

# Twende Hockey Foundation: Year in Review

## 1. Introduction: Our Coaching Team:

At the heart of Twende Hockey Foundation's success is our dedicated team of coaches and junior coaches, who work tirelessly to develop young talent and promote hockey across different age groups. Our experienced coaching staff brings a wealth of knowledge and passion to our programs, ensuring that players receive quality training, mentorship, and opportunities to excel. Alongside them, our junior coaches—all former players—play a crucial role in nurturing the next generation of hockey stars by providing peer mentorship and hands-on guidance. Their commitment has been instrumental in the foundation's growth and achievements throughout the year.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following coaches who made 2024 a success: Alice Ongoro, Elieza Mwankemwa, Zuwen Hassan, Wambera Shadidi, Edfonc Msemwa, Rajuu Zuberi and Steven Mnonjela.

Collectively, the coaching staff has been able to make hockey accessible to approximately 600, with a regular turnout of 500 youths (boys 60% and girls 40%) within the schools and community centers.

## 2. Highlights for 2024:

### 2.1 International Women's Day Celebrations

Twende Hockey Foundation proudly organized and participated in the International Women's Day celebrations, emphasizing the importance of gender inclusivity in sports. The event attracted **520 participants**, with **400 girls** and **120 boys** engaging in various hockey training sessions, mentorship programs, life skills workshops and exhibition matches. The day served as a platform to encourage more young girls to embrace the sport and highlighted the achievements of women in hockey.

#### Results:

- There has been a noticeable increase in female participation in our hockey programs, with more girls joining our training sessions and programs.
- The event also fostered a broader awareness of gender equality in sports among both players and spectators, contributing to a more supportive and inclusive hockey community.

#### Impact:

- Increased retention of female players in training programs and competitions..
- Greater engagement from schools and parents in supporting girls' participation in hockey.

## Twende Hockey Foundation: Year in Review

- Strengthened collaboration with stakeholders to create more opportunities for women in sports. The celebration was locally sponsored, notably by the Moshi Khalsa Hockey Club and Weworld Onlus Tanzania.
- Development of structured programs for young female athletes such as the Menstrual Health Management Program.

### 2. 2 Schools Hockey League

One of our major milestones this year was the successful execution of the Schools Hockey League, which saw participation across two different age categories, for both boys and girls.

A total of **20 schools** took part in the league, providing a structured and competitive environment for young players to develop their skills. The league brought together 9 Primary Schools and 11 Secondary Schools for a total of 44 teams, playing in 5 aside and 7 aside formats respectively.

The breakdown of participation was as follows:

- Under-14 Category: 180 participants (110 boys, 70 girls)
- Under-18 Category: 220 participants (130 boys, 90 girls)

In total, 400 young athletes took part in the 5 month long league, with 220 boys and 180 girls showcasing their talent, teamwork, and determination throughout the season. The competition was not only a display of skill but also an opportunity to foster sportsmanship and discipline among young players.

Each winning team was awarded medals, trophies, and school supplies in recognition of their outstanding performance. Additionally, 12 players received individual bursary awards to support their education, further emphasizing our commitment to both sports and academic excellence.

### 2.3 Debut Participation in the Nyerere Cup:

A historic moment for Twende Hockey Foundation was the debut participation of our hockey club in the prestigious **Nyerere Cup**.

Competing at this high level for the first time was a remarkable achievement for our under 21 players and coaching staff. The squad consisting of **40 players** (18 men and 22 women) displayed great resilience and teamwork gaining valuable experience against seasoned teams.

## **Twende Hockey Foundation: Year in Review**

The level of skill exhibited by our young players is changing the face of Tanzania hockey. Currently in Tanzania, 70% of the players in club hockey are products of Twende.

Notably, this was the first time in 13 years of the tournament that women participated in the tournament, marking a significant milestone in breaking barriers for female athletes in Tanzanian hockey. Out of the five women's teams, Twende was well represented by three teams. This achievement has sparked renewed interest in women's hockey, inspiring young female players and encouraging more clubs to invest in women's teams.

The impact of our participation in tournaments like this extends beyond programs as it has set a precedent for greater gender inclusion in competitive hockey across Tanzania. It has also strengthened the visibility of the sport.

Despite being newcomers, our club managed to secure commendable results, setting the stage for more competitive engagements in the coming years. While the ladies side emerged overall winners, the men did not make it past the group matches despite playing exceptionally well.

### **3. Conclusion**

The year 2024 has been an incredible journey of growth, inclusivity, and competitiveness for Twende Hockey Foundation. With increasing participation from both boys and girls in our initiatives and programs, we remain committed to developing young talent and promoting gender equality in hockey. As with every milestone achieved, our programs and initiatives also evolve to serve, educate, mentor and meet the needs the youths in our programs.

#### **Key Objectives for 2025:**

- Expand outreach programs to reach more schools and communities.
- Secure additional sponsorships to sustain and grow our initiatives.
- Strengthen female oriented programs in each of our pathways (education, economic empowerment and coach player development) to continue breaking barriers.
- Extensive campaign and lobbying to ensure that hockey is involved in the national primary and secondary schools games in Tanzania from regional to national level.
- Strengthening partnerships to increase funding and resources for participating schools.
- Participation in at least one (1) international competition at school level or club level for Twende Hockey Club.

We look forward to an even more impactful year ahead!