



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Jithubutu Social & Cultural Centre

INTRODUCTION

In 2025, Jithubutu continued to consolidate itself as a space for learning, collaboration, and creativity for young people in Arusha. It has also become a meeting point for networking and visibility, facilitating the creation of collaborative networks, which is crucial in this context.

Thanks to the support of volunteers, visitors, partners, and donors, we have been able to expand and diversify our activities, promoting both the personal development of young people and the strengthening of the community. This report presents a summary of the year, highlighting the most significant achievements, and our plans for the future.

GROWTH AND PARTICIPATION:

- This year, we welcomed 117 new members, bringing the total number of active participants in our activities to 421. However, we are aware that these figures do not fully reflect reality, as the actual number of new members has been considerably higher. For this reason, we are actively promoting participant registration and encouraging our team to inform and support individuals throughout this process, while also fostering consistency and commitment. In addition, we have implemented mechanisms to identify those who are not yet registered, and the initial results show that these measures are working effectively.
- Depending on the scheduled activities, we receive a daily average of between 25 and 50 active members, not including visitors.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025:

1. CONSOLIDATION OF A CONSISTENT AND STABLE FLOW OF VOLUNTEERS AND ITS IMPACT

This year, we benefited from the participation of 21 volunteers—almost double the number in 2024! Their contribution has been essential: without them, it would not be possible to move forward with the same level of intensity or to carry out such a wide range of activities. Volunteers bring energy, creativity, new ideas, skills to share, generosity, and a strong sense of commitment.

Below, we highlight the most significant aspects of their collaboration during 2025 and its impact:

<p>Language Classes</p>	<p>The expansion of our class program, thanks to the involvement of long-term volunteers, has allowed us to attract new students and foster a higher level of commitment among participants. In addition, this collaboration has resulted in significant cost savings, as the classes can be delivered with the support of volunteers.</p>
<p>Carpentry Workshops</p> <p><i>Workshops for building furniture and other items, using pallets and higher-quality wood, and incorporating tools such as a jigsaw, sander, drill, a large workbench, and other materials.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been demonstrated that with simple, low-cost, and recycled materials, it is possible to create useful, practical, and well-designed furniture (benches, dog houses, tables, foldable furniture, jewelry boxes, etc.). • Key skills have been developed, such as measuring, creativity, and problem-solving. • A real business concept has been generated and shared, with participants learning to calculate costs and estimate selling prices. Some creations have been kept by the participants themselves, others have become part of the centre’s equipment—addressing real needs—and others have been sold on request. All of this has fostered commitment, collaboration, and mutual benefit (win-win), as well as generating small revenues that we reinvest in new materials to continue innovating. • Additionally, we have learned something fundamental: having good tools greatly improves participation. With the same effort, young people achieve better results, tire less, have more fun, and maintain more consistent attendance.
<p>Singing and Music Program</p> <p><i>Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, music and singing have been a strong presence at the centre.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning vocal and stage techniques. • Increase in self-esteem and self-confidence. • Greater participation of women in the activity. • Recording of three songs in a studio, with lyrics and music created by the young people themselves. One of these songs reflects what Jithubutu means to them and has become our anthem. • Great enjoyment of the creative process.
<p>Marketing and Communication</p>	<p>The new ideas contributed for our social media have increased the creativity and visibility of our communication, reaching a wider audience</p>
<p>Individualized Mental Health Sessions Economic Empowerment Sessions</p>	<p>Regular participation and the positive feedback from the mental health sessions demonstrate their impact on the well-being of attendees.</p>



Photography Workshop	<p>The workshop culminated with a photographic exhibition during our event on August 29, followed by a permanent display in our gallery from September 25 to December 23. This initiative not only promoted the use of the space and gave visibility to the works, but also strengthened the self-esteem of the creators, the people portrayed, and the project as a whole.</p>
Business Design Program	<p>Thanks to this course, the Jithubutu team has developed the skills needed to design a strategy that optimizes our classes and contributes to income generation.</p>
Creation of a 3-month basic English and Spanish course tailored for self-study <i>Including lesson videos</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With this course, students will know exactly what they are going to learn and what objectives they should achieve before starting (this is very important for them). In addition, they will be able to follow the course on their own if they are unable to attend classes. It will also be available to regular attendees so that, if they miss a class, they can make it up at another time. • Similarly, teachers will know exactly the syllabus to follow, and if a substitute is needed, they will be able to continue the classes without interruption, following the same plan.
Design of Our Website	<p>We are currently renewing and updating our website, achieving a more structured and attractive presentation, but above all, it will allow us to be more agile and keep you consistently informed.</p>

2. INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED FOR OUR MEMBERS:

During 2025, Jithubutu maintained its ongoing activities from the previous year while also launching new initiatives. In the table below, permanent activities introduced from 2025 onward are highlighted in color, and the various one-time activities carried out throughout the year are also shown:

Sessions & Workshops	Period	Days/week
<u>Languages</u>		
Spanish advance conversation	All the year	Monday
Spanish intermediate	All the year	Wednesday / Friday
Spanish Basic	From February	Tuesday / Thursday
Spanish Basic Steps (carried out by our members.)	From October	Mon./Tues./Thursday
Morning Activities in Spanish language	Febr.-March	Monday to Friday
English conversation	All the year	Tuesday / Thursday
English basic	All the year	Wednesday / Friday
Reinforcement Basic English (carried out by our members)	From October	Mon./Tues./Thursday
Swahili for foreigners	When required	2 sessions per week
French class	March	2 days/week
<u>Workshops & Artcraft Workshops</u>		
weekly artcraft workshops	All the year	Monday to Friday
Making furniture with palets workshop	Febr.-March	Every morning
Work out (gymnastic class)	March	Some mornings
Music & Singing month workshop	all August	Monday to Friday
Photography month workshop	August	All the month
Professional Carpentry workshop	August	Monday to Friday
Artcraft with Faraye	September	5 days (Mon-Friday)
First Aid, Nutrition, higyne, illnesses, combined with artcraft to make it entertaining	October	8 days
Social Media	November	1 week (24/11 - 28/11)
<u>Other Activities</u>		
Self-study group about Guiding sessions (carried out by our members.)	All the year	Monday to Friday
Spaces for group study.	All the year	Monday to Saturday
Business design for Africa - DB4A INTENSIVE COURSE (for Jithubutu team)	5 days-July	8 hours/day (1 week)
Menthal Health orientation	From August	Every Monday
Singing Program	From Sept.	Mon./Tuesd./ Wed.
Economic Empowerment Sessions	From October	Every Saturday
Photography sessions	From October	Every Saturday
<u>Dance Classes</u>		
Daily dance classes (including Salsa-Bachata on Friday)	All the year	Monday to Friday
Special Wednesday dance class fostering unity and collaboration	All the year	Wednesday
Free stage use, utilized approximately <u>60%</u> of available time	All the year	Monday to Saturday
<u>Free Stage</u>		
Saturday Free stage sessions	All the year	Saturday
<u>Other of Interest</u>		
Gallery to Promote and Decorate.		
<i>It gives visibility to the artists' works while decorating the classrooms, transforming the space into a more creative and welcoming place</i>	From June	
Photography exhibition at the facilities of our August photography workshop	From Sept. 25 up to 22/12/25	
<u>Events</u>		
Evening Event:	Friday 29th	
<i>Dancers, Singers (our members performed 3 own produced songs), photography exhibition.</i>	August	
Participation and Sponsorship at Dance Battle Festival:	Sunday 5th	
<i>Dancers of Jithubutu won 2 cathegory prizes (one is the one we sponsored: Twin Amapiano</i>	October	



We want to remind you of our main activities and how they contribute to the well-being of our community:

○ Language Classes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish: Sessions for beginner, elementary, intermediate, and conversational levels covering topics such as wildlife, parks, and reserves in Tanzania -particularly relevant due to the region's tourism activity-. • English: Basic level sessions and conversation sessions.
○ Morning Craft Workshops:	The workshops we run range from making notebooks, earrings, bracelets, and keychains using local materials such as kitenge, to cutting glass bottles to create cups and lamps.
○ Mental Health Workshops:	Promoting these workshops in a country where mental health care is rare like Tanzania, is no easy task. However, our initiatives have a significant positive impact and are well-received by young people.
○ Dance Classes:	<p>In the socio-cultural context of Tanzania, dance and music play a crucial role. It's one of the main way to spark young people's interest in other activities we offer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily dance classes. • Special Wednesday sessions fostering unity and collaboration among different dance groups in the city, attracting top talent and creating a vibrant, energetic atmosphere. • Workshops in special dance styles like salsa, bachata, and capoeira. • Free stage use, utilized approximately 60% of available time.
○ Other Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversation groups for tour guides in Spanish and English. • Spaces for group study. • Special events and activities throughout the year.

** Data from the 2024 annual report*

3. EMPLOYMENT:

- Once again, two additional members, Spanish language students, have secured employment at the travel agency. They join those who obtained jobs last year and continue working there. We are proud to see how the training we provide creates real opportunities. We continue to identify talent, expand networks, and create new possibilities for our members.
- We would like to remind you that the Jithubutu team continues to grow, and most of its members collaborate entirely on a voluntary basis, either from our centre in Arusha or from abroad. In 2024, only three local team members received compensation for their daily work, in addition to the dance instructors and teachers of some of our workshops. We are pleased to announce that in 2025, we have added a new team member who also receives remuneration for their work. We continue to promote local employment and hope to keep expanding it in the future.



4. INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF VISITS AND THEIR IMPACT:

- In 2025, we received a total of 38 visits from groups of international travelers, totaling 289 people, from 10 different travel agencies, three of which joined this year.
- These visits continue to be fundamental to our project. Visitors learn about what we do and our goals, while enjoying participation in our dance classes. Jithubutu inspires them as we share our story. In addition to increasing the Centre's visibility and attracting new collaborations and donations, these visits are especially important for motivating our youth, giving them the opportunity to practice languages, improve their communication skills, and, above all, feel valued.

IDENTIFICATION AND INITIATION OF CONCRETE ACTIONS TOWARD OUR SELF-SUSTAINABILITY

- This year's income came from tourist visits and their associated dance classes, direct monetary donations, and the sale of handcrafted items made in our workshops.
- We have launched the "**Explore Arusha with Us**" program, allowing tourists to discover the most iconic and unique places in Arusha accompanied by our youth (who have studied or are studying to become tour guides—members of Jithubutu). The experience is completed in the afternoon with modern African dance classes or other activities at the centre. This program not only has a direct economic impact on our project but also achieves:
 - Real-world training for our aspiring tour guide students.
 - Greater engagement and sense of belonging among the youth with the project (win-win).
 - Job creation, as guides and dance instructors receive compensation, and the project generates income that allows us to continue launching new initiatives.

Three visits of this type have already taken place and have been a success. We hope to conduct many more in 2026.

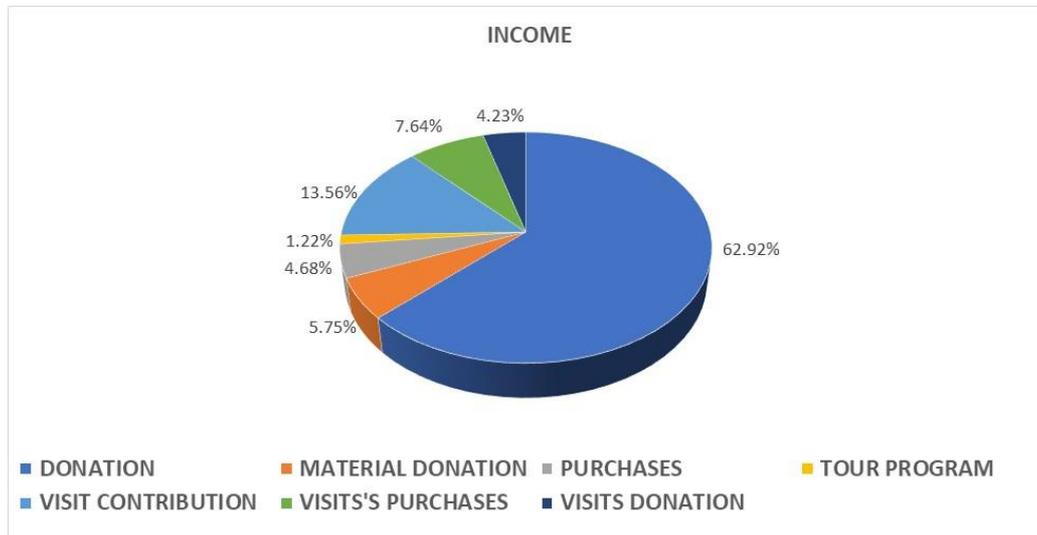
- We continue working on establishing partnership and collaboration agreements with companies and other organizations.
- We continue implementing improvements in marketing and communication, and we strive to send out newsletters on a monthly basis.

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS:

This year, we have not carried out any new fundraising campaigns. The 2024 campaign is still ongoing.

<https://gofund.me/edd8ad56>

INCOME AND DONATIONS 2025



HOW WE HAVE INVESTED THE DONATIONS

Thanks to the generous donations received, we have been able to make improvements to our facilities and activities, directly contributing to the well-being and development of our members. The main investments include:

- **Educational and training materials:** Provided to support language classes and handicraft workshops, fostering both learning and creativity among our members.
- **Materials for productive projects:** These include materials to make fabric-covered notebooks, earrings, glass cups, and other handcrafted products, which are sold to generate income and support the centre's sustainability.
- **Office printer:** It has greatly streamlined administrative work, optimized costs, and allows us to distribute more learning materials in our classes.
- **Monitor** for the members' computer located in the library.
- **Mirrors on the stage for dance classes and other activities:** They allow dancers and performers to see themselves and correct their posture and movements, significantly facilitating their learning.
- **Guitar:** The guitar always creates a good atmosphere, conveys positive energy, and fosters a sense of unity.
- **Basic investments** aimed at improving the living conditions and comfort of the house where volunteers are accommodated.
- **Some structural and repair expenses**



OBJECTIVES FOR 2026

The goals established for 2025 remain in place for the new year and are expanded with new objectives:

- Increase the number of volunteers and strengthen existing collaborations, as well as establish new partnerships.
- Increase the number of visits and activities carried out at the centre.
- Better identify the needs of our members and offer certificates recognizing their participation. In this regard, certificates of attendance will be provided for the new quarterly English and Spanish courses.
- Encourage greater participation, consistency, and commitment among young people in our workshops.
- Raise awareness among our members about the importance of making good use of their free time and taking advantage of the educational opportunities offered by the centre.
- Secure sufficient funding to cover the project's structural costs, expand the number of activities, and improve their quality.
- Our users regularly make use of the library services at our facilities. We aim to encourage the borrowing of books to take home, despite the challenges involved in monitoring returns within this cultural context. This year, new Spanish reading books have been added, as well as English and Spanish grammar materials.
- Starting in January, we will incorporate a local Tanzanian English and Spanish teacher from Monday to Friday, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., who will also act as a tutor. With this addition, we seek to ensure continuity, consistency, and stability in the classes, provide more personalized attention, strengthen student support, and, as a result, improve attendance and learning outcomes.
- In February, Sara will also join the team, assuming coordination and overall supervision duties together with Cristina —founder and director of the project. This addition will allow us to handle a greater workload, dedicate more time to seeking collaborations, continue developing the project, and cover possible absences of Cristina. Sara has taught Spanish in Jithubutu during the last four months of the year and has one year of experience coordinating another project in Arusha.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We want to express our deep gratitude to all donors, organizations and collaborators, to the Jithubutu team for their constant support, and to all volunteers who, with their time and energy, have given a tremendous boost to our project. Without them, we would not be where we are today.

We are greatly encouraged by the support we receive: those comments telling us that it is a very good, different, and unique project, reflected in the atmosphere at the centre, in how it benefits the members, and in the impact it has on them. All of this is thanks to the help of those who make this project possible.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

CONCLUSION

2025 has once again been a year of learning, growth, and challenges, but also of great progress. We are proud of what we are doing and we strive—and will continue to strive—to do even better. We look toward 2026 with enthusiasm and determination to continue making a positive impact on this, our community.

DARE to be part of this great adventure!