

»» NEWSLETTER ««



Empowering youth, cultivating excellence



TWAJALI QUARTERLY NEWS 4 - JANUARY 2026



A TRAINING ROLLER COASTER

"Training at Twajali is like a roller coaster—ups, downs, surprises, and thrills. Sometimes you feel like quitting, but every challenge, every course, gives a rush that makes you want to stay. I thought the Soup would be like the Appetizer, only to find it completely different. I dont know what next"....says Aisling.

That's the twist in every step of the Twajali 6-Course Menu, unpredictable, exciting, and unforgettable.

.....THE POWER TO CHOOSE

The Appetizer phase gave trainees the freedom to reflect and choose whether to continue with the program or pursue a different path. Two trainees did not move on to the Soup phase. Carol, who was seven months pregnant, chose to pause and will resume after giving birth. Jacinta discovered that her passion lies in hairdressing rather than hospitality. The remaining fifteen trainees made a conscious decision to continue and willingly progressed to the Soup phase.



THE BEAUTY OF THE SOUP...

NAVIGATING CHALLENGES

A good soup is not smooth. It has pieces in it. Sometimes you bite into vegetables, sometimes meat. That is what makes it real and satisfying. The Soup phase felt the same. It was not easy. It was uncomfortable at times. It stretched the trainees. But it was also fun and very alive.

There were moments of frustration when their ideas and suggestions were challenged. You could see it on their faces. But when they stopped, thought it through, and found a solution, the frustration turned into wide smiles and quiet pride.

This phase brought forth real problems from the hospitality industry and from daily life. With our centre still in the process of being set up, the problems were not imagined. They were real. The trainees lived them, felt them, and learned from them firsthand.

PROBLEMS.... TOPROJECTS

During this phase, our three mentorship groups, **DEAJJ**, **The Top Tiers**, and **The Heroes** - were introduced to social entrepreneurship: thinking about social impact first, not just profit.

The focus was on understanding the problem before jumping into solutions. When the problem is clear, the solution becomes clearer too.

With water being a major challenge, **DEAJJ** looked at how to maximise and use the little water we have more wisely.

The Top Tiers, tired of cabbage being the only available vegetable, began thinking about growing their own varieties

The Heroes noticed that the nearest barbershop is far and costly, leading them to think about creating a barbershop that also works as a safe social space for young people.

These ideas will be brought to life in the Salad phase.



Trainees making chapati for Elatia event

'ELATIA, ...MY NEIGHBOUR..

EMBRACING DIVERSITY....

Elatia, meaning "my neighbour" in Maasai, was the event that marked the end of the Soup phase. Held on 20th December, the event was part of the trainees' practical learning, where they planned and executed an event for over 300 people.

The pressure and uncertainty that come with event planning became an unforgettable learning experience. Everything was real, and the trainees had to rise to the moment.

With our centre located within the Maasai community—a culture known to be more reserved—the purpose of the event was to embrace diversity and build cohesion. It was about seeing our differences as strengths, not barriers.

The event was filled with music and dances from different cultures, performed by the community, the Twajali fraternity, and invited guests. As the trainees broke for the Christmas holiday, they carried with them lessons that cannot be unlearned.



ACHIEVED 2025 PROJECTS

We are deeply grateful to all our stakeholders whose support has made our work possible this year. Because of you, we have been able to:

- Relocate the centre to our new location
- Start training Batch 10 with 15 trainees
- Plant 188 trees
- Construct staff accommodation, trainee dormitory, and kitchen training block
- Build two ablution blocks
- Install a five 10,000-litre water tank for water collection
- Install small solar systems for lighting and charging

Thank you for being part of our journey and helping us make a difference.

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2026 PLANS INCLUDE

- training 60 beneficiaries through the Twajali 6-course menu model
- Drilling an environment-friendly borehole for water supply
- Installing a 10 kW solar system to power our computer centre
- Starting our computer centre to enhance digital skills
- Planning the Twajali Resort and Garden as part of our sustainability initiatives

