



**2025
Annual
Report**

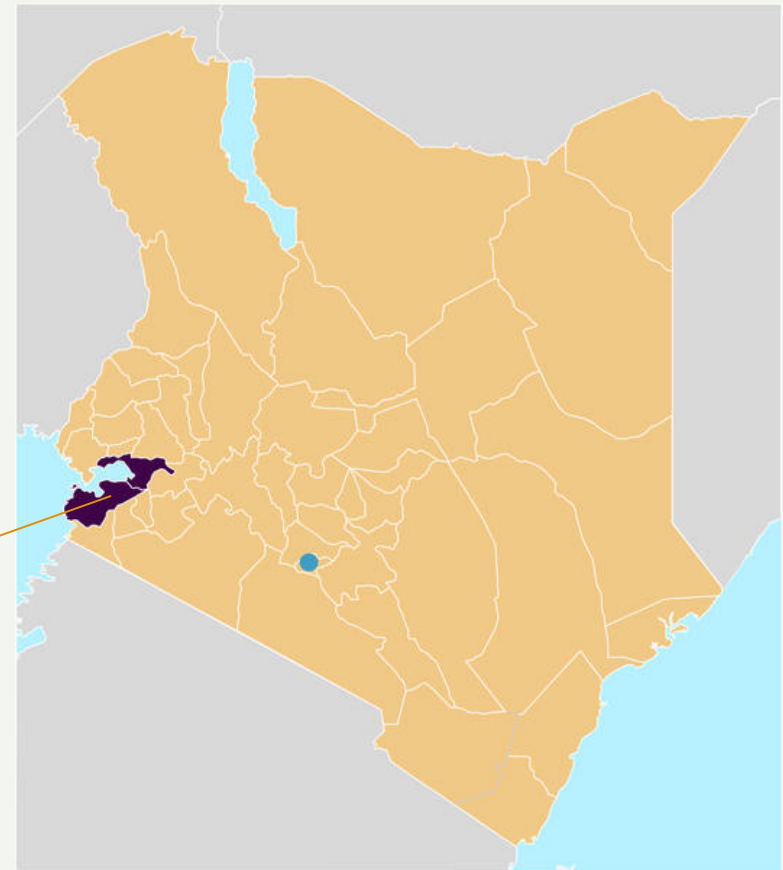


About Us

In rural Kenya, persistent poverty, limited access to quality education, and systemic barriers disproportionately affect children, youths (especially girls and young women) 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, community economic development and wellness.

We work in Kisumu and Homa Bay



FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends and Partners,

As I look back at 2025, I am filled with deep gratitude for the community of friends, partners, and supporters who continue to believe in Sawa Africa's mission. This year has been one of growth, impact, and renewed hope – proof of what we can accomplish together when we stay committed to ensuring that no child is left behind in their learning.

Through your support, the SomaSawa literacy and numeracy program grew to reach 25 schools across Kisumu County, equipping over 9,000 learners with foundational reading and math skills. Since the inception of the program, more than 180 teachers have received training and ongoing mentorship to strengthen classroom instruction and learner engagement. We also saw encouraging improvements in learners' performance, with many schools reporting measurable gains within the first term of implementation.

Our Youth Empowerment initiatives continued to flourish, providing skills training, mentorship, and leadership development to over 240 young people through the Youth Hub programs. These young leaders are stepping forward with confidence – creating solutions, building enterprises, and serving as role models in their communities.

Each story of progress is a testament to your generosity and partnership. You have helped unlock potential in children and youth who are now envisioning brighter futures for themselves and their families.

As we look ahead to 2026, we do so with renewed energy and a clear focus on scaling our impact even further. Together, we will continue to invest in education, skills, and opportunity – creating pathways for lasting transformation across Kisumu and Homa-Bay Counties and beyond.

Dorothy Dulo
Founder & Executive Director



Here's me pictured (on the left) with Janet, Youth Hub graduate and Beryl, Youth Mentor



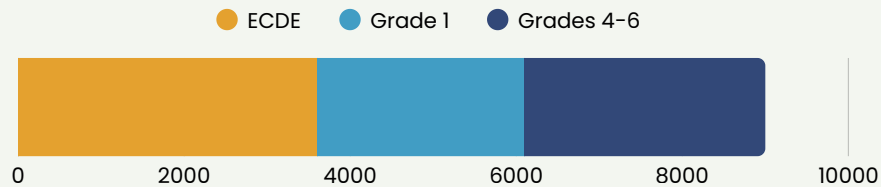
EDUCATION – SOMASAWA

LEARNERS PROGRESS IN 2025

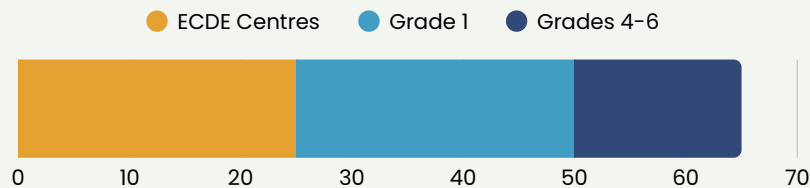
In 2025, a significant proportion of learners progressed to at least one higher level in numeracy and literacy. Among ECDE learners, 65% advanced by at least one level. In Grade 1, this figure rose to 89.6%. For learners in Grades 4 to 6, 53.1% progressed in literacy and 71.1% in numeracy.

Notably, the first group of students from the SomaSawa pilot cohort sat for their Kenya Junior Secondary Exams in 2025. Across all pilot schools, performance increased by an average of three rubric points. Encouragingly, most schools reported no learners performing below expectations.

LEARNERS SERVED



SCHOOLS SERVED





SOMASAWA – KEY SUCESSSES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Teachers trained in the SomaSawa interventions speak with genuine enthusiasm about the transformation they are witnessing in their classrooms. Seeing learners move confidently from one level to the next—often more quickly than expected—has strengthened their belief in the approach and renewed their sense of purpose. As students build skills at an accelerated pace, teachers describe their lessons as more focused, more effective, and ultimately more rewarding. This growing professional confidence and pride is not just expressed in words, but in action. In 2025, classroom attendance for SomaSawa intervention sessions reached an extraordinary 99.18%—a powerful reflection of teacher commitment, ownership, and consistent implementation.

For every 1 teacher trained about 30 learners are supported every term and about 90 learners every year.

86 new teachers trained in December will implement in 2026.

A total of 112 teachers implemented the interventions and were mentored in 2025.

300 > 27,000

teachers will support

learners in 2026



Teacher Training session



WATCH OUR SOMA SAWA IMPACT VIDEO



SOMASAWA – LESSONS LEARNED AND ADAPTIVE RESPONSES

Strengthening instructional quality requires sustained teacher support.

We learned that continuous teacher training and regular mentorship are critical to maintaining high-quality implementation across school terms. In response, Somasawa prioritized refresher trainings and structured coaching cycles to reinforce fidelity and address emerging instructional needs.

Early identification of foundational skill gaps enables timely intervention.

Learning data revealed gaps in core numeracy skills, particularly subtraction. These insights informed the design of targeted remedial activities, allowing mentors and teachers to address challenges early and improve learner outcomes.

Focused data collection improves accuracy and use.

We learned that limiting data collection responsibilities to trained mentors significantly reduces errors and improves data reliability. This adjustment strengthened evidence-based decision-making and instructional planning.

Time and school-level scheduling influence program reach.

Competing school activities and limited instructional hours occasionally reduced time available for interventions. Additionally, in schools without lunch programs, some learners were unable to return for afternoon sessions. These realities emphasized the need for flexible scheduling and closer coordination with school leadership.

Teacher motivation and peer support drive successful uptake.

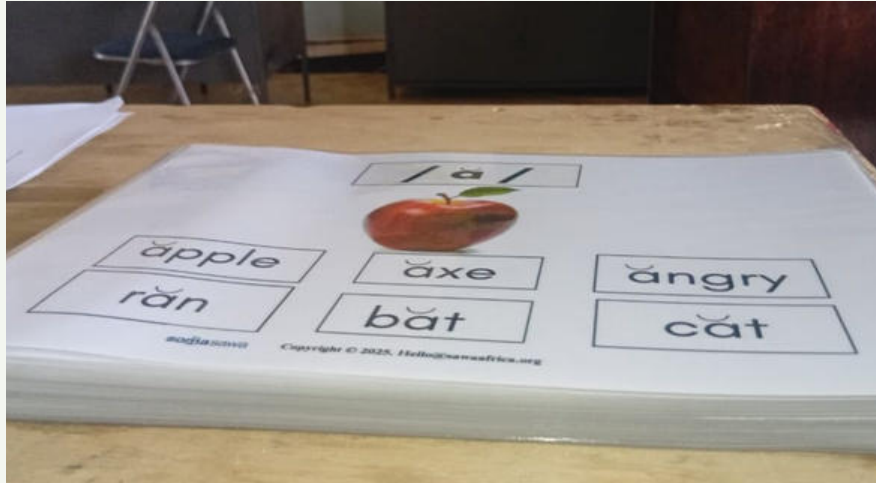
Teacher passion and peer-to-peer collaboration emerged as central to effective program adoption at the school level. Schools where teachers actively supported one another showed stronger alignment with program objectives and more consistent implementation.

Adequate resources directly impact teaching quality and outcomes.

Insufficient training and limited instructional materials were identified as significant barriers to early foundational skills development. Teachers who received both training and instructional materials reported increased motivation and commitment to teaching, contributing to the strongest learner gains observed at the end of each term.



TOOLS TO SUPPORT TEACHERS



SOMASAWA TEACHER'S POCKET COACH

A teacher support toolkit designed for real classrooms. This packet contains all the SomaSawa activities for a teachers quick reference. Its cost effective and can easily be adapted by the schools to support their teachers.

In 2025 we piloted its use in the 25 schools. The teachers appreciated having a quick reference and guide in the classrooms.

ZONE LEADERSHIP MODEL

The success of SomaSawa in Otonglo Zone is closely linked to the exceptional leadership and commitment of the Zone Curriculum Support Officer. Her passion for the program goes far beyond routine oversight—she actively champions SomaSawa across every school in her zone, ensuring no school is left behind. Through consistent mentorship and encouragement, she motivates teachers and school leaders, celebrates their achievements, and reinforces a shared commitment to excellence in early learning. Her hands-on approach and unwavering belief in what schools can achieve sets her apart as a true trailblazer within the government system. Together with SomaSawa, she is committed to making Otonglo a model zone—one that demonstrates what is possible when evidence-based interventions are paired with dedicated leadership.

This partnership underscores a critical lesson: **streamlined, effective collaboration with government education officers is not optional, but essential to achieving high-quality early learning outcomes at scale.**





TEACHER EUNICE ECDE CLASSROOM

“I enjoy teaching using SomaSawa interventions. It introduces my learners to reading and math in a fun way. They enjoy coming to school every day.”

Teacher Eunice was among the first educators in ECDE to join the SomaSawa program and currently teaches Year 2 ECDE at Kotetni Primary School. A vibrant and deeply committed teacher, she is widely admired by her learners, who consistently engage enthusiastically in her classroom. Through SomaSawa training and mentorship, Eunice strengthened her instructional skills and returned to the classroom with renewed confidence and energy. She implements SomaSawa interventions with a high level of fidelity, ensuring that learners benefit fully from the program’s approach. In her additional role as ECDE Centre Manager, Eunice leads her team with care and purpose, making her centre to stand out within Otonglo Zone. It has been especially encouraging to see learners who graduated from her centre continue to thrive in the upper grades—clear evidence of the lasting impact of strong early learning foundations.





ROSE'S GRATITUDE FOR DAUGHTER'S PROGRESS

"I am so grateful for the SomaSawa program. My daughter, Valentine, has improved a lot since she started this program. She can now identify colors, read words and short sentences. She is also curious and interested in reading any book she sees. It's a great program. I would like to thank all the supporters to continue and to bring more such good programs to our schools."





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – YOUTH HUB

Sawa Africa Youth Hub provides skill and social entrepreneurship training to youths and young women. At least 82% of youths enrolled in all programs are girls. 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 Youth Hub also supports our High School and College students with mentoring, scholarships and other needs.

Sawa Africa provided computer classes, school fee support, college prep, health education and awareness, school supply needs, job placement, career and personal counselling to:

240 youth;
82% were girls





MILLICENT GRADUATION IN MAY 2026

Millicent Atieno, a Youth Hub supported graduate, describes her graduation as a deeply fulfilling and emotional milestone—one that marked the reward of years of sacrifice, perseverance, and hard work. Having already gained three years of professional experience, Millicent credits her journey with building resilience, discipline, and a strong sense of responsibility. She plans to apply her knowledge to grow professionally, inspire other girls to join the IT field, and support her siblings to complete their education while continuing to learn and strengthen her skills.



Millicent expresses deep gratitude to God, her family —especially her mother —and to Sawa Africa and its leadership for believing in her potential and opening doors she once thought impossible.

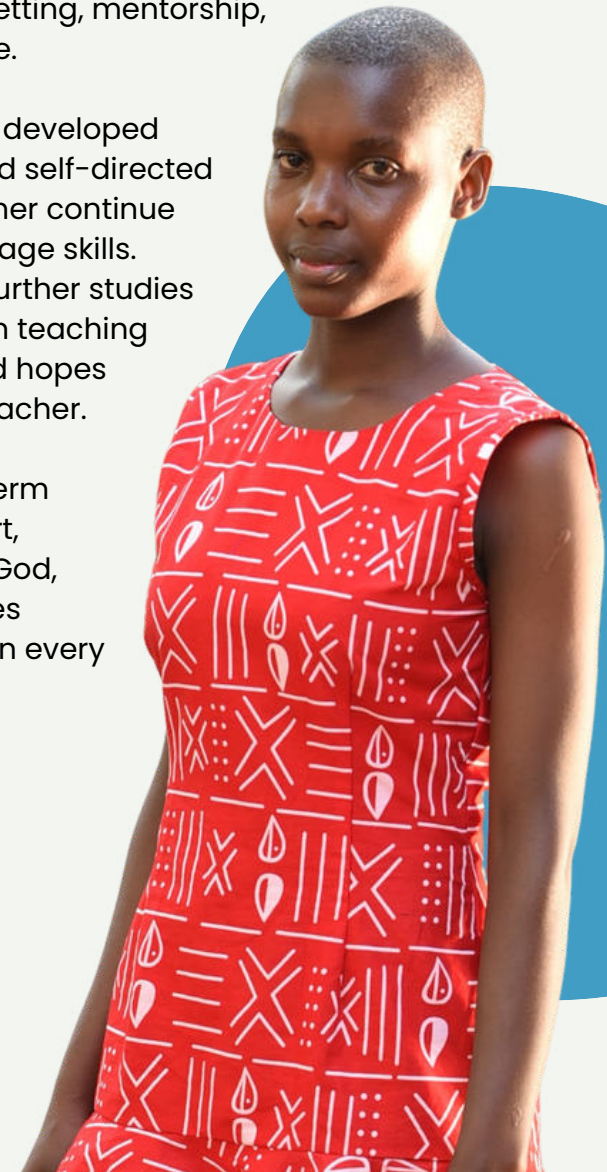
Her story reflects the transformative power of sustained support and the long-term outcomes Youth Hub seeks to achieve for every young person it serves.

BELDINE'S GRADUATES

Beldine, a recent high school graduate supported through the Youth Hub, reflects on her school journey with pride and optimism. She successfully completed high school with a B grade, an achievement she values as the result of clear goal-setting, mentorship, discipline, and perseverance.

Beyond academics, Beldine developed a strong love for reading and self-directed learning, which has helped her continue improving her English language skills. She now aspires to pursue further studies in education, with a focus on teaching Biology and Geography, and hopes to become a High School teacher.

Her story reflects the long-term impact of consistent support, strong foundations, faith in God, and ambition—key outcomes Youth Hub seeks to nurture in every youth it supports.





COMMUNITY WELLNESS

We've made strategic decision to scale down our community wellness program but here's what we did in 2025.

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

SAFE WATER

Access to safe water in the communities we serve continues to reduce the burden of water borne illnesses and save time for women and girls who travel long distance to search for water. 1.6 million liters - Safe Water distributed in 2025 to 6 community water stations, 8 homes, 5 institutions and churches.

HEALTH EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Beryl, the Youth Hub Community Health Worker served 4 schools, 2 women groups and individual clients in their homes. Her health topics include nutrition, malaria prevention, waterborne illnesses, women's health and health maintenance. The women groups have seen significant improvement in their health by following health principles they learn in Beryl's sessions.

FOOD SECURITY

Our farm produced over 45 tonnes of fresh vegetables, fruits and grains. The farm serves as a reliable source of fresh healthy food for the community in all seasons.



TEAM UPDATES

Peninah Masiga Appointed Interim Operations Lead

Peninah Masiga was appointed to be the Interim Operations Lead. Peninah brings six years of dedicated service to the organization, most recently serving as Social Worker across all programs. Known for her passion, compassion, and deep commitment to the well-being of children and youth, she combines strong people-centered leadership with operational insight. Peninah is a skilled mentor who enjoys supporting and developing her colleagues, and she brings a thoughtful, organized, and solutions-oriented approach to her work. Her institutional knowledge, collaborative leadership style, and commitment to excellence positions her well to strengthen systems, support teams, and ensure smooth program delivery during this transition period.



The SomaSawa team



Peninah visiting with Janet, a Youth Hub Alumni at her work place

NEW PARTNERS IN 2025

In 2025 we had the opportunity to learn from the CLI program at Issroff Family Foundation (IFF). The entire team at Sawa Africa participated in learning on different topics such as Accounting, M&E, Fundraising, Strategic planning and Human Resources. Thank you to **Partners For Equity**, Australia for making this possible. We are better equipped for growth.

We are also thrilled to welcome Segal Family Foundation as a committed partner to Sawa Africa in 2025.



EVENTS & NEW CONNECTIONS

Our Director, Dorothy Dulo, had the opportunity to attend four global events:

- 2025 World Literacy Summit in Oxford, UK
- 2025 Skoll World Forum in Oxford, UK
- 2025 UN General Assembly in NYC
- 2025 Tarrytown Schmoozefest

All these events gave her a great platform to network and connect with funders, like-minded organizations and to learn from the guest speakers.

Thank you to **Mighty Ally** for their generous gift that covered the cost for attending these events.



PROGRAM STRATEGY FOR 2026 AND BEYOND

As the organization continues to grow, we conducted a strategic review of our program portfolio to ensure depth, quality, and long-term sustainability. Following this review, we made the deliberate decision to pause the expansion of our community wellness programs in order to concentrate institutional capacity on areas where we have demonstrated the strongest outcomes and readiness to scale.

These community wellness initiatives will remain at their current level, continuing to provide safe water, fresh produce, and health awareness to the communities we serve. They will also continue generating income that supports their sustainability and contributes to overall organizational resilience.

At the same time, we are intentionally expanding our education portfolio—anchored by the SomaSawa program, which has demonstrated strong learning outcomes, high teacher commitment, and effective collaboration with government education officers. As SomaSawa scales, we are placing emphasis on youth empowerment, ensuring learners not only gain foundational academic skills but also access opportunities to grow in leadership, confidence, and life skills.

Education—and SomaSawa in particular—also provides a powerful platform to nurture holistic development. Through our education programs, young learners are supported to grow in faith, and learn values that shape character, integrity, and service to others.

By focusing resources where we are most effective, we are strengthening accountability, safeguarding program quality, and positioning the organization for sustainable growth.

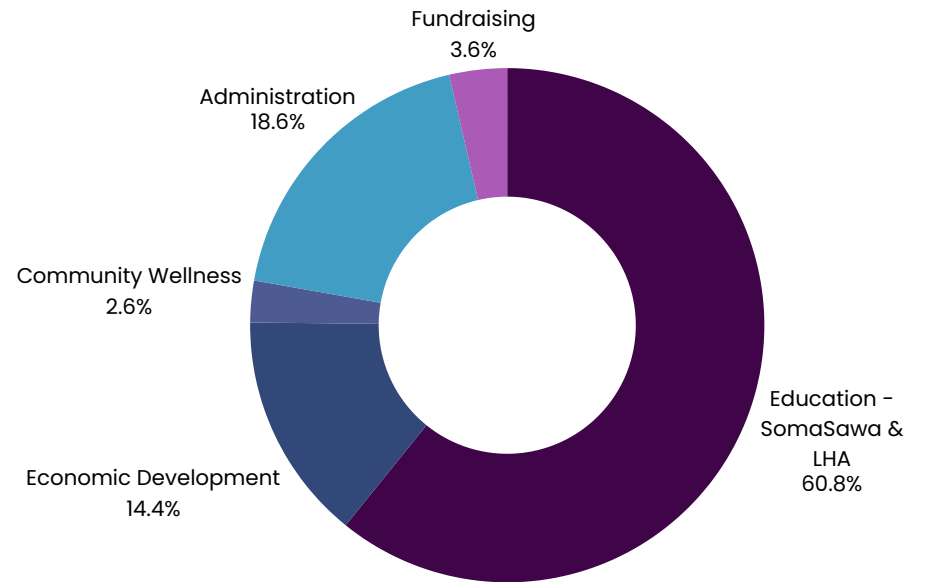
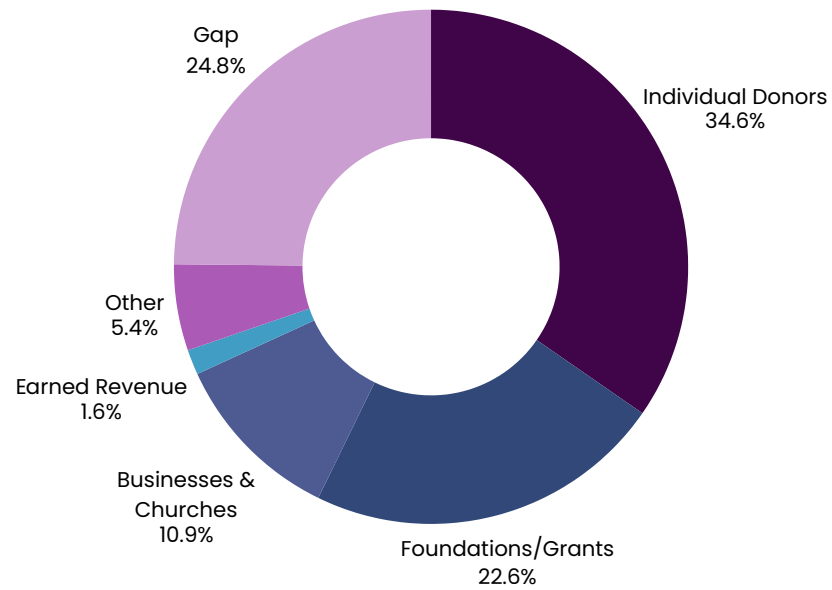


Your partnership enables us to go deeper where impact is proven. By focusing resources on SomaSawa and education-led youth empowerment, donor support directly strengthens teacher capacity, improves learning outcomes, and expands life-changing opportunities for young learners. This strategic focus ensures that every dollar invested delivers measurable, lasting impact.

FINANCE UPDATE

Budget for 2025: \$220,000
Actual Revenue: \$165,514

Expenses: \$118,400
for the 12 months ended December 31, 2025



*33% of actual revenue was raised in the last quarter of 2025

WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON

Areas of Focus in 2026



Improve on data collection tools to increase efficiency and accuracy. Furthermore use the data to inform management and program planning and decisions.



Increase partnerships that align with our mission and needs. Grow in stakeholders positive relationships.



Expand our reach from **180** teachers trained to **300** teachers trained.



Expand our reach from **9000** learners to **27,000** learners.

Our ambitious vision is to **scale** our evidence based innovative interventions to **all learners in the region** with gaps in literacy and numeracy. Our next strategic plan period - 2026 to 2028, gives high priority to reaching more learners. **We invite stakeholders to join hands with us to reach these goals.**





COMING UP

We welcome you to join us at these Sawa Africa fundraising events:



Annual Empty Bowl Fundraiser

October 10, 2026
Lancaster, PA (USA)



Gifts That Give Hope

November 29, 2026
Lancaster, PA (USA) + online



Faithful Give

October 18-20, 2026
Lancaster, PA (USA) + online

Stay tuned for details on these events

Our Director, Dorothy Dulo will be attending these networking and learning events. She would love to connect with you.

Segal 2026

July 20 to 24
Nairobi, Kenya

Tarrytown Schmoozefest

November, 2026
Tarrytown, New York, USA

THANK YOU

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS



Dr. Eucabeth Odhiambo
Educator & Author

FUNDING AND CAPACITY BUILDING PARTNERS



Annual Donors

\$500 to \$10,000

Sawa Africa
Village Ambassadors

Along with our global community of individual donors and volunteers who supported our work in 2025. We couldn't do it without you!

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