy met Richard Hamis, a lead adolescent under the AHADI Project, who approached him and asked to have a conversation. Richard explained to Tummy the benefits and opportunities offered through the AHADI Project. Although Tummy was initially reluctant and had several discussions with Richard, he eventually decided to join the project.

Tummy actively participated in the AHADIIM sessions, achieving approximately 80% attendance. Through the project, he was selected to attend vocational training at VETA Dodoma in 2025, where he completed a two-month Basic Driving course. After completing the training, TAHEA further supported him through cost sharing by covering the costs associated with obtaining his driving licence.

Through his participation in the AHADI Project, Tummy experienced significant behavioral changes. He distanced himself from peers involved in harmful behaviors and focused on his vocational studies and personal development. The knowledge and awareness he gained through the project encouraged him to regularly visit Chang'ombe Dispensary to access HIV testing and counselling services and obtain SRH education

Tummy was also encouraged by the AHADI Project Promoter in Chang'ombe Ward, Scolastica Senga, to join the project's S4T group called Upendo. He accepted the advice and has actively participated in the group's activities. He has also been able to borrow money from the group and repay his loans on time.

"Since I first met Tummy, I have seen significant changes in his behavior. This is largely because he was committed and consistent in attending the AHADI sessions," said Scolastica Senga, his AHADI Project Promoter.

After obtaining his driving license, Tummy secured an opportunity to work as a Bajaj driver and joined the Bolt platform in Dodoma. He has remained actively engaged in this work up to the present. The income he earns has helped him meet his personal and family needs while also giving him greater financial independence and the ability to make informed decisions about his life.

“I sincerely thank **AHADI project** for helping to save my life. I was losing my direction, but now I have become a young person who understands himself and makes the right decisions. I will continue to be a good example to other young people so that they do not lose their dreams because of harmful behaviors”



AHADIIM Participant to Skilled Tailor and Young Entrepreneur.

Abitudi Juma Mpagazi is a young woman from Mbuyuni Street, Kizota Ward, who joined the project at the age of 24 and successfully completed AHADIIM Cohort 2 in 2026. She completed her primary education and is a mother of 2 daughters.

Before joining the AHADI Project, Abitudi faced difficult economic circumstances. Her husband had no reliable source of income, making it challenging the family to meet their basic household needs. One day, she heard an announcement from the Street Chairperson inviting adolescents and young people aged 10–24 to register for the AHADI Project. Motivated by her desire to improve her life, she registered and joined the project.

Due to her confidence, communication skills, and commitment, Abitudi was selected as a Lead Adolescent in her AHADIIM group. She participated in monthly sessions facilitated by the promoter and shared the knowledge she gained with 19 other adolescents in her neighborhood.

After 4 months, Abitudi was selected by TAHEA to participate in 4-days on site practical crush training on liquid soap and batik production. She was later among the AHADI adolescents selected for vocational training through TAHEA's partnership with HELVETAS, where she completed a 3-months tailoring course at DCT College.

Through the AHADI Project, Abitudi also gained important knowledge on SRH, nutrition, GBV, and HIV prevention. She now encourages other young women and adolescents to seek appropriate SRH education and services from health facilities.

Abitudi also established a S4T savings group under the project, consisting of 14 adolescents, where she serves as the chairperson. The group members regularly save money and provide loans to one another to support their individual and collective development.

Parents later supported her by providing her with a sewing machine. Together with another young woman, she initially rented a workspace and shared the rental costs. With continued support and opportunities from TAHEA, including participation in the farmer's day exhibition, Abitudi gained confidence and established her own tailoring workshop on her family's compound near her home.

Today, Abitudi is a skilled tailor and entrepreneur. She has created opportunities for two adolescents who were also part of the AHADI Project, whom she trains in tailoring skills. Through her business, she is not only generating income but also helping other young people acquire practical skills for self-reliance.

"Abitudi has become a positive role model for young women in the community. She continues to educate adolescents and encourage them to visit health facilities to obtain SRH education and services. She is now recognized in the community as a skilled tailor and an inspiration to other young people," said the Mbuyuni Street Chairperson.

Abitudi further participated in TAHEA's social media training, where she learned how to market her tailoring services online. She can now use her mobile phone to reach customers, promote her work, and receive tailoring orders.

I sincerely thank TAHEA, through the AHADI Project, for transforming my life. I can now support my family and parents with different needs. I am committed to helping other young people access vocational training so that they can develop skills and become successful like me. I am grateful for the support and opportunities provided through the AHADI Project.

I trust my instincts



Nineteen year old Latifa always believed that skill knows no gender. When she enrolled in a three-month Electrical Installation course at Ushirika Vocational Center in Buguruni Malapa, many discouraged her. People claimed electrical work was strictly for men, asking doubts like, can you really climb a utility pole like a man? Latifa stood firm in her ambition and successfully completed her training.

Her hard work earned her a 2months practical field placement at TANESCO, where she expanded her practical knowledge and gained valuable industry experience. After finishing her placement, Latifa began working as an assistant technician on freelance contracts, earning her own income step by step.

Seeing her determination and clear path forward, her parents who had previously lost hope in her after she struggled academically reconnected with her and paid for her admission to VETA Morogoro to advance her electrical skills. Today, Aisha is balancing her advanced studies while taking on paid electrical jobs whenever they arise.



"When I graduate, I want to open my own firm and train other young people so we can work together," Aisha says.

"In this trade, having a reliable assistant makes every job easier and more efficient."



Looking back at her journey, Aisha adds with deep gratitude: "Thank you, AHADI, for showing me the way. Without AHADI and my community promoter choosing me, I don't know where would I be today may be a young mother with better future".

My responsibilities My Family happiness

Most of his life, Ally (known as Baba Idd) believed that domestic chores cooking, cleaning, and laundry were strictly meant for women. All the way to his growth, he had never seen his father or uncles' step into the kitchen or handle household tasks. His childhood environment deeply in-built the idea that house chores were not a man's responsibility rather than looking for money only, a mindset he carried into his own marriage.

However, everything changed after Ally participated in a transformative four (4) days AHADI Mencare gender training. The training challenged his long held gender stereotypes and highlighted the profound impact of active, positive fatherhood on family cohesion. Inspired to break the cycle, Ally decided it was time to put his new learning into action. This came out after trying an assignment provided by the facilitators to go home and do home chores that you never did and see the reaction.



"My wife was completely shocked when I walked through the door carrying groceries onions, tomatoes, rice, and meat and announced that I was going to cook dinner," Ally recalled. "I told her, 'Take a rest today; I'm handling the cooking.' She was amazed, but she stayed nearby to guide me through a few steps. That day brought so much joy to our home."

Seeing their father cook, clean, and do laundry was a delightful surprise for Ally's children, who were accustomed to seeing their mother shoulder all the domestic burdens alone. Interested by the sudden transformation, Ally asked his wife how she would feel if he regularly helped with chores during the weekends. My wife said; she really wished I would help her with the chores whenever she was tired, but she couldn't ask because she felt it might disrespect me. I told her, I will be helping you so that we can also teach our children to become good parents and role models in the future

Reflecting on the experience, Ally noted a powerful truth:

"I have truly come to realize that small actions at home go a long way in strengthening love and connection within the family."

Through MenCare Gender training, Ally did not only learn to share household responsibilities, but he also redefined what it means to be a supportive father.