so they can

Quality Education in Tanzania

Your Impact in 2025



Our Tanzania team and the school comunity from Kifaru Juu Primary School in Tanzania celebrate their transformed school, thanks to our support

We're working towards... THE GLOBAL GOALS

Australian Aid

REGISTERED CHARITY

ACFID MEMBER

An Update From Our CEO

Your investment in quality education in Tanzania

February 2026

2025 was a year like no other. The news of the decimation of USAID was devastating, and worsened when additional bilateral donors of Sub-Saharan Africa - namely the UK, Germany and Canada - made significant reductions to their aid budgets too. For me, it brought an overwhelming fear and pressure throughout 2025 to grow So They Can to support locally-led sustainable development.

Now, reflecting on our work last year in Tanzania, and also in Kenya, I feel confidence and hope. First, that we have committed partners like you, who understand the importance of education and global equity, and stand in solidarity with us. And secondly, that we have a sustainable development model, built to withstand external shocks, like those of 2025. Our Public-Private Partnerships at the centre of our model, embedded in local, regional and national structures, ensure longterm change, and we saw this in action in 2025 thanks to the resilience and determination of Roselyne, Boni and our teams in Tanzania and Kenya.



From all of us at So They Can, our sincere thanks for your ongoing support and partnership. More than 20,000 children in Tanzania across 34 underserved primary and secondary schools accessed quality education in 2025, your contribution made that possible.

This annual update shares key highlights from across our interlinked Education Projects in 2025. The video below, captures a message from Roselyne, our Tanzania Country Manager, ahead of her trip to Australia in August 2025, and what your support means for our partner communities.

As we embark on 2026, and our Tanzanian children return to school excited for the new academic year, we are excited to watch them thrive.

Kindest regards,

Cassandra Treadwell, CEO/Founder, So They Can



School Improvement Project Infrastructure Improvements

Access to safe and inclusive school environments

Construction

- 14 new classrooms constructed
- 17 classrooms renovated
- 59 new toilets constructed (# of toilets per block based on need/school population size)
- 5 girls' changing rooms constructed
- 3 new school kitchens constructed
- 16 efficient cooking stoves installed in 8 school kitchens (2 per school)
- 4 ICT labs installed in 4 secondary schools
- 80-bed girls' secondary school dormitory constructed

Clean Water Access

- 3 water boreholes drilled and operationalised
- 60,000L clean water storage, across 7 schools
- 5 pump houses constructed

Resources

- 161 student desks donated
- 80 teacher tables and chairs donated
- 20 ICT equipment items donated (desktops, photocopiers, printers, projectors, laptops).
- 3 children with disabilities fitted with new assistive devices

'Through the combined efforts of So They Can, the community, and the Babati District Council [supervisory support] this challenge was successfully resolved Today, the students and the entire school community are overjoyed with the newly constructed toilets. These facilities will greatly enhance both education and overall well-being. Ayamango Primary School was established in 1975, and we will proudly continue it.'
Mr. Baraza Shana, Head Teacher of Ayamango Primary School (pictured below with students)



New classroom at Qash Primary



New classrooms / multipurpose room at Manyara Primary



New toilet blocks at Ayamango Primary

Impact Story
80-bed Girls Dormitory Opens

Removing barriers to girls' education

Long walking distances is one of the leading causes for students to discontinue secondary school in rural communities.

1,114 students (53% girls) attend Qash Secondary School, one of So They Can's partner schools in Tanzania. Its remote location means that most students walk a 10 to 18-kilometre roundtrip every day. Not surprisingly, the student dropout rate over the four years of lower-level Secondary School (Form 1 – Form 4) was 60% in 2024.

In 2021, the Qash School Board converted 7 classrooms into temporary hostels to accommodate an average of 250 girls and 120 boys. The facilities were used by students when they were sitting the mandatory national exams in Form 2 and Form 4. It was an effective approach to improve academic performance – the school improved its ranking to 8th, out of 40 secondary schools, in the Babati District, previously it ranked 33rd. However, the problem of high dropout rates due to long distances still remained.



Qash Secondary is a secondary school in the Qash Ward, which children from 8 primary schools transition to attend. The communities from these villages hold responsibility for contributing towards their children's education. With your support and building on the community's efforts and contributions, we have constructed the school's first boarding facility. An 80-bed girls' dormitory, with 40 double bunk beds, 5 toilets (including 1 for children with Special Needs) and 5 showers. The Qash community were an important part of the project, contributing 10% of the total project cost in the form of local materials and labour for the build. It was a joyful occasion for everyone when the doors officially opened in May 2025.

'I am very grateful to the So They Can organisation for constructing this dormitory for us. Now, we will grow up in a safe place and have the opportunity to study well. In the past, we slept on the floor without beds and used the classroom as a hostel. However, we now have a comfortable environment to live and study at night. We are truly thankful for this project.'
Aisha, 18 year-old student from Qash Secondary School.

'With the construction of this girls' dormitory students will now feel safer. I sincerely thank everyone involved, including So They Can, the Qash community, and the Government, for their significant contributions. This will make a huge difference in their education and overall well-being.'
Ezekiel Kabogo, Headmaster of Qash Secondary School

My Voice Project
Schools Champion Child Rights

Children at the centre of their empowerment

As reported in our mid-year update:

- Child Rights Clubs were activated at the start of the year in every school, with student representatives leading the school-based clubs raise awareness about children's rights and protection.
- 570 student leaders, trained in Leadership for the roles as Pupil Council Leaders.
- 20 Youth Saving Loan Associations (YSLA) established.
- 504 school stakeholders participated in refresher training on child rights (392 primary students, 44 secondary schools, 68 Guardian teachers).
- 290 children participated in commemorations for International Day of the African Child.
- 986 children participated in Scouts' activities.
- 150 children participated in Ward-level sports events .
- 1 school sports centre established at Qash Primary, with equipment.
- 150 bicycles donated, for children to access school from long distances.



YSLA group at Orngadida Primary



New sports centre at Qash Primary



Student leaders in action

Keeping Girls in School Project
Removing the Barriers to Education

Knowledge, resources and guidance

- 600 girls girls received sanitary products - our NIA Dignity Packs with reusable sanitary pads, which keep menstruating girls in school.
- Business training facilitated to the local mothers, who are trained to produce our NIA Dignity Packs as their livelihood.
- Menstrual Hygiene Management and Health Awareness Education facilitated to 14,000 students across our partner schools.
- 790 students came together to commemorate International Days that commemorated the importance of girls' education. Vibrant occasions, that supports our awareness raising efforts, together with our network of 58 Champion Mothers and Fathers.



International Women's Day commemorations


NIA Dignity Packs at Endakiso Primary


Health Education session

'I never imagined my daughter would reach secondary school. None of the women in our family ever studied past Standard 7. We couldn't afford the fees and didn't see the point since she would just get married. But So They Can changed our mindset. They helped us understand the importance of girls' education for her future and our whole family's wellbeing. Now my daughter is determined to become a teacher herself so she can empower even more girls.'

A parent interview for So They Can Tanzania's independent Program Evaluation.

So They Can's Schools Win District Education Awards

Your support enables schools' excellence

Every year on May 1st Tanzania commemorates Workers' Day — a special day that recognises, thanks and awards outstanding workers, including educators, who play a vital role in building up their communities and economies. This year we're delighted to announce that So They Can's partners won 3 of the 4 District Education Awards, and we couldn't be more proud.

All of the teachers shared that it was So They Can's professional development support that led to their award win.

Best Ward Education Officer (WEO) – Mariam Chobu, Qash Ward WEO. Awarded for her exceptional leadership among the 25 Ward Education Communities (WECs) in the Babati District, especially her problem-solving skills and dedication to quality learning. Mariam shared that:

'I was very happy and couldn't believe that I had been chosen among so many others. This award has given me the strength and motivation to continue working hard, because I believe that, even the little things I do have been seen to bring value to the lives of others'.



Best Head Teacher in Babati District Council & the Manyara Region -Geofrey Matandiko, Manyara Primary School. Awarded for his resilience and dedication, under his leadership Manyara has risen to the best ranking government primary school, out of 137 schools in the district.

Best Teacher of Lower Primary Grades – Lazaro Mapunda, Tsamasi Primary School. His creative talking classroom (pictured below) fosters active learning and has led to significant improvements in student outcomes. He is regarded as a champion teacher among the more than 1,300 teachers across the district.

For So They Can, these awards are more than just plaques and applause — they're a symbol of how locally led efforts can transform the national education system, with support from invaluable partners like your families.



Msomi Scholarship Project
Support for Promising Children

Scholarship and Ongoing Mentorship

Throughout 2025 you supported the educational costs of 44 secondary students who otherwise would not be able to continue their education. Following the award/continuation of the scholarships at the start of the 2025 academic year, students are supported and mentored to achieve their personal best.

In Q2 a Mentorship Camp, was held to guide our promising scholars. Sessions covered children's rights., academic performance, career choice, discipline and behaviours that support students to achieved their academic and personal best.









Teacher Development Project Competency-based Curriculum

Continuous professional development

316 teachers (46% female) are teaching in our program schools. Through our Teacher Development Project, we provide needs-based continuous professional development. We have facilitated a range of trainings this year to date:

- 919 children screened for special needs, by 87 teachers we trained in the identification of children with special needs.
- 116 teachers participated in our refresher training on Gender Responsive Pedagogy.
- 7,389 children sat our prepatory exams. So They Can supported the Grade2, 4, and 7 zonal examinations which help teachers prepare students for the respective national examinations.
- 120 teachers participated in our 3-day training on best practice pedagogy, an important opportunity for shared practice.
- 114 teachers participated in 13 cross-learning visits to schools for peer-to-peer observation and learning.
- 100 teachers participated in ICT training, facilitated by our partner Camera Education.
- 286 teachers participated in International Teachers' Day commemorations to build morale, and our teachers' network across our partner schools.

These photos were captured during this year's teacher trainings.

Teaching Interns

40 graduates from Mamire Teachers' College were placed in our partner schools in 2025, through our 2-year Teaching Internship Program.







Impact Story
New ICT Labs, and Teacher Training

Empowering Secondary School Students with Technology

'I used a computer for the first time during the training. Now I know how to type, open files, and interact with educational content. I'm very excited!'
Messe, Form 1 Student at Qash Secondary School.

In 2025, to drive digital transformation across rural schools, So They Can partnered with Camara Education Tanzania to proudly support the full installation of computer labs – and the delivery of comprehensive ICT training – at 3 Government Ward secondary schools in Babati District, Manyara Region, Tanzania.

The fully equipped labs bring technology access to more than 2,500 students at Endakiso, Mamire, and Qash Secondary Schools. Like Messe, for many children this is their first time using a computer and their excitement has been inspiring.

Camara Education provided hands-on training with the newly donated computers to 23 school leaders, 66 teachers and 167 students across the three schools. Training focused on ICT awareness, digital literacy and practical use of Camara's learning platforms. Leaders also developed their school EdTech plans, ensuring long-term sustainability.



'I was not confident using a computer. Now, I understand how ICT can support our school plans and classroom delivery. This experience has truly empowered me.'
Ms Athumani, school teacher at Qash Secondary.

'This [initiative] has opened our eyes to the potential of technology in improving school management and classroom learning. We now have a clear EdTech plan to guide us.'
Mr Kabogo, Head Teacher at Qash Secondary.

Now equipped with the labs, comprehensive ICT training, and school-wide engagement, these schools are well prepared to offer Information and Computer Studies (ICS) for the first time in 2026. It is part of the secondary education curriculum, but without equipment schools have been unable to teach it. Schools can also now establish ICT Clubs, giving students the space to explore technology, build digital skills, and prepare for future opportunities.



Our School Community Project Stakeholder Engagement

Building schools' community capacity to lead

Village Loan Associations (VSLAs)

- 22 VSLAs, with 736 community members, established for improved economic empowerment.
- 19 VSLA members trained in VSLA model.

See our impact story on the following page.

Community Farming

- 203 community farmers reached through our support.
- 3,103kg of seed inputs supplied.
- 600 acres farmed with our support.
- 5602.50 kgs harvested! (3,711kg of maize, 1791.50kg pigeon peas, 100kg sunflowers)
- Community block farming at 2 school communities, with 42 parents, harvested 4,455kg of onions.

Stakeholder Engagment

Child rights desks operationalised across our partner schools, to ensure that children are protected and attending school.

Champions

So They Can Tanzania's network of 116 Champions, have been active throughout the year, and continued to provide important information to our team on school communities' progress and challenges. We conducted quarterly reflection meetings.

Read more about our Tanzanian Champions here: How 116 Mothers and Fathers Are Ending Violence and Keeping Children in School



Our Champions at Endakiso with Cass, our CEO



All of our Champions are recognised by their t-shirts, which say: In the Manyara region, a life without violence against women and children is possible.

Impact Story
VSLAs Access Government Loans

Strengthening economic empowerment

In partnership with local government leaders in Tanzania, we have been working hard to ensure that Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) in our partner communities are fully informed and prepared to benefit from the government's interest-free loan program.

A VSLA is a community-based savings group where members come together to save money, take out loans, share out profits and support one another financially. Through VSLAs, communities are empowered economically, they can start and grow income generating activities, and operate outside the formal banking system.

In early 2025, So They Can facilitated training to 18 Community Based Trainers on the VSLA methodology, leading to an establishment of 33 VSLAs, with a total of 798 members (77% women). Since April, members have been able to save a total of AUD $4,900 and have loaned just under half to 16 group members.

From October 2025, So They Can's Community Development Officer together with the District & Qash Ward Community Development Officer (CDO) have had ongoing sensitisation meetings with 24 groups about District loans designated for VSLAs. We inform VSLAs on loan opportunities, the requirements, and provide guidance on how to prepare an application. And it has worked.

Jitambue, VSLA Group in Qash Village secured a loan!

The group, made up of 10 members, successfully applied and received a TZS 6 million loan (AUD $3,535) in November. The loan is interest free, over a 15-month period.

With their loan they want to expand their current poultry and vegetables business, to significantly boost their revenue. Their plan is to increase their number of chickens from 150 to 500, and diversify and scale their 1.5 acre vegetable farm.

Several other VSLAs are already on their way to joining Jitambue. Two groups from Endakiso and a group from Ayamango have completed their registration process and are preparing their applications to take the next step toward securing loan funding for their businesses.



Shamba Letu Project
Primary School Farms Thrive

Sustainable access to food and income

Scaling School Farms
In 2025 So They Can supported climate-smart school farms for food and income production.

- 178 acres where farmed across all 21 program schools (19 primary, 2 secondary schools).
- 267 tonnes was harvested!. (114.521 tonnes pigeon peas, 102.581 tonnes maize, 34.218 tonnes sunflower, 15.68 tonnes Millet).
- 750 fruit trees planted.

They were able to achieve this with our support in climate-smart agriculture:

- 920kgs farming inputs provided.
- 17 new schools installed Drip Irrigation Systems (DIS) for their vegetable gardens.
- 9 30,000L cement water tanks constructed for irrigation of the farms.
- 122 students and 7 teachers training in effective farm management
- 6 1-acre DIS established at 6 schools.

Shamba Letu Clubs
School-based Shamba Letu Clubs, made up of students and teachers, managed their school farms including plowing, sowing, fertilising, irrigating and harvesting.

147 students trained on effective farm management, and climate-smart agriculture as a life skill.







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...

www.sotheycan.org

cassandra@sotheycan.org

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We're working towards...

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