



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**Africa where widows thrive**





Dear Nyanam,

*I hope you are doing fine. I am also fine. I really want to say thank you for helping me and my guardian in paying for my school fees in 2023. Thank you for teaching us how to protect ourselves and helping us access knowledge and understanding about our health and our environment.*

*As the youth, you are really helping us with different things including offering us counselling support and advises on how we can be better young people in our families and communities. You are making us to be good ambassadors by allowing us to learn the things we don't know and equipping us to know more about the Bible.*

*Thank you for making me learn and acquire more knowledge on my mental, physical and social health. Thank you for making me know more about God. Thank you for everything you have done for me including supporting my 2023 school fees while I was joining form one.*

*May God bless you all at Nyanam.*

**Caroline – Nyanam youth leader**



**JACKIE ODHIAMBO**  
FOUNDER / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## GIANT STRIDES FOR A GIGANTIC PROBLEM

1 in 4 adult women in the Lake region where we operate is widowed. Widows experience 2-7 times more sexual violence, HIV prevalence, disability, food insecurity, land disinheritance, and poor mental health, compared to other women in the community.

It is now four years since we officially launched Nyanam. Looking back, we have made giant strides. From 80 widows in 2020, in 2023 we served 780 widows, a 10-fold increase in our reach. We are doubling this number to 1400 in 2024.

Over the past four years, widows have shown us that they want intervention that is person-centered, holistic, and that amplifies their voice and leadership to make positive change from self, family to community. This is exactly what we have done in our novel widow-centric intervention: Voice of Change (VoC)!

VoC is inspired by Nyanam widows and weaves tested and proven activities into one intervention. VoC creates safe and bold spaces where widows tell and analyze difficult experiences, learn and use new information in taking practical actions to address their lived experiences. Through VoC, the sky is the limit in facilitating widow-led transformation in our communities. We will train more widows in this intervention and partner with other community-embedded organizations to scale our impact.

Through our ongoing research on widowhood stigma and its health impact, we are generating evidence widows will use in cultural, policy and legal advocacy to reduce societal widowhood stigma.

To Nyanam widows, thank you for taking courage amidst adversity, and embracing your leadership potential. Indeed, widowhood is also a time for self-discovery.

To all our partners, staff and board, thank you for enabling these giant strides and guiding the work.

As you read our 2023 annual report, take delight in all that is possible when we stand in solidarity with African widows.

# What is widowhood stigma? How does it impact widows' wellbeing?

Widowhood stigma consists of negative labelling and stereotyping, social isolation and discrimination that causes sexual and economic exploitation of widows, leading to health & economic disparities in widowhood.

**Property  
disinheritance**  
**1 in 3**  
**widows**

**Sexual and gender-  
based violence**  
**1 in 2**  
**widows**

**Food insecurity**  
**1 in 2**  
**widows**

**HIV prevalence**  
**1 in 4**  
**widows**



We published our first Nyanam Widows Anthology to help share with our friends and partners stories that keep us at work. We have distributed 200 copies. Here you will see how widows deal with stigma and the accusations, rejection and dispossession it brings. The story of Rebecca, our founder's mother, is also included.

# READY TO SCALE

On behalf of the Nyanam Board, I am delighted to be writing yet another note to highlight our progress. In 2023, we served 780 Nyanam widows and 600 widows' children. This is an increase from 560 widows and 400 children in 2022. We also enhanced our five key program areas: Leadership, Health, Livelihoods, Human Rights and Justice, and widows' children education. In line with our mission of preparing widows to be leaders, 88% of Nyanam widows were trained in more than one program area.

Nyanam is growing at an exponential rate. The impact that we have on widows' lives has endeared us to thousands of widows who are eager to join the Nyanam network. In 2023, we pre-qualified 34 widow groups to join Nyanam which represents an added 734 widows joining Nyanam in 2024. This growth has necessitated a thoughtful approach to scaling Nyanam's operations. We have developed our scale strategy as a guiding star to which we seek to expand our work to reach thousands of widows in Kenya and beyond.

We decided that all our 4 widows program areas will be delivered through the Voice of Change ("VoC") methodology. VoC embodies a practical approach of imparting various leadership qualities and delivered in 1-hour weekly sessions with trained VoC trainers in their leadership circles covering all the – 12 VoC modules. Finally, we are in the process of developing our 5-year strategic plan (2024 - 2028) which will be completed in the first quarter of 2024. With these efforts, we have laid the necessary rails on which Nyanam's growth will ride on.

All the above work requires significant human and financial resources. While we didn't reach our budgetary target of \$382,060, the funds raised in 2023 (US\$221,642), was 99% higher than the \$111,362 raised in 2022. Our partner foundations have been instrumental in fueling Nyanam's growth, and we are eternally grateful. Special thanks to our new partners: Segal Family Foundation, Pilot House Philanthropy, Project Redwood and First Presbyterian Church. They join our beloved Nyanam donor family which includes: Imago Dei Fund, Dovetail Impact Foundation, Women in The Window International, Williams College, Community Bible Church and Redeemer church. Finally, we thank our individual donors who sacrifice various pleasures to support Nyanam. They have been with us from the beginning and continue to support us as we scale.

The board has recently approved a budget of \$402,087 for 2024. This will be a pivotal year for Nyanam as we grow from serving 780 widows to 1400 widows. Our operational capacity will be tested, and we have spent 2023 ensuring that we can pass that test. The Nyanam widows are relying on your continued support, and we encourage you to help us grow the donor family.

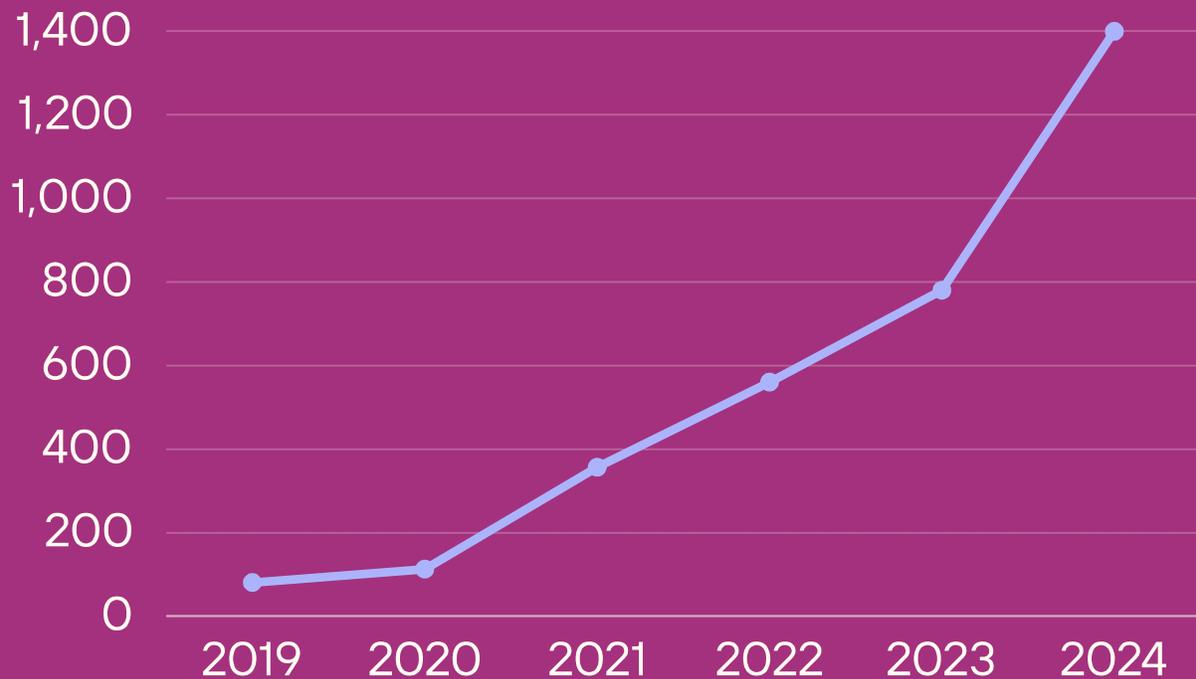
Once again, THANK YOU for your prayers, advise, and support. We have come this far because of you.



**TEDDY ONSERIO**  
**BOARD CHAIR**

# OUR GROWTH & IMPACT 2019-2024

## TREND IN THE NUMBER OF WIDOWS SERVED EACH YEAR



### **688** Widows trained in various capacities

To strengthen widows' personal development through promotion of employment and economic opportunities for widows

### **375** Community leaders trained

To facilitate social reforms to improve perception and treatment of widows and advocate for the rights of widows at legal and policy levels such as property rights, access to social security schemes

### **102** Widows' children received scholarships

To improve education outcomes for widows' children in their communities

# Monitoring and evaluation

In 2023, we hired our first Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and implemented our first baseline and endline programmatic impact survey. We collected data from a random sample of widows who were part of our program in 2023, 380 widows in a baseline survey and a sample of 315 widows in our endline survey was used. We mostly surveyed the same group of respondents at baseline and endline and kept the survey minimal with only 12 questions.

We saw a general improvement across majority of the indicators. For example, widows who had started their land inheritance process increased from 21% at start of 2023 to 32% at end of 2023, thanks to dedicated efforts led by our Human Rights and Justice Coordinator. We show the rest of the statistics side by side with relevant program narrative report.

While this was internal assessment, it gave us our first numerical glimpse of the impact Nyanam makes in the lives of widows. It helped us formulate our goals for the future and see how we still need more efforts on food security and improving widows' mental health.

We aim to improve on this assessment by conducting household surveys annually and adopting validated measurement tool such as for food security and mental health. In the future, when resources allow, we will be delighted to also have an external evaluation of our program.



# WHAT WE DO

We are a restorative justice organization preparing widows to lead positive community transformation through holistic intervention, Voice of Change, that gives widows the tools to tackle widowhood stigma and its effects in their lives. We envision Africa where widows thrive.

## 01

### NYANAM PROCESS

Steps 1 and 3 are self led by widows. Step 2 training widows in the Voice of Change which takes 36 months then widows graduate, into a Nyanam widows network



## 02

### NYANAM INTERVENTION: VOICE OF CHANGE (VoC)

VoC uses Biblical widowhood stories and principles from Paulo Freire's pedagogy of the oppressed to trust that meaningful lasting change will be made by the widows. Our role is to raise critical consciousness on widowhood stigma, its roots and impacts, and to strengthen widows' connectedness, confidence and competence to be the change leaders

#### VOC TOPICS

- 1) Parenting
- 2) Perception
- 3) Leadership
- 4) Agroecology
- 5) Business
- 6) Wealth stewardship
- 7) Trauma healing
- 8) Healthy aging
- 9) Health promotion
- 10) Human rights
- 11) Land rights
- 12) Peacemaking

#### SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

- Farm inputs
- Seed fund
- Counselling
- Elderly support
- Legal support
- School fees

## 03

### NYANAM VALUES

- Holistic
- Bible-informed
- Deep listening and learning
- Meaningful participation



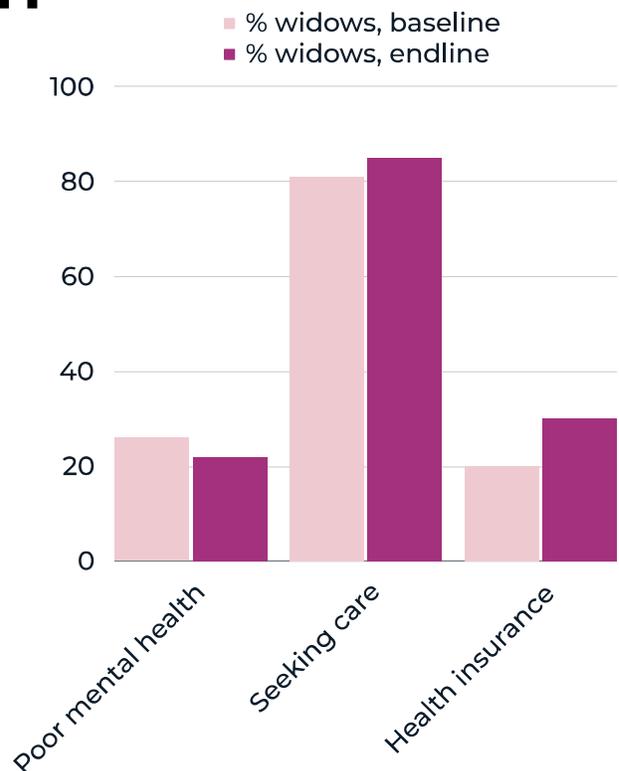
## MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health is fundamental in every individual life and development. At Nyanam, widows and their children good health and well-being is primary to the work. The program supported widows' mental, emotional, physical and spiritual health.

During group counselling sessions, we used Voice of Change tool to discuss: 1) Home for widows, 2) Remarriage in widowhood, and 3) Parenting as a widow. Parenting in Widowhood was anchored on 2 Kings 4:1-7, the story of the widow left with debt, two sons, and a creditor threatening to enslave her children.

### WISDOM FROM WIDOWS ON PARENTING

- 1) Parenting starts at conception
- 2) Parenting never ends
- 3) Single parenting is difficult
- 4) Parenting is communal, children are influenced by their environment
- 5) Positive parenting is in an attitude
- 6) Parenting effects are borderless
- 7) Parenting requires heart, mind, and body
- 8) Parenting is power
- 9) There is no perfect parenting



In June, in partnership with Women in the Window International, we conducted a three-day training with 29 widows from 29 leadership circles on preventive health. The widows were equipped with knowledge in simple home-based strategies to keep their bodies healthy. They learnt the risk factors for non-communicable and aging related illnesses, and how to lower their risks of obesity, high blood pressure, and HIV and AIDS. After the training, the widows have continued to multiply the preventative health curriculum to all leadership circles.



## DIGNIFIED HOUSING

Housing insecurity is a significant burden for many widows. Only 11% of the 780 widows we are currently serving own good and safe houses. Most widows live in termite infested homes, with leaking roofs and weak walls. Some have left their marital home because they have no house to live in, no capacity to build one, and no one to support them in housing construction.

Through a partnership with Onsite ICF, First Presbyterian Church, and Nyanam widows, we have built 5 three-roomed modern houses for 5 Nyanam widows and their children. The houses are built using Onsite ICF blocks. The houses have concrete and stone foundation, ensuring the steadiness, followed by stacking of foam blocks using metal pillars before cementing the entire house. After roofing, the houses are painted the widow's color of choice and fitted with 3 windows and an external main metal door.

Durable, safe and secure housing goes a long way to protecting the health and lives of widows and their children. Join us in building more houses for widows.

*"Being the head of the family and trying to make a living has not been easy. I had to endure living in deplorable conditions because of the little I get; I used to put food on the table and pay school fees for my children. My friend and I prayed and fasted for a new house, as we had already planned to take a loan to build a house. And our God of miracles, decided to answer my prayers through Nyanam. Thank you Nyanam, Onsite ICF and First Presbyterian Church for blessing me with a new house, may your pockets never run dry."*

**-Leah Odede, Nyanam Widow**





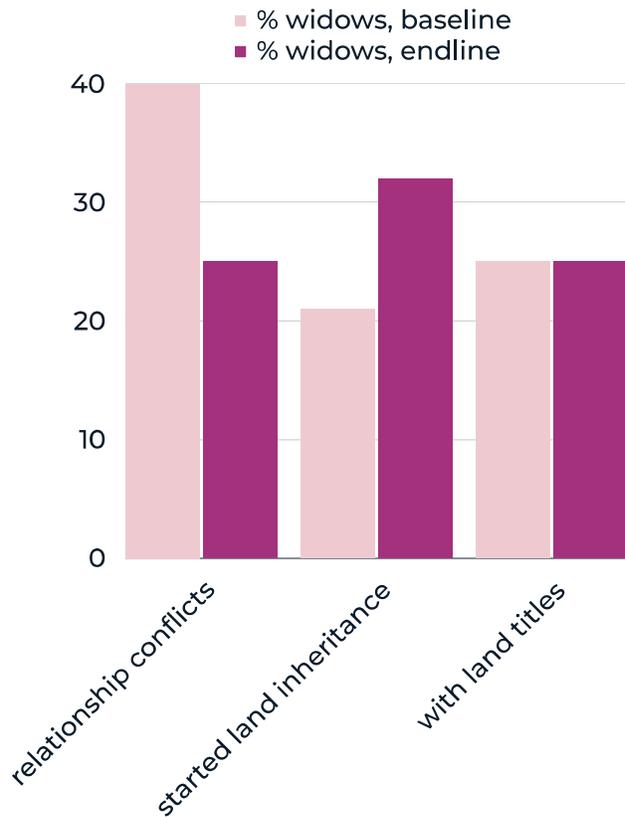
## HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE

Land is an emotive subject and for widows it's a major pain point. We seek to protect widows' access and ownership of land that belongs to them and build the capacity of community leaders as advocates for widow's land and property rights.

We developed our property rights and paralegal curriculums and trained 29 widows as trainers on women's land rights, and 10 of them as paralegals. The trained widows are multiplying this training in their leadership circles to reach 780 widows. The paralegals continue to support widows in gathering land inheritance documents, resolving land conflicts and accompanying Nyanam widows to local administrators' offices to process their application for land inheritance.

We conducted 3 legal aid clinics reaching 91 Nyanam widows with tailored information and advice on their land and property rights. During the clinics, we identified the most common violations affecting them which include lack of awareness on the existing land rights and laws, family related land conflicts, and disinheritance. From the clinics, we identified 25 cases for legal support of which 2 cases have since been filed in court and the remaining 23 cases are currently being followed up for collection of correct documents and for mediation led by paralegals and local administrators.

In addition, we trained 177 community leaders (chiefs, assistant chiefs, and traditional and religious elders) on widows' land and property rights.



# SAFEGUARDING WIDOWS HUMAN RIGHTS



*"We should not neglect widows. Instead, we must reinforce the protection of their human rights. No widow should be subjected to widow inheritance. As members of the community, we must respect the human rights of widows and ensure they are served accordingly."*

**Henry Ouma, Clan Elder – Nyahera Sub-location – during Nyanam training of community leaders on widows' rights**

**Widow inheritance is the practice of remarrying widows within the family/clan of the deceased husbands - levirate marriage. The practice has transformed from socio-economic protection to a commercialized institution of sexual and economic exploitation of widows.**

*"Since this is a safe space, I will share how I genuinely feel. Our laws now condemn discrimination against women and girls when it comes to land and property rights and ownership. In most cases, the problem isn't the law, but rather practices and customs that favour men over women.*

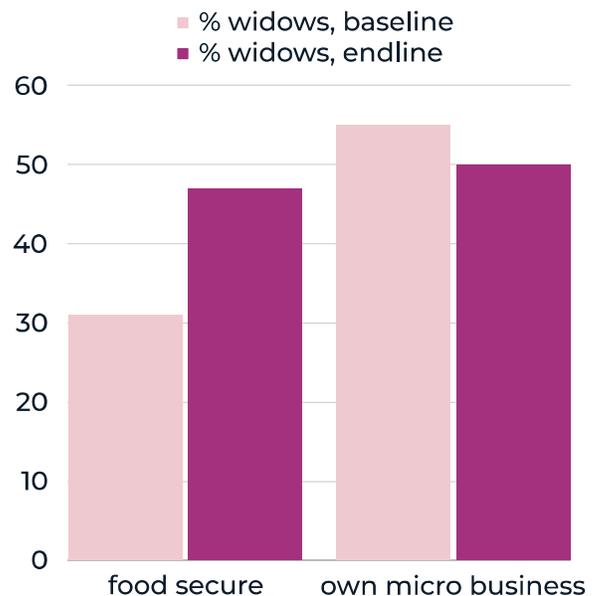
*Some of us here have been disinherited just because we gave birth to daughters only. Our in-laws claim that since we have daughters, we don't need land. We are still being forced into wife inheritance because our rights are hinged on our relationship with men. Do we really deserve to go through all these because we want to access, use, control and own land that belonged to our beloved husbands that we have a right to?"*

**- Susan Pauline, a Nyanam paralegal**



## LIVELIHOODS

From our sustainable kitchen gardens, 86% of the 200 multistorey gardens distributed in 2022, continued to provide widows with fresh vegetables for daily meals while selling excess surplus for additional income. Only 26% of Nyanam widows have access to the multistorey gardens, indicating a gap in our intervention for sustainable climate adaptive agriculture. In addition, 541 (71%) widows established their regular ground kitchen gardens. 11 widows harvested and sold seeds to fellow widows in their circles. We also distributed 6,420 grams of vegetable seeds and provided US\$1998 in seed fund for group savings and lending scheme.



We also trained 22 Nyanam widows from 14 leadership circles on soap making in partnership with Amevivina Care and supported by Women in the Window International. Of the 14 circles trained, 8 have committed to exploring soap making as a cooperative business venture. They have pulled their resources to purchase equipment and raw materials needed for their second soap making. Their goal is to perfect their skills and eventually sell soap in shops in Kenya.



## LEADERSHIP

Womanhood has many facets. The “widow” aspect is the least prepared for. When the loss of a husband happens, a woman is plunged into the sole responsibility of being a mother, father, and everything to her children. As she battles grief, she is forced to remain steadfast for her family to make effective decisions and meet needs. At Nyanam, we see and treat widows as leaders. That is why we call widow-support groups as leadership circles.

This year, we welcomed 214 new widows from 9 new leadership circles in Nyanam family, making the total number of widows reached as of 2023 to 780. We gifted each widow a new Luo Bible, as the foundation for their own transformation. The Bibles help widows connect more with God as they spur each other's spiritual gifts.

We also received requests from 51 widow groups that wanted to join Nyanam in 2024. We trained 48 of these groups reaching 1108 widows with our leadership circles curriculum. Based on our eligibility criteria, 34 of the trained groups with 735 widows will be join Nyanam in 2024, doubling our reach from 700 to 1400 widows.

*“We kept on hearing about Nyanam and wanted to know exactly who they were. After our sister shared about her experience during the burial of her sister Mary in Kisumu, we felt the need to know more about Nyanam. So, word went round about a housing launch, and we sent two of our members to the first housing launch in Kisumu west that took place at Mama Silbia’s home. We didn’t introduce ourselves and just stayed and observed. From what we saw, we were sure we wanted to be part of Nyanam. And from there, we were encouraged by the unity and love that we saw with Nyanam widows’ display. So, we came back and shared our experience with the groups, they too were encouraged, and we decided it would be great to have Nyanam visit us.”*

**– A new widow waiting to join Nyanam in 2024, from Mond Ruoth Malele Circle**





## 600 NYANAM WIDOWS CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY - JUNE 23

Each year, we celebrate June 23rd, International Widows Day with all Nyanam Widows. This day gives us an opportunity to gather as one family, bring widows and all our partners together for the celebration.

We celebrated this year's International Widows' Day with 600 Nyanam widows in Kisumu, and 42 Nyanam partners in Nairobi. In Kisumu, we had NGO partners, county government officials, and local politicians participate. 138 widows received free legal aid services from FIDA-Kenya, Transparency International-Kenya and KELIN. 264 widows received free medical screening offered by Ober Kamoth Sub-County Hospital. The medical services included cervical cancer screening, family planning, fertility counselling, HIV testing, TB, Malaria and blood pressure screening. In addition, we partnered with Elisha Dinga, a community optometrist who offered 70 widows free eye screening services and basic medications. We invite partners with eyeglasses to support our next year's IWD eye care services.

*"The foundation of all Nyanam trainings is rooted in the word of God. We start all training with an in-depth bible study. From these trainings, I have made a step forward in the word of God and pray daily for the expansion of Nyanam".*

**- A Nyanam widow leader**





## YOUTH EDUCATION

Our program for widows' children has quickly grown. From developing our first strategy in 2022, to doing full implementation of the different projects in 2023. We sought to improve the children's actions in environmental care, sustainable livelihoods and comprehensive health..

In our environmental stewardship youth camp, the children learnt about climate change, the relationship between human beings and environment and God's design for humans living in harmony with the environment.

In our comprehensive health youth camp, the children learnt about how to care for their 1) mental health, 2) physical health, 3) sexual and reproductive health, and 4) social health.

We also trained 30 youth mentors and 21 widow matrons on comprehensive health education internal curriculum. The mentors will lead multiplication of this training in their mentorship circles.

**100**

children receive secondary school scholarships

**352**

children participate on 2-day youth camp on environmental stewardship

**500**

children participate in 4-day camp on comprehensive health

**800**

Pawpaw fruit trees planted by the children at their homes

**397**

child owned chicken per child distributed

**500**

Gravelia trees planted by the children at their homes

**1398**

Dignity packs containing sanitary pads, panties for girls and boxers for boys distributed



## MY LIFE HAS TOTALLY CHANGED

I have been in Nyanam for a year and four months as a youth mentor. For the period I have been in Nyanam, my life has totally changed.

I have loved the teaching they provide for us as youth mentors and additional support they give us while we impact the lives of other youth in our groups.

Personally, Nyanam has helped me live and lead a positive life. Through their annual youth mentors' trainings, I have been able to improve my interaction and facilitation skills. These skills and knowledge are a huge addition to my life and dream job of becoming a teacher someday.

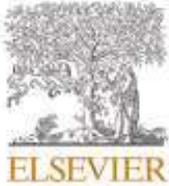
In August, they trained us in youth led sustainable agriculture. In addition to this training, they gave us each of us 2 pawpaw tree fruit seedlings and a hybrid chick to care for. This agricultural support was superb ❤️❤️.

My life as a young person has just simply improved. For now, I know how to live a stress-free and a healthy life.

Dear youth, we are the future leaders of Nyanam who will ensure the continuity of this organization, so let's work together in peace and love as we have always done.

**MOVEN Orwa, Nyanam youth mentor.**





## Comparing the effect of a multisectoral agricultural intervention on HIV-related health outcomes between widowed and married women

Jackline A. Odhiambo<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Sheri D. Weiser<sup>c</sup>, Edward A. Frongillo<sup>d</sup>, Rachel L. Burger<sup>e</sup>, Elly Weke<sup>f</sup>, Pauline Wekesa<sup>f</sup>, Elizabeth A. Bukusi<sup>f</sup>, Craig R. Cohen<sup>g</sup>

<sup>a</sup> School of Public Health and Community Development, Maseno University, Maseno, Kenya

<sup>b</sup> Nyanam Widows Rising, Kisumu, Kenya

<sup>c</sup> Department of Medicine, University of California San Francisco, CA, USA

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<sup>f</sup> Centre for Microbiology Research, Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kenya

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## RESEARCH FOR ADVOCACY AND POLICY CONTRIBUTIONS

For holistic change, social change must be supported by improved cultural, legal and policy environment. This year, led by our Executive Director, we published research that compared the effects of a livelihood intervention on HIV health outcomes among widowed and married women living with HIV. While widowed women experienced similar benefits to married women on outcomes of depression, food security, internalized HIV stigma (individual-level outcomes), widows had weaker benefits on outcomes dependent on their external environment such as enacted HIV stigma and social support. This study showed the need for interventions that bolster stigma reduction among widows.

In addition, we shared lessons from this and other ongoing research in regional and international conferences, especially at Annual Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy Week held in Lilongwe, Malawi and Inter-CFAR HIV and Women Symposium held in San Francisco, California, USA.

*"It is my first time to come to Nyanam training as a trainer. I didn't believe that I can train. Now I am confident I can lead, stand in front of other widows and facilitate learning. Nyanam trainings have equipped me to be a better facilitator. Thank you Nyanam for the great opportunity"*

**-Alice- A Nyanam lead farmer**

*"I hope one day we will have a country where widows are not consistently marginalized and discriminated against in the family, community and society at large"*

**Perez - Nyanam widow paralegal**



**Africa  
where  
widows  
thrive**



## **Expanding Voice of Change**

**1**

Increase our reach of widows from 1400 in 2024, to 10,000 by 2030. Increase leadership circles and widows trained as Voice of Change trainers and mentors

**2**

Partner with other community-embedded organizations to scale Voice of Change to communities outside the Lake Region

**3**

Research to evaluate our work and to generate evidence that can influence policy to improve the cultural, legal and policy environments for all widows.





## **NYANAM'S OUTREACH TO MOUNT ELGON - TRAUMA HEALING FOR 165 WIDOWS IN A POST WAR SETTING**

Nyanam received invitation by It takes a Village Grace Ministry to address widows at a women's conference in Mt. Elgon in Transzoia County.

Mt. Elgon is a post-conflict setting where widows bear wounds of war. Sometimes husbands and children are assumed dead because they disappeared during the war. On top of the costs of war, widows experience extreme stigmatisation. In tears, one widow likened widowhood in their community to having leprosy, nobody wants to be near you. They talked about dispossession, including your bed taken away by in-laws.

We focused our one-day session on trauma healing, a powerful experience, that allowed many tears to roll, hurts and wounds to be drawn on pieces of paper, that we delivered to a symbolic cross and then burned as we sang in a loud chorus.

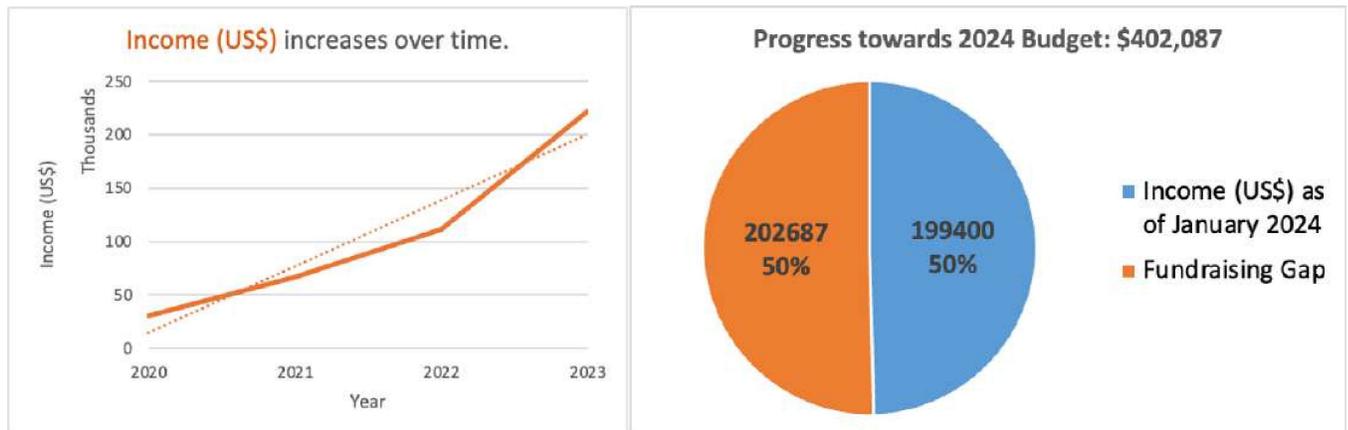
The widows requested Nyanam to partner with them to impact the lives of over 10,000 widows in Transzoia county.





## Fund our Strategy and Systems Development

The graphs on the right show our trends in revenue generation in the past four years and our budget and revenue gaps for 2024. With the additional support, we are doubling our reach from 700 to 1400 widows, impacting widows through Voice of Change and the support activities for this intervention. In addition, these resources will help us address the opportunities below.



## Opportunities and Challenges

### Help fund our scale strategy

To reach 10,000 widows with Voice of Change in the next 5 years

### Help mitigate the effect of climate change on our livelihoods program

Invest in 500 vertical gardens and water wells

### Help develop systems for sustainability and efficiency of our work

Land and infrastructure for Nyanam Center

A company vehicle





## KEEPING OUR SPARK ALIVE

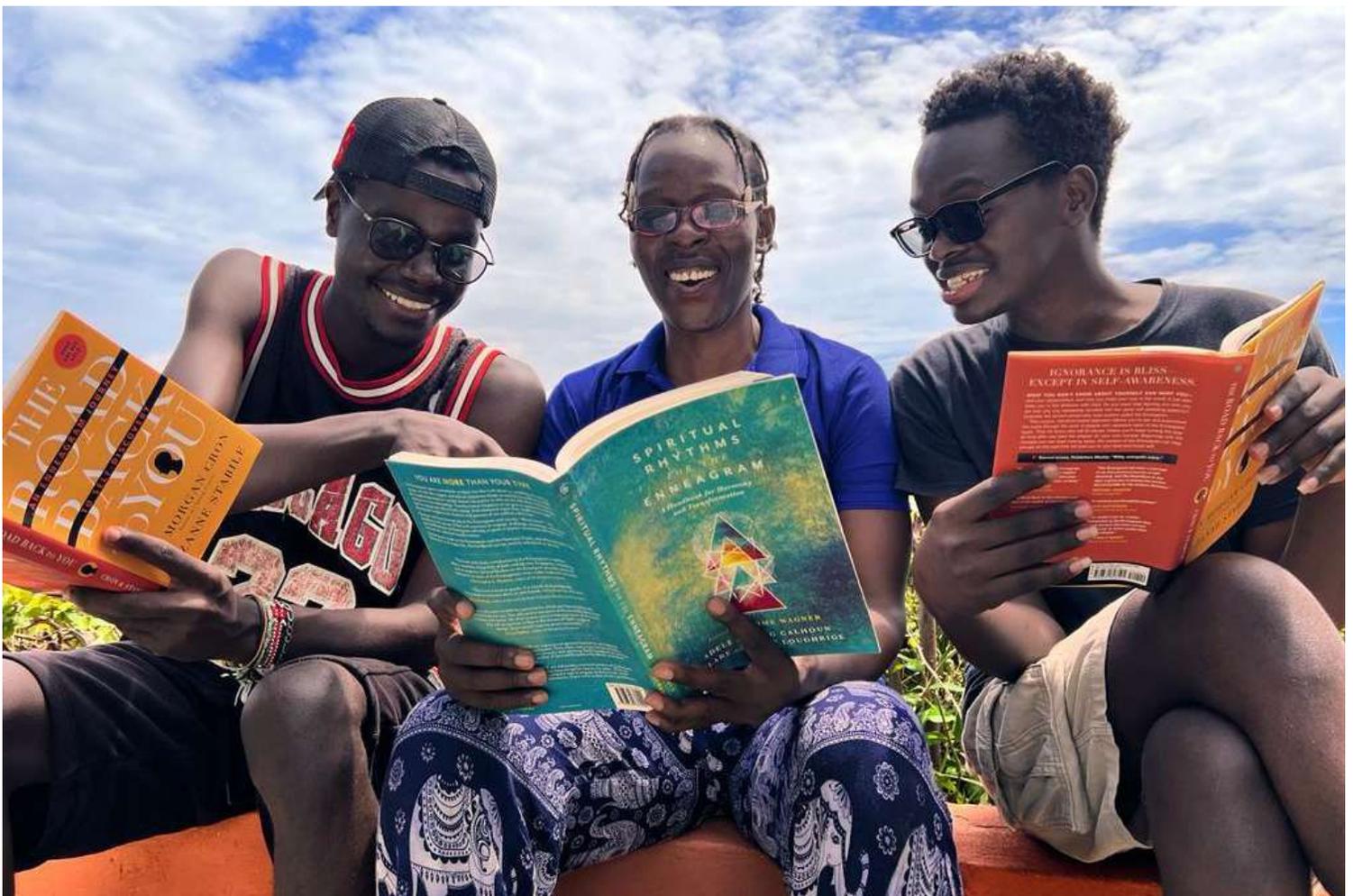
This year, we read Ruth Haley Barton's "Strengthening the soul of your leadership."

This reading enabled us to identify signs of a fatigued leader, embrace our limits, seek help when we need it. Leadership can be lonely, is demanding, and requires ongoing rhythms of rest and renewal.

We are grateful for the Keep the Spark Alive grant from Imago Dei Fund that enables our team to go for annual retreats to rest and renewal.

In 2024 we are advancing our team's self-awareness through team reading of: Spiritual Rhythms for the Enneagram by Adele and Dough Calhoun and Claire and Scott Loughrige and The Road Back to You - Enneagram Journey to Self-Discovery by Ian Morgan Cron.

We have created our reading plan for 2024 including 2 hour weekly book reflections during Team Tuesday. Team Tuesday is our weekly culture to take a break from our day to day work, and focus on our wellbeing.



# Our team

We are grateful for the amazing work our team of staff does. Nyanam is founded and staffed by Kenyans who are native to the region in which we work.



**Jackie Odhiambo**  
CEO Founder



**Clifford Ochieng**  
Operations



**Evelyn Odhiambo**  
Youth / Comms



**Nicodemus Aguma**  
Leadership/ Programs



**Daniel Jaoko**  
M & E



**Eunice Otieno**  
Health



**Jotham Oyugi**  
Livelihoods



**Teresa Wagumba**  
Human rights and justice



**Jacinta Ojil**  
Youth / Admin



**Romanus Kiamba**  
Accountant



**Beryl Ochieng**  
Liaison



**Rebecca Dero**  
Liaison

## STAFF OF THE YEAR

I come from Konyango village in Kisumu County, Kenya. In 2021, I made a bold and beautiful move that I still celebrate. After graduating from Nairobi University, I moved back home to use my skills, talent and knowledge to give back to my community, and support my sisters' (Jackie's) efforts in building Nyanam to supporting women like our widowed mother, Rebecca. This move not only opened my eyes to the resilience of widows, it also strengthened my commitment to young people.

I joined Nyanam fully aware of the difference I wanted to make in the lives of widows' children. Nyanam had structured programs for widows, but little for their children. I set to strengthen activities for widows' children, developing a 3-year strategy and building a youth mentorship program. I forged forward working with the entire team to deliver the best services to our mothers and their children. Our love, and commitment for them remains a reminder of God's call to care widows and orphans.

Fast forward, this year, Nyanam staff honored me and my work by voting me the best employee of the year 2023. This unexpected moment sparked another light in my life, a fresher PASSION was ingrained in my heart. I love my work and everyday I do it like there's no tomorrow. I am inspired to inspire others. My prayer is for a constant renewal of love, commitment and passion for my work at Nyanam.

At our annual general meeting, our Board Chair Teddy reminded us that, passion is the ultimate driver of success. "You cannot compete with someone with a passion" he said. I am delighted to continue doing the great work of serving widows and their children in our country and beyond someday.

**Thank you** Nyanam Widows and your children for allowing us to serve you, staff who continue to work tirelessly and with lots of love to provide the best to widows and their children, and Jackie for the guidance and amazing leadership. Let PASSION live.



### **EVELYN ODHIAMBO**

**YOUTH AND COMMUNICATIONS  
MANAGER**

# Partner Visits

We are truly grateful for these amazing partners who walked the 2023 journey with us. Thank you for your support and Nyanam treasures you. Rows from left to right: Onsite ICF, Amevivina Care, Imago Dei Fund, Women in the window International, Kisumu County Commissioner, Segal Family Foundation, Kickstart International, Widow with R



# Our partners

## Funding partners



## Implementing partners



### Individual Donors

- Steve and Elizabeth Nielsen
- Harrison's family
- Andrew and Kelsey Morgosh
- Sarah and Kevin Storer
- Donna Denelli-Hess
- Rachel Silverstein
- Joseph Deitch
- Euria Chung
- Cheryl Shanks
- Tommy Nicastro
- Simon Ndunda
- Imane Rharbi
- Margaret Rudy
- Esther Mwanthie
- Evelyn Odhiambo
- Sola Haye
- Nai Chien Yeat
- Phanice Obasi
- Doris Mbabu
- Refiloe Damane
- Lucia Dipo

# Our Board



**Teddy Onserio**

Board Chair



**Grace Kinda**

Secretary



**Yvonne Bungei**

Treasurer



**Bethany Dixon**

Member



**Emmy Lippold**

Member



**Claudia Gisemba**

Member



**Angie Okhupe**

Member



**Jackie Odhiambo**

Member

## Our 2023 Consultants/Interns



**Inga Kimaru**

Fundraising



**Brynn Oakley**

Youth/Comms



**Chris Lonex**

Graphic Design



**Whitney Onserio**

Youth/Comms



**Marvin Ochieng**

Finance

