



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

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

I am honored to present the 2025 2nd Quarter Report for SAWA Africa, highlighting the continued growth and impact of our core programs. This quarter, we have made notable strides in advancing our mission to support vulnerable communities through education, economic empowerment, and Wellness.

Second Quarter is a busy time of the year in the schools. This is the time for music and a lot of sports. Teachers and learners are spread thin in participating and attending these activities. The schools did their best to balance all the activities but the effects of too many activities was still reflected in the outcomes of our implementation.

I had the opportunity to participate in learning and connecting with like minded education leaders at the World Literacy Forum in Oxford, UK. The connections made at this conference will go a long way to support and solidify our work in education in Kenya. I look forward to continuing some of the conversations and partnerships initiated at this conference.

As we move into the second half of the year, we remain focused on deepening our impact, strengthening monitoring systems, and building sustainable partnerships.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Dorothy Dulo
Founder & Executive Director



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.

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 12 schools in Kisumu East and 13 schools in Kisumu West. In Q2, we trained 10 new ECD teachers and 2 new schools joined the program.



CHALLENGES

1. Several schools experienced a few days of closure following significant rainfall, which resulted in widespread flooding of their facilities and grounds.
2. Teachers transfers disrupted continuity of teaching and learning.
3. Multiple extracurricular activities in the schools interrupted implementation of the SomaSawa program.



MILESTONES & IMPACT IN SOMASAWA

Implementation of the SomaSawa Innovation

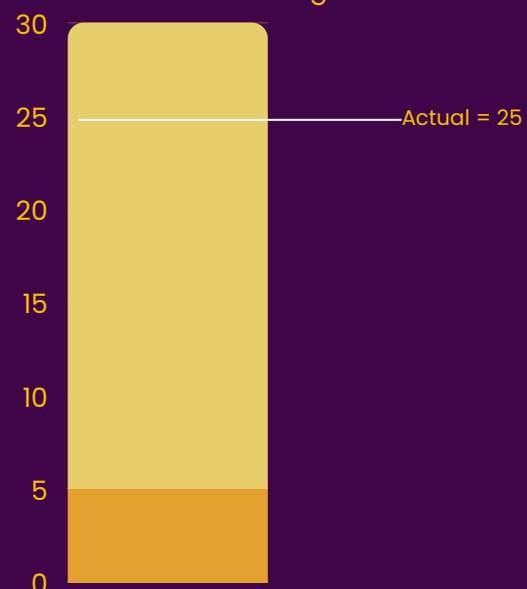
Since August 2021 we have added new schools to the program each year. Starting with 5 Schools in August 2021 and currently supporting 25 schools.



94%
of learners participation
informed our outcomes.

Early Childhood Centers take top priority

In Q2, 2025 we added 2 Early Childhood Learning Centers.



Indicator	Q2, 2025
Number of new ECD teachers trained	10
Number of teachers mentored and supported - K- 6 th Grade	110
Total Number of ECD Learners served - TaRL Intervention	1258
Total Number of Primary School (Grades 3-6) learners served - TaRL Intervention	704
Total Number of Grade 1 learners served _ TaRL intervention	722
Total Number of Advanced Literacy learners - Literacy Circle	612

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. The Hub also supports youths transitioning to college and employment after High School and college graduation respectively.



Our Youth Hub continues to be **a center for youths and their parents** in the community. They come to **seek support** for transitioning to different levels of education.

In the last 3 months our center fulfilled this role. Five students received High school **scholarships**. Most computer class attendees were pre-university students.

Venessa, is advancing to her fourth year of **study in Statistics with IT**; and Phenny **completed a Diploma in Pharmacy** and is awaiting her licensing exam with the Kenya Pharmacy Board. Fredrick, completed pre-university preparations and has been **accepted into university to pursue Computer Science**.

HIGHLIGHTS

A total of 22 students participated in various learning programs this quarter. This included:

- 6 High school students
- 5 Youth Hub students in computer training
- 2 University/college students
- 4 Pre-university students
- 5 Alumni supported

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 the second quarter of 2025, a total of **12 water stations** operated under the program collectively distributing approximately **50,897 liters of water**.

FOOD SECURITY

The farm focused on both production and sustainability, with various crops supporting food needs for staff, students and the community.

- **Harvested produce** such as black nightshade, kale, beans, cassava and cowpeas were utilized for our consumption and some sold to community members. The **sales support our operations costs**.
- The rains prolonged and **avored better harvest** for beans, millet and maize.
- Additional activities included maintenance of our **fruit trees** - mangoes, lemons and bananas

HEALTH EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

The Wellness program enhanced community health awareness and promoted personal care practices.

- Our Youth Alumni, Beryl, conducted a series of **targeted health outreach** activities across various groups within the community.
- The women's group **benefited from informative sessions** covering the importance of rest, environmental health and physical activity.
- At Ong'ang and Nyalgosi High schools, **students received health education** focused on informed decision making and the value of adequate rest.

2025 WORLD LITERACY SUMMIT IN OXFORD, UK



Our director, Dorothy, had a great opportunity to attend the **World Literacy Forum, 2025 in Oxford, UK.**

This global gathering was a powerful platform to exchange ideas, learn innovative literacy strategies, and strengthen our mission.

She connected with literacy leaders and explored inclusive education models that will directly enhance our programs.

Key takeaways included scalable digital tools for rural learning and community-driven literacy campaigns. The conference presented education leaders, practitioners and enthusiasts from over 40 countries.

We are **grateful to our friends at Mighty Ally** who made this possible.

We are excited to see how these new connections will support and grow our work in Early childhood education and literacy in Western Kenya.



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS



Abby Murphy

Board Member

Abby brings to Sawa experience in Marketing and Development. She has worked for various organizations that advocate for systemic change and holistic restorative justice. She has traveled for work and had a 2 month internship in Kenya. Abby and her husband, live in Connecticut with their pet rabbit, Boo, where they enjoy being with family and doing things outdoors, especially near a lake or fire pit."



Jenna Pounds Schwind

Board Treasurer

Jenna serves as a Financial Analyst with HOPE International. Jenna lives in Pennsylvania, where she enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and fiancé. Having grown up on a farm, Jenna enjoys trying (though not always succeeding) to grow vegetables and flowers each summer.



Megan Poff

Fundraising Support - Grant Writing

Megan is an accomplished singer and researcher in the areas of vocal music and literature. She serves at York College of Pennsylvania as faculty teaching music literature and song. She also works at Sight and Sound Conservatory instructing in voice and speech. She recently graduated from Millersville University with a graduate degree in English combined with a writing certification. During her time there, she helped with advocacy and programs for the Literacy and Language Department.

In their own words...

“

I am able to read English words and participate in Mathematics activities during class. I enjoy SomaSawa activities because they make learning good and fun.”

Melvin, PP2 learner at Bwanda Primary School



“

I am excited to use these interventions. It has helped in identifying individual gaps in my learners. Now I can support them to improve their learning outcomes. Learning is enjoyable and interesting to the learners and I the facilitator.”

Teacher Amon at Omung'i Primary



“

It's been great to see teachers using the skills they learned in training. Each week there's clear progress in how they teach in the classroom. Their confidence in sharing their experience and engagement is growing steadily.”

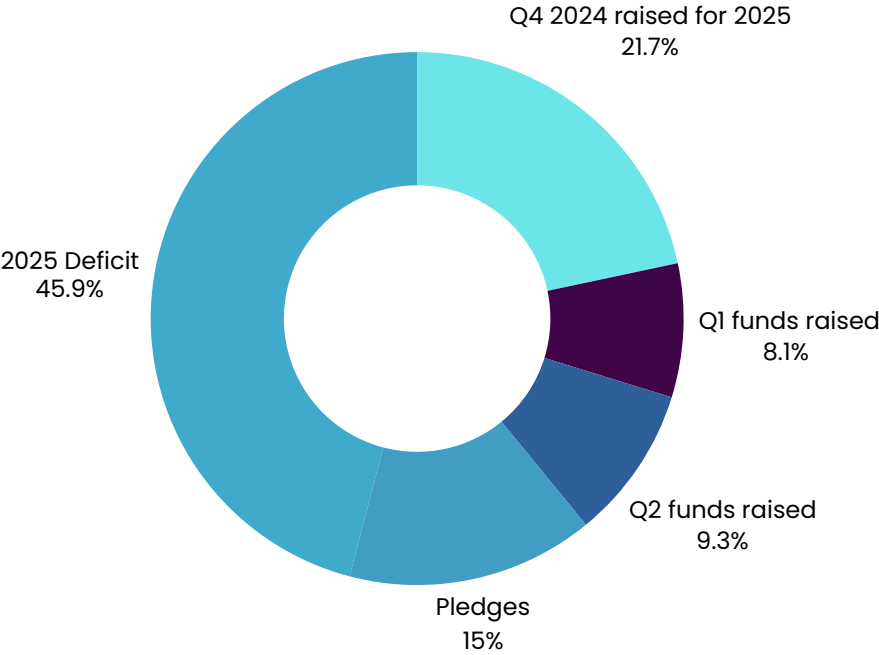
Mentor Godfrey, SomaSawa Program



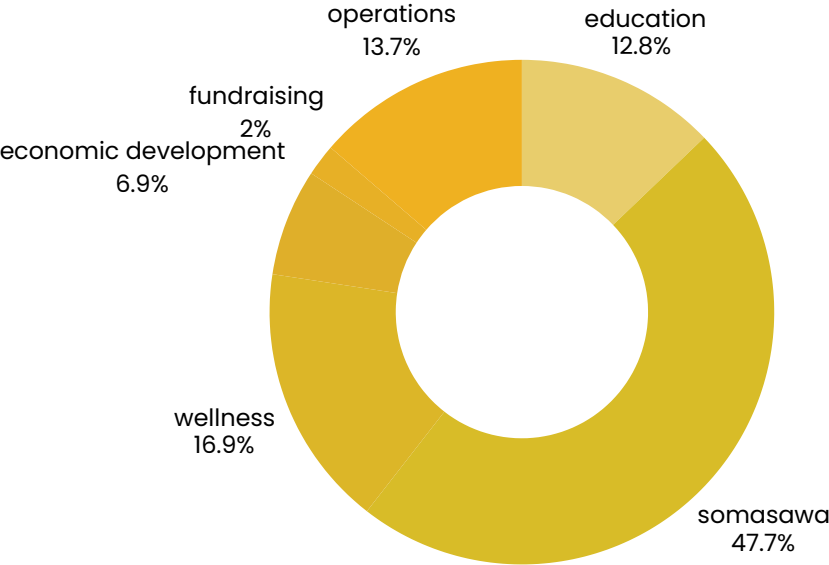
FINANCIAL UPDATE

Income

2025 Quarter 2 Donations: US\$27,000



Expenses



How you can help:

★ Champion

Help Sawa by **spreading the word** and **connecting us** to relevant **stakeholders**

★ Invite

- **Engage others** by following us online or search Sawa Africa
- Volunteer to serve in our work

★ Invest

Help us transform lives in Western Kenya through your investment:

<https://sawaafrika.org/take-action/>

- **Village Ambassador** - monthly donation of at least \$10 to end illiteracy in schools and equip youths with skills
- \$2500 to **support ONE school** to join our literacy and numeracy program

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