MAISHA GIRLS SAFE HOUSE

YEAR 2023

ANNUAL REPORT



Maisha Girls Safe House

Vision: To end sexual violence against girls and young women.

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

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).



MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER



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, MGSH was able to thrive in 2023. With compassion and purpose, we 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 UN Trust Fund, the French Embassy in Kenya, and the Australian Embassy. The team has expanded with the addition of finance and M&E (Monitoring and Evaluation) officers. 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 donations have 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: This 2024, 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.

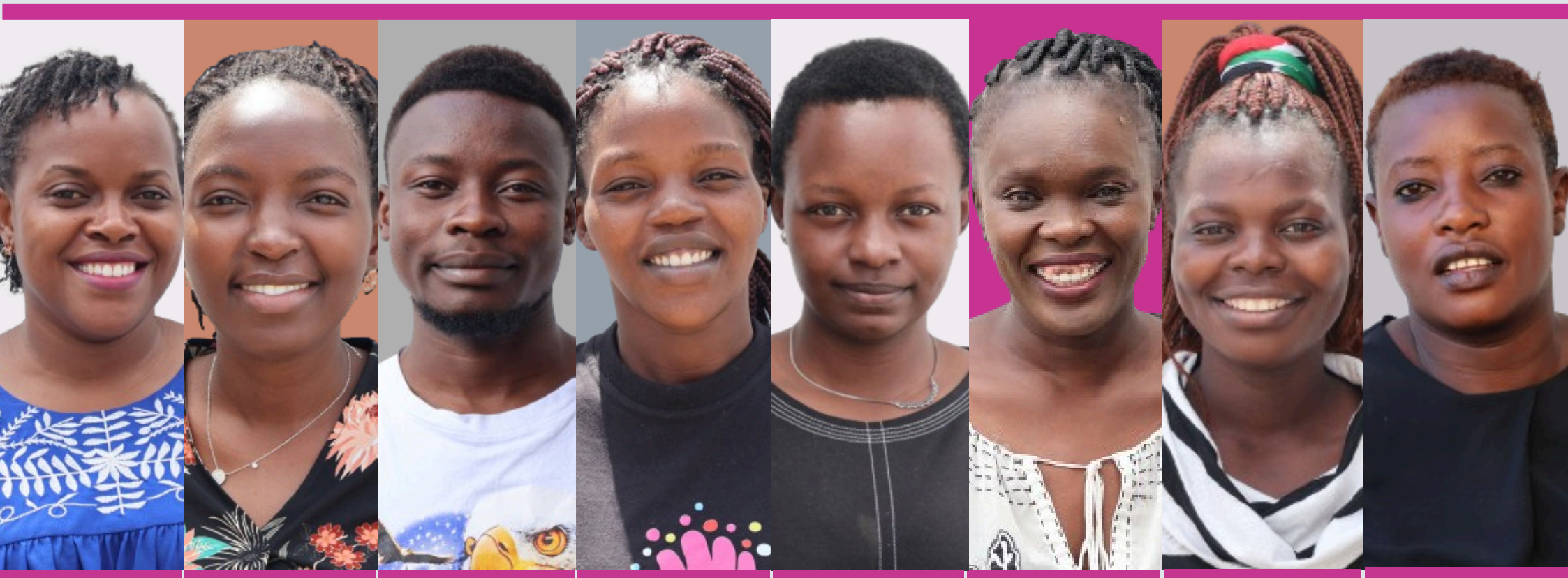
Here's to health, happiness, and, most of all, safety in 2024.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the cause.

Florence Keya

E.D MGSH.

Meet The Team



Yvonne Njoka	Vonnetta Njeri	Alvin Odero	Alucia Cheruyoit	Sharon Milanya	Fiona Emali	Gloria Akola	Alice Njeri
Director of social work/ Project coordinator	Accoutant	Safe Space Manager	M &E Officer	Social Worker	Social Worker	Nanny 1	Nanny 2

Faces of Hope



Jerusha Wanjiru	Beatrice Mugure	Dorice Nasio	Kennedy Maina	Lilian Akinyi	Abraham Liona	Theresa Wanjala
House Mother	Assistant safe space manager	Administrator	Caseworker	Social Worker	Finance and Administration Manager	Kitchen Manager

2023

150, 000

REACHED WITH INFORMATION ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SRHR.

200

SURVIVORS SHELTERED

50

SURVIVORS SUCCESSFULLY REUNITED WITH THEIR FAMILIES

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

SAFE HOUSE

200

survivors of sexual violence sheltered

We offered the **200 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.



215

survivors accessed healthcare services



Upon arriving at the safe house, all 200 survivors were given access to healthcare services. They visited hospitals for various needs including antenatal and postnatal care, maternity deliveries, screening, follow-up on drug adherence, and psychiatric evaluations. With accompaniment of our social workers, we ensured they received quality care and timely attention. We also extended the healthcare to 15 survivors in the community who did not come to the safe house.

305

survivors underwent counseling sessions



During counseling sessions led by our resident counselor, **305 survivors** from the safe house and community 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.

27

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. **Justice** was achieved in one case, as the perpetrator, identified as the survivor's step-father, was sentenced to **60 years in prison.**



50

survivors

successfully reintegrated

After receiving comprehensive case management and support, 50 **survivors were successfully reunited with their families** to thrive in a family setup and reclaim their childhood.

10 survivors continued their education, while others began their journey of empowerment and rebuilding family relationships. As they 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

In collaboration with the Directorate of Criminal Investigation (DCI) and the children's office, we successfully facilitated the repatriation of **2 survivors back to Tanzania, 6 survivors from the marginalized Karamoja community, and 2 survivors back to Uganda**, reuniting them with their families. Through follow-up efforts, we ensured **4 of the survivors** continued with their education.



COMMUNITY 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 group** 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. 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.

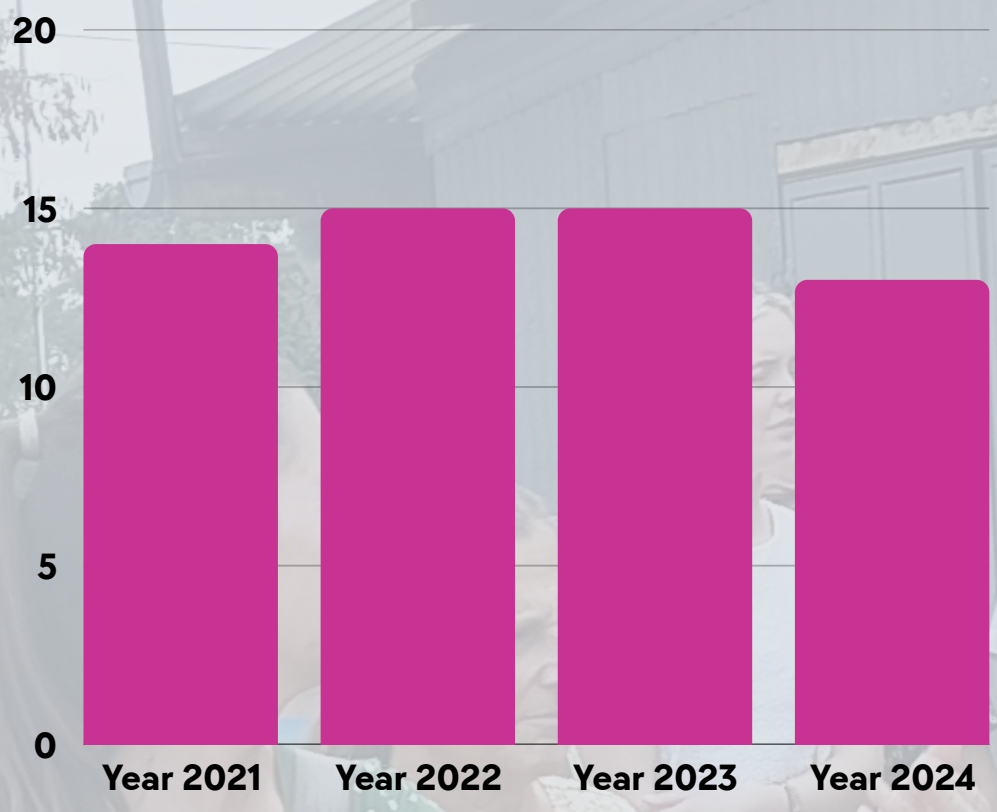


With **96 yoga sessions in the year**, **100 individuals from the community**, including the Safe Sisters, were offered a unique opportunity to prioritize their physical and mental health in a supportive and inclusive environment. Our yoga program catered to the diverse needs of every participant, whether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



Education

We believe in the power education. In partnership with the Drammen High School, we run the Maisha Nairobi project; a scholarship initiated in 2021 that provides opportunities for needy students in **Viwandani slum** to access secondary school education. Students who score 300 marks and above in their KCPE exams are enrolled each year. Currently the project supports **59 students (32 boys and 27 girls)** across various public secondary schools in Kenya.





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.



HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES

Outreaches

Stakeholders meeting

Convening three stakeholder meetings, **30 key stakeholders were involved** to strengthen advocacy, response, and monitoring efforts addressing gender-based violence (SGBV) affecting marginalized girls and those at-risk. Through these meetings, we cultivated a network of support and cooperation among stakeholders, ultimately striving to create safer environments and empowered vulnerable individuals to seek justice and support.







World day against child labour practices

We actively participated in a live discussion alongside various partners dedicated to addressing the issues faced by child domestic workers. The purpose of this engagement was to commemorate the World day against child labour practices and to amplify the urgent message of eradicating modern slavery. Through this discussion, we sought to raise awareness, share insights, and collaborate with other stakeholders to drive meaningful action toward ending the exploitation and abuse experienced by child domestic workers.

Open wellness clinic

The medical outreach activity reached out to **50 child domestic workers** from Kamukunji, providing them with various services, including family planning training, counseling, medical check-ups, and treatment. This open wellness clinic aimed to raise awareness of and facilitate access to these essential services, vital for their overall well-being.





Legal aid clinic

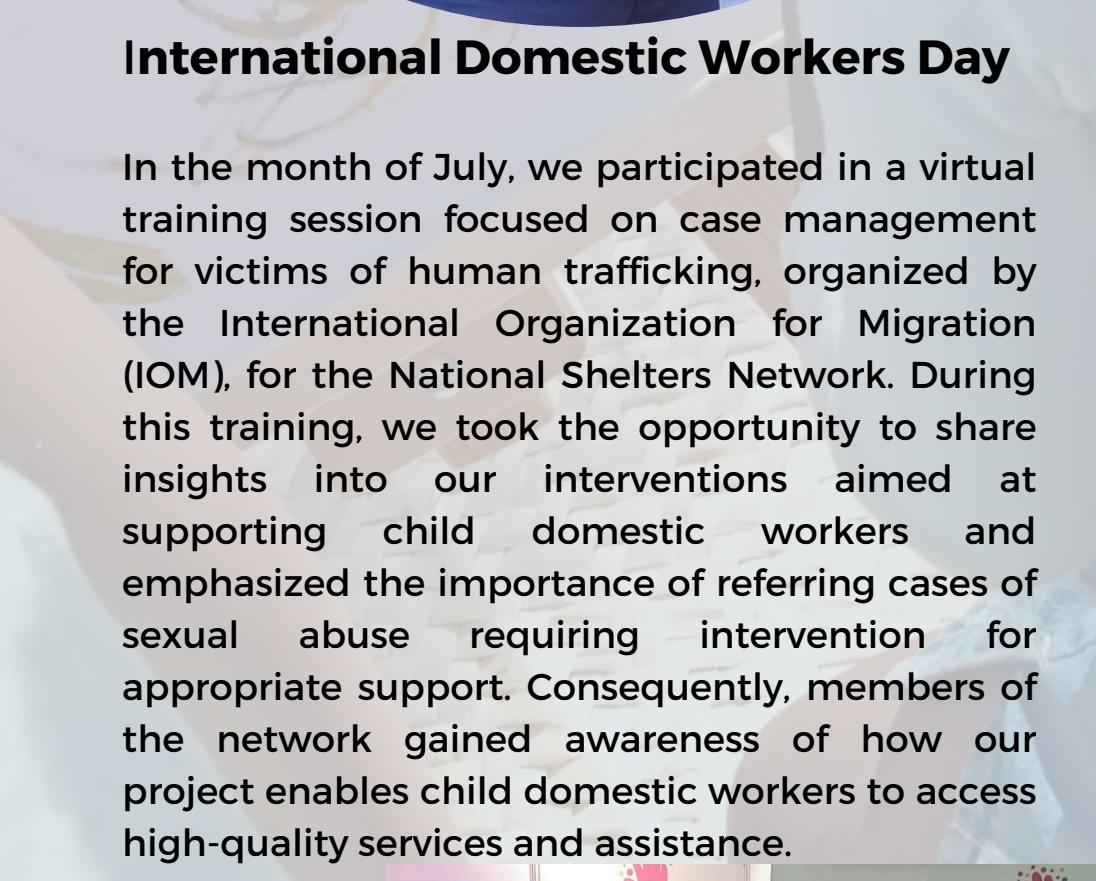
We teamed up with AMKA Africa to organize a legal aid clinic, offering valuable guidance to beneficiaries regarding their rights as child domestic workers. Led by Claude from AMKA Africa, the session addressed various concerns raised by beneficiaries, ranging from payment disputes to instances of abuse, both physical and sexual. Beneficiaries were informed on where to seek assistance, including the children's sub-county office and local police stations. Additionally, they were informed about the essential working conditions that child domestic workers deserve, such as regular days off, fair wages, a safe workplace, and access to nutritious meals.

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 Domestic Workers Day

In the month of July, we participated in a virtual training session focused on case management for victims of human trafficking, organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), for the National Shelters Network. During this training, we took the opportunity to share insights into our interventions aimed at supporting child domestic workers and emphasized the importance of referring cases of sexual abuse requiring intervention for appropriate support. Consequently, members of the network gained awareness of how our project enables child domestic workers to access high-quality services and assistance.





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.



Public barazas

We actively engaged in **two public Barazas** to advocate for enhanced public attitudes and household behavior regarding sexual violence and child domestic labor. These events served as platforms to raise awareness and promote positive changes in community perceptions and actions toward these critical issues.





Empowerment sessions



In an effort to ensure child-centered advocacy against sexual violence and child domestic work, we conducted **10 empowerment sessions for children engaged in domestic work,** survivors, and girls at risk. These monthly sessions emphasized life skills and human rights, empowering participants to recognize their own knowledge and take the lead in advocating to end sexual violence and modern slavery.

Networking and collaborations

In line with networking and collaboration, the following events were held in 2023;

Wangu kanja strategic plan

We took part in the strategic plan validation meeting hosted by the Wangu Kanja Foundation, where they launched **a toll-free helpline, 1519**, designed to offer prompt information and assistance to survivors of sexual violence. Our engagement enabled us to network and collaborate with various organizations dedicated to tackling sexual violence issues thus ensuring that survivors we reach out to received the necessary support and resources they required consistently throughout the year.





Norwegian Ambassador to Kenya visit

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Australian Gender Ambassador

Australian Gender Ambassador Stephanie Copus visited the safe house. She is the lead advocate for Australia's work on gender equality and the human rights of women and girls. During her visit, discussions focused on case management and government support for survivors of sexual violence. She visited alongside Hellen Williams, wife to the Australian High Commissioner to Kenya..



Brave Movement inception meeting



Brave Movement Inception meeting, for the Kenya Chapter. **#bebravekenya** convened the Brave Movement Executive Director, Africa Strategy campaign Manager, Survivors and Allies in Kenya to deliberate on what the Movement would mean for Kenya in terms of creating spaces where children's safety is guaranteed and childhood sexual violence is brought to an end. #endchildhoodsexualviolence .



Drammen sponsorship visit

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Rotaract club visit

The Rotaract Clubs of Rotaract Club of Langata, Rotaract Club of JKUAT, IMAGINE ROTARY and Cuddles for girls CBO visited the safe house for their annual charity event. They made Madaraka Day a memorable one for our girls.





Friendraiser

In 2023, Ashley David Berman, a friend to Maisha organized a friendraiser event at his home, uniting his family, friends, and beneficiaries from Maisha Girls Safe House with the goal of raising school fees. Due to the friendraiser, **5 beneficiaries were able to attend school comfortably throughout the year accessing scholastic materials.**

UN Women Executive Director visit

On the 1 st of May the UN women executive Director, Sima Bahous, visited the safe house. She visited the country to meet with partners to reaffirm UN Women's commitment to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.



In her remarks she said **'I am deeply moved by the courage and bravery of young women and girls at the safe house'.** She was accompanied by Anna Mutavati, the Country Representative UN Women in Kenya and Maxime Houinato, the Regional Director UN Women Africa East and Southern Africa. Together, they delivered a food donation, which was gratefully received by the staff members. This visit held immense significance for us, as it positioned us on a platform where we could mobilize funds through the UN and foster collaboration across various areas.



Trainings

Staff workshop

Our team engaged in **a two-day workshop, where our 15 staff members** gained deeper insights into their roles and responsibilities in realizing our mission and objectives collectively. This training session resulted in noticeable enhancements in our team's performance in the year.

Leadership Training

7 beneficiaries participated in leadership training sessions at the Azadi Resource Centre twice every month. These trainings have provided the girls with valuable skills, fostering their ability to express themselves effectively and become more self-aware





Board Meeting

In our board meeting of the year, convened in May, we provided members with comprehensive updates on our activities from the previous year and outlined our plans for 2023 which encompassed resource mobilization to enhance service delivery, exploring new partnerships, strengthening case follow-up for survivors and conducting board elections.



OUR PARTNERS

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End Childhood Sexual Violence

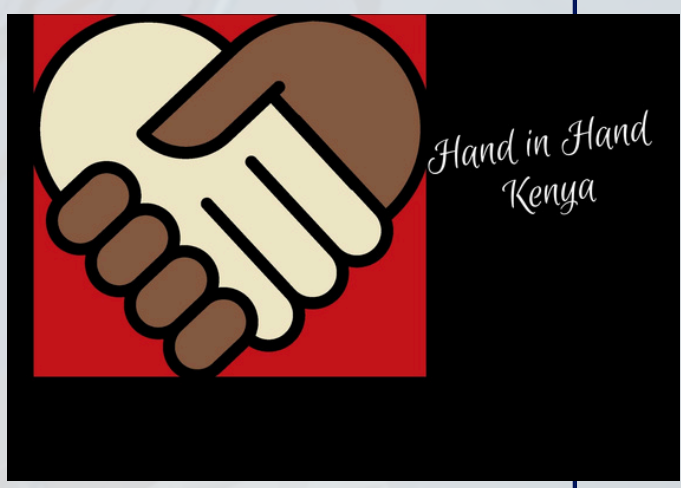
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TALITA

We have done it because of your generous

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

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