



# THE BADILI JOURNAL

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## Reflecting on Quarter 2: Feminizing Political Spaces

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*"A woman with a voice is, by definition, a strong woman." - Melinda Gates*

This quarter, we witnessed the transformative power of women coming together: from Chama groups in the communities discovering their collective strength, to young women leaders crafting joint statements that reached national television. Each story in this newsletter represents a moment where women stepped into their power, challenged systems, and chose to lead with courage.

### Political Education Through Storytelling

Something remarkable happened when fifty Chama women from Kangemi and Kawangware gathered to watch The Women King Makers Docu-film. Using the film as a catalyst, these women engaged in deep conversations about their own power: power they had been wielding all along but had never fully recognized.

The film became a mirror, reflecting back their experiences as community organizers, decision-makers, and influencers. As one participant noted, "We realized we were already doing politics, we just did not call it that." The session transformed how these women viewed their Chama groups, not just as savings circles, but as networks of influence capable of driving community change.

This breakthrough moment led to action planning sessions where women, community influencers, and student leaders united to tackle real problems. They did not just identify challenges; they crafted strategies, forming working groups that have already begun implementing solutions in their communities. The impact is clear: women are no longer waiting for permission to lead, they are creating the change they want to see.

Click [HERE](#) watch the Official Trailer to the Women King Makers docu-film.





## Digital Activism Meets Generational Wisdom

When young content creators, student leaders, and community influencers came together for our youth-led digital advocacy convening, the room buzzed with possibility. Guided by political activist, Boniface Mwangi, participants discovered how to harness digital platforms not just for visibility, but for meaningful change.

The conversation went beyond technical skills to address the real challenges of online advocacy: staying safe while speaking truth to power, maintaining mental wellness in the face of digital attacks, and creating messages that genuinely move communities to action. The meeting was graced by Dr. Obiageli Ezekwesili from Nigeria, who in a fireside chat challenged participants to reflect on the kind of leaders Kenya need. Many left recognizing themselves in that vision. Dr. Obiageli reminded everyone that real change goes deeper than just pointing out what is broken in our systems. She challenged everyone to think beyond criticism and move towards building the governance culture we would want to leave behind.

They learned that advocacy is not just about going viral, it is about building movements that last.



## Powering Her Voice: Badili Africa's Young Women Leadership Conference

The Young Women Leaders Conference was all about passing the baton of leadership to the next generation of women leaders. The conference brought together 70 young women leaders from various universities nationwide under the theme “She Leads Now: Amplifying Young Women’s Civic Power”. This became more than a conference, it became a movement. The conference created space for honest conversations about the barriers women face in leadership, but more importantly, it fostered solutions.

Through rotational mentorship pods, young women received personalized guidance on everything from managing online harassment to mobilizing support for electoral campaigns and navigating leadership as a woman. But the most powerful moment came when these women united their voices to address Femicide in a joint press statement that captured national attention across three major news networks.

[Watch it in K24](#)

The participants came expecting to learn about leadership, but left knowing they were already leaders. The conference did not just inspire individual transformation, it created a network of women committed to lifting each other up and holding systems accountable.

The Conference was more than just another Badili event, it was a catalyst for action, connection, and empowerment. It demonstrated the power of intergenerational dialogue and collective advocacy, reminding us that when women come together, they not only imagine change, they drive it.





## Building Tomorrow's Leaders Today

Our SPARU (Strengthening Public Accountability and Responsiveness in Universities) project entered Phase 2 this quarter with a clear mission: to plant seeds of constitutional awareness and ethical leadership among Kenya's young people. We believe democracy thrives when a generation understands its rights, demands accountability, and leads with integrity.

Working with 70 student leaders and digital media influencers from universities, we began with orientation sessions that went beyond formal presentations. These were honest conversations about what accountability looks like in practice, where we discovered a generation of spirited young minds with remarkable self-awareness and a clear vision for change.

The power of this approach became evident when participants who were part of Phase I of the project shared their experiences. One student, now a digital influencer, credited the project with sparking his passion for accountability and motivating him to step into leadership roles. His transformation from participant to advocate through digital activism, represents the ripple effect we are seeing across campuses.

Through capacity-building sessions on human rights, UTU values, accountability, and constitutionalism, the young leaders deepened their understanding of ethical leadership and their role in building a just society. These interactive discussions equipped them with practical tools for demanding accountability and creating change in their communities.

What we are witnessing is the emergence of young leaders who refuse to accept the status quo. They are returning to their campuses with new tools, fresh perspectives, and unshakeable conviction. The future of leadership is taking shape—informed, empowered, and unafraid to lead with integrity.



## Breaking Chains, Building Dreams

In the communities of Mathare, Kayole, and Kawangware, we launched the "Jenga Dada, Imarisha Uchumi" project with a simple but powerful premise: When young women are empowered with knowledge, skills, and a voice, they become unstoppable forces for transformation.

Working with young women and girls; survivors and those at risk of gender-based violence, we are creating safe spaces for difficult conversations. Together, we mapped out the different faces of gender based abuse, systemic gaps and, crucially, identified pathways to freedom. These women did not just need to name their experiences, they needed tools to change them.

What emerged was remarkable: despite carrying the weight of trauma, these young women and girls demonstrated an unshakeable desire not just to survive, but to thrive.



They are now building support networks, accessing resources, and developing the leadership skills that will help them transform their communities from the inside out.

Through grassroots organizing, skills building, and advocacy, we are investing in the potential of girls and young women to challenge harmful norms, access economic opportunities, and shape a future where they are seen, heard, and valued, not just as survivors, but as change makers. As we move forward, we remain steadfast in walking alongside them; amplifying their voices, and building systems that truly work for them. Because when young women rise, communities rise with them.

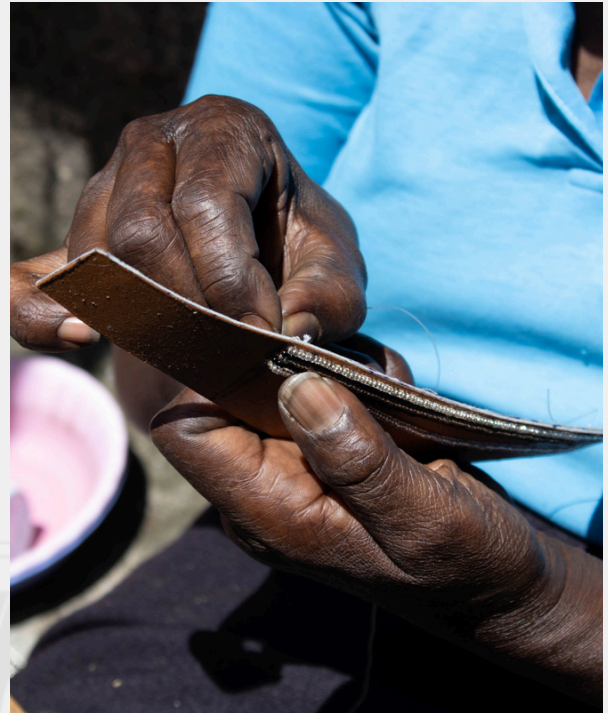


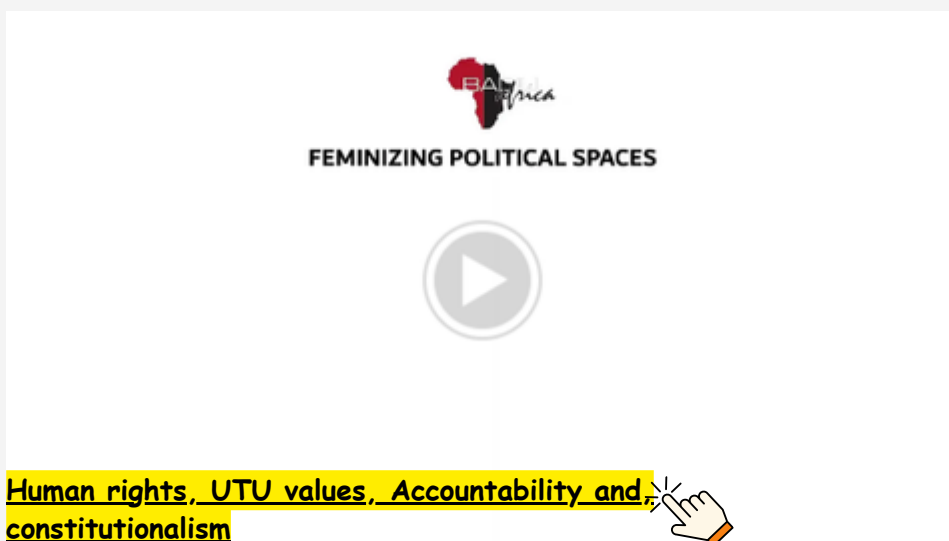
## Resilience in Action: The Tunaweza A Chama Group Story

The women of Tunaweza A Chama Group in Mathare embody resilience. After floods and evictions disrupted their beading business, they could have given up. Instead, they chose to rebuild stronger and smarter than before.

Through the 'Inua Biashara Mama: Safari ya kujijenga upya' project, these women did not just restart their business; they transformed it. They embraced digital marketing, opening social media accounts such as Facebook page that showcase their beautiful beadwork to customers far beyond their immediate community. They developed financial literacy skills, creating structures for saving and bookkeeping that have brought clarity and purpose to their financial decisions.

Today, as their business grows, so does their confidence. They have proven that economic empowerment is not just about business, it is about restoring dignity, building confidence, and creating lasting change from the ground up.









## Looking Ahead

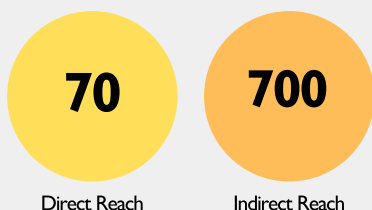
Each story here represents a ripple that continues to spread. The Chama women in Kangemi and Kawangware are now training others in their communities. The young women leaders are mentoring their peers. The young students are advocating for change in their campuses. The survivors in Mathare, Kayole, and Kawangware are building networks of support. The women of Tunaweza A are inspiring other Chama groups to restart their businesses.

This is the power of investing in women's leadership: it multiplies. When women rise, they lift others with them, creating waves of change that transform entire communities.

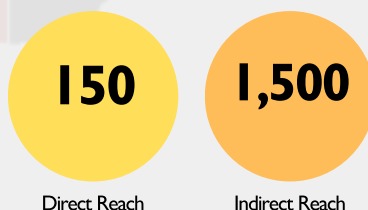
As we move into the next quarter, we carry with us the lessons of these powerful women: That change begins with seeing ourselves clearly, that our voices matter, and that when we come together, we do not just imagine a better future, we create it.

## Organizational Footprint

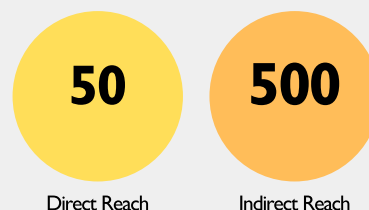
### Young Women



### Chama Women



### Male Allies



### Digital Presence

 **14 K**  
Total Social Media Followers

 **190.4K**  
Social Media Reach

 **9.5K**  
Social Media Engagement





## Invitation to join the movement

We invite you to become part of a movement that is reshaping the future of Africa's women. Your support not only helps us but also joins you to a community committed to gender justice and equality

## Get in Touch

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