



**Thriving Communities through Education, Wellness
and Economic Development**

The Problem:

In rural Kenya, persistent poverty, limited access to quality education, and systemic barriers disproportionately affect children, youths and families. This results in stagnant literacy and numeracy outcomes, high school dropout rates—especially among girls due to early marriages, pregnancy, and menstruation challenges—and widespread youth unemployment. 35% of young people are unable to secure jobs despite completing basic schooling.

Sawa Africa works in Western Kenya to provide resources and skills for families to thrive in education, health and community development

Our Solution

Sawa Approach to the communities we serve is through these 3 areas:



Education



Economic Development



Community Wellness

Sawa Africa works in rural communities of Kisumu and HomaBay County.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,
Thank you for joining us as we reflect on this past quarter.

Your generosity has fueled meaningful progress—sustaining programs, expanding outreach, and deepening our impact. I'm proud to share these achievements with you and excited for what lies ahead.

We started 2025 with a renewed excitement and energy. In this first quarter we have experienced the strength in serving with committed partners and supporters alongside our mission.

In January, I supported our training team in training Grade 1 teachers. The passion and enthusiasm that the teachers showed was a great assurance of the depth of outcomes the learners in their classrooms would experience. Their desire to learn more and to be the best teachers was very heart warming to the SomaSawa team.

This report shows the strength we have gained from collaborations, and generosity of our partners, that is, each one of you.

Together, we are truly making a difference!

Thank you for your generosity!

Dorothy Dulo
Founder & Executive Director



EDUCATION – SOMASAWA

SomaSawa means learn/educate well to thrive. That is the mission of the program, to ensure that learners receive the support they need to thrive in their education journey. We do this by up-skilling teachers using evidence based innovative interventions.



KISUMU EAST & KISUMU WEST

The SomaSawa program serves 10 schools in Kisumu East and 13 schools in Kisumu West. In Q 1, we trained Grade 1 teachers for the first time. The Grade 1 learners graduated from ECDE program at the end of 2024. A continuation of SomaSawa program will help these learners gain foundational skills before reaching Grade 3. The learners in Grade 3 to 6 have progressed from foundational skills to advanced skills in reading, comprehension and writing.

CHALLENGES

1. Multiple activities and programs in the school daily timetable.
2. The ECDE learners don't have lunch in school. Once they return home for lunch its difficult to get full attendance in the afternoon for the SomaSawa sessions.

MILESTONES & IMPACT IN SOMASAWA

Implementation of the SomaSawa Innovation

Since August 2021 we have added new schools to the program each year. Starting with 5 Schools in 2021 and currently supporting 23 schools.

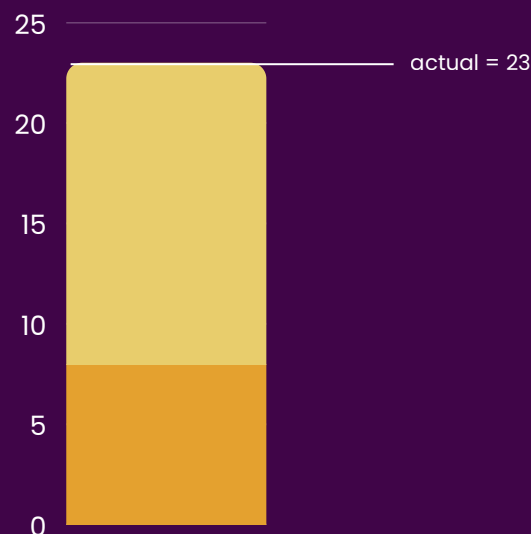


91%

graduated from at least one level of literacy to the next higher level.

Pilot Program in Grade 1 Classrooms

In Q 1 2025 we added Grade 1 learners who graduated from our ECDE program in December 2024. All 23 schools were enrolled in our program.



Indicator	Q1 2025
Number of new teachers trained, ECD and Grade 1	48
Number of teachers mentored and supported	107
Teachers attendance in class sessions (ECD and Primary)	97%
Improvement in Learners social skills and confidence	Yes
Total Number of ECD Learners served - TaRL Intervention	1062
Total Number of Primary School (Grades 3-6) learners served - TaRL Intervention	782
Total Number of Grade 1 learners served _ TaRL intervention	709
Total Number of Advanced Literacy learners - Literacy Circle	617
Number of lessons taught in Term 1, 2025	249,250

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – YOUTH HUB

The Youth Hub provides skill and social entrepreneurship training to youths and young women. Graduates are supported to secure jobs or to start social enterprises. Training offered in the past includes tailoring, photography, videography, Community Health Work, IT, and culinary arts.



QUARTER 1, 2025

In the last 3 months High school students have been enrolled to take computer classes in preparation for college admission. The classes take 3 months.

The center also started recruitment of the next Community Health class. This class starts in May.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 78% graduates of the program have been successfully placed and are thriving in their trades.
- Local community leadership recognize the program as a pillar of hope for the youths in the community.
- Local High Schools seek the program leadership to support their youths in career advice and preparation post High school.

CHALLENGES

- Parents and youths in the communities cannot afford to contribute to the cost of the training.
- Lack of local role models. Local role models can help program participants learn and increase hope to succeed and get out of poverty.

COMMUNITY WELLNESS

The Wellness program supports the community of Alendu, Homa-Bay County with Health education and awareness, Food security, and Safe water access.



SAFE WATER

- During drought in January and February, our water supply was the only access for safe water in the region.
- **370,478** liters of safe water was distributed in Q 1
- Safe water sales contributed to our revenue.
- 1 institution and 2 community centers supplied with safe water

FOOD SECURITY

- The Sawa demonstration farm was the only source for fresh fruits and vegetables during the drought season of January and February.
- The farm has provided 100% nutrition to our students, team members and their families.
- March rains gave the farm an opportunity to demonstrate sustainable gardens to local families

HEALTH EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

- Beryl, a graduate of Sawa Youth Hub, enrolled 2 High schools and 1 women's group in her health awareness outreach program.
- 170 High schoolers and 16 women attended health education sessions.
- 300 girls supported through the local government initiatives.

SAWA AFRICA UPDATE

WELCOME NEW PARTNERS

We are thankful and welcome these **NEW** partners that committed their support beginning January 2025.

Issroff Family Foundation
Global Engagement Initiative
Willow Street United Church of Christ

WELCOME NEW STAFF



Zawadi,
Administrative Assistant



Namayi,
Mentor, M & E team



Rehema,
Mentor

In their own words...

“

I can now read a book in English. I am so happy. My mother is happy with me. SomaSawa has taught me how to read and write.

”

Learner at Obunga Community center



“

These are great interventions. I am excited to use them in my Grade 1 classroom. I know my learners will be excited to learn through play and learn new activities. Our schools need this support urgently. I will be sure to excel in my teaching.

”

Teacher Belice at Ragumo Primary



“

It's very fulfilling to see the teachers apply the skills we taught them in the training. Most teachers are not shy to ask questions. Every week I see progress in their classroom teaching.

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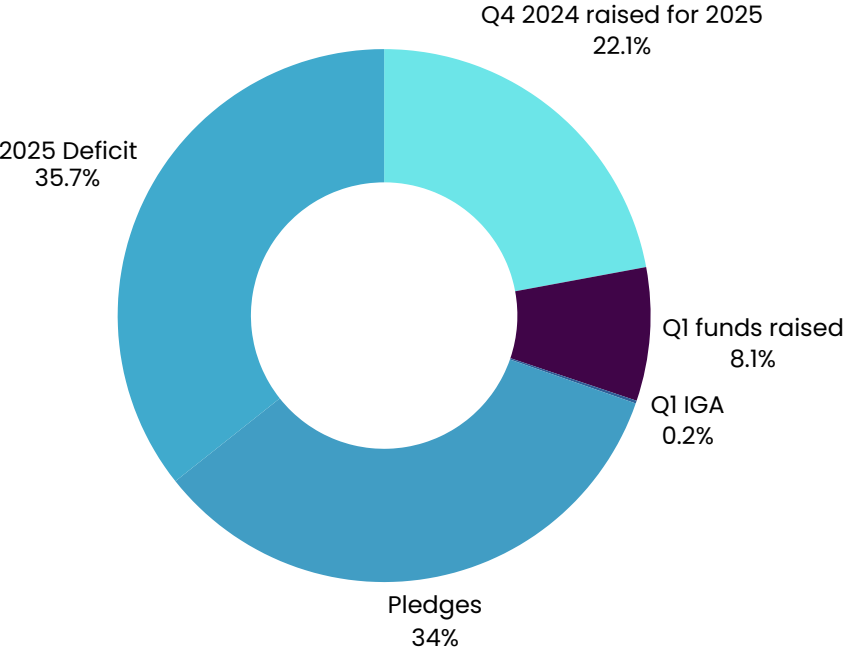
Mentor Judy , SomaSawa Program



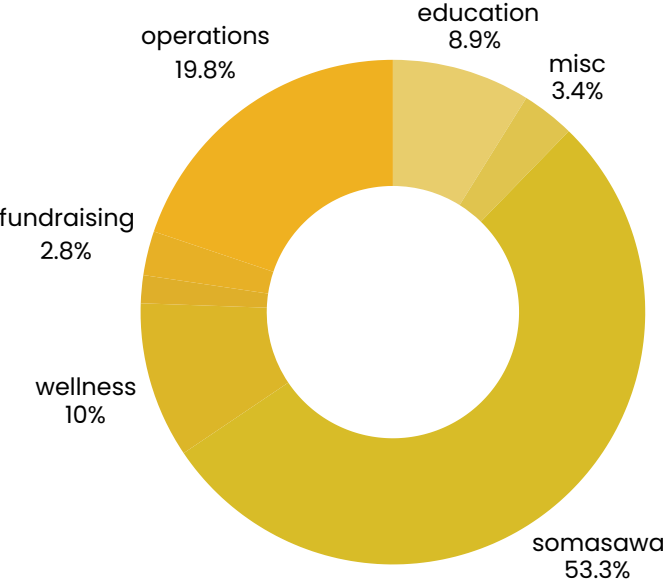
FINANCIAL UPDATE

Income

2025 Quarter 1 Donations: US\$24,000



Expenses



GET IN TOUCH



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