

BINTI MAKINI FOUNDATION



# ORGANISATION PROFILE



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# 'The Cave Was Never Home: Janeth's Rise to Inspire'

**Bold and emotional, emphasizing the refusal to accept limitations.**



Janeth John Kiko's journey is a testament to the power of resilience, vision, and unwavering belief in the potential of girls. Born in Aman, Muheza-Tanga, Janeth defied the odds from an early age. In a community where girls were often denied education and pushed into early marriages, she stood out not just as the only girl in her primary school to pass her exams and join secondary school, but as a beacon of hope for countless others.

## 🎓 **First Girl to Reach University**

Janeth's path was anything but easy. Cultural expectations, community pressures, and family challenges loomed large. Yet, she pressed forward, becoming the first girl in her village to attend university. Her academic journey was not just a personal triumph—it was a powerful statement that education can break cycles of poverty and inequality.

## 💡 **Founding Binti Makini Foundation**

While at university, Janeth made a life-changing decision: to turn her story into a movement. She founded Binti Makini Foundation, an organization dedicated to empowering marginalized adolescent girls and young women. Through mentorship, access to education, leadership training, and economic empowerment programs, Binti Makini has become a lifeline for girls who dare to dream beyond their circumstances.

## 🌍 **Impacting Lives, Amplifying Voices**

Janeth's story carries the silent voices of many girls who were never given a chance. Her work ensures that those voices are heard, that those dreams are nurtured, and that leadership is cultivated from the ground up. Today, Binti Makini stands as a symbol of transformation, proving that when one girl rises, she lifts others with her.

*"Every girl has the right to dream, to achieve, and to lead."*

— Janeth John Kiko

Janeth's success is not measured solely by her personal achievements, but by the ripple effect she has created. From a small village in Tanga to the halls of higher education and the founding of a movement, she has shown that one determined girl can change the world.





## OUR IDENTITY



Binti Makini Foundation (BMF) is a youth-led, women-focused non-profit organisation registered in Tanzania. Our identity is rooted in the belief that every girl and young woman has the right to live with dignity, access opportunities, and shape her future without barriers

BMF is recognised for its grassroots approach that connects communities, schools, universities, and policymakers. We engage adolescent girls, youth, and marginalized groups through capacity building, mentorship, creative arts, and advocacy campaigns to challenge stigma, break silence on sensitive issues, and drive systemic change.

Our identity is defined by being a movement of young women leaders who transform lived experiences into sustainable solutions for gender equality, mental health, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in Tanzania.





# ABOUT US

## Introduction

In 2017, a group of educated girls, dynamic and like-minded youth working in the development sector from the University of Dar es Salaam, got together to establish an organization for addressing the most urgent and pressing needs of the girls and women community. True to this spirit, the organization was named Binti Makini Foundation. The Binti Makini Foundation (BMF) aims to empower girls and women to overcome gender barriers and achieve equality through community mobilization and advocacy.

Binti Makini Foundation (BMF) has made significant strides in supporting adolescent girls and young women in Tanzania, achieving positive local results across various focus areas. In education, BMF has assisted more than 12000 girls who dropped out due to teen pregnancies and child marriages, with 60 now attending university and the others still in secondary school. Under the YOUCAN project, BMF successfully trained over 120+ SRHR champions who have reached over 6,000 youth with SRHR information and referrals, thus improving access to SRH services, including, contraceptives, and comprehensive sexuality education. The SRHR champions are in the frontline advocating for norms shifts and policy to create a supportive environment for adolescents and young girls' access to SRHR and gender equality.

Economically, BMF established the Binti Makini Center, providing vocational skills to 222 girls who drop out from school due to child marriages, fostering financial independence. Our mentorship program has supported 700 young women, increasing female leadership participation in universities. BMF's efforts have garnered awards, including the SADC Gender Protocol Award, highlighting its impactful role as a change agent in the community.





#### VISION

“To see girl’s in their community discover their potential, dream, achieve fulfilling future and defeating all gender barriers.

#### CORE VALUES

Respect for Individuals  
Honest and integrity.  
Transparency  
Participation in communal activities  
Accountability and gender sensitivity  
Creativity.

#### MISSION

To build confidence in girls by providing comprehensive education, physical and emotional support, enabling them to lead transformative social, economic and political changes in their lives

## OUR OBJECTIVES

- Promote access to quality education for adolescent girls and young women by addressing gender barriers such as poverty, early marriage, and harmful social norms.
- Raise awareness and build the capacity of girls, families, and communities to support girls' education, health, and leadership.
- Strengthen girls' leadership and voice by preparing them for active participation in decision-making bodies and community leadership platforms.
- Equip girls with skills for the future through training on digital literacy, life skills, and economic empowerment to thrive in a globalized world.
- Support girls' economic empowerment through skills development and income-generating activities that reduce vulnerability and promote school retention.
- Provide capacity-building training on girls' and youth rights, civic education, and gender equality to strengthen agency and advocacy.
- Eliminate harmful practices and social norms that limit girls' education and well-being through community awareness and behavior change initiatives.
- Promote adolescent girls' and young women's health, including SRHR, to ensure their right to education is not interrupted by preventable health challenges.

## What BMF Does

Binti Makini Foundation (BMF) empowers adolescent girls and young women to shape their own futures through education, health, economic empowerment, and leadership. We believe girls must be fully involved at every stage of the development cycle from identifying needs to planning, managing, implementing and evaluating initiatives.



Using a participatory approach, BMF ensures that young women are not passive beneficiaries but active leaders in driving change. Our role as a change agent extends to strengthening community structures that support girls' education and hold leaders accountable for delivering gender-responsive services.

We invest in human resource development by equipping girls with knowledge, skills, and confidence to realize their rights and maximize their potential. This includes building leadership, fostering economic independence, and promoting access to health and education without gender barriers.

BMF also works to translate grassroots experiences into policy influence, ensuring that the voices of girls inform the strategies of NGOs, donors, and government agencies. In this way, we contribute to lasting systemic change and the long-term empowerment of adolescent girls and young women.

## **BMF's Signature Approach**

- **Breaking Barriers to Education**

BMF works to remove gender-related barriers such as poverty, early marriage, harmful practices, and poor health that prevent adolescent girls and young women from accessing and completing their education. We provide safe spaces, mentorship, and SRHR information to ensure girls can thrive in learning environments.

- **Building Girls' Leadership and Voice**

We strengthen girls' capacity to participate in school governance, community decision-making, and national advocacy platforms. Through leadership training, civic education, and mentorship, girls gain the confidence and skills to influence decisions affecting their education and future.

- **Investing in Skills and Empowerment**

BMF empowers girls with life skills, digital literacy, and economic opportunities to reduce dependency and keep them in school. We advocate for increased investment in girl-centered programs, ensuring resources are directed toward inclusive and equitable education systems.

- **From Grassroots to Policy**

We translate field experiences into evidence for advocacy with the government, NGOs, and donors, pushing for gender-responsive education policies and accountability mechanisms that secure long-term change.



# Project implemented

## Binti na Uwezo Project

The Binti na Uwezo Project (on going project), implemented by Binti Makini Foundation, focuses on keeping adolescent girls in school, expanding economic opportunities, and challenging harmful social norms that limit girls' rights to education and empowerment, the project has reached 5,000 in-school girls and 500 out-of-school girls, providing mentorship, life skills, and leadership training to strengthen their ability to remain in education and pursue their aspirations.

A key achievement is the establishment of the Binti Makini Center in Chanika Ward, a safe space where girls access information, psychosocial support, and vocational skills. Through this initiative, 222 girls have been empowered with practical skills in tailoring, salon services, and bakery, enabling them to generate income, build confidence, and plan for their future.

The project also engages the Wider Community, reaching 1,200 parents, 300 boda boda operators, to raise awareness of harmful norms and gender barriers that limit girls' education and economic opportunities. By fostering community support and accountability, BMF ensures that girls can pursue education and empowerment in a safer and more enabling environment.

By integrating education, safe spaces, economic empowerment, and community engagement, the Binti na Uwezo Project demonstrates that girls can thrive when supported to overcome social, economic, and cultural barriers.



## **Empowering Girls in Education-Transforming Futures**

In the heart of rural Tanzania, where tradition and hardship often conspire to limit a girl's potential, the Binti Makini Foundation has become a beacon of hope and transformation. Guided by the belief that every girl deserves the right to learn, lead, and thrive, our initiative, Empowering Girls in Education: Transforming Futures, has been reshaping lives, one classroom, one conversation, and one courageous girl at a time.

### **Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges**

When we began, the challenges were daunting: early marriages, poverty, long distances to school, and cultural norms that discouraged girls from pursuing education. But we saw no obstacles; we saw opportunities. Through tireless community engagement, we partnered with parents, local leaders, and educators to shift mindsets and foster environments where girls are valued and supported.

### **Mentorship That Moves Mountains**

We launched a mentorship program that connected girls with inspiring female role models, teachers, professionals, and older students who had walked the same path and triumphed. These mentors became more than guides; they became lifelines, helping girls navigate academic pressures, personal challenges, and the journey of self-discovery.

### **Safe Spaces, Strong Voices**

Our advocacy efforts led to the creation of safe spaces within schools and community places where girls could speak freely, access support, and build confidence. These spaces have become incubators of leadership, where girls learn not only to dream, but to act. Today, girls who once feared raising their hands in class are leading peer groups, organizing community dialogues, and standing up for their rights.

### **Impact That Inspires**

- Over 12,000 girls have remained in school through our interventions.
- Dropout rates in our target communities have decreased by 40%.
- Community support for girls' education has grown, with 85% of local leaders actively endorsing our programs.
- Girls who once faced silence now speak at regional forums, advocating for policy changes and inspiring others.

### **A Future Reimagined**

The transformation is visible not just in statistics, but in the eyes of girls who now see themselves as future doctors, engineers, teachers, and changemakers. The ripple effect is undeniable: families are more supportive, schools are more inclusive, and communities are more hopeful.



# EMPOWERING GIRLS IN EDUCATION: TRANSFORMING FUTURES



**12,000**

**GIRLS  
REMAINED  
IN SCHOOL**



**40%**

**DROPOUT  
RATE  
DECREASE**



**85%**

**COMMUNITY  
SUPPORT  
OF LOCAL LEADERS  
ENDORING**

At Binti Makini Foundation, we know that empowering one girl can ignite change for generations. And as we continue this journey, we remain committed to ensuring that every girl in Tanzania has the chance to learn, lead, and thrive. Together, we are not just changing lives we are transforming futures.

## Education Plus Reviving Dreams, Restoring Futures

In the quiet coastal villages of Tanzania, where the rhythm of daily life often masks the silent struggles of young girls, the Education Plus project emerged as a powerful force for change. Launched with a bold mission to raise awareness about school dropout and promote the **“Back to School”** movement, the initiative did more than just inform; it ignited transformation.

### Planting Seeds of Change in Coastal Communities

Through grassroots engagement, community dialogues, and youth-led forums, Education Plus reached deep into the heart of coastal villages. The project didn't just speak to the problem, it empowered the solution. Participants, many of whom were girls who had once dropped out themselves, became “agents of change,” advocating for education, challenging stigma, and inspiring their peers to reclaim their futures.

These young changemakers began to shift the narrative. They spoke in village meetings, visited homes, and encouraged families to see education not as a luxury, but as a right. Their voices—once silenced by circumstance—became catalysts for hope.

### Supporting Girls, One Story at a Time

As the project gained momentum, Education Plus provided direct support to 230 girls from various villages across the Coastal region. These girls, each with a unique story of interrupted education, were allowed to return to school and rebuild their academic journeys.

Among them, sixty girls were selected to re-sit for the NECTA examinations, a critical step toward formal certification and future opportunities. These girls were relocated to different universities and colleges, where they lived under the supervision and mentorship of Binti Makini Foundation, a dedicated educator and advocate institution. In this nurturing environment, they received academic guidance, emotional support, and the structure needed to thrive.

### **A Community-Funded Vision**

What made this achievement even more remarkable was the model of sustainability. The education costs for these girls were not covered by external donors or large grants—they were funded through member contributions. This grassroots approach fostered ownership, accountability, and a shared commitment to the girls' success. It proved that when a community believes in its youth, it will invest in their future.

### **Impact Beyond Numbers**

The Education Plus project didn't just reduce dropout rates; it restored dignity, rekindled ambition, and redefined what's possible. Girls who once felt forgotten are now preparing for national exams. Families who once hesitated are now proud supporters. And communities that once accepted dropout as inevitable are now rallying behind education as a collective priority.

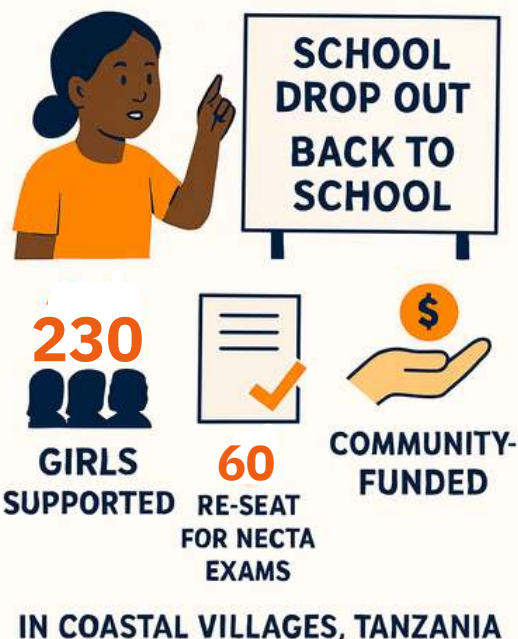
This is more than an achievement; it's a movement. A movement that says: every girl deserves a second chance.

In the quiet corners of forgotten classrooms, where chalk once faded and dreams dissolved into silence, the Education Plus project arrived not merely as an intervention but as a renaissance. It did not simply lower dropout rates; it lifted spirits, mended fractured hopes, and rewrote the narrative of possibility

Girls who once drifted in the margins now stand poised at the threshold of national examinations, their eyes lit with purpose. Families, once uncertain and weary, now gather with pride, their hearts swelling at the sight of daughters who dare to dream

This is not a tale of statistics. It is a story of dignity reclaimed, ambition rekindled, and futures reimaged.

### **EDUCATION PLUS— REVIVING DREAMS, RESTORING FUTURES**





## **Nguvu ya Msichana Project**

In the heart of Buyuni Ward, the **Nguvu ya Msichana Project**, led by the Binti Makini Foundation, has become a beacon of hope and transformation for adolescent girls aged 10 to 19. Confronting the harsh realities of sexual abuse and gender-based violence, the project set out with a bold mission: to restore dignity, power, and opportunity to young girls in vulnerable communities.

At the core of the initiative are five safe spaces, thoughtfully established across five streets. These sanctuaries offer more than just physical safety—they are hubs of empowerment, knowledge, and healing. Within these spaces, girls gather to learn, grow, and reclaim control over their futures.

Through targeted programming, participants gain critical awareness of sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR), equipping them to make informed decisions about their bodies and well-being. But empowerment doesn't stop at knowledge—it extends to economic independence. Girls are trained in practical skills such as tailoring, soap-making, and salon services, laying the foundation for self-reliance and financial freedom.

To further strengthen their economic resilience, the project introduced financial literacy training, enabling girls to form savings groups and collectively manage resources. These groups not only foster financial discipline but also build solidarity and shared purpose.

Beyond skills and knowledge, the project nurtures life skills and confidence, helping girls challenge harmful cultural norms and resist the normalization of sexual violence. They emerge not just as survivors, but as leaders and advocates for change.

Recognizing that true transformation requires community-wide engagement, the project reached over 1,200 parents, community members, and local stakeholders. Through dialogue and education, it began to dismantle the deeply rooted beliefs and practices that limit girls' potential and perpetuate violence.

To date, the **Nguvu ya Msichana** Project has directly impacted over 300 adolescent girls, restoring their confidence, agency, and voice. It has created a ripple effect—cultivating a safer, more supportive environment where girls are not only protected but empowered to thrive.

## **You Can Project: End Stigma Tour**

### **Empowering Youth. Breaking Barriers. Changing Minds.**

In a society where silence and stigma often cloud conversations around sexual and reproductive health (SRH), the You Can Project stepped in with bold purpose and unwavering commitment. Through its flagship campaign, the End Stigma Tour, the project set out to dismantle the barriers that prevent adolescents and youth from accessing SRH services and information freely, safely, and without shame.

The tour reached the hearts and minds of 500 students from higher learning institutions, engaging them in interactive workshops and open discussions. These weren't just events—they were transformative experiences. Students explored the societal taboos surrounding comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), contraception, and CPAC services. Pre- and post-event surveys revealed a powerful shift: participants emerged more open, informed, and ready to challenge the stigma that once silenced them.

From these sessions, a new wave of Youth SRH Champions was born. These student advocates took the torch forward, committed to promoting SRH rights and fostering inclusive, stigma-free communities. Their voices became catalysts for change—on campus, online, and beyond.

Recognizing the pivotal role of educators, the project also trained 20 secondary school teachers over two days, equipping them with tools to create supportive classrooms where SRH topics could be discussed openly and respectfully. These teachers became allies in the fight against stigma, nurturing environments where young people feel safe to ask, learn, and grow.

The campaign's reach extended far beyond the classroom. Through strategic social media engagement, the project touched over 12 million people, sparking conversations, debunking myths, and reshaping public attitudes. Offline, 6,000 community members were engaged through advocacy activities that brought SRH issues into the public square—where they belong.

Crucially, the project's success was amplified through partnerships with educational institutions, ensuring high participation, sustained engagement, and a supportive ecosystem for continued SRH advocacy.

Together, these efforts formed a powerful mosaic of change. The End Stigma Tour didn't just raise awareness it built a movement. It empowered youth to speak up, seek help, and support one another. It gave teachers the confidence to lead with compassion. And it reminded communities that when stigma ends, possibilities begin.



Metric	Impact
Students Engaged	500 from higher learning institutions
Teachers Trained	20 secondary school educators
Community Members Reached	6,000+ offline
Social Media Reach	12 million+ people

Before the tour, silence was the norm. In lecture halls filled with bright minds, 500 students carried questions they were too afraid to ask—burdened by stigma, shame, and the weight of societal taboos. Comprehensive sexuality education, contraception, and CPAC services were topics cloaked in discomfort, rarely spoken aloud, and often misunderstood.

The surveys told a story of change, but behind the numbers were hearts learning to heal. These students didn't just become informed. They became visible. And in doing so, they began to challenge the silence that had once defined them.



# Key Achievements

## **Empowering Over 600 Youth Through the Binti Makini Festival**

- Hosted a nationwide festival themed “Girls Power in Innovation”, engaging students from 20+ universities and colleges to promote leadership, tech innovation, and self-confidence.

## **Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Education**

- Delivered life-changing education on SRHR (Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights), helping girls make informed choices and reduce risks of early pregnancy and unsafe abortions.

## **Leadership Development**

- Trained girls to become change-makers in their communities, equipping them with confidence and public speaking skills

## **University-Based Leadership Forums**

- Conducted forums across Tanzanian universities to train young women in leadership, public speaking, and self-employment strategies.

## **Partnerships for Grassroots Impact**

- Collaborated with other organizations to reach girls in and out of school with mentorship, career guidance, and entrepreneurship training.

## **Digital Literacy and Economic Empowerment**

- Encouraged girls to use mobile phones and digital tools for income generation, promoting self-reliance and tech-savvy entrepreneurship.

## **Advocacy for Girls’ Rights and Gender Equality**

- Actively raised awareness on gender-based violence, child marriage, and girls’ rights through campaigns, media, and school outreach programs.

## **Capacity Building for Community Change Agents**

- Trained young women to become peer educators and community leaders, amplifying their voices and creating ripple effects of empowerment in their local areas.



# "This Is What Empowerment Looks Like"



## *Self-Perception*

Everything changed when her school partnered with the Binti Makini Foundation through their weekly Life Skills Program for In-School Adolescents. The program introduced sessions on self-awareness, reproductive health, leadership, and goal setting. Amina began attending regularly, drawn in by the open discussions and the safe space to express herself.



One girl, Janeth, once told her mother she didn't think she mattered. Today, she leads a peer group, teaching others how to sew, save money, and speak up. Her voice, once quiet, now echoes through the village.



## *From Dropout to Designer*

Today, Neema is a local entrepreneur and mentor to other girls who've dropped out of school. Her story is a testament to how second chances and community support can transform lives.

## *Mental Impact*

Now Zawadi's dream is to become a comedian and scriptwriter. She says, "If I can make people laugh and think at the same time, I've done my job."









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