



# AJISO 2021

## Life-Transforming Stories

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# Introduction

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Since the inception of the Action for Justice in Society (AJISO), a lot has happened including the launch of new projects and programs, an increasing number of our development partners, the growth of our area of operation and offices. However, after all of our overall accomplishments throughout the years, we are sincerely grateful to everyone who has joined and supported us all these years. Our success is not a sole accomplishment but a joint effort, we encourage you to continue with the same spirit of participation.

For the past three years, we have effectively rebuilt the lives of our beneficiaries and restored their lost hope through the implementation of our Tuwalinde project, Uzikwasi project, Child protection, and Legal Aid services. This may all be seen in this booklet, through documented stories of hope from a few of our beneficiaries from the Kilimanjaro region.

## Beneficiaries of Microfinance Groups

### How Mr. Ludovick brought happiness and health to his family

Imagine arriving home after a long busy day at work only to find out your house doesn't have toilet facilities. This might surprise you but this is how Mr Ludovick from Usseri division, in Rombo district in Kilimanjaro region lives with his family for over a decade.

Mr Ludovick's ambition to build a toilet remained a pipe dream until he joined the AJISO microfinance groups program in Rombo district through the Umoja Group, where he was able to obtain a loan of Tsh 1,500,000, which he spent to construct a new toilet at his house.

"My family lived in agony and shame; at one point, my children refused to remain with me because of the appearance of the toilet we used, which was also used as a bathtub. Its appearance prompted me to look for a solution to update my family's toilet".

Mr Ludovic now has a modern toilet. He saved family from cholera and diarrheal diseases, and he undoubtedly restored his family's happiness.

BEFORE



AFTER



Mr Ludovick of Usseri division, Rombo district, Kilimanjaro region, shows his new toilet **(on the right)** that he built after obtaining a loan of 1,500,000 from Umoja Group, and his old toilet **(on the left)** that he no longer uses.

## Beneficiaries of Microfinance Groups

### Meet a fruit vendor Ms. Esta, who transformed into a butcher

It has always been difficult for small business owners to improve their business, and for women, the situation is even worse when she has to look after the business while the family needs her. That was a story of Esta, a lady from Kitirima Ward in the Usseri division.

"I supported my family by running a little business selling bananas and mangoes out of my house, but this business never made enough money to support my family."

Against all odds, Esta made contact with

AJISO through a community meeting, where she joined the Kitefure VICOBA group and received her first loan of Tshs 700,000, which she used to rent a butcher shop. Everything has changed now, and Ester is able to support her family while still managing her new business.

"I joined VICOBA over a year ago because I wanted to provide a better life for my two children. My ambition was for my children to receive an education because it is the only way for them to have a brighter future."

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



*This is Esta, a lady from Kitirima Ward in the Usseri division, **(On the left)** is her first business, selling bananas and mangoes from her house, and **(on the right)** is her new butcher shop, which she opened after joining Kitefure VICOBA group and receiving her first loan of Tshs 700,000.*

### Bringing Families Together

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The possibilities of single parenting on her back was enough reason for Mrs. Matilda Philip Mmanda of Chekereni WeruWeru to seek legal assistance in reconciling her family service with us. Due to constant family feuds with her husband, Mrs. Matilda Philip Mmanda a mother of six children was on the verge of raising children alone.

She received threats from her husband that he would take a loan and mortgage their matrimonial home, fail to pay the debt and let the bank sell the house so that her family was homeless. Mrs.

Matilda managed to reach AJISO and meet a legal officer whereby she explained each and every thing about her worries and problems. She was advised and given a letter to take to the ward executive office so they can present it to his husband . The letter reached him and he was summoned at AJISO.

AJISO plays a crucial and significant role in the reconciliation meeting. We are glad that Mrs. Matilda and her husband reached an amicable agreement and settled their differences.





*Matilda Philip Mmanda (on the right) with her husband (on the left) and son (at the center) shaking hands after reconciliation at AJISO.*

### Co Parenting Made Possible

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A 30 years old woman came to AJISO office. She was seeing a man with whom she had a child with, a 6 years old girl, yet they were not married. The two had constant fights. After being deserted by that man, the woman wanted to obtain upkeep from him which was a hustle. She visited our offices to ask for advice concerning her case. When she visited us, we saw the need to offer an amicable agreement between them instead of proceeding to court. We therefore called the man and arranged a meeting between all the parties.

We were delighted that an agreement

was reached between all the parties. Thanks to our legal practitioners' convincing power. Since then, the man has been visiting AJISO offices each month paying the maintenance he agreed to. Once we receive the money from the father, we call the mother to come to pick up the money for the maintenance of their daughter. We were delighted that an agreement was reached between all the parties. We did a good job in making the mediation possible and the man finally agreeing to pay upkeep expenses for his daughter and playing his role as a father and co parenting made possible.



*Mr. Peter Kiondo (on the left) and Neema Mbise (on the right) at AJISO offices signing forms. Mr. Peter Kiondo brought Child support fees for his daughter.*

## Improved student Welfare at Tarakea Primary School

School students are always left behind in the awareness of their rights and responsibilities. Due to this ,they are unable to express themselves and even report grievances to the appropriate authorities.

As AJISO with knowledge of such challenges faced by these students,we thought of an effective way to empower the students by giving students a platform to bring up and address topics that are important to them through the establishment of school right clubs.

At Tarakea Primary School in Kilimanjaro region, AJISO established JALI WATOTO

club that is specifically designed to empower students about their rights and responsibilities hence building their leadership skills and encouraging them to be more than just passive members of the society.

JALI WATOTO club in Tarakea Primary School has been successful initiative in exposing incidents of violence against our fellow student such as rape, severe punishment, deprivation of their rights in the school areas.The school club has offered students a platform to bring up and address topics that are important to them a very impressive approach to child protection in schools.

We are also grateful that we were able to find friends who have been able to help a total of 47 school student JALI WATOTO Club from Tarakea Primary school by offering them school uniforms

and school exercise books. The donation has left the students happy with increased effort in their studies that has led to excellent school results.



*47 members of JALI Watoto Clubs in Ubetu, Kibaoni Primary School on the left, the uniforms received on the right.*

### Improved school results for Ubetu, Kibaoni Primary School

At Ubetu Kibaoni primary school, the learning environment was neither appealing nor did the students have a platform to express their grievances to appropriate authorities when faced with violence at home and even at the school area.

AJISO established JALI WATOTO school right club that nurtures and grooms the students to share and express their grievances internally and later presented to the school administration.

JALI WATOTO school right club has been a great support system to Ubetu Kibaoni primary school children as the club has

encouraged leadership offering students an opportunity of togetherness in the school premises and outside. Child Rights Club empower children by teaching them about their rights and responsibilities which has been a success at Kibaoni Primary School.

AJISO is impressed that this practice has led to improved results at Ubetu, Kibaoni Primary School children as a result of great nurturing of school right. Even the teachers who did not earlier have a friendly environment with the students have now improved.



*Students at Jali Watoto Club in Ubetu Kibaoni Primary school sharing their grievances together creating a friendly learning environment*

## Equipping People with Disabilities

### How Mr Kimario moved from bottom to the top, In less than three years

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Mr Kimario has had a disability for almost half-century. He refuses to settle for less and has decided to work hard in order to support his family. Mr Kimario's journey began with a ray of optimism after obtaining vocational training in Dar es Salaam in the 1970s, where he opened a small carpentry workshop, building school tables and chairs, church benches, and other household furniture to support himself and his family.

Things changed in early 2010, when private corporations with sophisticated technologies monopolized the carpentry

market, forcing him to close his workshop. From there, his life and that of his family changed as a result of financial struggle, and he began to look for new ways to make a living and support his family.

Mr Kimario's life changed dramatically after joining the AJISO Vicoba groups. Today, he is able to build a new house, pay school fees for his two children (who are currently pursuing higher learning studies), and purchase cows and pigs as an asset. Vicoba groups formed by the help of AJISO enabled that.





*Mr. Kimario of Usseri, Rombo District, with his new house and livestock. Mr. Kimario acquired all these after joining the Ajiso Vicoba group.*

## Equipping People with Disabilities

### The sky is not a limit, Mr Karoli proves it

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People living with disabilities in rural areas have struggled to maintain financial stability. Sometimes all they need is a proper channel to help them along their journey to break through, which is why AJISO established this microfinance program in the Rombo district so as the stepping stone for the financial growth of the majority of Rombo citizens.

Mr julias Karoli (40) from Mashima Vicoba group,in Rombo district lives with his three children alone, after his beloved wife passed away a couple of years back. He is 100 percent responsible to take care of his family regardless of

his disability status.

"At first, I thought people with disabilities were only there to be helped; they couldn't contribute anything." AJISO provides us with a variety of knowledge and skills, such as education on the rights of persons with disabilities and how to start a business" .

He began the shoe mending and selling soup business after borrowing Tshs 350,000 from Mashima Vicoba group. He is very grateful to AJISO for waking him up and he feels as part of the community as others.

## Soup Business



## Shoe Mending Shop



Mr Julius Karoli (40), from Mashima Vicoba group, lives alone in Rombo district with his three children. The above picture shows his new shoe mending and soup selling business, which he started after borrowing Tshs 350,000 from Mashima Vicoba group.



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