



INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY 2026

Theme: Strengthening Widows' Livelihoods for Resilient Communities



A Historic Celebration of Hope and Transformation

International Widows Day 2026 marked a historic milestone for Nyanam, bringing together **4,282 widows from Kisumu and Siaya Counties** alongside government leaders, development partners, faith leaders, community stakeholders, and friends of the organization.

More than a celebration, the day was a powerful affirmation that widows are leaders, changemakers, entrepreneurs, caregivers, and builders of resilient communities. The event highlighted the remarkable achievements of widows while reaffirming Nyanam's commitment to restoring dignity, strengthening livelihoods, and creating pathways toward self-reliance.

This year's celebration was especially significant as Nyanam welcomed **1,800 newly inducted widows from 67 Leadership Circles** and celebrated the graduation of **196 widows** who successfully completed the three-year Voice of Change preparation phase and transitioned into the transformation phase.



By the Numbers

4,282 widows gathered for the largest International Widows Day celebration in Nyanam's history.

196 widows graduated after completing the 12-module Voice of Change curriculum.

1,800 new widows welcomed into the Nyanam family.

1,331 widows received reading glasses.

49 widows accessed free legal aid services.

9,300 kg of sugar was distributed to widows attending the event.

Celebrating Leadership and Transformation

One of the most inspiring moments of the day was the graduation ceremony for 196 widows from nine Leadership Circles. Having completed three years of learning, personal growth, and action through the Voice of Change curriculum, these graduates are now stepping into a new phase of leadership and community transformation.

The celebration also recognized outstanding widows and Leadership Circles whose dedication continues to strengthen communities through peer counselling, training, leadership, table banking, attendance, and social action initiatives.

The atmosphere was filled with joy as widows reunited in song, dance, storytelling, and fellowship, demonstrating the strength of sisterhood that continues to define Nyanam.

Expanding Access to Essential Services

Restoring Vision

Through partnerships with **Restoring Vision** and the **Livelihood Impact Fund**, 1,331 widows received prescription reading glasses.

For many widows, improved sight means more than better vision. It enables them to read their Bibles and training materials, participate fully in learning sessions, manage savings records, and engage more effectively in livelihoods activities.



Access to Justice

In partnership with **Transparency International Kenya**, 49 widows received free legal aid services focused on land rights, inheritance, succession, and property ownership.

A major highlight was the celebration of **two widows receiving title deeds**, securing full legal ownership of their land. This milestone represents hope and justice for widows facing land disinheritance and demonstrates the impact of long-term legal empowerment efforts.



Building Sustainable Livelihoods

Throughout the celebration, widows showcased their entrepreneurial talents through a vibrant exhibition of products developed through Nyanam's Sustainable Livelihoods Program.

Visitors explored and purchased a wide range of products, including:

- Fresh vegetables
- Honey
- Mushroom flour
- Handcrafted beadwork
- Woven baskets and hats
- Clothing and other locally produced goods

The exhibition created valuable market opportunities while demonstrating the creativity, resilience, and business potential of widows across the region.



In addition, **KES 1.5 million** was distributed to Leadership Circles to strengthen livelihood activities, improve household incomes, and support long-term economic resilience.

Voices of Transformation

Widow Voice

"Before joining Nyanam, I lacked the confidence to speak in public or express myself. Through the education, mentorship, and prayers I have received, my life has been transformed. Today, I am confident enough to stand before people and speak with courage. I have learned how to farm, support my family, counsel others, and share the Word of God in my church. Nyanam has restored not only my confidence but also my purpose and hope for the future."

– Susan Pauline, Nyanam Widow

Partner Voice

"I am truly impressed by the transformative work Nyanam is doing to improve the lives of widows. The impact is evident, and we are proud to be part of this journey. We remain committed to strengthening our partnership with Nyanam and continuing our support."

– Ken Munyendo, Onsite ICF



Leadership Voice

"By 2032, the greatest success story of Nyanam will be the widows themselves, influencing policy, transforming communities, and demonstrating that widowhood is not a limitation but a platform for leadership."

– Pollet Juma, Nyanam Board Chair

Stronger Together: Celebrating Partnerships

The success of International Widows Day 2026 was made possible through the collective efforts of partners, supporters, leaders, and friends who share Nyanam's vision of an Africa where widows thrive.

We extend our sincere gratitude to:

Funding Partners

- Segal Family Foundation
- Imago Dei Fund
- Restoring Vision
- Livelihood Impact Fund

Implementing Partners

- Transparency International Kenya
- Onsite ICF

Friends and Supporters

- Equity Bank
- IFAGE
- Victoria Ministries

Government and Public Leaders

- Hon. Beatrice Odongo
- Hon. Rosa Buyu
- Hon. Elisha Oraro
- Chief Paul Otieno

We are also grateful to Nyanam's Board of Directors, volunteers, widow mentors, widow trainers, peer counsellors, staff, and community leaders whose commitment continues to make transformation possible.

Looking Ahead

International Widows Day 2026 demonstrated what is possible when widows are equipped with knowledge, community, opportunity, and hope. As Nyanam continues to grow, the organization remains committed to empowering widows to lead thriving families, build sustainable livelihoods, and transform their communities.

Together with our partners and supporters, we are creating a future where every widow is valued, equipped, and empowered to thrive.

