



TANZANIA

TAWAH — Empowering women with skills to thrive in the sustainable housing business and strengthen communities



More information on un.org

In Tanzania, women make up just over 50% of the population but too few of them are able to enter the flourishing construction sector.

To increase their participation in the sector and provide a livelihood for women in rural areas who have no access to formal education, Tanzania Women Architects for Humanity (TAWAH) is training them in basic construction skills. Through the Mhaga village project, Julius Baer Foundation and TAWAH have joined forces

to construct and develop a Vocational Centre, a local hub of empowerment. The women undertake apprenticeships, working on projects to improve the village environment. In a hands-on approach, as well as learning construction techniques and business fundamentals, they make sustainable bricks and help to build and renovate homes for the elderly and disabled.

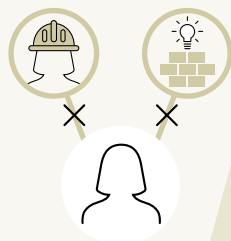
By creating these entry level pathways into this key sector of the economy, women can benefit from the wealth being created in the construction industry.

Quick facts

- Tanzania: Mhaga village, Kisarawe District, Coastal Region
- Project support: 2021–2026
- Grant amount: CHF 130,000 per year
- This project is co-funded by a client of Julius Baer
- Connecting Mhaga village women with female architects, engineers, university students and graduates.
- Goal: To provide women with basic construction skills and the connections to gain employment in the construction sector.

Breaking down barriers ...

With little formal education and construction seen as man's work, women in marginalised rural areas of Tanzania are unable to access training and employment opportunities in the building sector.



... into the construction sector

The Mhaga village project trains women in sustainable construction, from brick making to basic building and business skills, which will help them boost their income and strengthen their community.

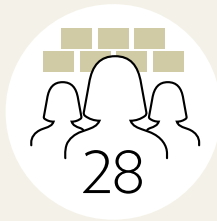




“This project has given us light and the vision to see that, what we thought was a job only for men, women can also do. We can mix cement and sand, we can make blocks and we can even build a house and we are sure we can work in any construction site.”

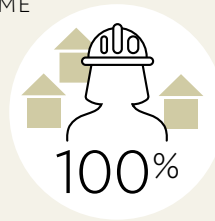
Christina Yona Naiman, 45, construction trainee

OUTPUT



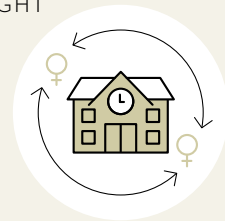
A total of **94 Mhaga** women have been trained so far in brick-making, soil testing and sustainable construction, with 28 also trained in financial management.

OUTCOME



From the first cohort of women trained, **100% are employed** by TAWAH and are continuing to apply their skills in sustainable construction.

HIGHLIGHT



Built by women for women, the **Vocational Centre** has been inaugurated as a place of learning and a hub of empowerment that will shape futures, transform lives, and bridge the wealth inequality gap.

Mhaga village leads the way

- While female participation has contributed to Tanzania’s strong economic growth, many constraints still prevent Tanzanian women from achieving their full potential.
- A disproportionate number of women, for example, lack formal education and the means to enter one of the largest and fastest growing sectors of Tanzania’s economy – construction.
- With the gift of a parcel of land and women willing and ready to learn TAWAH’s mission received the support of Julius Baer Foundation and the financial resources to realise their plans.
- Through the Mhaga village project, TAWAH has taken vocational training in construction to women in a marginalised area who previously had no access to education locally.
- The women are now gaining skills, an income and newfound respect from their community as well as breaking down barriers into a traditionally male-dominated industry.
- The project is in its second phase with the aim to train 50 more women and build 4 more houses for the community.
- The ultimate goal is to extend its reach throughout Tanzania.

About TAWAH

Tanzania Women Architects for Humanity (TAWAH) is an all-volunteer NGO founded in 2010 by women architects and engineers committed to improving living conditions among marginalised groups in rural areas: women, the elderly and people with disabilities. Its core mission is to use sustainable building techniques and mobilise women to enter the construction sector.



More information about TAWAH and their projects in Tanzania: tawah.tanzania.or.tz

Do you feel inspired by the TAWAH project and would like to support it?

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us! We would love the exchange.



Write us at foundation@julius-baer.com or find out more about us and our projects online.

Julius Baer Foundation

Established in 1965 by Walter J. Bär (1895–1970), the grant Foundation of Bank Julius Baer is focused on reducing wealth inequality. It convenes leading thinkers and actors on the topic and supports projects around the globe where the privileged and disadvantaged work together towards a world of equal opportunities.

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