

— 2025 —

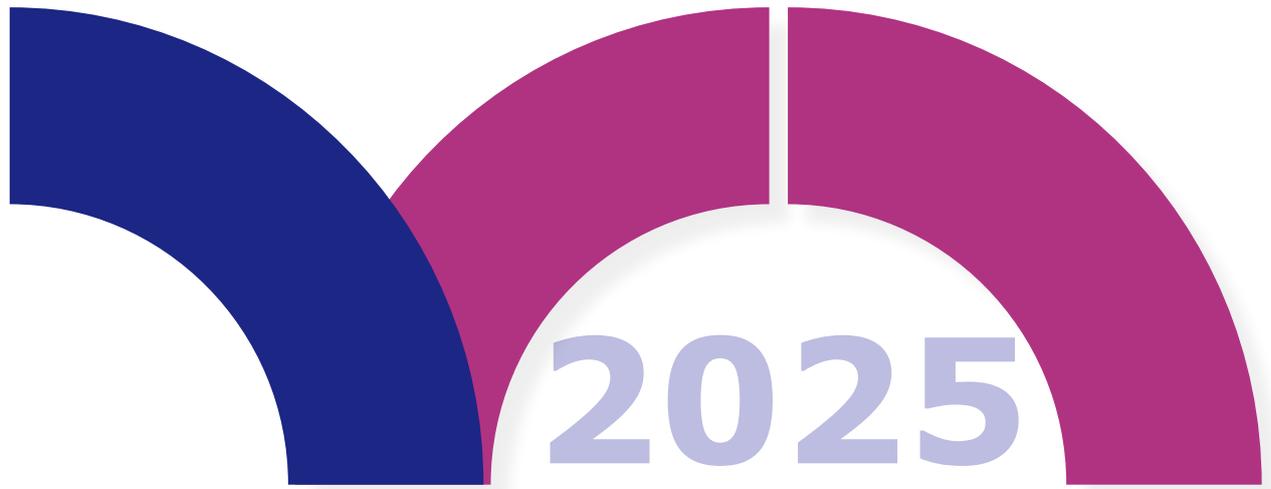
Annual Report



Nyanam
widows rising



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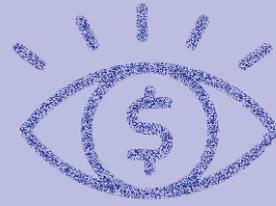
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Our Vision

Imagine a world where widows are treated as whole and worthy. We envision Africa where widows and their children thrive.



Our Mission

We prepare widows and their children to lead positive community transformation through integrated programs in leadership, holistic wellbeing and sustainable livelihoods.



Executive Director's Message

Isaiah 6:8

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"



Friends, journey with me through this 2025 annual report to discover what a year of transition meant for Nyanam. Firstly, 2025 marked the conclusion of the first chapter of Nyanam: 7 years of building from idea to impact. In those 7 years, our human capital grew from 1 staff member to 15 full time staff, with 40 widow mentors, 232 widow trainers, 30 youth mentors, and 105 youth trainers. The number of widows and their children served also grew from 80 to 3300 widows (40-fold growth) with up to 1500 widows' children engaging in our annual youth camp and monthly mentorship sessions.

Our financial capital also grew from \$29,000 to \$758,000 (26-fold growth) in annual revenues. For the first time in 2025, we surpassed our fundraising goal at 105%, a reflection of the support from 12 foundations and institutional funders, 4 church sponsors, 31 individuals giving monthly, annually and one-time gifts. What makes our partnership relationships special is that they go beyond the dollars. Several of our donors are our prayer partners, thought partners, and our wellbeing supporters. We are also strengthening our processes for accounting for the in-kind support that we receive from our local community.

In 2025, we also felt the impact of the 7-year marathon on our team culture and leadership, with invitations to evolve to meet the needs at hand. We are on a transition from a start up to a growth organization. We are intentionally investing in team coaching, and systems strengthening to navigate the joys and pains of growth well. We are streamlining

staff roles, developing our senior management and board, so we can optimize our functions across the whole organization.

At personal level, 2025 revealed the depth of my physical and emotional exhaustion. Thanks to my board and team holding the fort, I took my first mini sabbatical of six weeks of total rest from work and technology. The fruits of this period for my wellbeing and that of the organization are innumerable. We are working on ways of making it possible for staff across the organization to take a mini sabbatical during their seventh year of service. Importantly, we are making rest normal and regular, be ensuring staff fully utilize their leave days and reclaim as rest, hours of work beyond expected periods.

This annual report is full of heartfelt stories from our team, the widows we serve and their children, our board, and partners. As you reflect on these stories and impact we made together in 2025, I warmly welcome you to the second chapter of Nyanam: 2026-2032.

This new season will be defined by strategic growth from 3000 to 30,000 widows, a growth that will be possible as we work with community partners to implement our unique widow-centric intervention – Voice of Change. In this new season, we want to help 10,000 widows' children identify their dreams and be set on the path to achieving those dreams. In this new season, we aim to finally establish, Nyanam Village, a dream of a well-resourced community centre that serve widows and their children.

What's your vision as you partner with us in this new season?

Isaiah 6:8: *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

About Nyanam

Widowhood stigma is the root cause of the social and economic deprivations widows suffer, affecting their health and wellbeing. In Kenya's Lake Victoria region, one in three widows experiences this deep-seated stigma. Widowhood stigma heightens widows' social isolation, sexual vulnerabilities, and economic exploitation. The loss of social belonging exacerbates loneliness and relationship conflicts, creating a cycle of mental health challenges and a lack of social and economic support.

Nyanam exists to break this cycle. Our strategy organizes widows into leadership circles that meet weekly, and where widows find peer connections that offer spiritual, emotional, and material support. We believe in establishing this foundation of solidarity before we begin the work of addressing widowhood stigma. We then train widows to be confident, and competent leaders of community transformation through our novel Voice of Change curriculum. Once widows are enrolled in our mission, we accompany their children through education scholarships and thematic annual trainings launched at a 4-day youth camp and implemented through youth circles that meet monthly.

The past 7 years, we have grown from 80 to over 3000 widows. As we look to the future, we seek to serve 30,000 widows by 2032. We will achieve this growth through implementing Voice of Change with partners such as churches and other community-based organisations.



Our Core Programs

Imagine one methodology for delivering variety of interventions. This is what we have created at Nyanam. At the heart of our work is the Voice of Change (VoC) curriculum, a unique peer led and participatory methodology we have created to nurture the spiritual, emotional, social and economic wellbeing of widows. Widows love VoC because it is anchored on Biblical widowhood stories, it creates safe and bold spaces for widows to share their own personal stories, and it culminates in social action projects that position widows as change leaders in their communities. Over the past five years, we have refined this proprietary solution with direct input from the widows we serve. We have now simplified VoC design and delivery to ensure it remains an effective, holistic and widow-centric tool for transformation. We are ready to implement this solution with partners.

In 2025, we conducted two organizational assessments to provide data that can inform our structure and growth plans. The first, a human resource and program alignment analysis created a window for restructuring, building on a core approach of our work, integration. To this end, we reduced our programmatic areas from five to now three:



This restructuring allows us to deliver our mission with greater focus and depth. We also took part in a comprehensive Institutional Development Framework Assessment through which we have identified monitoring and evaluation systems and well as human resources systems as key operational areas for strengthening in 2026.

	Leadership	Sustainable Livelihoods	Holistic Wellbeing
Training	Widows' Voice of Change Trainings Self-leadership Parenting Servant leadership Peacemaking	Agroecology Microbusiness Asset management Land rights	Trauma healing Preventative health Health ageing Prevention of sexual violence
	Youth trainings Self-esteem Access to education	Technology and entrepreneurship Environmental care	Comprehensive health Child human rights Child grief intervention
Support activities	Induction Orientation School fee support	Access to clean water Dignified housing Seed fund Court fees Legal Clinics Community sensitization	Counselling Elderly day

Board message



Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” – Isaiah 43:19

Dear Friends of Nyanam:

In last year’s Annual Report, our Executive Director, Jackie, announced that 2025 will mark not only Nyanam’s seventh anniversary but also a time for celebration, recommitment to God, and planning for a new season of growth for the organization. It has been an honour to witness Nyanam’s work over the past seven years, and to celebrate and thank God for the impact we have achieved. As Nyanam’s Board Secretary, I am honoured to celebrate and reflect on Nyanam’s great journey with all of you.

At the beginning of each board meeting, we start with a prayer. We seek provision, guidance, wisdom, and the ability to serve widows. We also pray for a sustainable future that empowers widows, their children, and their communities to thrive. Nyanam has evolved from a single program into a comprehensive, multi-faceted initiative aimed at improving the leadership, wellbeing and livelihoods of thousands of widows in the Lake Region. To date, Nyanam has provided holistic support to over 3,000 widows and their children, with more signing up to join the network. Indeed, God has been paving the way for Nyanam.

In 2025, Nyanam’s storytelling reached a global audience. From the Spotlight Africa at the United Nations General Assembly in New York to the Gathering Conference with Praxis in Florida, and at Africa Widows Summit in Namibia and beyond, Nyanam’s impactful stories garnered critical acclaim. This extensive outreach was made possible by a strong community of mentors and partners, such as the Segal Family Foundation, Imago Dei Fund and Praxis among others, who supported our staff in representing Nyanam at these events. We are grateful to all our partners, prayer partners, and friends who have shared their strength with us since Day 1, and new friends who have joined us along the way.

As we enter 2026, we have a clear goal: By 2030, we aim to holistically support 30,000 widows in Kenya—through direct and partnership implementation of the Voice of Change Curriculum. This strategy will impact ten times as many widows as we are currently serving. We have also begun the initiative to re-brand as Africa Widows Rising to align our strategy and vision. Achieving this ambitious goal requires strengthening our structures, processes, and systems to ensure the sustainable growth of Nyanam’s work. We invite you to join us on this journey toward 2030.

Celebrating 7 years of positive impact

The story of Nyanam begins on the shores of Lake Victoria with Jackie, our founder and Executive Director. Now with a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health, Jackie was raised by three widows: her late grandmother Wilikister, her late aunt Peninah, and her mother Rebecca. Throughout her life, she witnessed firsthand the loneliness and financial hardships that shadowed the lives of the women who raised her.

When Jackie received the opportunity to further her studies in the United States at Williams College, she carried their stories with her. She

made a simple and powerful prayer: "May my education make my mother proud and serve the women who raised me." Today, that prayer has been answered, not only through her mother's pride but through the lives of 3,300 widows within the Nyanam community.

Nyanam's journey has unfolded through seasons of listening, learning and growing:



We celebrated seven years of equipping widows and their children with the tools, skills, and knowledge to tackle oppressive cultures and transform their communities.

We celebrated God's faithfulness to Nyanam, the widows we serve and their children, and to our team. We look forward with anticipation to what the next seven years hold.

Leadership

5100
widows in 137 leadership circles reached

67 Leadership Circles (1783 widows) invitation phase

116 Leadership circles (2780 widow) preparation phase

521 transformation phase

232
widows trained as trainers

40 widows trained as mentors each supervising 6 widow circles with 120 widows

1500
widows' children served

201 awarded secondary and technical school scholarships

Sustainable livelihoods

KES 229,500

seed fund distributed for table-banking with widows registering 207% growth in the fund to KES 705,460 within 3 years

735
Multi-storey gardens distributed to improve household food production

105
rainwater harvesting systems installed in widow-led households

16 dignified houses built

Holistic wellbeing

63
widows trained as peer counsellors providing support to their leadership circles

163,260
hours of individual counselling sessions recorded

2721 widows ever counselled

2240 widows' children ever counselled

483
elderly widows receive annual cash support of \$12 each

2025 impact in numbers

Program Goal	Outcome	2024	2025
Holistic Wellbeing	The proportion of widows registered with health insurance cover (SHA)	17%	44%
	The proportion of widows experiencing depression symptoms	65%	29%
	The proportion of widows' children reporting high sense of self-worth	59%	92%
Sustainable Livelihood	Proportion of widows reporting income that meet their living costs	33%	46%
	Percentage increase in widows' household income from the sale of surplus vegetables grown in multi-storey gardens	5%	7%
	Proportion of widows acquiring their late husband death certificates	63%	74%
Leadership	Proportion of widows reporting improved community perception.	80%	96%
	Proportion of widows reporting improved Self-perception.	80%	96%
	Proportion of widows reporting improved in-laws / family perception.	80%	95%
	Proportion of widows reporting relationship conflicts within their families.	29%	34%
	proportion of widow's children supported with school fees retained and complete secondary school and post-secondary education	90%	99%

521 widows enter Transformation Phase

In 2025, 521 widows officially graduated from our three-year Voice of Change training, moving into the widow-led transformation phase of our work. The graduating class continue their weekly gathering for peer support, table banking activities. They now design, implement, and evaluate their own social action projects to improve their wellbeing and shift how they are perceived and treated. By leading these change projects within their own communities, they are proving that widows are not victims to be helped, but leaders to be prepared. This milestone is made possible by our unique intervention, Voice of Change (VoC). Rooted in our core values of deep listening and capacity exchange, VoC is a widow-centric, Bible-informed curriculum that seeks to unpack the difficult experiences of widowhood. It empowers women to devise actions that bring meaningful



change to their lives. Created to be delivered by widows, for widows, the curriculum covers essential topics including parenting, food security, and human and land rights.

Since our inception in 2017, we have trained 3,300 widows through this solution. By listening to the stories and wisdom of our members, we have refined VoC into a copyrighted, adaptable product. The graduation of these 521 leaders is a testament to the strength of this curriculum and the enduring resilience of the women we serve.

Scaling Voice of Change with partners

Our vision, an Africa where widows thrive, is our guiding star. Driven by our mission to prepare widows for positive community transformation, we are ready to reach 30,000 widows by 2032. We will achieve this through our unique solution, the Voice of Change (VoC), and its integrated focus on leadership development, holistic well-being, and sustainable livelihoods.

This year, we took a bold step toward this goal. Supported by the Imago Dei Fund, we piloted the VoC with 84 widows in close collaboration with three partners across Kisii, Bungoma, and urban Kisumu. This initiative formalized the VoC as a rigorous, evidence-based approach that can be replicated across the continent.

The impact of this pilot has been profound, particularly in the realm of trauma healing. We observed a substantial reduction in depressive symptoms among participants, as measured



by the PHQ2 scale, dropping from 51% at the baseline to just 9% at the endline.

These results lay a strong foundation and set us ready to scale our impact and bring us a step closer to Africa where every widow has the opportunity to lead and succeed. This is the power and the opportunity that the Voice of Change brings.

We now invite more partners to join us in scaling this life-transforming solution across Kenya and Africa. Your continued partnership is vital as we expand our reach and equip more widows to become catalysts for change.

Voice of Change-Trauma Healing Pilot results

51%

Depression symptoms at baseline

23.64

Mean agency score at baseline

23.64

Mean stigma score at baseline, indicating initial perceptions

9%

Depression symptoms dropped by over 40 percentage points in the study.

29.49

Mean agency score at endline, reflecting confidence

1.60

Mean stigma score at endline, showing positive shifts

Pilot partners



RHEMA CHURCH



2025 International Widows Day

Every year on 23 June, we celebrate International Widows' Day. This year's celebration brought together the larger community that supports widows in Kenya including funding and implementing partners, government officials, widows, Nyanam board and staff.. Our theme was: The Power of Widows' Leadership in Catalysing Positive Community Change. We celebrated and amplified widows as leaders at home and in the community.

With support and presence from: Livelihood Impact Fund, Imago Dei Fund, FIDA Kenya, TI Kenya, Onsite ICF, Restoring Vision, Equity Bank, Nyanam Widows, Blood: Water, Segal Family Foundation, First Presbyterian Church, IFAGE, Tropical Focus for Rural Development, Five Talents and individual donors, we ensured an unforgettable celebration where:



Local and Global recognition

2025 was the year God showed a bright light on our mission of preparing widows as leaders. Our work is anchored in the book of James 1:27, where a beloved religion is one that cares for widows and orphans in their distress. We received multiple recognitions locally and internationally.

Fighting for Fairness Award by Segal Family Foundation

Jackie received the Fighting for Fairness Award from Segal Family Foundation, an honour that spotlighted how at Nyanam amplifies the voices and power of widows, a historically marginalised group. It also reflected the legacy of Segal's founder, Barry Segal, who used his wealth to fight for fairness. This award lights up the path ahead and affirms the essential nature of our mission.



Bicentennial Award by Williams College Award

Jackie was among five other Williams alums whom the college honoured with their prestigious Bicentennial Medal. Williams College recognised Jackie's distinguished achievements in human rights and Nyanam's work to restore autonomy and dignity for widows.



Affirmative Action Champion Award - Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA-Kenya)

In October, Nyanam was honoured with the 2025 FIDA-Kenya Affirmative Action Award. This prestigious recognition celebrates our unwavering commitment to equipping widows with the leadership tools and legal knowledge they need to reclaim their rights.





Top 100 Kenyans in 2025

In November, Jackie, was recognized among the Top 100 Kenyans in 2025. This national honour reflects her outstanding leadership and unwavering commitment to social justice and women’s empowerment. For Nyanam, this recognition validates our belief that when widows are empowered, the entire nation notices.

Senior Leadership Team Message

Daniel Jaoko – Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

2025 marked a significant milestone in the history of Nyanam Widows Rising, commemorating seven years of existence. The year provided an opportunity for the organization to pause, reflect on its journey, and celebrate this important jubilee. This year has been one of Nyanam’s growth, learning, and purposeful action—guided by our mission to prepare widows to lead positive transformation within their families and communities.

In preparation to implement our solution through partnerships, we piloted our Voice of Change (VoC) intervention with diverse organizations (Churches and Community Based Organization) working with widows across diverse cultural contexts (an urban setting, a post-conflict setting, and other rural settings). The results indicate that the Voice of Change is culturally adaptable and acceptable beyond the Lake Victoria region.

Pre-post evaluation findings demonstrate significant improvements in mental health and psychosocial well-being among widows who participated in the 8-week VoC-trauma-healing intervention. Specifically, the prevalence of depressive symptoms measured by PHQ-2 declined substantially from 51% at baseline to 9% at endline, while agency scores increased significantly, indicating enhanced empowerment, coping skills, and confidence among the participants in navigating the challenges associated with widowhood.

These outcomes underscore the strong potential for scaling the VoC curriculum to additional regions beyond the Lake Victoria area where the programme has operated over the past seven years.

We are deeply grateful to the widows who place their trust in Nyanam, to our committed staff, widow mentors, widow’s trainers and to our partners and supporters who believe in our mission. On behalf of the Management Team, we thank you for walking this journey with us. Together, we are building a future where widowhood does not define limitation but marks the beginning of renewed purpose and leadership.



Widows' Programs

Servant Leadership

Goal: To increase the number of widows connected in Leadership Circles

Newly enrolled leadership circles in 2025



I met Nyanam in Gem Akala in my sister's place, I pretended to be sister's guest but I was aiming at inviting Nyanam into my community. Today, I am happy more so receiving a copy of Luo Bible. May God bless Nyanam.-
Benter, Cham Kitindo widows

June was a monumental month for our community. We welcomed 74 new Leadership Circles (LCs), bringing 1,836 new widows into the Nyanam family, a two-fold growth from 1480 widows in 2024. This incredible expansion ensures that more widows than ever will have the opportunity to experience our transformative programs and find their path to thriving.

As a framework for meaningful action, each new widow received a Bible in their local language made possible through the generous support of First Presbyterian Church and Women in the Window International. As a Bible-informed organization, we train widows to read the Bible from a liberative justice lens, discovering the good news that they are loved by God

and humanity is called love and care for the vulnerable in our society. The Bible is our commitment to nurturing both practical skills and spiritual wellbeing of Nyanam widow.

We trained 40 Nyanam widow mentors on Narrative Inductive Bible Study, facilitated by Women in the Window International. Over a week, the mentors visited 29 wards in 101 villages, training all the 1836 new widows on Narrative Inductive Bible Study too. This training forms the foundation of Bible study skills that are built on in our Voice of Change curriculum, that helps widows connect their own stories to the widowhood narratives in the Bible, discovering God's heart and renewing their hope to lead with empathy and insight.

Prospective leadership circles in 2026

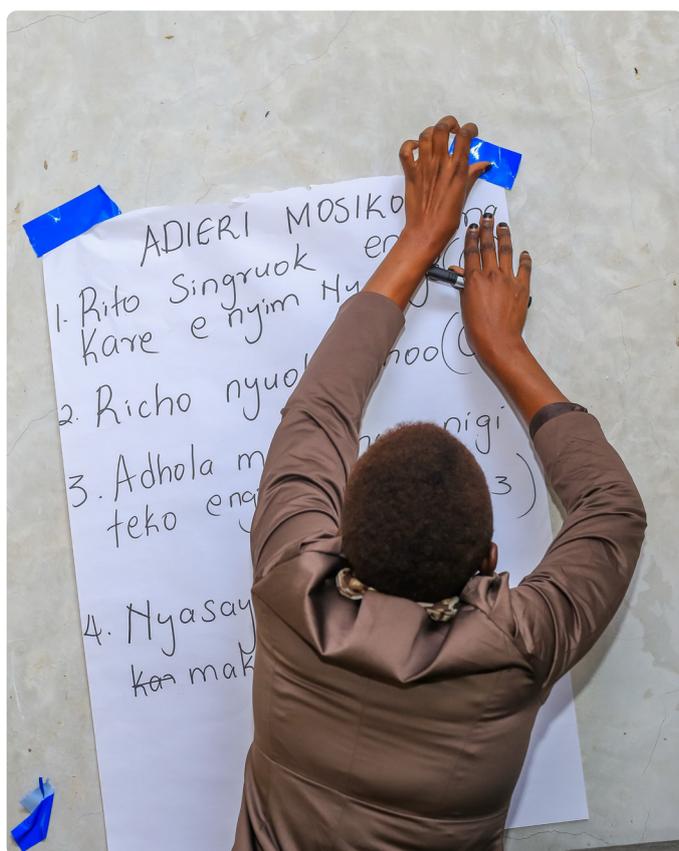


Thank you Nyanam for remembering widows from Asembo Kolal, we as the widows from this locality are always left out we are just getting this information from the Radio and even television, today our hope is restored ." -
Beldine, a widow

Each year in September, we visit new groups of widows who seek to join Nyanam. Over a week-long period, our staff and widow mentors visited 89 new groups with 2389 widows to learn of their dreams and hopes and share our mission. Of these, 67 circles with 1794 widows were ready to join the second phase of our work - Voice of Change – and will be enrolled in June

2026 during celebration of International Widows Day. The remaining are still in the invitation phase, where widows spend time bonding and strengthening their own peer community of love, encouragement and mutual support. This continuous growth at Nyanam is a testament to the power of our model and the urgent demand for support and solidarity with widows.

Self-leadership training



From the training, I tested my leadership with my kids, I gave a piece of paper to note down my behaviors and how they see/perceive me, I was surprised with some of their responses, my children whom we laugh with eat together, said all the negative things about me, from my heart I am ready to learn to improve how my children and community perceive me. - **Mary, a Nyanam widow**

This year, we remained committed to equipping widows with the appropriate skills to strengthen their leadership at both personal and household levels. We implemented our widow centric Voice of Change (VoC) – Self-Leadership curriculum. The training was delivered using our structured cascade approach, by first training 17 widow mentors who subsequently trained 232 widow trainers. These widow trainers then facilitated an eight-week multiplication of the curriculum within their respective Leadership Circles, reaching widows across all 116 Nyanam operating LCs. An average of 68% of 2756 widows participated in the weekly trainings.

This insightful curriculum drew lessons from the story of the widow of Zarephath, as narrated in 1 Kings 17:8–16, where Nyanam widows reflected on key leadership qualities demonstrated by the widow and contextualized them within their own lived experiences. The Nyanam widow mentors offered technical support and guidance for the widows through weekly visits to the LCs during multiplication. Through this process, the intervention strengthened self-leadership, improved household decision-making, and reinforced widows’ roles as active leaders within their families and the wider community, contributing to more confident, resilient, and purpose-driven households.

Housing

“For many years I prayed for a safe place for my family. This new house has brought us peace, comfort, and joy. It is a blessing to live again without fear — I thank my group and Nyanam for remembering me.”



Dignified housing is a fundamental right and a necessary foundation for safety and stability, an important aspect towards alleviating widowhood stigma and restoring voices and dignity to widows and their children. Our commitment to providing 55 dignified houses for Nyanam widows by 2030 remains a core priority.

This year, we constructed five new homes for widow-led families, directly providing a secure home for 14 children. This achievement brings our total to 16 houses built since 2023. A house is more than just a shelter; for a widow and her children, it is a place of belonging and a shield against the vulnerabilities of displacement. We will continue our efforts to ensure that every Nyanam widow in need has access to a safe and dignified home, moving us closer to our goal, one home at a time.

Land ownership

Access, ownership, and control of land is crucial to ensuring sustainable livelihoods for widows and their children. This year, we filed a total of 35 inheritance cases in our local courts, bringing the total to 67 cases filed since 2023. Each case represents a widow’s courageous step toward claiming her legal rights and securing her intergenerational wealth for her children.

We celebrate Margaret Ogidho, a Nyanam widow is now the proud, legal owner of her late husband’s parcel of land. For us, this achievement is a source of immense pride. It is a tangible victory against the systemic exclusion widows often face. We have set a more audacious goal in 2026, to file 70 more land inheritance cases with our local courts. We remain steadfast in our belief that land ownership equals sustainable living, and we will continue to walk alongside our widows until their heritage is secured.



Increasing food security



Food security is at the heart of our work with widows and their children. This year, we intensified our support by ensuring widows have the tools and skills necessary to sustain their livelihoods regardless of the season.

Through our WASHMI project in partnership with Blood: Water, we distributed drip micro-irrigation systems to 105 widow households. These systems are essential for maintaining consistent vegetable production and enhancing household food security. Additionally, we continue to foster values-aligned partnerships to meet specific regional needs. In this year,

KickStart International donated 10 irrigation pumps to Nyanam widows living in the dry Kano lands. Kano is a region often devastated by the extremes of both floods and drought. These pumps provide widows with reliable access to water points, allowing them to tend to their multi-story gardens and ensuring their families have nutritious vegetables throughout the year.

By bridging the gap between water access and agriculture, we are empowering widows to move beyond subsistence and toward a future of food sovereignty within the widow households.

Holistic Well-being

Goal: To improve the health and wellbeing of widows and their children through preventative health, mental wellbeing, and increasing access to health insurance coverage.

63 peer counsellors trained to serve 63 widow circles

This year, through a partnership with the First Fruit Foundation, we significantly expanded our capacity to offer timely and accessible mental health support to widows and their children. Recognizing that healing often happens best in a community of peers, we trained 63 widow peer counsellors to work alongside our two professional counsellors.

This community-based and peer led approach enabled us to be immediately responsive to emerging needs from Nyanam widows. Using

both interpersonal and group talk therapy; we provided 513 individual widow counselling sessions, 14 group counselling sessions reaching 204 Nyanam widows, and 103 interpersonal talk therapy sessions with widows' children.

The impact of this expanded support is evident in our community, resulting in a significant reduction of depressive symptoms from 65% in 2024 to 29% in 2025. By equipping widows to support one another, we are building a sustainable ecosystem of holistic wellbeing.



“I’ve gained valuable knowledge, especially on how to relate better with my children.” – **Beatrice Odhiambo**

Prevention of sexual violence

12 % of Nyanam widows report having experienced sexual violence. This year, we confronted this reality directly through our Voice of Change -Human Rights and Sexual Violence training. We trained 126 widow trainers in this specialized curriculum, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to recognize their rights and protect their dignity. These leaders then multiplied this impact through weekly sessions, reaching a total of 967 Nyanam widows.

Central to this training was a reflection on the story of Tamar from Genesis 38. The widows drew parallels between their own lives and Tamar’s community, where widows had no voice and their remarriage were bound by cultural practices. They discussed how the laws of that time, similar to our times, grant men disproportionate power over women, particularly widows. Though cultural law permitted Tamar to remarry within the family, she was denied this right due to the family’s fear that she could be linked to the deaths of the earlier sons, an accusation Nyanam widows know too well.

In the safety of their leadership circles, Nyanam widows shared their own stories of sexual abuse. More importantly, they shared strategies for addressing sexual violence and established clear paths to ensure abuse is reported and justice is sought. By reclaiming their voices through the story of Tamar and their own experiences, they are moving from silence to social action.



Caring for the elderly widows



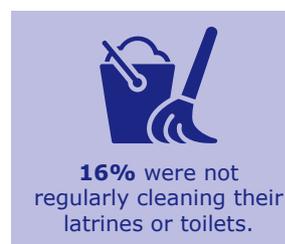
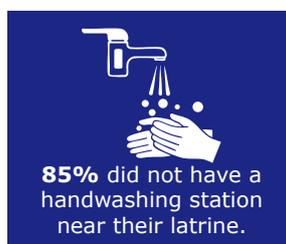
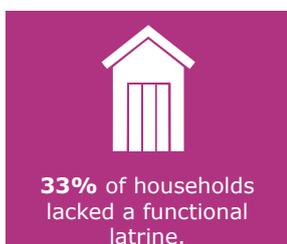
Nyanam is grounded in love, care, and compassion for widows. If anything, the first major ASK widows had for Nyanam was LOVE. We have intentionally cultivated a culture that honours the dignity, well-being, and sense of belonging of Nyanam widows. Each year, we bring together elderly widows (aged 75+ years) for a special reunion that creates space for reconnection, shared memories, and renewed community bonds. These gatherings offer moments of joy, healing, and emotional support, allowing our elder widows to reconnect with longtime peers and experience a sense of belonging .

During this year's annual elderly visit, 269 elderly widows came together to connect with each other and Nyanam. We offered 45 of them interpersonal talk therapy as well as group counselling sessions to bring hope and offer listening ear to struggles unique to women as they age. Each elder widow received a cash of KES 1,500 to meet personal needs. These moments reflect Nyanam's commitment to love, compassion, and holistic care as the foundation of our work and our continued dedication to nurturing community, dignity, and resilience among the widows we serve.

Rainwater Harvesting Systems for 105 widow-led Households

This year, we launched a vital new partnership with Blood: Water to bridge the gap between clean water access and agricultural productivity. This project is designed to improve the quality of life for Nyanam widows and their children in Kisumu and Siaya counties by improving household water accessibility and facilitating

climate-adaptive agriculture. To ensure our interventions were targeted and effective, we conducted a baseline survey of 105 selected households in the Osiri and Kano regions. The findings revealed significant gaps in hygiene and sanitation:



In response, these 105 households across 12 Leadership Circles received rainwater harvesting tanks and micro-irrigation systems fully installed in their multi-story gardens. This technology ensures that even during dry spells, families

have access to clean water and fresh, nutritious vegetables throughout the year.

In addition, using our unique, widow-centric solution, Voice of Change (VoC) Preventive

Health curriculum, specifically designed to tackle the unique health and WASH challenges widows face, we trained 21 widow mentors, who in turn trained 229 widow trainers from 115 widow circles. Through this structural leadership, the trained mentors and trainers multiplied the knowledge, reaching an average of 1,929 widows over nine weeks representing

70% of Nyanam widows. In addition, 43% of the widows' circles successfully implemented their Social Action projects in their communities, an improvement from about 20% in the previous years. As a result, hundreds of widows now own the basic WASH infrastructure and the confidence to prioritize their health and improve hygiene within their homes and communities.



From widowhood to leadership

Millicent Atieno – Widowed in 2007

My world turned upside down on March 13, 2007, when I was just 19 years old. I was already married, and my husband died after a short illness. He was buried three days later. The swiftness of it all—his sickness, his death, his burial—left me in disbelief. One minute I had a husband, the next I was alone with three children and a future I could no longer picture.

I thought the pain of losing him would be the hardest part. It wasn't. Soon after the burial, my in-laws began showing their true colours. My mother-in-law and sisters-in-law came and took two of my children, leaving me only with the youngest. They said I wouldn't stay long, that I would leave eventually. I remember overhearing them talking in hushed tones, saying there was nothing I could do.

And at that moment, they were right. I felt powerless. Before his death, my husband and I hadn't had an easy life. He didn't have a stable job.

We survived mostly through small-scale farming. Just before his passing, we had harvested groundnuts, sorghum, and maize. But after the funeral, all of that was taken by my in-laws. They claimed it belonged to their son. I was left with nothing. No food, no children to hold, no land, no one to stand up for me. Then came the talk of *tero*—widow inheritance. In Luo culture, this was expected. I was still very young, and my in-laws told me that if I wanted to remain on my husband's land, I had to be inherited.

It wasn't a request. It was a condition. I agreed, though I didn't feel ready. The man who

inherited me lived in a nearby trading centre. He wasn't abusive, but he wasn't exactly supportive either. When I asked my late husband's family for land to build a house, they told me to prove I was serious. So I sold the little I had left—some green grams I'd hidden—to buy building materials. They eventually gave me some round poles, and I began putting up a house. But my money ran out. The house was never finished.

So I started working. I weeded people's farms, fetched firewood to sell, and made charcoal. I walked long distances just to earn enough to buy a handful of nails or a sheet of iron. During rainy seasons, I would run home mid-task to find my children soaked in the leaking house. I would huddle them under the table and cover them with



“For years I lived in silence and struggle, but through Nyanam I found my voice again. Today, I stand tall — not just as a widow, but as a mother, a leader, and a woman who knows her worth.”

- **Millicent Atieno**

polythene. Water dripped from the roof and flooded the floor. The shame of it. The helplessness.

Eventually, I managed to save enough for 12 iron sheets. It wasn't much, but it was the beginning of a better shelter. When my son joined Form One, I didn't know how I would pay his fees. But I worked extra hard, juggled multiple jobs, and finally managed to send him to school. He completed Form Four two years ago, and that's one of my proudest achievements.

Come 2022 and everything began to shift. One of my co-wives told me about Nyanam. She said it was a place for widows, a place where women like us gathered, prayed, and supported each other. I was curious. I had never heard of such a group. When I joined, something inside me shifted. I walked into a room full of widows —each with her own pain, each with her own story—but all of us bound together by the common thread of survival. For the first time, I didn't feel strange or alone. I found healing through the Bible studies we held. We

read about women in scripture who had suffered just like us. We reflected, cried, laughed, and prayed.

We discovered that our stories were not new and that God had not abandoned us. Nyanam didn't stop at prayer. They supported our children, including mine. My second child had just joined Form One, and I was desperate for help. Nyanam gave me Sh5,000 towards school fees. That small act restored a piece of my dignity. They also gave us vegetable seeds for kitchen gardens. I planted mine, watered them with care, and soon I was harvesting sukuma wiki and spinach. I fed my children and sold the surplus at the market.

Slowly, the money began to flow. I joined the table banking group and started saving and borrowing to grow my little business. For the first time in years, I was not just surviving. I was building something. The training sessions at Nyanam changed my thinking. They taught me about my land rights, that I was entitled to a home, to inheritance, to leadership. They taught me that I could lead not only

in my household but also in the community. I was taught about HIV prevention, youth empowerment, and even soap-making. Our soap project now helps fund our table banking group.

Looking back, I remember how one rainy day I had rushed from a Nyanam meeting to find my children soaked again, hidden under the table like before. But that was one of the last times. Today, our house is different. Our lives are different. I have true friends now. One of them told me recently, “Everything you've shared with me has changed my life too.” That meant so much to me. To be honest, I used to hold bitterness in my heart. I often wondered why my mother-in-law didn't lift a finger to help me. Just selling one goat could have made a difference. Instead, she told me I was “too young to live the life of a widow.” She saw my youth as a reason to dismiss my suffering.

But I've made peace. Through Nyanam, I have found a different kind of family. Now, when people see me, they see a changed woman. I feel like a changed woman. My children

smile more. Their school fees are handled with more ease. I walk with my head held higher. If Nyanam didn't exist, I truly believe my life would still be stuck and maybe even worse. The knowledge I've gained has empowered me. Today, I know my rights. I speak up. I lead. I teach others.

There was even a land dispute recently. Before, I would have been afraid. But this time, I stood firm. I knew what the

law said. I knew what my rights were. And I helped. To the widows out there who are still suffering in silence, I say this: don't give up. Respect yourself, stay pure, and fear God. And if you ever get the chance to join Nyanam, please do. It will change your life.

To the donors and supporters of Nyanam, I say thank you. Thank you for restoring dignity to women like me. Thank you for helping me learn the Word

of God, not just in theory but in practice. Even my children have benefited from the youth programs. When I hear what they've learned, my heart fills with pride. My journey with Nyanam has been like that of a baby: first I was born, then I crawled, then I walked. Now, I run. I lead. I teach.

I am no longer just a widow. I am Millicent Atieno — A mother. A farmer. A leader. A voice.

Widows' children program

Deepening Youth Leadership



After three years of our first strategy, the Youth Program is solidifying its foundation. This year marked a significant milestone with the introduction of a formal leadership layer: Youth Mentors. We have trained 30 dedicated young leaders who are now responsible for the training, supervision, and delivery of all youth learning activities. This cohort is responsible for supervising youth trainers and providing follow-up to ensure widows' children receive high-quality support. We also trained 105 youth trainers to lead monthly learning sessions for

children within their groups. Under this new structure, each Youth Mentor oversees five to six youth circles. The youth mentors now support over 100 youth trainers who lead our monthly and quarterly activities for widows' children, representing the future of Nyanam's mission. This shift ensures our work remains sustainable and truly youth led, enhances sustainability, promotes local accountability, and ensures the effective delivery of youth-led activities across all regions.

Access to education - School fees support

Ensuring access to education for widows' children remains a core program in our youth activities. Since 2023, we have supported students in secondary schools and vocational training to pursue their educational dreams without interruption. To date, we have provided

school fees for 301 scholars. Beyond financial support, we conduct academic follow-ups and provide counseling to ensure holistic success. In 2026, we aim to support 456 students, comprising 293 ongoing and 163 new scholars.

Additionally, 2025 marked a historic turning point for our scholarship initiative as we celebrated our first-ever cohort of high school graduates. Six children of widows sat for their Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) exams, representing the first full cycle of success since the program's inception. Of the six, one is

joining university, four are joining colleges, one is joining vocational school. This milestone is a testament to the resilience of these students and the transformative power of consistent academic support, and we invite additional support to help the children pursue higher learning.



"I am appreciative of Nyanam's encouragement, guidance, and support in helping me finish my secondary school. Without the partial scholarship, I might not have progressed this far."

- **Aluoch Brenda**

"I am grateful to Nyanam for their generosity and financial assistance to get me through school; the scholarship was essential in ensuring I finished my education."

- **Joseph Warindu**

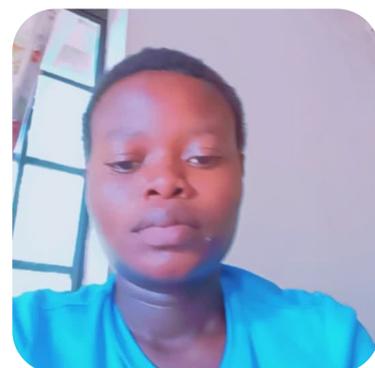


"Nyanam has been helping me since I started secondary school by covering my tuition and has shown kindness and support all through."

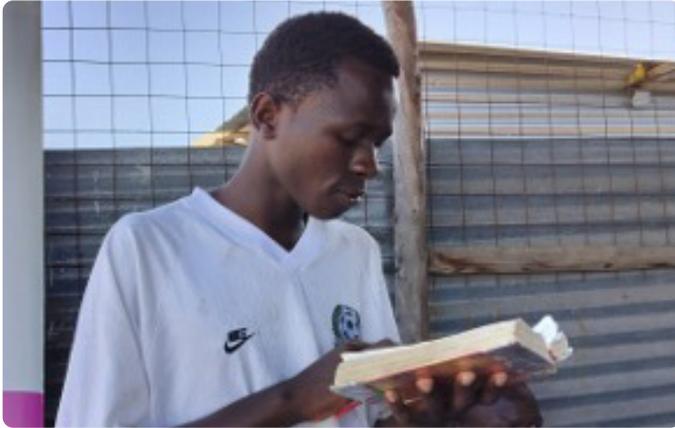
- **Junior Alvince Ooko**

"I am appreciative because Nyanam covered my tuition from Form 2 to Form 4. With their help, I was able to stay in school and avoid being a chronic absentee."

- **Macrine Awuor**



Self-worth project



“Thinking about my relationship with my mom during this activity made me emotional. I now understand that even though she struggles, she always tries to show me love in her own way.”

In 2024, Nyanam launched the Safe Space initiative to address low self-esteem and limited aspirations among widows’ children. After observing that many children struggled to envision opportunities beyond their immediate circumstances, we engaged a specialist to conduct 10 sessions for 637 participants. These workshops focused on self-awareness, resilience, and goal setting, resulting in an initial increase

in reported self-worth from 49% to 59%. In 2025, we scaled this impact by transitioning to a peer-led model; five safe spaces were facilitated by our own trained youth mentors, with 98% of participants reporting improved self-love, confidence, and worth. By moving to mentored sessions, we have successfully fostered a sustainable culture of leadership and self-belief among the next generation.

Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)



In rural communities, a lack of SRHR awareness among adolescents contributes to early pregnancies, gender-based violence, early marriages, and rising HIV rates—often leading to school dropouts. Widows’ children face heightened vulnerability; social stigma and the economic disempowerment of their mothers frequently result in significant mental health challenges. This year, in partnership with the Kisumu County Department of Health, we

provided HIV and contraceptive services to 126 widows’ children (aged 15–24). This initiative resulted in a 23% increase in SRHR knowledge and confidence in seeking reproductive care. To further this mission, we officially partnered with the Reproductive Health Network Kenya (RHNK) to ensure continued access to essential, youth-friendly reproductive health services for widows’ children.

Technology and entrepreneurship multiplication

"This program gave me something to look forward to beyond school. I now dream of becoming an engineer." – **David from Nyahera Oiko widows.**



Our 2025 learning theme focused on technology and entrepreneurship. Led by our trained youth trainers and mentors, we reached 610 widows' children with essential digital skills, including robotics, through a partnership with Coderina. To foster economic agency, we held an entrepreneurship business proposal competition where one youth was awarded Ksh 5,000 to launch their small business. We have a great room to strengthen our technology and entrepreneurship program and invite support for tools such as tablets and laptops to support our youth training.

2025 annual youth camp - Child Grief

Imagine the last time you heard anyone engage in constructive dialogue with a child about their experiences of grief? This year's youth camp focused on "Child Grief Management," targeting the emotional and psychological needs of widows' children, all of whom have lost a dad. The program equipped 1,500 participants with essential skills in emotional understanding, resilience, and personal growth through structured activities and supportive dialogue. By fostering a space for healing, the camp addressed the unique challenges faced by young lives marked by loss. During the camp, we conducted pre and post camp survey and the results

are encouraging. Pre- and post- child grief intervention assessments indicated a substantial improvement in youths' understanding of grief. Before the child grief training, 70% of participants demonstrated adequate knowledge of what child grief means; this increased to 95% after the 4-days training. Similarly, grief management skills showed marked improvement: during the pre-assessment, only 66% of participants reported using an appropriate coping strategy—specifically, talking to a trusted individual when sad—whereas this proportion increased to 83% in the post-assessment.

"This is the first place I have openly shared about my grief. As a young man it's always hard to cry. Although this space was made safe and I felt easy and free to share. Thank you for creating such a space for us." – **Nyanam youth**



Challenges



In 2025, Government of Kenya proposed the expansion of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) in Kisumu. This proposal has emerged as a critical threat to the stability of Korando and Kogony residents who live along the railway line. The government's current compensation framework is strictly limited to landowners with formal title deeds, a policy that excludes the majority of Korando residents who occupy ancestral lands without formal documentation. Widows are the most vulnerable group in this crisis, facing the highest risk of eviction without compensation.

To address this, Nyanam initiated community engagement and strategic partnerships with legal organizations, including Federation for Women Lawyers in Kenya, Transparency International, and Kenya Ethics and Legal Issues Network (KELIN). These collaborations aim to provide legal advocacy and ensure that widows receive full, fair compensation for their land and heritage, and that alternative justice systems are applied to confirm rightful ownership in the absence of formal documentation.

Hailstorms

This year, an unprecedented hailstorm struck the Osiri region in Kisumu West, shattering windows and ripping roofs from hundreds of homes. Widow-headed households, already navigating economic marginalization and heavy caregiving burdens, were the hardest hit, as the storm decimated the gardens and small businesses they relied upon. Recognizing that a roof is a widow's first line of security, Nyanam conducted a rapid assessment that confirmed a dire need for shelter rehabilitation to protect families from the elements and restore their dignity.

This assessment catalysed the Iron Sheets Distribution Initiative supported by the Imago Dei Emergency Fund. Each of the affected 145 widows received up to a maximum of eight iron

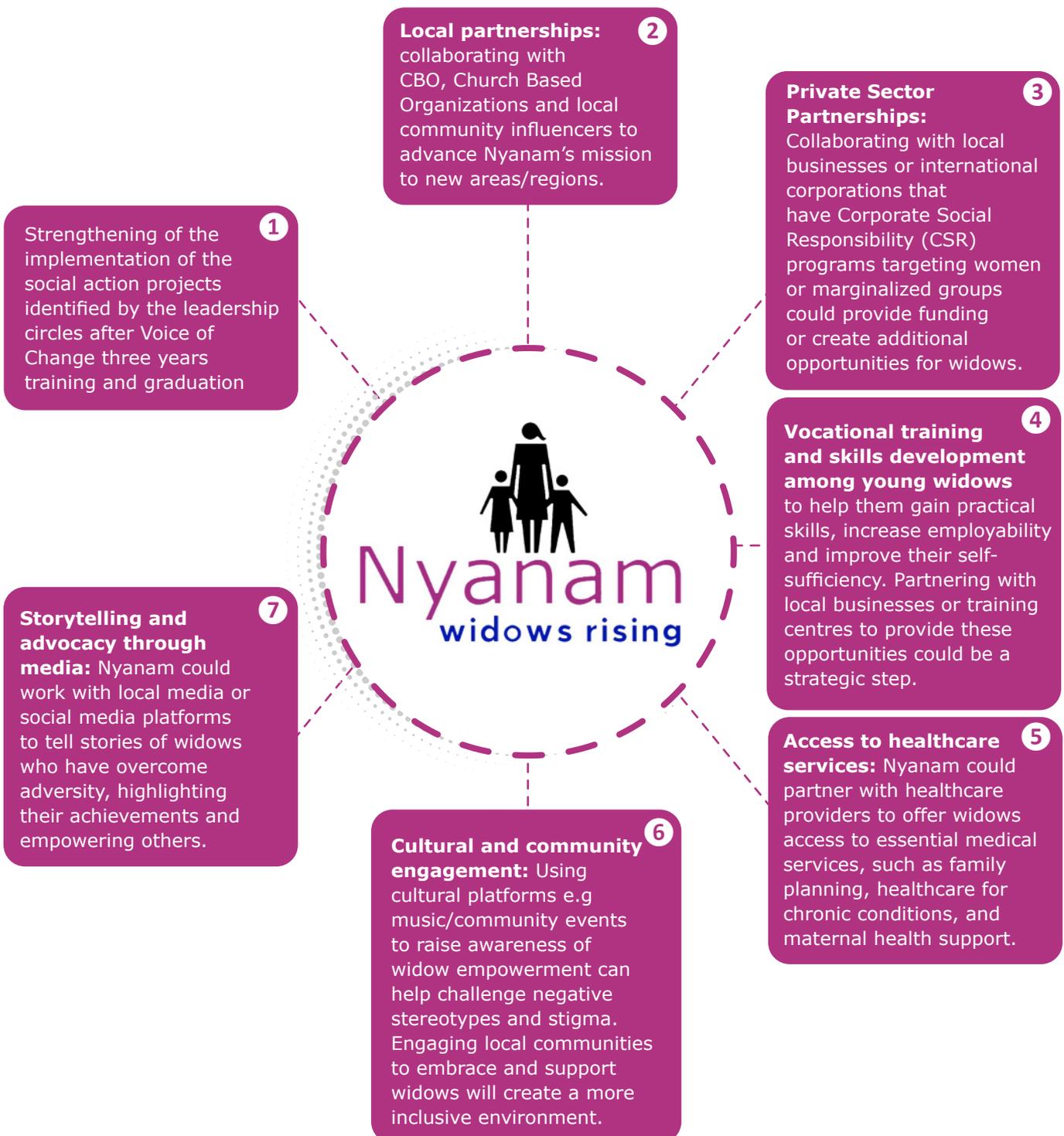


sheets each, depending on the extent of the roof damage. This support helped Nyanam Widows bounce back from this to the safety of a secure home. This storm and Nyanam's swift response reminded us of the need to have emergency response resources so we can stand with the women we serve in their moments of acute shock and despair.

Opportunities

The successful pilot of our VoC model across diverse cultural contexts demonstrated the effectiveness of the approach in strengthening widows' resilience, self-agency, and confidence. Evaluation results provide a compelling opportunity to scale the VoC curriculum beyond the Lake Victoria region, extending its proven impact to more widows across Kenya and beyond.

Looking Ahead Vision 2026 - 2032



Funding partners



Ten Talents Foundation

D&D Collective fund



Churches



2025 Implementing partners



Individual donors

We are deeply blessed to have an incredible community of individual donors who support the work we do. A massive thank you to everyone who gave in 2025; we value and appreciate each one of you

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Steve and Elizabeth Nielsen | 9. Michelle Dudley | 19. William McClain | 29. Tabitha, Njubi |
| 2. Debbie and Allan Leet | 10. Cheryl Shanks | 20. Shirley, Li | 30. Emily Dixon |
| 3. Cheryl, Mark, Megan, and Hannah Harrison | 11. Megan Harrison | 21. Cooper, Nassery | 31. Georgia Panitz |
| 4. Sheryl Stovall | 12. Shirley, Li | 22. Bethany Dixon | 32. Sara Miller |
| 5. Andrew and Kelsey Morgosh | 13. Troy Jackson | 23. Ann Angela, Okhupe | 33. Roseline Grace Otieno |
| 6. Susan Yoon | 14. Charissa Price | 24. Nelly, Kiboi | 34. Sarah Gioe |
| 7. Anne Hayner | 15. Daria Ivan | 25. David, Seda | 35. Nelly Cheboi |
| 8. David Romig | 16. Leslie Hayes Labruto | 26. Donald, Onyango | 36. Constance Jones |
| | 17. Mary Moule | 27. Judith, Olweny | 37. Eric borremans |
| | 18. Rhinah Ondiso | 28. Robert, Omange | 38. Chemtai Mungo |

39. Indrah Onwonga
40. Colleen Wong
41. Kelsie Salarda
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43. Rachel Berntsen
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45. Brian Gitau
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49. Debora Gish
50. Chi-Ming Chien

51. Clara Li
52. Evelyn Odhiambo
53. Nai Chien Yeat
54. Bethany Gauthier
55. Oluwasjibomi Oluwadara

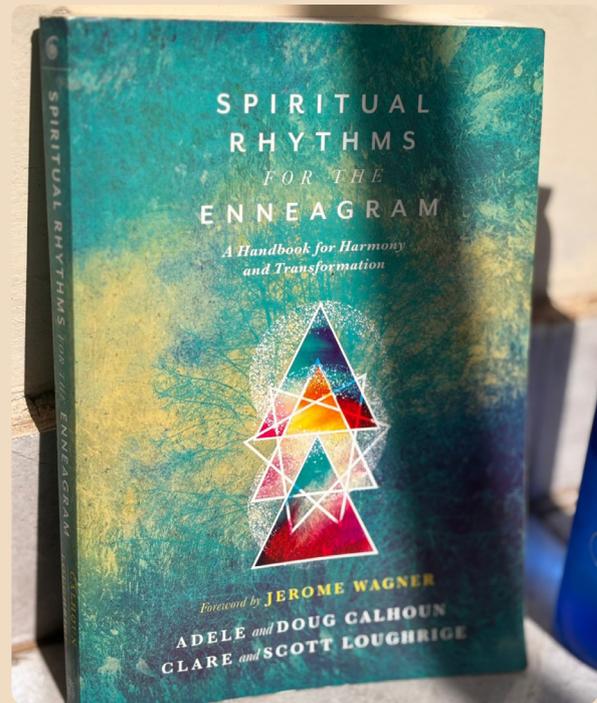
56. James Mathenge
57. Elizabeth Welch
58. Elizabeth Fair

2026 Book reading

We closed 2025 with powerful insights from all about love by Bell Hooks. This reading affirmed Nyanam's foundation, which began with widows simply asking to be loved and reignited our commitment to love radically. These readings are grounding and enlightening for our team.

In 2026, we are carrying this culture forward by revisiting a 2023 selection, *Spiritual Rhythms for the Enneagram*. Having explored the nature of love in 2025, we now seek to better understand our individual personalities to express that love in ways that truly resonate.

By delving into the Enneagram, we aim to foster deeper self-awareness, strengthen our relationships, and model a more connected, resilient team. Ultimately, this journey helps us understand each other better, allowing the Nyanam staff to express meaningful love to one another and to the widows we serve.



Staff of the year

Robert



Yes, 2025 was a year of remarkable growth, learning, and renewed purpose for me. In just one year at Nyanam International, I have experienced a deeply transformative journey; one defined by service, collaboration, and a shared commitment to serving the Nyanam widows.

I am profoundly grateful to Nyanam International for creating a purpose-driven environment where passion is nurtured, innovation is encouraged, and every contribution is valued. The unwavering support, mentorship, and teamwork of my colleagues have been a constant source of inspiration, enabling me to grow both professionally and personally. This recognition reinforces my belief in the power of collective effort and shared values to drive meaningful and lasting impact.

As I look ahead, I am deeply motivated to continue serving with integrity, excellence, and compassion, while upholding the values that define Nyanam International.

Donor and partner Visits

We were privileged to host visitors from Coworkers, First Presbyterian Church, Woven Foundation, First Fruit Foundation, Blood: Water, Segal Family Foundation, Five Talents, Women in the Window, Garden of Hope, Institute for Faith and Gender Empowerment (IFAGE), Dorcas Ministries, Tropical Focus CBO, Our Lady of Perpetual Support (OLPS), and Kick Start Foundation this year. It was a joy to welcome them to our community, share the progress of our work firsthand, and strengthen the bonds that make our mission possible. Also, we visited OLPS to learn about their micro-enterprise offering us valuable insights in supporting our widows engage in thriving table banking.



First Fruits



Garden of Hope



Five Talents – Kenya



Dorcas Ministries



IFAGE



OLPS and Tropical Focus



Coworkers



Segal and First Press Church



KickStart Foundation



Matty and Varun

Celebrating academic excellence and leadership

In 2025, two of our leaders achieved significant academic milestones that further strengthen Nyanam's expertise and evidence-based approach:



Dr. Jackie Odhiambo (Founder & Executive Director):

Graduated with a PhD in Public Health. Her pioneering research focused on widowhood stigma and resulted in the development of the first framework for measuring stigma among widows a tool that will directly inform our psychosocial programs.

Evelyn Odhiambo (Head of Communications & Partnerships):

Graduated with a Master of Social Science in Journalism and Media Studies with Distinction through Mandela Rhodes Scholarship. Her research explored the access, usage, and benefits of technology among the children of widows, providing vital insights for our digital literacy and youth initiatives.



Team profile

Board

In 2025, we said goodbye to our founding board chair, Teddy Onserio, and ushered in our new chair, Bethany Dixon. We are deeply grateful for this community of leaders who continue to steer us in the right direction toward realizing our mission.



From left:

Bethany Dixon (Current Board Chair), Beatrice (Segal Family Foundation), Jackie Odhiambo (Founder & Executive Director), Angie Okhupe (Board Member), Polet Juma (Board Member), and Teddy Onserio (Pioneer Board Chair).

Staff

In 2025, we were a total of 15 full-time staff supporting the incredible work we do with widows. We hired a Finance Specialist, Youth Coordinator and Holistic Well-being Officer.



From left to right

Front row:

Robert Ouma (Special Projects and Communications Coordinator), Jacinta Ojil (Widows Outreach Officer), Whitney Onserio (Resource Mobilization Associate), and Berly Ochieng.

Back row:

Rev. Nicodemus Agumba (Head of Programs), Clifford Ochieng (Admin and Operations Specialist), Dr. Jackie Odhiambo (Founder and Executive Director), Daniel Jaoko (Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist), Pst. Dr. Eunice Otieno (Holistic Well-being Coordinator), Evelyn Odhiambo (Head of Communications and Partnership), and Marvin Ochieng (Finance Associate).

Interns

This year, we had the privilege of collaborating with Ashley from Williams College on a study evaluating the impact of Nyanam's model on the lives of widows. Preliminary results have been highly encouraging, demonstrating the effectiveness of our holistic approach. We are currently finalizing the study and look forward to sharing the comprehensive findings soon.



Incoming Board Chair message

Polet Juma



Dear Friends of Nyanam. As I mark my first year at Nyanam and take over from the founding board Chair, Teddy Onserio, it is my great pleasure to present this year's Annual Report, in which we reflect on what has been an impactful year for Nyanam.

Through the dedication of our management team, led by Dr Jackie, the staff, partners, and our generous funders, we successfully achieved all our programme and fundraising milestones. The IWD celebration in June 2025 will forever be etched in my memory as we graduated over 500 widows and transitioned over 800 widows to the transformation stage of the program. This accomplishment is not only a testament to the need for and relevance of Nyanam's offering- Voice of Change, and to disciplined execution, but also to the deep trust placed in us by the communities we serve and the partners who walk alongside us.

This year also marked a major step in our growth journey. We piloted implementation in Kisii, Bungoma, and the urban areas of Kisumu, expanding our reach and testing innovative approaches to increase our impact. The early results from the pilot affirm our belief that the Voice of Change model is both scalable and responsive to emerging community needs.

As a Board, we are proud of the progress made and are energized by the opportunities ahead. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this success. We look forward to another year of impact, partnership, and continued excellence.

With appreciation.



Nyanam
widows rising