so they can

Quality Education in Tanzania

Impact Highlights from January to June 2026



Clean water!

A new borehole has been drilled at Oring'adida Primary to provide reliable access to safe drinking water.

We're working towards... THE GLOBAL GOALS

Australian Aid

REGISTERED CHARITY

ACFID MEMBER

School Improvement Project Infrastructure Improvements

Access to safe and inclusive school environments

Construction

- 1 girls' dormitory for 120 girls constructed at Ayatsea Secondary
- 3 classrooms constructed at Orng'adida Primary
- 1 classroom renovated at Qash Primary
- 28 new toilets constructed at Orng'adida Primary (# of toilets per block based on need/school population size)
- 1 girls' changing room constructed at Orng'adida Primary
- Two-in-one house with six bedrooms for use by six teachers, and renovated and upgraded two existing teachers' houses at Manyara Primary

Clean Water Access

- 4 water boreholes drilled (Tsamasi, Hallu, Orng'adida, Haydadonga Primary Schools)
- 20,000L clean water storage donated (Ayatsea Secondary and Orng'adida Primary)

Resources

- 200 student desks donated
- 31 teacher tables and chairs donated
- 2 ICT equipment items donated (laptop; projector).

So They Can's School Infrastructure Project receives support from the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Opening of the new 60-bed girls' dormitory at Ayatsea Secondary







Impact Story
Embassy of Japan Project Complete

A New Chapter for Orng'adida Primary

In 2025, a historic grant agreement between the Embassy of Japan in Tanzania and So They Can, was signed under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects.

On 2nd July 2026, an official Handover Ceremony was held at Orng'adida Primary School. With support from the Embassy of Japan in Tanzania, So They Can Tanzania has delivered:

- A new classroom block with three fully furnished classrooms, with 60 student desks and 3 teacher desks and chairs;
- New toilet blocks for boys, girls, and teachers, including assistive toilets for children and teachers with special needs, a Girls' changing room and handwashing stations in each toilet block;
- Two water towers to hold two 5,000L water tanks each.

"Nine months ago we stood at the signing of this project agreement and called it a miracle. Today, seeing children learning in these classrooms and using safe, clean facilities, that word still feels right. On behalf of the Orng'adida Primary School and the whole Babati District Community, thank you to the Government and people of Japan."
Roselyne Mariki, Country Manager, So They Can Tanzania.

Through So They Can's Education Program, the school will continue to receive the support needed to make the most of these new facilities: from annual capacity building for teachers and school leadership on maintaining the infrastructure and ongoing monitoring of the new water and sanitation systems. This investment will ensure that Orng'adida's children are served for years to come.

These new facilities are supporting learning, teaching and sanitation for 1,008 children (503 girls; 505 boys) currently enrolled at the school.



One block of 3 classrooms, each equipped with 20 student desks and a teachers table and chair

New school infrastructure through our Japanese Embassy partnership



New toilet blocks



One block of boys' toilets with 11 toilets, a common urinal and handwashing area, and an accessible toilet



One block of girls' toilets with 15 toilets and a handwashing area, plus a girls changing room and an accessible toilet



Two water tank risers for 5,000L water tanks



Handwashing stations inside the facilities

Keeping Girls in School
Our Resuable Sanitary Packs

Ending period poverty for girls

In 2026, our team have already distributed 1,000 of our NIA Dignity Packs with reusable sanitary products!

In May, we marked Menstrual Hygiene Day directly in our partner schools, reaching 2,293 students and teachers in a celebration designed to break the silence around menstruation and promote healthy menstrual hygiene management (MHM) practices among both girls and boys.

Hosting the event at school-level meant we could reach far more pupils and teachers, while also welcoming parents and Champions to take part.

Students themselves drove much of the day, taking part in:

- Creative Messaging – Designing hand-drawn banners carrying educational messages to break period stigma.
- Edutainment – Singing songs focused on girls' education, and performing role-plays that brought MHM themes to life.
- Inclusive Group Talks – In some schools, parents and teachers guided pupils through peer-led discussions between boys and girls on menstrual health and puberty, helping to break down bullying and stigma around menstruation.

By putting children at the centre of the day the event helped normalise conversations about menstruation and reinforced a simple message: periods shouldn't stand between a girl and her education.







Msomi Scholars
Support for 42 Promising Children

Scholarship and ongoing mentorship

This year 42 needs-based scholarships for committed students (pictured below) from our partner schools have been awarded to students who would otherwise be unable to continue to secondary or tertiary education.

- 27 Msomi scholars in Secondary Schools;
- 15 Msomi scholars in Higher Secondary/ Tertiary education.

Twice a year, So They Can brings our Msomi Scholars together for intensive mentorship sessions focused on personal development and career planning.

As you'll see from the photos and student reflections below, our support makes a meaningful difference in their education and outlook.

Mentorship Camp

In the June school holidays a comprehensive 1-day mentorship session was organised at Gallapo Primary School in Babati District. The objective of this session was to empower Msomi Scholars and their peers with crucial life skills, rights awareness, and personal development tools necessary for their academic and personal growth.

The session was highly collaborative, bringing together various key stakeholders and facilitated by two Babati District Council Social Welfare Officers alongside two Champion Parents from the local community. Additionally, parent representatives actively participated in the event, fostering a strong bridge of communication between the school, the scholars, and the school communities.

The second camp is scheduled in December 2026, during the Christmas school holidays.



2026 Msomi Scholars cohort, pictured our June Mentroship Camp


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Msomi Scholar Profiles In Their Own Words

Removing barriers to girls' education

Meet Ester, Form 1, Gallapo Secondary School

Ester improved her grade from a B in semester 1, finishing 2025 ranked 5th out of 225 students in her year, with an A grade!

'Studying hasn't always been easy, but being part of the Msomi program changed my mindset. I stopped worrying about whether I could do it and started focusing on how to do it. Now, when I open my books, I don't feel overwhelmed, I feel prepared.

What I love most about school is the environment of shared ambition. When you are surrounded by teachers who believe in you and peers who are also striving for excellence, you can't help but do your best. Gallapo Secondary School has become a second home where my ideas are taken seriously.

With my strong results, I aim to become a Minister one day to transform our nation and advocate for every girl's future.'



Meet Elia, Form 2, Gallapo Secondary School

Elia consistently maintained her A grade across her subjects in 2025, and she is ranked 2nd out of 224 children in her year!

'I felt so happy and proud when I saw my results. I spent many nights studying, and now I see that my hard work has paid off. These grades show that I can achieve great things, no matter where I come from.

I love my Physics, Chemistry, and Biology (PCB) subjects.

My dream is to become a Medical Doctor. I want to treat the sick in my community and make sure everyone can live a healthy life. Being a Msomi Scholar has given me the chance to reach this goal.'



Day of the African Child Commemorated in June

Students lead the call for their rights

Celebrated every year on 16th June, the Day of the African Child honours children's ongoing right to a safe, quality education across the continent.

This year, the Babati District Council commemorated the day at Mamire Secondary School, bringing together children, teachers and Champions from Ayamango Primary School, as well as other So They Can program schools.

The event gave children the chance to showcase their talents and skills, with many creating their own placards carrying powerful messages, as pictured.

Seeing children articulate their own hopes so clearly is a powerful reminder of why So They Can's work matters, not only in the classroom, but in building communities where children are seen, heard, and given every opportunity to thrive.



A child's education is best for a family, and the nation





Give me an education, I am the leader of tomorrow in our country



2026 Medical Camp For Children & Parents

Providing access to basic healthcare

From 26 March to 1 April 2026, So They Can, the Babati District Council, and our partner organisations came together once again to bring healthcare closer to children and parents at Ayamango Primary School, and across all of our program schools. For six days, families from across our rural school communities, who face real barriers of distance, cost, and limited health information, received free screenings, treatments, and referrals close to home.

The week-long camp saw families come to seek help for conditions like malaria, HIV, diabetes and tuberculosis. Others arrived for support with nutrition, dental care, eye and ear health, cervical and prostate cancer screenings, ultrasound examinations, mental health, and specialised assessments for children with disabilities.

2,510 community members were treated at our 2026 medical camp in Tanzania, and more than half were children.



Services Provided

Identification and referral of children with special needs: 116 children were screened for special needs in hearing, sight and mental health. Working alongside specialised teams from Patandi Teachers College, Kafika House and Sibusiso Foundation, the team referred children onward for the expert care they needed, including young children identified with cerebral palsy.

Protecting girls and women from cervical cancer: 221 girls received the HPV vaccine for protection from cervical cancer, and 138 women were screened for cervical cancer.

Eye and dental health: 970 people received eye screenings and 474 glasses prescriptions were given for children and adults. 363 community members were treated for dental conditions.

Early detection that saves lives: 918 people were tested for malaria and 1,425 for HIV, with new cases linked to follow-up care. Diabetes screening reached 411 people, uncovering cases of high blood sugar that might have otherwise gone undetected. And 278 people received ultrasound examinations, access to diagnostic equipment most would otherwise have to travel long distances, and pay, to reach.

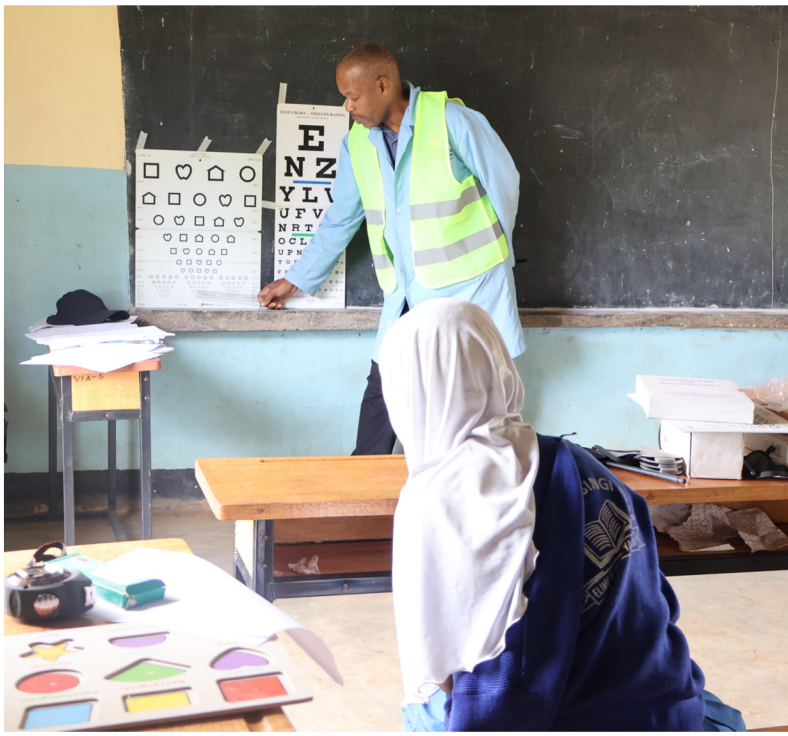
Mental health and social welfare: 46 people received mental health support, and 95 people received social welfare services.

Blood donation: 36 units of blood were donated to support life-saving care in local hospitals.













Teaching Internship Project With Mamire Teachers' College

Supporting quality teaching and learning

This year we welcomed 24 new teaching interns to our program, bringing the total placed in program schools to 49 in 2026.

So They Can supports each newly qualified teacher to intern at a school for two years to gain practical experience after graduating from Mamire Teachers College while working toward permanent employment, and helping ease the significant teacher deficit facing Tanzanian government schools.

Mamire Teachers College Update
In March, 112 new teachers graduated from Mamire Teachers College with qualifications in primary school teaching. A 100% pass rate of the cohort.

Under the college's improved curriculum, students now pursue a Diploma in Primary Education specialising in Mathematics and Science. A key advantage is that graduates are trained to teach using English as the medium of instruction, making them highly marketable for both government and private English-medium schools.

This year's cohort also brings a unique skill not seen in previous graduating classes: training in Sign Language, enabling them to communicate with and teach students who have hearing impairments.



2026 cohort of new interns



2026 MTC Graduation Ceremony



So They Can's 2026 Immersion Trip with Board Director, Georgie Herb

Reflections on So They Can's Sustainability Model

Every year, So They Can's Founder and CEO, Cassandra Treadwell, takes So They Can Board Directors and engaged supporters to visit our teams and programs in Kenya and Tanzania.

On our June Immersion Trip was Georgie Herb, a Board Director with So They Can Australia. With a background in finance, and a passion for social justice, gender equality and education for all, Georgie shared some reflections from her trip.

What did the Immersion Trip teach you about So They Can's model?

When I first met the So They Can team in Kenya, I asked "what is your favourite project, which has the most impact?". I thought I was being very clever asking this, but by the end of our first school visit I realised that this was the wrong question entirely. A single project doesn't result in lasting change.

What good is a new classroom and clean working toilet facilities without a farming program to feed children and encourage attendance at school? What good is having lunch to offer if families aren't supported to send their children instead of keeping them home to work? And none of it matters if treatable illness becomes deadly because the nearest clinic is a day's walk away.

The Immersion Trip demonstrated to me the huge importance of each discrete project, but also that it is only when these 13 projects work together that long-lasting change is fostered.

What were some of your key takeaways from the Immersion Trip?

The key takeaway for me was learning about what sustainability looks like in practice in international development. Development vs aid had always been a vague concept to me. At this point, I almost thought they were buzzwords.

However, through visiting So They Can's Education and Community Development Programs, and having the opportunity to have long discussions with implementing staff and communities, I had the opportunity to see development in action.

It blew me away. Instead of externally imposed, short term projects, I saw programs providing schools with the resources and opportunities to create sustained and sustainable change. This is clearly not something that has happened overnight. I had the pleasure of joining one of the original So They Can Directors, Andrew Bloxham, on this trip, and hearing his perspective of the lessons learned over time. Hearing his assessment of what has been achieved was formative and highlighted to me just how far things have come. So They Can's model started with Aberdere Ranges Primary School in 2010, and has since developed into a well formulated and locally-led conception of development – mainstreamed throughout all 13 projects as So They Can's "Sustainable Schools Development Model".









so they can

By 2030, our goal is to provide education to 75,000 children who are living in poverty in East Africa every year.

Together we can be the difference.



Learn more and get in touch...

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We're working towards...

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