soma

Readership for Learning and Development

NEWS LETTER

JULY, 2025

CRAFTING STORIES. SHAPING FUTURES.



A MOVEMENT IN MOTION

In rooms filled with possibility and pens itching for purpose, SOMA through ***" Proffesional Development Opportunity in the creative spaces in Tanzania"*** project, listened first then rewrote and facilitated the rules of what creative empowerment could look like. Comprehensive needs assessment through surveys and focus groups, identifying barriers in creative writing for youth and women were conducted. Stakeholder meetings to co-design a relevant curriculum were held, which was later validated and tailored to local contexts. Educators and youth were trained in new methodologies, fostering inclusive learning. Activities emphasized feminist storytelling and employability through arts education. Visibility was enhanced via digital campaigns, promoting community engagement and curriculum uptake.

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It began with a spark some brave youth, and a shared longing to remember, resist, and rewrite herstory through feminist stories that matter. The Kestoria Kavazi project launched a feminist mentorship academy pairing youth with mentors across six creative fields. Participants produced impactful stories and media, supported by a feminist aligned content review panel. Vavagaa podcast and street forums amplified civic awareness around gender and elections. A catalog and documentary documented SOMA's legacy, while digital campaigns reached over 5,000 viewers. The initiative strengthened institutional memory and empowered a new generation of feminist storytellers.

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OUR MILESTONES

What we've achieved

📚 183 creatives trained (70% women & youth)

- ✍🏽 Creative writing curriculum developed & validated

- 🎙 15+ Vavagaa Podcast + Mtaani sessions held

- 👫🏽 Mentorship program with 24 mentees, 6 mentors

- 📖 Herstory catalog + institutional documentary completed

ROAD AHEAD

What's Next?

- 🎧 10 new Vavagaa episodes and forums

- 👦🏽 Launching Children's Multimedia Studio

- 📚 Launching Feminist Reference Corner

- ☕ Reopening of SOMA Café for community & cultural exchange



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www.somabookcafe.com SomaMkahawani Somabookcafe

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TESTIMONIES





"This wasn't a program. It was a mirror. I saw who I could become."

"For the first time, I didn't just write for myself. I wrote for all the girls who never got to speak."

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OUR GALLERY







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