

# ANNUAL REPORT



# Who We Are

Maisha Girls Safe House is a community-centered organization founded in 2014 whose main mission is to reach out and protect girls from sexual violence abuse by providing a continuum of care and support. We operate a safe house that provides a temporary home for survivors, ensuring their access to essential services and support.

Additionally, we run community-safe spaces that are information hubs for girls and young women to access information on sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) and sexual reproductive health (SRHR).

## Mission

To reach out, receive and protect girls from sexual violence.

## Vision

End sexual violence against children and adolescents



# MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

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Dear all,

I trust this letter finds you well. On behalf of Maisha Girls Safe House, I am pleased to present our annual report and share with you the progress we have made over the past year in our mission to support the holistic wellbeing of girls who are survivors of sexual violence.

Together with a dedicated staff and committed board of members, MGSB was able to thrive in 2023 and, with compassion and purpose, provided survivors with assistance that changed their lives. We made significant efforts to expand our community presence and educational opportunities because we know that prevention and awareness can make a big difference. Our community relationships have only become better and stronger over the past year. We have established new relationships with the UNTRUST Fund, the French Embassy in Kenya, and the Australian Embassy. We have hired new officers for finance and M&E. Maisha Girls Safe House continues to engage with the local community to challenge stigmas surrounding survivors of sexual violence. We believe in fostering understanding and support to create an inclusive environment that encourages the reintegration of our girls into society.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for the generous contributions that we have received throughout the year. This significant donation has played a crucial role in providing opportunities for girls and volunteers at the Maisha Girls Safe House. Your commitment to the noble cause of empowering survivors through education has made a lasting impact on their lives. We are pleased to report a notable improvement in the academic performance and overall well-being of the girls under our care. Through targeted counseling, skill-building workshops, and personalized attention, we have witnessed positive transformations in their confidence, resilience, and aspirations for the future.

We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of transparency and accountability. Our financial records are available for your review, and we are open to any inquiries or discussions regarding the utilization of the funds provided by our donors and well-wishers.

Looking Ahead: As we move into the coming year, we remain dedicated to expanding our reach and impact. With the continued support of compassionate partners. We aim to empower more girls, break the cycle of violence, and contribute to the broader efforts against gender-based violence.

We appreciate your support as a member of the Maisha Girls Safe House family! Whether you're a devoted individual donor, a helpful well-wisher, or a kind volunteer reading this, know that you have changed the lives of girls' survivors of sexual abuse. Every day, someone makes the initial move to obtain vital assistance, manages to flee, or feels safer as a result of our collective efforts. We are very happy that you are a member of this community, because without you, we couldn't accomplish this task.

Should you have any questions or if you wish to discuss our programs further, please feel free to contact us. Thank you for helping us execute our longstanding services and launch new, innovative initiatives to improve the quality of life for girls' survivors of sexual abuse.

Here's to health, happiness, and, most of all, safety in 2023.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the cause.

**Florence Keya**



**Founder MGSB.**



# Meet Our Team



## *Faces of Hope*



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## SAFE HOUSE

108

survivors of sexual  
violence sheltered

We offered the **108 survivors** who come through our Safe House doors a secure space to heal, a holistic set of services, and a dedicated community of support.

Upon initial intake, we ensure that the survivor is provided with water for showering, a change of clothes to enhance comfort and dignity, food for nourishment, and a bed for rest. Once she has settled in comfortably, the social workers then proceed with survivor-centered case management.

108

survivors accessed  
healthcare services

Upon arriving at the safe house, all survivors were provided with access to healthcare services. They went to hospital for various services including antenatal and postnatal care, maternity deliveries, screening, follow-up on drug adherence, and psychiatric evaluations. Accompanied by our social workers, we ensured that they received quality care and were attended to promptly.

108

survivors underwent  
counseling sessions

During counseling sessions led by our resident counselor, **the 108 survivors were offered a safe and confidential environment** to openly express their feelings, fears, and concerns. Through these counseling sessions, they received support to tackle the emotional impact of their experiences and develop effective coping strategies to navigate their healing journey.

26

court sessions  
and legal follow ups

The year saw us have **22 court sessions for survivors and 5 other legal follow ups**. Our team of social workers accompanied the survivors to these court sessions, providing them with emotional support and ensuring their safety.

27

survivors  
successfully reintegrated

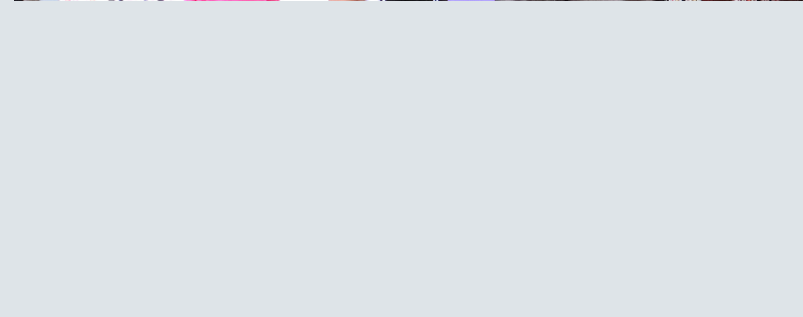
After receiving comprehensive case management and support, **27 survivors were successfully reunited with their families** to thrive in a family setup and reclaim their childhood.

10 survivors continued their education, while others embarked on their journey of empowerment and rebuilding relationships with their families. As they continue to progress on their path to recovery, we remain committed to providing ongoing support and guidance to ensure their continued well-being and success.

10

survivors were  
successfully repatriated

Collaborating with the Directorate of Criminal Investigation (DCI) and the children's office, we successfully facilitated the **repatriation of 2 survivors back to Tanzania and 8 survivors back to Uganda**, reuniting them with their families.



# SAFE SPACE



The Maisha safe space in Viwandani, Lunga lunga has been an oasis of hope for the community.

Throughout the year, our safe space has been bustling with activities catering to young women, girls, and boys. We've implemented a range of initiatives including the homework club, urban farming, Maisha safe sisters club, and yoga sessions.

The homework club provided a nurturing and supportive environment for **147 children** in the community, enabling them to do their school assignments with guidance from volunteers. We observed the children cultivating a positive attitude towards assignments, acquiring skills in resource utilization such as using books for information and demonstrating a newfound enthusiasm for learning, thereby transforming homework into an enjoyable and rewarding activity.



With a total of **15 members** the **Maisha safe sisters** club came together for peer support, economic empowerment and awareness sessions. During the year, they established a savings group with 15 members which provided an opportunity for financial management training. Additionally, they participated in three soap making workshops, 96 yoga sessions, and 12 life skill sessions, while actively contributing to urban farming activities at the safe space.





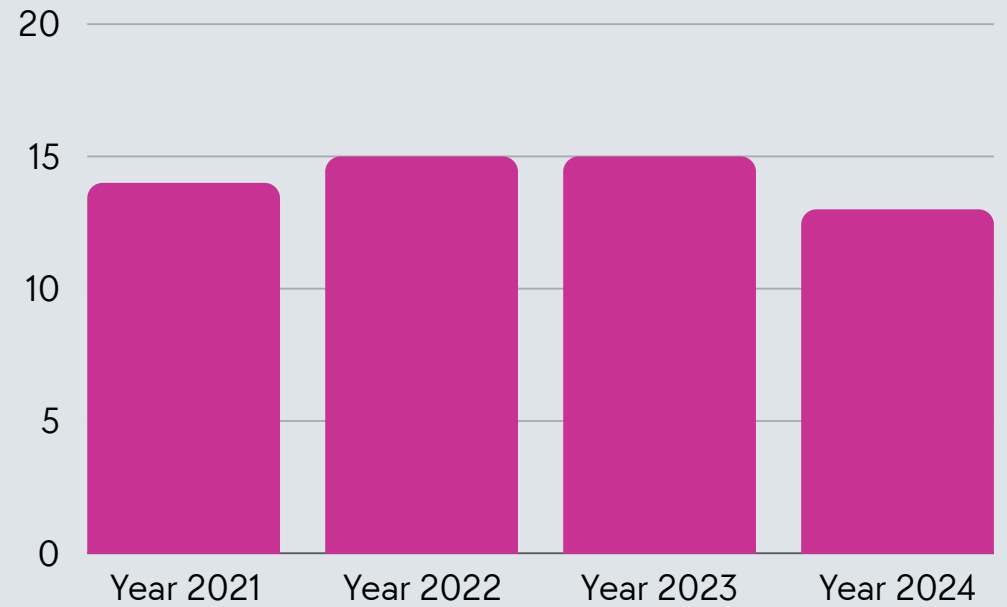
Our urban farming project focused on cultivating various crops such as kales, spinach, onions, eggplant, cabbage, tomatoes, and herbs like coriander and spinach. This initiative provided skills and knowledge on **urban farming to 93 households in the community**. Additionally, **33 community members received information on urban farming through farm visits**, while **45 high school students** were educated on setting up gardens using containers and readily available materials at home. Furthermore, Maisha Girls Safe House benefitted from a fresh supply of vegetables from the farm.



With **96 yoga sessions in the year**, **100 individuals from the community**, including the Safe Sisters, were offered a unique opportunity to prioritize their physical and mental health in a supportive and inclusive environment. Our yoga program catered to the diverse needs of every participant, whether they sought relief from stress, sought to enhance their flexibility, or simply craved a moment of peace amid life's demands.

# Education

Within our education program, the Drammen Scholarship was initiated in 2021 to aid academically talented yet underprivileged students from Viwandani slums in Nairobi who achieve a score of 300 marks or higher in KCPE. In the year 2023 we enrolled **13 new beneficiaries into the program**, comprising 7 boys and 6 girls, thereby increasing the total number of scholarship recipients to 57 students.



Throughout the year, we organized **3 parent-student meetings** during school holidays to ensure the well-being of both the beneficiaries and their parents. Additionally, there were **3 holiday programs** where the students received guidance from a teacher to complete their school assignments and engage in focused study sessions.

The Drammen sports activity held in December was a highlight for our holiday program. The event brought together **100 students** from Viwandani, featuring various enjoyable activities including football matches, sack racing, egg races, and tug of war, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among the participants.





# Community outreaches

## Key activity highlights

### Girls' Forum

During the sexual assault awareness month in April, we organized a girls' forum that brought together **360 girls aged between 13 and 19**. The forum featured group discussions and a panel session covering topics such as sexual violence, reporting procedures, self-defense strategies, and understanding their rights. Additionally, there were engaging Q&A sessions and entertaining activities, making the event both informative and enjoyable!



### Mothers Day

On Mother's Day, we convened at the Maisha Safe Space in the Viwandani area to host a delightful dinner event for the **30 young mothers** from our community. From decorating to applying makeup and cutting the cake, every moment was filled with joy and laughter! This gathering served as a gentle reminder for them to remain optimistic and focused on their journey, acknowledging their admirable efforts as mothers and expressing our unconditional support and affection for them.



### International Day of the Girl Child.

The International Day of the Girl Child (IDG) in 2023 brought together a total of **320 girls** from various primary schools in the Kamkunji area. The theme of the year strongly resonated with the girls, as they emphasized the importance of prioritizing their rights, leadership abilities, and overall well-being in all realms of decision-making. The hashtag **#InvestInGirlsRights** underscored their advocacy for greater investment in ensuring the fulfillment of girls' rights and empowerment.



## World Day for Prevention and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Violence.

In the campaign to combat sexual violence against children, we organized two preliminary events before the main activity on November 18th. The first involved **training 54 Brave champions** for a door-to-door awareness initiative, followed by the actual door-to-door campaign focused on ending sexual violence against children. Through these efforts, we reached a total of 1590 individuals with crucial information on ending sexual violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and gender-based violence (SGBV).

On November 18th, we set up a brave tent at Nairobi's Kencom CBD, where we provided information on ending sexual violence to **500 individuals**.



## Sports Day

We facilitated a dynamic sports event that convened **over 100 students** from Viwandani, promoting cohesion through engaging football matches, sack racing, egg races, and tug of war. These athletic endeavors encouraged participants to expand their horizons and develop vital life skills pertinent to the holiday season. Notably, **30 of the attendees were recipients of the Drammen Maisha scholarship project**



## Children service month

To commemorate the conclusion of November's Children Service month, Makadara law courts organized an Open day aimed at raising awareness and providing legal education about Juvenile access to justice. We participated in the march from the courthouse to camp Toyoyo grounds in Jericho.



# OUR PARTNERS



We have done it  
because of your  
generous

Thank you

to all our partners,  
donors, volunteers  
and friends of Maisha.



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