



TANZANIA

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



More information  
on [un.org](https://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.

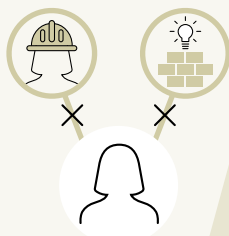
By creating these entry level pathways into this key sector of the economy, women can benefit from the wealth being created in the construction industry.

### Quick facts

- Tanzania: Mhaga village, Kisarawe District, Coastal Region
- Project support: 2021–2027
- Grant amount: CHF 1,406,000
- This project is co-funded by a client of Julius Baer
- Connecting Mhaga village women with female architects, engineers, university students and graduates.
- Goal: Providing women with basic construction skills and the connections to gain employment in the construction sector.

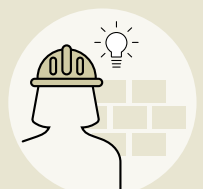
### Breaking down barriers ...

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.

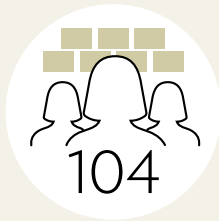




**“This project has opened our eyes and given us hope to pursue our dreams as women. When we come together, we are unstoppable. Together, we build, we rise and we transform the world.”**

Hawa Kilongo, 52,  
trainer Painter and house beneficiary

#### OUTPUT



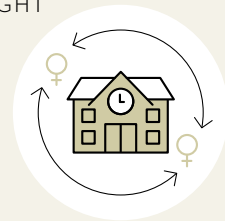
104 women received **training in brick-making, soil testing and sustainable construction**; 80 also gained financial literacy. 28 Mhaga women formed a savings group and 39 opened bank accounts for home improvements.

#### OUTCOME



28 women built **11 homes and toilets for elders and women-led families**: 5 in Chanika, Dar es Salaam, and 6 in Mhaga, Kisarawe. Six benefited from housing and three got jobs in Ifakara, Morogoro, building a school.

#### HIGHLIGHT



Women built the **Vocational Centre** as a hub for learning and empowerment. Now, 24 young mothers from six Tanzanian regions are training there and five Mhaga-trained women work as assistant trainers (4) and a chef (1).

### 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 a membership-based organisation formed in June 2010 by Tanzanian women architects and engineers committed to enhancing social justice by mobilising women to spearhead projects to build adequate shelter in poor communities. TAWAH was registered as an NGO under the Non-Governmental Organizations Act, 2002 in March 2011 with the registration number 4487.



More information about TAWAH and their projects in Tanzania:  
[tawah.tanzania.or.tz](http://tawah.tanzania.or.tz)



Watch the TAWAH video

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

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us!  
[foundation@juliusbaer.com](mailto:foundation@juliusbaer.com)



Learn more about our mission and our projects on the Wealth Inequality Initiative platform.

#### Julius Baer Foundation

Established in 1965 by Walter J. Bär (1895–1970), the Julius Baer Foundation has a long history of supporting diverse philanthropic initiatives. Today, our focus is on reducing wealth inequality by convening leading thinkers and actors on the topic and supporting projects worldwide that foster collaboration between individuals, groups and organisations across the wealth spectrum to create a world of equal opportunities.

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