

Annual Report

2023





HELLO. IT'S US.

What an incredible year! We saw over 2400 learners who have been left behind in literacy and numeracy catch up with their peers. Learners became confident readers within a period of six weeks! We achieved exciting milestones including piloting a new intervention and achieving a 97% graduation rate. And most obviously our partnership with Ministry of Education and Teachers Service Commission, Kisumu County reached new heights of commitment and collaboration. Together we are committed to ensuring that no child is left behind in Kisumu County!

Since the launch of SomaSawa in August 2021, we have grown steadily and put many foundational systems in place.

SomaSawa is authentic to its mission – providing innovative solutions to teachers and learners to close the gaps in their learning. Our tools empower them with foundational skills for lifelong learning.



We look to our strategies as a roadmap for success for every learner enrolled in our programs. We believe the power of our organization comes from the people who live and breathe our shared mission every day.

Thank you for your support and commitment to our mission! We look forward to many more years of holistic, friendly, and innovative learning together.

In Service,
Dorothy Dulo

Dorothy Dulo
Founder & Executive Director

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MISSION

SomaSawa is a program of Sawa Africa. SomaSawa's mission is to provide innovative solutions to teachers and learners to close the gaps in their learning journey. We use the power of innovation to empower them with foundational skills for lifelong learning.

IN-SCHOOL

We partner with Kisumu County Ministry of Education and Teachers Service Commission to Upskill, mentor, and support teachers to deliver innovative interventions for their learners.

IN THE COMMUNITY

We partner with community centers located in communities with high educational needs to empower learners with foundational skills through literacy and numeracy interventions.

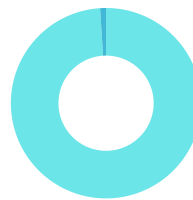


IMPACT

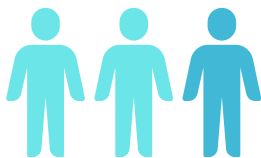
SINCE AUGUST 2021



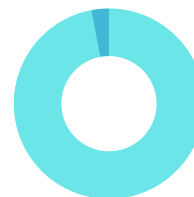
15
Schools Supported



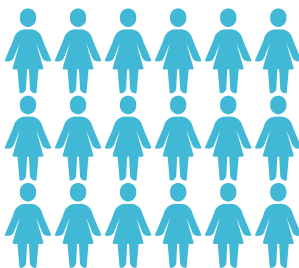
94%
Learners improved in
Reading, Math & Social
Skills



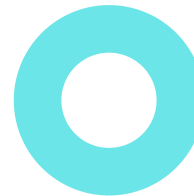
108
Teachers Trained & Mentored



99%
Moved at least one level
up from their baseline



12,000
Learners Supported



100%
Teachers Improved In their
Teaching Methods



2
Communities Supported



1,080,000
Lessons

OUR

WORK:

Somasawa works all year round to make learners become competent and confident lifelong learners

IN-SCHOOL

KISUMU EAST SUB-COUNTY

- 10 LOW PERFORMING SCHOOLS
- 2 CURRICULUM SUPPORT OFFICERS (TSC)
- 1 QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER (MOE)
- 2 MENTORS
- 1 PROGRAM COORDINATOR
- 62 TEACHERS
- 10 HEADTEACHERS

KISUMU WEST SUB-COUNTY

- 5 LOW PERFORMING SCHOOLS
- 1 CURRICULUM SUPPORT OFFICER (TSC)
- 1 QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER (MOE)
- 1 MENTOR
- 1 PROGRAM COORDINATOR
- 26 TEACHERS
- 5 HEADTEACHERS

GRADES 3- 8 LEARNERS SUPPORTED

- 2 INNOVATIVE INTERVENTIONS APPLIED
- 2 LESSONS DAILY FOR 90 SCHOOL DAYS.
- 2 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION DAILY.

IN THE COMMUNITY

OBUNGA ESTATE

Obunga is a slum estate served by only one public school. Most learners are left behind due to crowding in the schools and poverty at home.

SomaSawa program partners with parents during holidays to provide innovative interventions in literacy and numeracy. 88% of learners enrolled each holiday finished their level of learning and progressed to the next higher level. Music was introduced as an extracurricular activity. Learners in the choir have improved in their music and social skills.

ALENDU COMMUNITY CENTER

Alendu community Center serves students in rural village of Alendu, HomaBay County. SomaSawa program partners with parents during holidays to provide innovative interventions in literacy and numeracy. 94% of learners enrolled each holiday finished their level of learning and progressed to the next higher level.



5 Pillars Of Success:

Learners Centered; Upskilling Teachers; Passionate Partners; Innovative Interventions; SAWA APP

Learners Centered



The SomaSawa Interventions are learner centered, allowing them to master foundational skills before moving to advanced skills. The instruction approach accommodates the learners at their level and speed of learning.

Upskilling Teachers



Teachers are the bridges of success. SomaSawa teachers training program builds on the foundational skills of teachers. Teachers are trained, mentored and supported as they grow in their work with the learners.

Passionate Partners



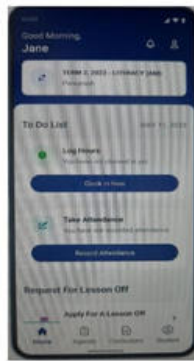
SomaSawa Partners are passionate about quality education and lifelong learning. Their commitment to this work enables the program to flourish. They show up with all their resources, experience and influence. Both donors and implementation partners are central to our success.

Innovative Interventions



SomaSawa has carefully and delicately selected evidence based interventions to close the gaps for the learners. The interventions are our most powerful tools, contextualized to the communities we serve.

Technology



The Sawa app will be our next tool to help us deliver the interventions with greater accuracy, scale, and efficiency. We are developing this application to serve millions of learners and teachers. Stay tuned for updates and launch!



STORIES OF US!

Here are a few stories that will give you a glimpse into our work and the relationships we build to change the destiny of our learners.



Teacher Godfrey

Kate was afraid that her friends would discover that she couldn't read. Teacher Godfrey was patient with her and gave her personal time to complete her intake assessment. Kate knew her teacher cared and was ready to help her. She relaxed and completed her assessment.

Kate's experience with the assessment made her excited and to look forward to the SomaSawa sessions. Over the 6-week period of the program, she arrived in class early and enjoyed every lesson. She participated in all her group activities. At the endline assessment, Kate was excited and couldn't wait to show off her reading and Math skills. She knew she had gained her new wings to fly in reading and math. She scored high and was promoted to the next level.

The SomaSawa program empowers teachers with innovative interventions that enable them to help learners close gaps in their learning. Learners' assessment happens on a one-to-one basis. Teachers have small groups of learners in each session. This enables them to support each learner at their level and no one is left behind. **Every day the teachers see the positive impact of the program as they work with learners like Kate!**



Mama Meriline Sewe

Meriline and her mother attended the 2022 dissemination event. Meriline Sewe is a third grade student at Okore Ogonda primary School. Before joining the SomaSawa program she was not able to read. After 3 terms of 6 weeks each, she reached the highest level of competency in reading and Math. She improved in her overall academic performance. She came from the bottom 5% of her class to the top 5%.

During the dissemination, Meriline shared her journey about SomaSawa lessons. With courage she talked about how she could now read the Bible at church and read story books to her friends at home. She dreams of becoming a doctor. Her mother shared her joy of seeing her daughter excel in her school within a short period of targeted support. "I am forever grateful for the SomaSawa program. May God bless their work to continue to help many more students in our community", said Mama Meriline. SomaSawa program engages parents in the program process and decisions. **Parents are the first stakeholders at the center of supporting their children.**



Oyola Learners: Innovation, Play, and Learning makes us happy

Learners at Oyola Primary School did not know what they signed up for. Madam Truphosa completed her training with SomaSawa. She was so excited by the new skills she had acquired. She purposed to wow her learners. In a school where more than 60% of the learners were not able to read or do basic Math, she took the challenge to change their school's story.

Madam Truphosa gathered all the students and strategically grouped them to make sure everyone benefitted from her class. The learners wondered why their class teacher was giving them a substitute. They looked from a far, but it only took 5 minutes, and they could not help it but jump into the fun of their new teacher's lesson. The entire class warmed up. The entire school could hear their voices. They were learning and having a great time. Students from other classes looked through the window, desiring to join in the lesson.

Each session, 30 implementation days, she graduated a group of students. At the end of the year, she had accomplished her goal of making sure all the learners in her school could read and do basic math. She became the new favorite teacher in their school. The end term exams in English and Math showed a big improvement. Overall performance in all subjects also improved.

The SomaSawa program innovative interventions shifts from schooling to learning for all. Its holistic learning through play, fun, real life stories and cultural context. All learners are given opportunities to engage at their level and supported to grow in every lesson. **Everyday our trained teachers and mentors see their learners grow in all life skills. Learners are at the center of program!**



Joyce

Joyce was the first mentor in the SomaSawa program. She set very high standards that have become the foundation of our work. “Being mentor is a gift that I did not ask for and I will treat it as gift that needs to be shared with all learners”, says Joyce.

SomaSawa mentors are trainers and mentors. They train teachers, support, and mentor them in the interventions as they facilitate in the classrooms. Empowering mentors is key foundational step in the success of our work. A great mentor is also a great team leader. “I love to see Joyce walk into our school. She always brings to us good news and encouragement. At times we have bad days but when Joyce shows up, things get better. She has a way of bringing us together, showing us a way forward and encouraging us to stay focused on the mission. When you follow her footsteps, you can be assured that the learners will gain a lot,” says teacher Davidson.

Joyce concludes by saying “we are the glue, we are the bridge, and we are a cornerstone. If we don’t train and mentor the teachers right, the learners will not gain. If we don’t build the right relationships with MoE and TSC, it will all crumble. **So, we stay focused and do our best daily.**”



Dr. Rugut, TSC Kisumu County Director

“We in Kisumu County are fortunate to have SomaSawa support in our schools. When they first came to my office, I was not sure if they would deliver but after they presented to us their interventions, I immediately knew we were in the right hands”, Dr. Rugut. Dr. Rugut was passionate about the SomaSawa program. He understood that empowering teachers was the only way to end the cycle of illiteracy and failure in the Kisumu County and national schools. He attended the trainings with the teachers so he could understand how to hold the teachers accountable. He gave us a point person in his team to coordinate all activities that involved teachers.

The SomaSawa program depends on Ministry of Education and Teachers Service Commission to partner with us to be able to reach teachers and learners. These partnerships ensure program quality and relevance.

Frequently MoE Quality Assurance Officers and TSC Curriculum Support Officers visit SomaSawa trained teachers to support them and supervise their work. They are a core part of the learners’ success. Like Dr Rugut, all our MoE and TSC partners are passionate and committed to the success of the learners. **SomaSawa program enjoys a vibrant relationship with our MoE and TSC partners. It’s our secret sauce!**



Dr. Adera, Education Department Chair at West Chester University, USA

I always look forward to spending time with the SomaSawa team. Your work is amazing. I know that when I train teachers, it will be implemented well. That makes it very exciting. I am assured that the learners will get the right material. This is the best mission for me to serve in. I know how much work it takes to train and mentor, but your team makes it look so easy. I wish I could be here every day.

Dr. Adera has been in the center of building our program. She has worked with her colleagues at West Chester University and Shippensburg University to help us package the right innovative interventions that maximize the learning process. Every year she brings a team of students and professors that are the right fit for SomaSawa.

Our strategy includes packaging the right innovative tools and interventions. Every day the SomaSawa Team are guided by this strategy to ensure that no learner is left behind! **And like Dr. Adera, our professional partners source for the best resources and give their best to this program.**



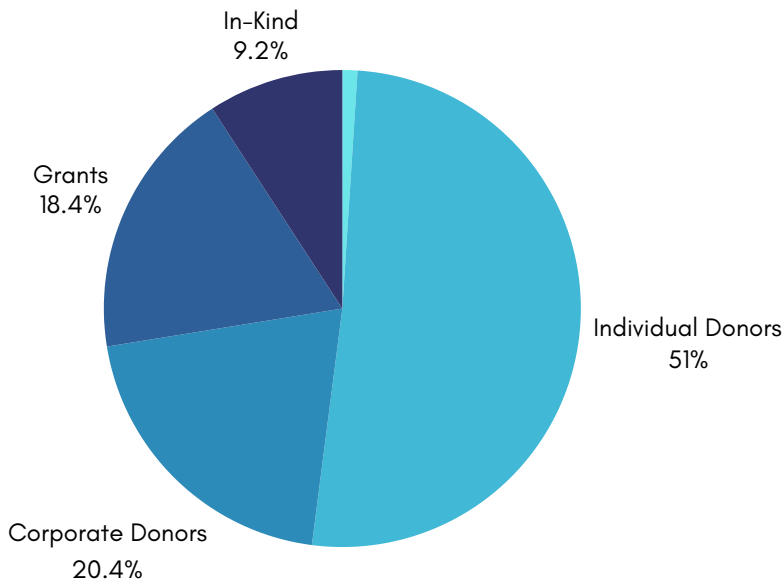
FINANCIALS

Resourceful, Strategic, Efficient

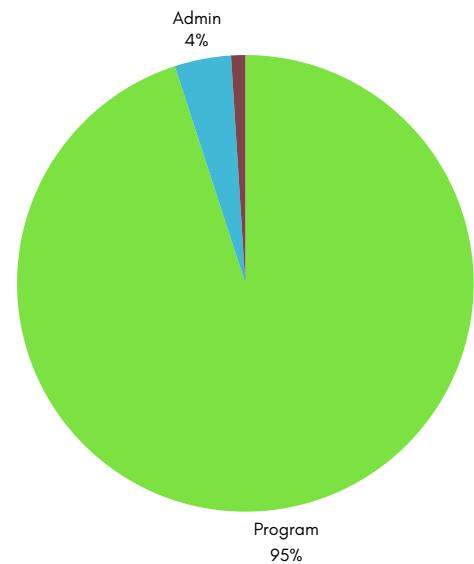
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

FY-2023 INCOME & EXPENSES

Income: U.S. \$105,000



Expenses: U.S. \$127,000





WHAT'S AHEAD

- ★ In 2024, SomaSawa is launching its innovative technology application that will capture accurate real time data, improve lessons delivery, and support supervision. This application will enable us to reach thousands of learners in a much shorter time. In our inaugural year, we hope to serve 30 schools with approximately 12000 learners, with plans to reach over 120 schools in the next 3 years.
- ★ Reading is the core activity in our program. We are working with local authors to provide our learners with stories that are relevant to their lives, communities, and culture. The success of our program lies in strategic partnerships that ensure delivery of innovative interventions.
- ★ Raise \$80,000 in new donations.
- ★ And lastly in 2024 we will introduce a new comprehension and writing intervention. We target training at least 120 teachers in all 15 supported schools. This intervention will give learners who have graduated from the foundational intervention a new challenge to grow their reading, comprehension and writing skills.



PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS THE WORLD TO US!

We are lucky to have you on our team.

Ministry of Education, Kisumu County

Teachers Service Commission, Kisumu County

West Chester University, Department of Education

Shippensburg University, Department of Education

D-Prize

Dovetail Acceleration

Tech4Good

Sawa Africa

Zizi Afrique

PAL Network

Beth Riwa, Author

Worship Center, Lancaster

Worthington Church

Timberline Church

Sawa Village Ambassadors



Somasawa 2023 Team

Joyce Nambare

Program Coordinator

Catherine Owuor

Mentor

Judith Achola

Mentor

Faith Owuor

Mentor

Millicent Akoko

IT Support

Carol Abuto

IT Support

Brian Etole

Communication

Susan Achola

Finance



Dorothy Dulo

Founder & Director



Together we can do so much more. You too can empower our learners to help them realize their potential and become competent and confident lifelong learners.

VISIT us. Stop by our classrooms and visit our teachers and learners in action.

VOLUNTEER. We are always looking for awesome teachers and mentors to work directly with our learners and support volunteers to work with our team. Email: volunteers@sawaafrika.org

PARTNER with us. Join our team of corporate partners to create an impact through opportunities like hosting or sponsoring teachers training or an event

SPONSOR one of our classrooms or schools. You get your name printed on all our shirts and materials.

LIKE us on facebook and follow on instagram @sawaafrika and stay up to date with the latest news, photos or videos.

For more information on how to get involved, email us at hello@sawaafrika.org or Call us at +1-717-6824273 (USA) or +254-701-019388 (KENYA)

somasawa



SOMASAWA

Kisumu, Kenya

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