

3 years into the Uhuru Mama Collective

**What have we
done, and what
have we
achieved?**



90% of children with intellectual disabilities in Tanzania are kept hidden and do not attend school, most live in extreme poverty.

At Uhuru Mchanganyiko School, mothers of children with intellectual disabilities used to sleep under a tree while waiting for their children to finish the school day. Their families lived in average on less than 1 USD/day, and most mothers were depressed.



In 2023, we started Uhuru Mama Collective

- A community of **33 mothers of children with intellectual disabilities**
- Based at **Uhuru Mchanganyiko School in Dar es Salaam**
- Working together on:
 - handicraft production
 - learning and training





The mothers of children with disabilities make Tanzanian handicrafts from sustainable, locally sourced materials while their children are at school.



We have wonderful children who test the toys we make!

Why does this matter?

When mothers are empowered:

- children attend school more regularly
- families have more stable daily lives
- the local community becomes more inclusive.







At first, the quality of our
handicrafts was so-so

In three years, the quality of our handicrafts has improved enormously, we got top ratings from the Danish Embassy!



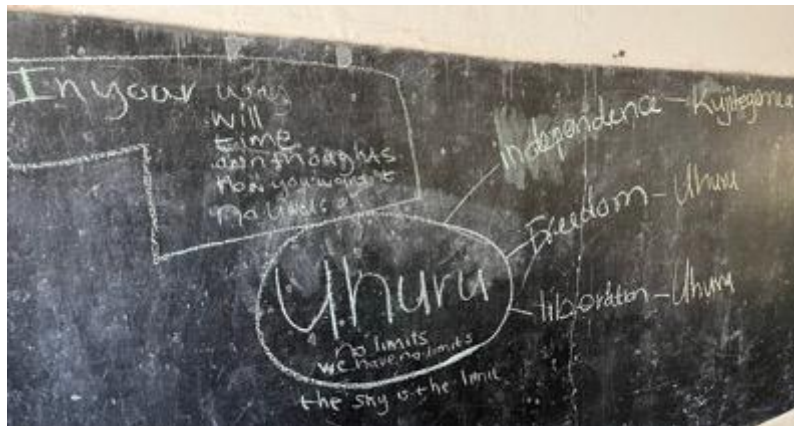


Uhuru Mama

safari ya mtoto



 Uhuru Mama Collective



We have developed our logo together with the graphical designer Mariaan von Zyl



We produce a lot of things every week!

Our products
sell at good
prices when
they reach
the right
markets





We collaborate with Dønski Secondary School, Norway, where adolescents with disabilities can use their skills to make a change for children with disabilities and their families in Tanzania.



We have taken part in many exhibitions—and after three years, we have become quite professional!

We have finally got electricity in our production room

This makes it possible to:

- use more advanced sewing machines
- Have a fan in the room, Dar es Salaam is HOT
- increase production and income opportunities



Journalist Provian Dandi, a wheelchair user who works for TBC—Tanzania's public broadcaster—keeps us on TV time after time!





We have studied the
collective's impact on
mothers and children

Results

- Income increased several-fold
- Children learn more, thrive and develop better
- Better school–home collaboration, less stigma
- Mothers report:
 - being able to provide three meals a day
 - More confidence
 - more hope, less depression
 - greater dignity



***For example, me every Thursday
when I get cash support, it helps. I
can pay small contributions. I do not
have to ask for everything, as I had to
do previously.***

FOR POLICYMAKERS

1. Support school-based caregiver collectives as part of inclusive education, disability and social protection strategies.

2. Policies should recognise that income generation, peer support, dignity, school collaboration and mental wellbeing are interconnected.

3. Small but stable investments and market access may help caregiver collectives become sustainable without creating dependency.

Peer support over years

While working, the mothers share stories, support one another and relax together





When mothers bring their children to school every day, the children
make friends, learn more and thrive



We have a lot of fun!



A stronger, prouder group
of mothers of children with
intellectual disabilities

Improved self-esteem

“Additionally, these women appear to take care of themselves and look much better compared to before.”



Many of the children have learned much more

- *Some children who previously seemed to be lagging behind have shown improvement. There are those who have been able to advance to higher classes because they have demonstrated a better understanding.* Teacher
- *My child has been placed in an inclusive classroom, I am very happy with his progress.* Mother



More and better communication between school and home

If you call a parent to talk to them, you listen to each other and understand each other very well, which was not the case before. And for those who are not members, we still see this problem.



19/12/2025
 UHURU MAMA COLLECTIVE

We hereby acknowledge receipt of funds from Nina Lang in the amount of Three million One Hundred Thirty Two Thousand, Tanzanian shillings Only (TZS 3,132,000/-). These funds were generously contributed by her relatives and friends.

The funds were utilized for the purchase of the following items:

1. Office wardrobe (1) - TZS 750,000
2. Sewing Table (1) - TZS 350,000
3. Children Toys - TZS 593,800
4. Fans (2) - TZS 160,000
5. Sewing machine (2) - TZS 750,000
6. Iron - TZS 78,000
7. Office wardrobe and Table Delivery TZS 70,000
8. Sewing machine Delivery TZS 45,000
9. Shopping Transport Costs - TZS 67,600

Total Amount Spent: TZS 2,863,400
 Remaining Balance: TZS 267,600

Zulfa Ramadhani
 Mhasibu

Henet Isabende
 Mbenyekiti

Carolyne Yamata
 Katibu





We support one another



We love to share!



We have established a strong partnership with the international school in Dar es Salaam



Visitors come from near and far, bringing fresh ideas



Celebrating the collective's first anniversary!



We went on SAFARI to
Mikumi National Park in
June 2026!

We have participated in many craft workshops
to improve our skills



We have expanded
to two new
schools, and will
soon start at
another—we have
so much to teach
and share, and so
many to inspire!





We have created a programme for young people with intellectual disabilities—and started building a dedicated facility

We are building
independence in
accounting,
leadership and
business
development



Partners and supporters in Tanzania, Norway, the UK and the USA

- Dr. Solfrid Raknes, Norway
- Midsund Rotary Club, Norway
- Norwegian Church Aid , Tanzania
- Myratun, Midsund, Norway
- Dønski Upper Secondary School, Norway
- Parents' Group for Children with Disabilities in Østfold, Norway
- The International School in Dar es Salaam
- Malaika Toys, Tanzania
- Norwegian Church Aid, Norway
- Deep Challenge Foundation, UK
- Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Molde University College and the Open University of Tanzania through NOREC.



Will you join us for the
journey ahead?