



## BESSIE

Bessie is 38 years old and lives in Binali village, where she ran for 3 years her own preschool. Since the opening of the school she has been teaching at **Umdozi-Mbame Model Childcare Center**.

“In the beginning much of the input we received in the trainings was rather difficult for me to grasp and implement in practice. **The regular supervision and evaluation visits from the boNGO Team has helped me to learn as I went along.** I like my job and I enjoy being with the children, telling them stories and listening to their stories. However, besides gaining knowledge and skills regarding the teaching profession, this program and its approach also made me grow a lot on a personal level. I am now much more confident to talk openly and share my thoughts. Many parents used to complain that we let the children play instead of teaching them the alphabet song by heart. **Today I know that children learn through playing and creativity and I can explain to others the importance of the way we teach here at Umodzi-Mbame.**”



**Bessie and kids during a music lesson:** Today Bessie knows and can explain to the parents why she uses songs and dances to teach the children.

**Forming numbers out of clay:** Bessie is teaching the younger kids. Therefore learning through playful methods builds an important part of her daily lessons.

