

A photograph of three women in a meeting room, all smiling and clapping. The woman on the left is wearing a patterned red and gold top. The woman in the center is wearing a red, white, and blue striped shirt and glasses. The woman on the right is wearing a purple hijab and a purple top. They are standing in front of a table with a water bottle and papers. The background is a blurred office setting with a door and a green exit sign.

ORGANIZATION PROFILE



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FOREWORD

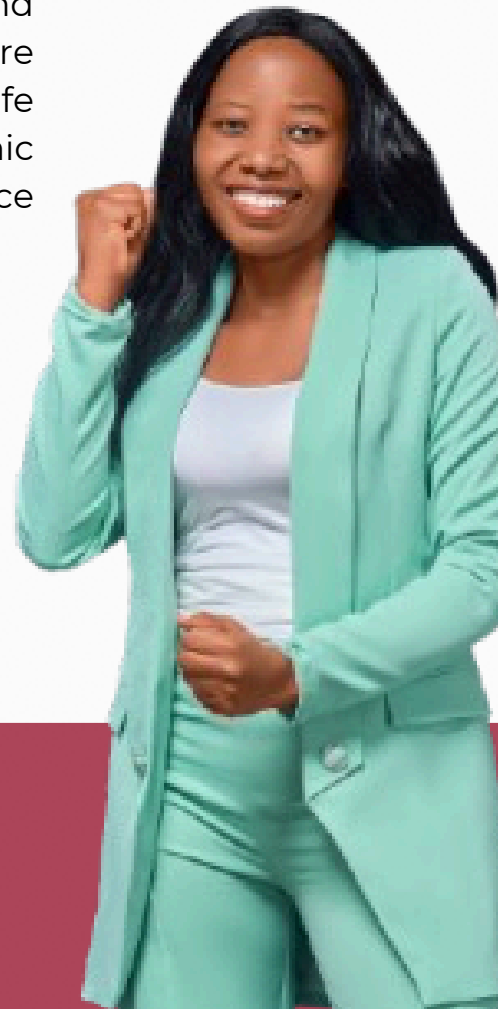
The Women and Youth Movement (Woyomo) is a youth- and women-led feminist organization dedicated to promoting educational justice and economic empowerment for girls and young women in Tanzanian communities. With a strong focus on rural and marginalized areas, Woyomo seeks to dismantle the systemic gender inequalities that prevent girls from accessing opportunities, resources, and the right to make decisions over their own lives.

Woyomo's mission is to promote girls' and young women's rights and help them thrive in their communities. Guided by a bold vision of a society free from gender inequality—where girls enjoy their rights, own their power, and make choices for themselves—our work combines mentorship, training, education support, and economic empowerment to create lasting change at the grassroots level.

At the heart of our approach is a deep understanding of the lived experiences of girls and young women, and a commitment to co-creating solutions with the communities we serve. Through partnerships with local leaders, schools, and organizations, we ensure that our interventions are inclusive, culturally responsive, and community-driven.

This profile highlights Woyomo's vision, mission, and impact across Tanzania. It showcases how we are supporting girls to stay in school, equipping them with life and leadership skills, strengthening their economic independence, and amplifying their voices to influence policy and social norms.

Together, we are building a future where every girl and young woman has the power and freedom to thrive.



Monica Patrick,
Executive Director, WOYOMO



We are a youth- and women-led feminist organization based in Tanzania, committed to advancing gender equality and educational justice. Women and Youth Movement (Woyomo) creates safe spaces, promotes access to education, drives economic empowerment, supports survivors of gender-based violence, and amplifies girls' and young women's voices to influence policies and systems.

We work with adolescent girls, young women, teen mothers, and communities—especially in rural and marginalized areas to challenge harmful norms, build confidence, and create opportunities for leadership and independence. Through education advocacy, social enterprise, health programs, and movement-building, Woyomo envisions a just Tanzania where girls and women are free, equal, and thriving.

Vision

We envision a community free from gender inequalities, where girls enjoy access to their rights, have their power and make choices and decisions for themselves.

Mission

We are committed to empowering girls and women through education, safe spaces, economic opportunities, survivor support, and feminist advocacy for lasting gender equality.



OUR STORY.



The Women and Youth Movement (Woyomo) is a feminist, youth- and women-led non-profit organization founded in 2020 by Ms. Monica Patrick, a bold advocate for gender justice who was born and raised in a rural Sukuma community (an ethnic community) in Tanzania. Her early life was shaped by the stark realities of deeply entrenched gender inequalities that defined what girls could and could not become.

In Monica's community, girls were often treated as second-class citizens, denied access to education, autonomy, and the power to make decisions about their lives. Early marriages, poverty, and gendered expectations pushed many girls out of school and into adulthood before their time. Girls were discouraged from excelling in education for fear they would "lose respect" or challenge patriarchal norms. Women, meanwhile, were expected to endure violence in silence, lacking both financial independence and social support.

Monica's journey, however, took a different path. She was raised by a father who believed in girls' education and stood up for girls who lacked school materials or moral support. His actions planted the seed of purpose in Monica—an understanding that access and encouragement could change a girl's life.

While in college, Monica co-founded the Smart Ladies Foundation, a student-led initiative formed during the COVID-19 pandemic. It began as an online movement to support girls facing gender-based violence and exploitation, offering mentorship, confidence-building, and access to role models. The initiative quickly gained traction, sparking new conversations and restoring hope among girls who had been silenced and sidelined.



OUR STORY.



Recognizing the growing need and the transformative potential of the work, Monica expanded the initiative. In 2022, the organization was officially registered as Women and Youth Movement (Woyomo) to widen its reach and include both young women and youth from marginalized communities. Today, Woyomo is a vibrant grassroots movement working across four key thematic areas:

- Education Justice
- Economic Empowerment
- Gender Equality
- Health (Mental Health & SRHR)

Our programs are rooted in lived experience and community engagement. We provide mentorship and menstrual health education to keep girls in school, equip young women with vocational and business skills to achieve financial independence, and create safe spaces for healing, growth, and leadership development.

Monica's vision continues to guide us in Tanzania, where girls and young women—especially those in rural and underserved communities—are not just seen, but heard; not just helped, but empowered. A future where they lead, thrive, and transform their communities with confidence and power.

This is Woyomo's story. And we're just getting started.





OUR WHY

In Tanzania, girls and young women continue to face systemic barriers that deny them equal opportunities to learn, grow, and lead. Deep-rooted gender norms, poverty, limited access to education, and widespread gender-based violence hold them back from reaching their full potential.

Teenage pregnancy remains one of the leading causes of school dropouts—around 24% of teenage girls aged 15–19 have had a child or are pregnant, with even higher rates in rural areas. Once girls drop out, most never return, limiting their future economic independence and reinforcing cycles of poverty and inequality.

The situation is worsened by high levels of gender-based violence (GBV). Nearly 40% of women aged 15–49 have experienced physical violence, while 17% have faced sexual violence. Many girls experience abuse before turning 18, often in silence due to stigma, harmful cultural norms, and weak protection systems.

At the same time, gender gaps in education, employment, and leadership persist. Young women are disproportionately excluded from education, training, and formal employment, making them more vulnerable to economic dependence and exploitation.

Woyomo exists to challenge and change these realities. We believe that lasting transformation requires a holistic approach that combines education, safe spaces, economic empowerment, survivor support, and feminist advocacy.

OUR HOW

Woyomo employs a holistic, feminist, and community-driven model to dismantle the barriers that limit the potential of girls and young women. Our work is grounded in three interconnected pillars: Empower, Enable, and Influence. Through this model, we address both individual needs and systemic inequalities to create lasting change.



Empower – Building Knowledge, Confidence, and Skills

We invest in girls' and young women's education, leadership, and self-awareness. Through initiatives like the Girls Buzz, Msichana Juu, and Health Spark Project, we promote educational justice by creating safe learning spaces, mentoring girls, supporting teen mothers to return to school, and delivering comprehensive SRHR education.

These interventions strengthen girls' agency and help them stay in school, gain knowledge, and build confidence to lead.



Enable – Creating Economic Opportunities and Safe Spaces

We tackle economic exclusion and vulnerability and equip adolescent girls, teen mothers, and survivors of GBV with vocational skills, financial literacy, entrepreneurship training, and seed capital to build sustainable livelihoods.

Also, through Girls Buzz and Handmade Hope and community convenings, we create safe physical and digital spaces where girls can learn, heal, connect, and build solidarity.



Influence – Shifting Systems, Norms, and Policies

We believe change must go beyond the individual level. Through movement-building, feminist collaborations, and policy advocacy, we work with community leaders, activists, schools, and government institutions to challenge harmful norms, strengthen protection mechanisms, and influence policy. Our Beyond Limits program also supports survivors of GBV with psychosocial services, linking individual healing to broader social change.



OUR VALUES

Feminism

We embrace feminism as a core, advocating for gender equality and challenging patriarchal norms and structures that perpetuate gender inequalities. We believe in empowering girls and young women to be agents of change and promoting a society where all genders have equal rights, opportunities and representation.

Equality and Inclusive

We believe in the inherent worth and equal rights of all girls and equal rights of all girls and young women, regardless of their background, race, ethnicity, religion, social economic status or abilities. We strive to create an inclusive environment that celebrates diversity and ensures equal opportunities for all.

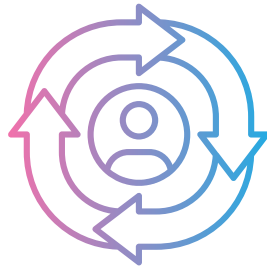
Empowerment

We are dedicated to empowering girls and young women by providing them with the knowledge, skills, resources, and support they need to take control of their lives, make informed decisions, and pursue their aspirations. We believe in fostering confidence, self-esteem, and resilience in every girl and young woman we serve.

Continuous Learning and Innovation

We embrace a culture of continuous learning, adaptation, and innovation. We stay informed about emerging trends, research, and best practices in empowering girls and young women. We continuously evaluate our programs and strategies, seeking opportunities for improvement and exploring innovative approaches to address evolving challenges.

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE.



WOYOMO believes that breaking gender inequalities in rural and urban Tanzania requires empowering girls and women through education, technology, safe spaces, and economic opportunities. We work with adolescent girls, teen mothers, survivors of gender-based violence, and women to build their confidence, skills, and financial independence because access to psychosocial support, social learning, and economic empowerment allows them to define their own futures and thrive.

We collaborate with feminist activists, teachers, community leaders, policymakers, and the private sector because shifting harmful norms and strengthening policies demands collective action.

By combining education advocacy, survivor support, social enterprise, and policy influence, WOYOMO seeks to create communities that rise against injustice, ensure women and girls know their rights, achieve financial freedom, and live in a world where they are free from violence and have equal opportunities to reach their full potential.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



Educational Justice.

Why: in Tanzania, millions of girls continue to be denied their right to education due to intersecting barriers such as poverty, early marriage, pregnancy, poor infrastructure, and harmful gender norms — challenges that are even more severe in rural areas like Simiyu. Nationally, about 3.2 million children aged 7–17 are out of school, with 1.2 million having never attended, and girls make up the majority of those affected. Every year, thousands of girls drop out of school due to pregnancy — between July 2021 and June 2022, over 42,000 schoolgirls left school for this reason, yet only 22,844 have managed to return through the re-entry program introduced in 2021. In regions like Simiyu, many girls miss 3–7 days of school each month because of lack of sanitary pads, while others drop out due to early marriage, pregnancy, and long distances to school.

How: WOYOMO promotes girls' access to education through mentorship, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR), safe learning hubs and promoting their education rights ensure girls stays in schools and support re- entry girls to get back to school and proceed with their education dreams.



Economic Empowerment

Why: Women and girls in Tanzania face limited economic opportunities, which deepens poverty and dependence.

How: Through projects like NIWEZESHE and our social enterprise HANDMADE HOPE , we provides vocational training, financial literacy, entrepreneurship skills, and seed capital to girls, teen mothers, and survivors of GBV. These initiatives reduce poverty, promote financial inclusion, and enable participants to achieve independence.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Safe Spaces & Social Learning



Why: Adolescent girls and young women need safe, supportive environments to develop self-esteem, leadership, and life skills.

How: Through Girls Buzz initiatives (Girls Academy, Annual Convenings, Online Platforms), WOYOMO provides safe physical and digital spaces where girls share experiences, learn advocacy, and build solidarity. This keeps them socially engaged, connected, and equipped to define their futures.

Movement-Building & Feminist Collaboration



Why: Structural change requires collective action and solidarity across movements.

How: WOYOMO collaborates with feminist activists, community leaders, and youth movements, while also organizing annual convening where girls set the agenda. This strengthens collective voices for policy change and nurtures girls as change-makers.

TOOLS - Feminist School and Girls Buzz



OUR PROGRAMS





GIRLS BUZZ

In Tanzania, adolescent girls and young women face persistent barriers that silence their voices and limit their potential. Many grow up in environments where harmful gender norms, poverty, and systemic inequalities dictate their choices. Teenage pregnancy remains high—24% of girls aged 15–19 are mothers or pregnant (TDHS-MIS 2022)—leading to school dropouts and fewer opportunities for economic independence. Gender-based violence is widespread, with 40% of women aged 15–49 having experienced physical violence and 17% sexual violence.

Leadership gaps also persist, as girls and young women are often excluded from decision-making spaces, leaving their experiences and perspectives unheard.

Girls Buzz is Woyomo's flagship initiative designed to respond to this reality by creating safe, supportive, and empowering spaces, both physical and digital, where girls can learn, connect, and lead.

The program focuses on amplifying girls' voices, building leadership, and nurturing agency through three core components:

1. **Girls Academy:** A learning hub where girls and young women receive training in leadership, advocacy, activism, and feminism, coupled with mentorship to build confidence and community leadership skills. Under this academy, we have a feminist school to teach adolescents about activism and their rights.
2. **Annual Girls Convening:** A national gathering that brings girls together to share experiences, identify challenges, propose solutions, and set advocacy agendas that reflect their lived realities.
3. **Girls Buzz Platform:** An online community that bridges access to opportunities, mentorship, and digital advocacy spaces connecting girls from different regions to learn, support one another, and influence change.

We work by integrating mentorship, peer-to-peer learning, capacity building, and movement building. Girls Buzz provides a safe environment for girls to share experiences, gain knowledge, and engage in collective action. Insights and stories from these spaces are fed into wider Woyomo advocacy efforts, ensuring that girls' realities shape community priorities and policy discussions.

Through Girls Buzz, adolescent girls and young women gain confidence, leadership, and solidarity. They become changemakers challenging harmful norms, influencing their communities, and pursuing education and economic independence. The program is building a generation of girls who not only imagine a more just Tanzania but actively lead the way in creating it.

HEALTH SPARK PROJECT

The Health Spark Project is a youth-driven initiative that promotes Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and gender equality among adolescents in Tanzania. The project was created to respond to the persistent silence, stigma, and misinformation surrounding puberty, menstruation, consent, and gender-based violence—issues that continue to deny many young people, especially girls, their right to health, education, and dignity.

In Tanzania, the need for comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) is urgent. Studies show that 27% of girls aged 15–19 have begun childbearing, and more than 42,000 schoolgirls dropped out between 2021 and 2022 due to pregnancy. Many adolescents navigate puberty without accurate information or support, leading to early pregnancies, unsafe practices, and discrimination. Menstrual health remains a major barrier—1 in 4 girls miss school each month because they lack sanitary pads, privacy, or understanding from peers and teachers. Without CSE, young people rely on myths and misinformation, perpetuating cycles of inequality, school dropout, and gender-based violence.

To address these challenges, Health Spark uses a peer-led, school-based approach that centers young people as leaders and educators in their own communities. Through participatory workshops, storytelling, and open dialogue, students learn about menstruation, puberty, consent, and gender equality in a safe and stigma-free environment. The project also uses media advocacy radio, TV, and social media to engage parents, teachers, and community leaders, encouraging collective responsibility for youth wellbeing and rights.

Between 2023 and 2025, Health Spark reached nine schools, five in Dar es Salaam and four in Dodoma, training 30 peer educators and empowering over 2,500 students with essential SRHR knowledge. Beyond classrooms, 35,000 community members were reached through media campaigns, fostering wider awareness and dialogue on youth health and gender equality.

The project has improved menstrual hygiene practices, increased girls' confidence and participation in class, and built empathy and understanding among boys, proving that inclusive education transforms not only individuals but entire school communities.

At its core, Health Spark stands for educational and health justice because when young people are informed, confident, and supported, they make safer choices, challenge inequality, and lead change in their communities



HAND MADE HOPE

Handmade Hope (Handmade Hope Tanzania) is a mission-driven social enterprise that channels craft and commerce into girls' rights, education, and dignity. Every thoughtfully made bag, basket, or textile supports young women from marginalized rural communities by creating income opportunities and funding programs that remove barriers to schooling, health, and leadership.

In Tanzania, structural inequality, poverty, gender norms, and lack of resources keep many girls out of school or force them to drop out, especially in rural regions like Simiyu. Thousands of girls miss school months at a time due to a lack of menstrual supplies or hygiene facilities; others leave entirely after pregnancy or due to early marriage. These realities reinforce cycles of exclusion unless we disrupt them through intentional strategies that combine economic empowerment with education and rights.

Handmade Hope's approach is grounded in dignity and sustainability:

- We train girls and young women in artisan skills (weaving, sewing, basketry), using eco-friendly, ethically sourced materials, so they can produce marketable goods.
- 10% of all sales are allocated to educational, dignity, health, and leadership programs that directly benefit girls, especially those out of school or at risk.
- We distribute menstrual dignity kits, support out-of-school girls and teenage mothers to re-enter education, and invest in sanitation improvements (toilets, washrooms, privacy) in underserved schools.
- Community, market, and advocacy activities amplify the impact: customers, communities, and partners become stakeholders in girls' wellbeing.



Impacts.

- Supported creation of numerous handmade products, each sale directly contributing to girls' futures.
- Funded menstrual dignity kits for schoolgirls facing absenteeism from lack of supplies.
- Enabled education support for out-of-school girls, teenage mothers, and dignity programs.
- Engaged in sanitation infrastructure improvements in schools in rural areas.

Because Handmade Hope links economic agency with educational justice, it doesn't just provide alternative livelihood it makes visible the connection between dignity, knowledge, and rights. In giving girls both income and opportunity, it helps break down the systemic barriers that block their full participation in society.

SECOND CHANCE

The Second Chance Project is a transformative initiative dedicated to empowering teenage mothers and girls whose education has been interrupted due to early pregnancy and related social challenges. In many rural communities of Tanzania, including the Simiyu region, girls continue to face systemic barriers that deny them the right to education and limit their future opportunities. Deeply rooted gender norms, poverty, and stigma surrounding early pregnancy often result in teenage mothers being excluded from school and marginalized within their families and communities.

According to the Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS 2022), 27% of girls aged 15–19 are either pregnant or have already given birth, with rates even higher in rural areas such as Simiyu, Shinyanga, and Mara. Teenage pregnancy remains one of the leading causes of school dropout among girls, contributing to the cycle of poverty, early marriage, and gender inequality. Although the government adopted the Re-entry Guideline (2022) to support young mothers' return to school, implementation remains inconsistent due to social stigma, lack of awareness, economic hardship, and limited psychosocial support systems. Many girls are left isolated, depressed, and struggling to navigate motherhood without guidance or financial independence.

At Woyomo, we believe that every girl deserves a second chance and an opportunity to heal, learn, and rebuild her dreams. The Second Chance Project offers a comprehensive support system that integrates psychosocial and mental health care, mentorship, and life skills training to help young mothers rebuild their confidence and emotional resilience. If you're ready to continue your studies, we help you reconnect with school by connecting you with local schools and advocacy networks. For those unable to return to formal education, the project offers vocational and entrepreneurship training, coupled with seed capital to help them start small businesses and achieve financial independence.

The Second Chance Project is a movement of healing and empowerment, ensuring that no girl is defined by her past and that every young mother is seen, heard, and allowed to rise, thrive, and lead a life of purpose.



BEYOND LIMITS

Beyond Limits is a feminist advocacy and empowerment project dedicated to supporting rural women, girls, and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) to reclaim their power and live free from violence and discrimination. Rooted in the fight against femicide and systemic abuse, the project creates space for healing, awareness, and resilience-building.

The program focuses on three key areas:

- Raising awareness on GBV and femicide through media campaigns, community dialogues, and survivor-led storytelling.
- Supporting survivors with mental health services, psychosocial support, and safe spaces to heal and rebuild.
- Empowering women and girls economically, especially those who have experienced violence, through vocational training, entrepreneurship, and skills development to achieve financial independence.

Beyond Limits is not just about recovery—it's about amplifying voices, challenging harmful norms, and strengthening movements. It equips women and girls with tools to organize, lead, and influence policy at both community and national levels, pushing for justice and systems that protect them.



THANK YOU!

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