

ORKEESWA



2024

ANNUAL REPORT

Education as a catalyst for
**YOUTH-DRIVEN,
COMMUNITY-LED
DEVELOPMENT**
in Tanzania since 2008.

Our Vision

Young people proactively solve problems in their communities while preserving their own shared cultural values and practices.

Our Mission

Orkeeswa cultivates thoughtful decision-makers and creative problem-solvers prepared to achieve their own vision for impact.



Theory of Change

When young people experience learning designed to ignite their sense of purpose...



... they develop the life, learning and leadership skills necessary to impact their communities as engaged citizens, young professionals and motivated leaders.

Our Model

Orkeeswa develops youth who are leading themselves, inspiring others, and driving change within their communities. Orkeeswa invests in community-based learning, life and leadership skill development for young people at three critical points:



ORKEESWA OUTREACH

Orkeeswa Outreach utilizes trained and motivated Orkeeswa student and alumni leaders to run life skills, sports, extracurricular and academic programming in local primary schools.



ORKEESWA SCHOOL

At the core of our model, Orkeeswa School provides high-quality academics, robust co-curricular programs, student wellness services, and community-based leadership through a holistic secondary school experience.



ORKEESWA INCUBATOR

Orkeeswa Incubator supports the ongoing impact of alumni through professional development, higher education support, and small grants and mentorship for entrepreneurs.





Nuru
9th Grade Student
Incubator Grant Recipient

“My brother is the primary provider for our family. Seeing the struggles he faces to support us inspired me to step up and find a way to contribute, as well. I always wanted to help, but I didn’t know how.

Last year, our school introduced a soap-making activity where we learned about the process of making liquid soap. I saw this as more than just a learning opportunity—I saw a way to support my family. I decided that after mastering the skill, I would start making and selling soap at home. I lacked the capital to get started, so I shared my business plan with my teacher at school. I was overjoyed when Orkeeswa supported me with an Incubator Grant and the resources to begin.

I started making soap at home and taught my mother how to do it. Over time, some women in my neighborhood expressed interest in learning the skill, so I organized training sessions and taught them how to make soap, as well. We went door to door selling the soap in our neighborhood. I began with 15 liters of soap and sold it within my community. As my business grew, I expanded my production to 25 liters. The income from soap-making has significantly helped my family, and I am especially proud that my younger brother was able to join secondary school through the support of this business.



During our training to become Outreach mentors, we were tasked with creating a club for primary school students. Inspired by the soap-making activity at school, I decided to launch a Soap-Making Club at Enguiki Primary School. The students were excited to be part of the club—not only did they gain valuable skills, but they also got to take the soap they made home for washing and cleaning. This journey has been incredibly rewarding, and I am proud to have turned a simple school activity into a sustainable business that supports my family.

ORKEESWA SCHOOL

Orkeeswa offers a holistic, community-based secondary school that shifts the singular focus of education from passing national exams to hands-on, project-based, and practical learning within the context of community life. An Orkeeswa education encourages our students to discover their sense of purpose and catalyzes the development of life, learning, and leadership skills. Orkeeswa School's core programming includes:

High-Quality Academics

Co-Curricular Programs

Student Wellness Services

Community-Based Leadership Opportunities

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

350 students on campus

69% of Orkeeswa students are female addressing a severe gender gap in education in the community where less than 3% of girls reach the 11th grade

40% of Orkeeswa's staff are alumni with 12 in leadership positions across the organization

77% of Orkeeswa students report a high sense of hope, life satisfaction and resilience after their community service in the Outreach program

Orkeeswa alumni show an outstanding sense of community responsibility, with civic attitudes scoring at **93%** and civic behaviors at **79%**.



ORKEESWA OUTREACH

Led by Orkeeswa students and alumni and in collaboration with local government primary schools, Orkeeswa Outreach takes a holistic approach towards the development of primary school students. Orkeeswa Outreach programming includes:

Sports & Extracurricular Activities for Primary Students

Life Skills Education for Primary Students

Academic & Learning Support for Primary Students

Targeted weekly enrichment events for girls called Grow the Girls

Experiential Leadership Training for Orkeeswa Students

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

9 partner primary schools

8,915 primary students impacted since 2012

95% of 3rd graders showed an increase in their reading levels and;

87% showed an increase in basic math skills after targeted academic support facilitated by Orkeeswa student-mentors

400+ primary school girls participated in Orkeeswa's "Grow the Girls" program, accessing diverse life skills, sports and extracurricular programming each week



ORKEESWA INCUBATOR

Orkeeswa Incubator supports the ongoing impact of alumni by activating the tools, resources, and skills needed to start businesses, implement projects, pursue careers or enroll in higher education. The program fills a void of post-secondary support for many graduates, creating new pathways to apply their education for the benefit of the community. Orkeeswa Incubator programs include:

Higher Education Scholarships

Career & College Counseling

Professional Development Training

Grants & Mentorship for Entrepreneurs

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

356 Orkeeswa alumni

87% of alumni are in or have completed higher education, including

52% of whom are female

10 students and alumni received a seed grant from the Incubator for their community projects in 2024 for a total of

15 Incubator-supported projects to date

37% of alumni with formal employment hold leadership positions at their job(s)

87% of alumni who have formal employment financially support family and/or community members

Orkeeswa alumni with higher education degrees secure formal employment at a rate **4.5x higher** than the national average.



INCUBATOR GRANTS

Orkeeswa Incubator provides early-stage funding to Orkeeswa alumni seeking to start projects, businesses or organizations within the local community. These grants provide the spark for youth-driven, community-led development. The following is a snapshot of the impact our current and past grant recipients have made in the community to date:

21 jobs created by Incubator-supported projects
1,657 community members impacted by on-going programming delivered by Incubator-supported projects
35,179 community members reached through advocacy and education facilitated by Incubator-supported projects

2024 INCUBATOR GRANT RECIPIENTS



Memusi, Reusable Pads Co.

Reusable Pads Co. advocates for menstrual health while distributing reusable sanitary pads to keep girls in school during menstruation.



Swishers hosts basketball and life skills camps for youth across Tanzania.

Nelious, Swishers



Daniel, VESOW

VESOW empowers women economically through cooperative gardens and micro-finance projects.



Agnes, Kuku Point

Kuku Point elevates poultry farming practices in Monduli District through trainings and high-quality poultry production.



Doreen, Vitality Health

Vitality Health Pharmacy addresses a significant shortage of essential medications and health supplies in Monduli District.

Enguiki Soap Co. produces and distributes soap in local markets.



Nuru, Enguiki Soap Co.

Tanzania Honey and Agriculture Development produces high-quality honey for local markets.



Bariki, Tanzania Honey



Ninayo, Monduli Food Co.

Monduli Food Co. distributes high-quality food products to schools and restaurants throughout Monduli District.



Evaline, Girls in Motion

Girls in Motion empowers young girls in Tanzania through basketball.

Youth Against Drug Abuse (YADA) educates young people in Monduli District about the impacts of drug and alcohol abuse.



Elia, YADA

INCUBATOR INSPIRATION

"My journey to make a positive impact in my community began during my community service in Orkeeswa's Outreach Program. While volunteering in another village, I witnessed the harsh conditions faced by women, who had to walk long distances to sell firewood to provide for their families. This reminded me of similar struggles in my own community, where women are often the primary caregivers, while men do not always fully engage in supporting the family. This experience inspired me to create VESOW, aimed specifically at empowering women economically. I started a vegetable garden in my community where women grow and sell vegetables to support their basic needs.

Before this experience, I was someone who preferred working alone. I learned the significance of inclusion and collaboration. This experience opened my mind, helping me discover my purpose and passion."

Daniel
VESOW Founder



INCUBATOR IMPACT

"Being a member of VESOW has been a truly transformative experience for me. The financial support system we have built within our group has been a change for many of us. Instead of being stuck in a cycle of financial uncertainty, we sell the vegetables we grow to meet the needs of our families. We also have a means of borrowing money through our own micro-finance group. Thanks to this initiative, I have been able to pay for my children's school fees.

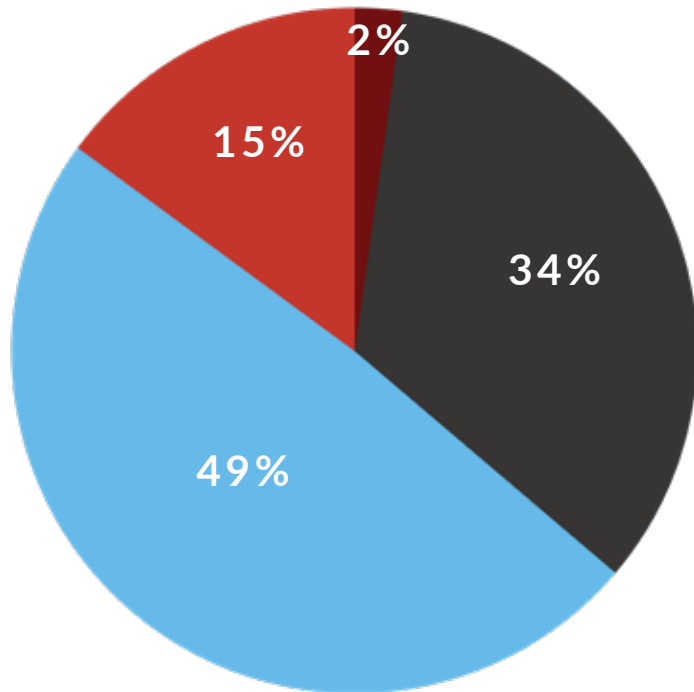
One of the most beautiful aspects of this journey is the connections we have built. I am grateful to be part of this initiative."

Bertha
VESOW Member



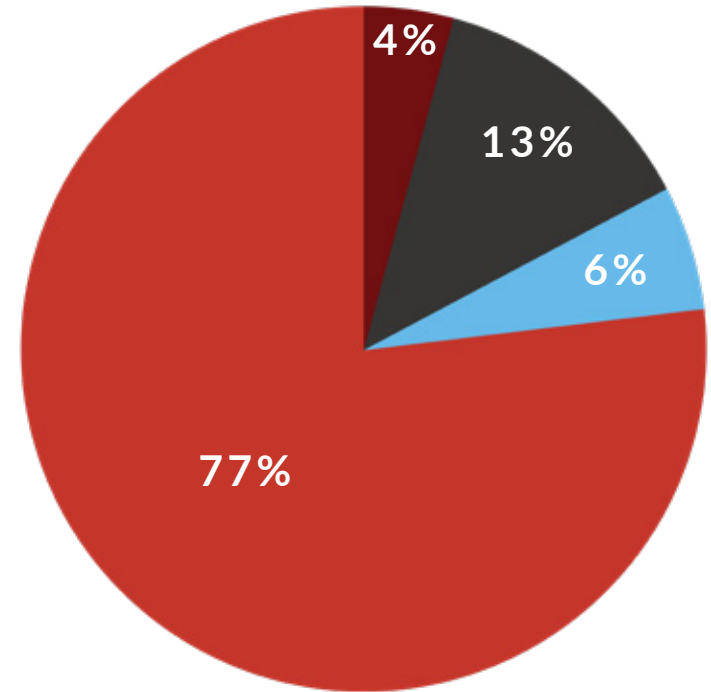
2024 REVENUE

Class Partnership	\$210,988.68
Individual Donations	\$709,429.20
Grants & Foundations	\$485,415.25
Capital	\$30,000
Total Revenue	\$1,435,833.13



2024 EXPENSES

Programs	\$1,248,345.29
Administration	\$90,677.23
Fundraising	\$217,021.85
Capital	\$73,892.52
Total Expenses	\$1,629,936.89



*Revenue & expenses included here are reported upon a cash basis. Please refer to Orkeeswa's 990 and/or audit for accrual basis reporting.



www.orkeeswa.org