



Quarter 2, 2026 Impact Report



The Problem:

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, 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 equip children and families to learn and earn to reach their full potential.

Our Solution

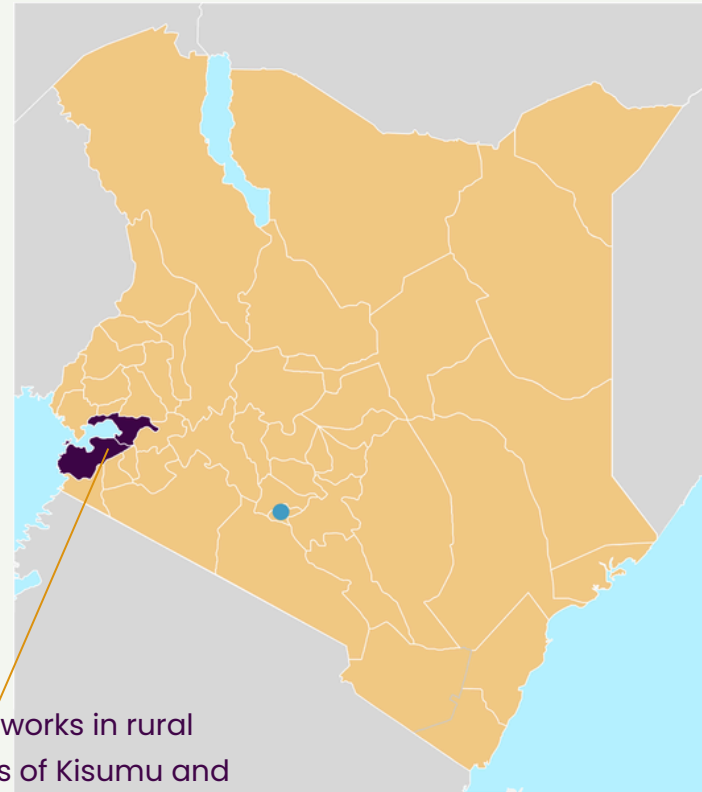
Sawa's approach to the communities we serve is through two core program areas:



Education



Economic Development



Sawa Africa works in rural communities of Kisumu and Homa Bay County.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This quarter has been one of growth, celebration, and laying a stronger foundation for the future of Sawa Africa. As I reflect on all that has taken place, I am reminded that meaningful change is built one relationship, one learner, and one community at a time. Thank you for being part of this journey.

One of our biggest milestones this quarter was moving into a new office. More than just a new space, it represents the growth of our organization and provides a welcoming place where our team, partners, and community can come together to learn, collaborate, and serve.

We also invested in the continued success of the SomaSawa program by providing refresher training for ECDE, Grade 1, and Grade 2 teachers. These sessions strengthened teachers' skills and reaffirmed our shared commitment to ensuring every child develops the foundational literacy and numeracy skills they need to thrive.

Partnership remains at the heart of everything we do. During the quarter, we renewed our Memoranda of Understanding with the County Education Office, the Ministry of Education, and the Teachers Service Commission. These renewed commitments strengthen our collaboration and reflect a shared vision of improving learning outcomes for children across Kisumu County.

We were also honored to host our first Stakeholder Forum that brought together government leaders, partners, funders, educators, and community members to celebrate progress, share lessons learned, and look ahead together. It was an encouraging reminder that lasting change happens when we work together toward a common purpose.

Finally, this quarter marked a special milestone as we celebrated five years of both the SomaSawa program and the Youth Hub. Looking back, we are grateful for every learner, teacher, young person, partner, volunteer, and supporter who has made this journey possible. Looking ahead, we are even more excited about what is still to come.

Thank you for believing in our mission of equipping children and families in Western Kenya to learn and earn so they can reach their full potential. We are thankful to God for His provision and guidance. Your partnership continues to make stories of hope and transformation possible every day.

With gratitude,

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.

Indicator	Q 2 2026
Total Number of ECD Learners served	1851
Total Number of Grade 1 and 2 learners served	1551
Total Number of Primary School (Grades 4-6) learners served	843
ECDE learners numeracy and literacy gain	43.9%
Grade 1 and 2 learners numeracy and literacy gain	58.01%
Primary schools numeracy and literacy gains	76%

300

teachers will support



27,000

learners in 2026

Goal: 300 teachers supported in 2026

How we're tracking: In the second quarter of 2026, we have supported **160 teachers**



Goal: 27,000 learners reached in 2026

How we're tracking: In the second quarter of 2026, we have reached **4,245 learners**





PROGRAM UPDATE:

EDUCATION – SOMASAWA

The SomaSawa program supports 39 schools in Kisumu East and Kisumu West sub-counties in Kisumu County.

In April 2026, SomaSawa conducted a refresher training for ECD, Grade 1 and Grade 2 teachers to strengthen effective implementation of literacy and numeracy interventions. In-school mentors were also trained to enhance their mentorship, monitoring, and support roles. Deputy head teachers, the custodian of curriculum in schools, were oriented to the somasawa program to strengthen school-level ownership and sustainability of the program.

In Quarter 2, 159 teachers implemented SomaSawa across 39 schools:

- ECD – 85 teachers,
- Grade 1 and 2 – 48 teachers,
- Primary – 25 teachers.

All the teachers showed commitment to improving their classroom outcomes. The long rains disrupted implementation in a few schools due to classroom and roads flooding but the teachers and learners continued to stay focused on implementation.



Grade 1 learners at Oyola learning operations using bundles and sticks



STORIES FROM SOMASAWA

In Ngege Primary School during Quarter 2, the SomaSawa program continued to support improved learning outcomes through the implementation of level-based learner grouping, a strategy designed to address learners' individual learning needs and strengthen foundational skills. The approach enabled teachers to organize learners according to their competency levels, allowing for more targeted instruction and learner-centered support.

Madam Joyce, a Grade 2 teacher at the school, reported that the program has significantly enhanced classroom teaching and learning. She noted that grouping learners according to their learning levels has made lesson delivery more effective and manageable, enabling her to provide appropriate support to each group based on their learning needs. This has improved learner engagement and participation during classroom activities.

The teacher further observed that the strategy has contributed to improved learner performance, with many learners demonstrating progress in foundational literacy and numeracy skills. According to her, the structured grouping approach has made it easier to monitor learner progress, identify learning gaps, and provide timely interventions, ultimately contributing to better learning outcomes.

This highlights the program's contribution to improving teaching effectiveness, strengthening differentiated instruction, and enhancing learner achievement through evidence-based approaches that support both teachers and learners.



Learners use the number wheel activity to develop number recognition, counting, place values, and foundational numeracy skills.



SOMASAWA – 5 YEARS OF LEARNING: WHAT HAS SHAPED OUR JOURNEY

1. Lasting Change Can Happen Through Government Partnership

Over the past five years, we have learned that sustainable impact is achieved by working with government, not around it. By building strong partnerships with the Ministry of Education, the Teachers Service Commission, and County Education offices, we have seen greater ownership, stronger collaboration, significant learning outcomes, and a clearer pathway for scaling our work.

2. Investing in Teachers Creates a Ripple Effect

We have learned that one of the most effective ways to improve learning outcomes is by investing in teachers. When teachers are equipped with practical skills, ongoing support, and confidence, they create better learning experiences that benefit countless children throughout their careers.

3. The Best Innovation Is Co-Created

Over the past five years, we have learned that strong innovations are shaped by the people they are designed to serve. By inviting beneficiaries and stakeholders to help design, test, and refine our approach, we have built solutions that are more relevant, practical, and sustainable. This has taught us that innovation is most effective when communities are active partners in creating lasting change.



Mr Ochare a facilitator at Okago grading a learner's work during a literacy session

SOMASAWA UPDATES

OPPORTUNITY TO HOST PARTNERS

During the quarter, SomaSawa was privileged to host Dr. Beatrice Adera for a courtesy visit and program engagement at the new office. The visit provided an opportunity to strengthen partnership, review the implementation progress and impact of the interventions. Discussions focused on strengthening approaches for documenting school-based success stories, developing an assessment tools to support evidence generation and learning, and clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the support team and SomaSawa in enhancing program implementation, monitoring, and sustainability.

Sawa was also privileged to host our funding partner, Partners For Equity (PFE). Lenah and Eveline represented PFE in the stakeholder forum and also visited the new Sawa Africa office to familiarize themselves with the organization's new premises and operations. The visit provided an opportunity to showcase Sawa's organizational growth and enhanced operational capacity. We had the opportunity to share refreshments and talk about real issues of growing a grass root organization. We are blessed to have partners who make the time to be proximate and engaged with our work. Understanding the realities of our daily operations increases opportunities for shared decisions and deeper collaboration.



Dr. Beatrice Adera, alongside the Director and the SomaSawa Program team, during a program engagement and reflection session at the new Sawa Africa Offices.



Lenah and Eveline (PFE partners) with the Sawa Africa team during their visit to the new Sawa Africa office.

SOMASAWA UPDATES

STAKEHOLDER FORUM



In June, Sawa Africa convened its first SomaSawa Stakeholders Forum, bringing together representatives from the Kisumu County Government, Ministry of Education, Teachers Service Commission, County Education Office for ECDE, school leaders, teachers, parents, learners, and program partners.

The forum provided an opportunity to reflect on program progress, strengthen partnerships, and align around a shared vision for improving foundational learning and skills.

Stakeholders recognized that SomaSawa's success is rooted in strong collaboration and highlighted improvements in learner attendance, classroom participation, and teaching quality through ongoing teacher professional development. Participants also emphasized the importance of using high-quality data to guide decision-making and affirmed that learner-centered teaching approaches are helping address diverse learning needs in the classroom.

The forum also identified opportunities for continued growth, including expanding the program to more schools, strengthening support for teachers, and deepening government collaboration to ensure sustainable impact. The discussions concluded with a shared commitment to working together so that more children develop the foundational skills they need to learn and thrive.



YOUTH HUB – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



At Youth Hub, we believe every young person deserves opportunities to build skills, gain experience, and transition confidently into the world of work. Through mentorship and internship placements, we connect young people to practical opportunities that bridge education and employment, as demonstrated by Shantel's journey.

Shantel, an aspiring Interior Design student, joined the Youth Hub internship program and was placed at Sawa Africa to provide office support. During her placement, she has developed key workplace skills including communication, planning, time management, teamwork, and professionalism, while also strengthening problem-solving and attention to detail.

The internship has exposed her to a professional work environment, enhancing her understanding of accountability, adaptability, and collaboration. Shantel shared how this experience has boosted her confidence and prepared her for academic and career path in interior design.

Shantel will leave the program equipped with practical skills, confidence, and readiness for her future career journey.

SAWA AFRICA UPDATES

Monitoring and Evaluation consultant visit

Sawa Africa recently hosted Mr. Peter Mbiyu, a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Consultant, for an onsite learning visit aimed at gaining a deeper understanding of the SomaSawa and Youth Hub program and their implementation across partner schools. During the visit, Mr. Mbiyu engaged with program staff and visited several institutions to observe program activities, classroom instruction, learner engagement, and assessment processes across different levels.

The visit highlighted the commitment of facilitators and educators in supporting learners through differentiated instruction and the effective use of teaching and learning materials. Mr. Mbiyu also observed learner assessments and appreciated the learner-centered approaches being used to strengthen foundational learning and skills development among beneficiaries.

The engagement provided valuable insights that will make the building blocks of improving our MEL tools and process.



Mr. Peter Mbiyu (right), MEL Consultant, engages Mr. Amon (left), a teacher at Omung'i Primary School, during an interview session as part of the SomaSawa onsite learning visit to assess programme implementation practices.

SAWA AFRICA UPDATES

5 YEARS OF SERVICE, LEARNING AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

Happy 5th Anniversary, Sawa Africa!

Sawa Africa marked five years of the SomaSawa and YouthHub programs with a special Thanksgiving celebration that brought together government partners, educators, donors, community members, volunteers, board members, staff, and friends of the organization.

The event provided an opportunity to reflect on the journey from a bold vision to growing two programs that are transforming learning opportunities for children and expanding pathways for young people to thrive.

The celebration featured reflections from partners, inspiring performances by the Sawa Girls Voices, and stories highlighting the impact made possible through collaboration and shared commitment. It also recognized the contributions of the Ministry of Education, Teachers Service Commission, schools, donors, and community partners whose support has been instrumental over the past five years.

More than a milestone, the celebration reaffirmed Sawa Africa's commitment to strengthening communities through education, youth empowerment, and partnerships, while looking ahead with renewed purpose to the next chapter of impact.

We thank God for choosing our team to serve in the communities. We have learnt a lot in the past 5 years. We look forward to even greater outcomes and impact in the next 10 years.



FROM THE PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Namayi Godfrey, a teacher, mentor, and Program Assistant with the SomaSawa Program. In my role, I support the implementation of the SomaSawa program by providing technical support to teachers on learner grouping according to ability levels, the effective delivery of the intervention activities, learner progression and classroom instruction.

I also collaborate with the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) team to support program monitoring, analysis of assessment data, and facilitate evidence-based decision-making. Additionally, I coordinate program documentation by collecting field data, capturing photographs of implementation activities, and documenting key program milestones and success stories.

My field experience during the quarter reinforced the realities of program implementation in diverse contexts. The second quarter is the rainy season in this region. Flooding is a daily reality that affects learners and teachers attendance. During one mentorship visit, flooding rendered the access road impassable, requiring me to walk through floodwaters to reach the school. The visit revealed the significant challenges faced by learners and teachers, with only 2 of the 16 ECDE learners present due to poor accessibility. Despite these challenges, teachers continued implementing learning activities for the learners who were present, demonstrating exceptional commitment and resilience. Their dedication

exemplified Sawa Africa's value of Service – a commitment to ensuring that learners continue to access quality education despite adverse circumstances.

Through teacher support, effective monitoring, and evidence-informed improvements, SomaSawa continues to improve foundational literacy and numeracy outcomes and learning experiences for learners.



Namayi Godfrey, Program Assistant, navigates flooded access route to reach a partner school, ensuring continued support for teachers and learners.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

“

SomaSawa has helped me improve my English reading skills and use words from mind map activities to form simple sentences. In Mathematics, I am now able to solve subtraction problems using bundles and sticks

Cindy, a grade 4 learner at
Kodiaga Primary

”



“

Through the Somasawa play-based activities, my learners have made significant progress. Learners are now able to recognize sounds and read three-letter words. Assessment-based grouping has enabled me to design activities that match learners' abilities, contributing to improved learner performance and progress.

Teacher Dorine Grade 1 teacher
Kirembe Primary school

”



“

The SomaSawa programme has been very beneficial to learners by making learning more engaging and enjoyable, which has increased their motivation to attend school. The programme has contributed to reduced learner absenteeism and truancy. It has also supported teachers by making curriculum implementation easier, as SomaSawa activities align with classroom concepts and complement regular teaching practices.

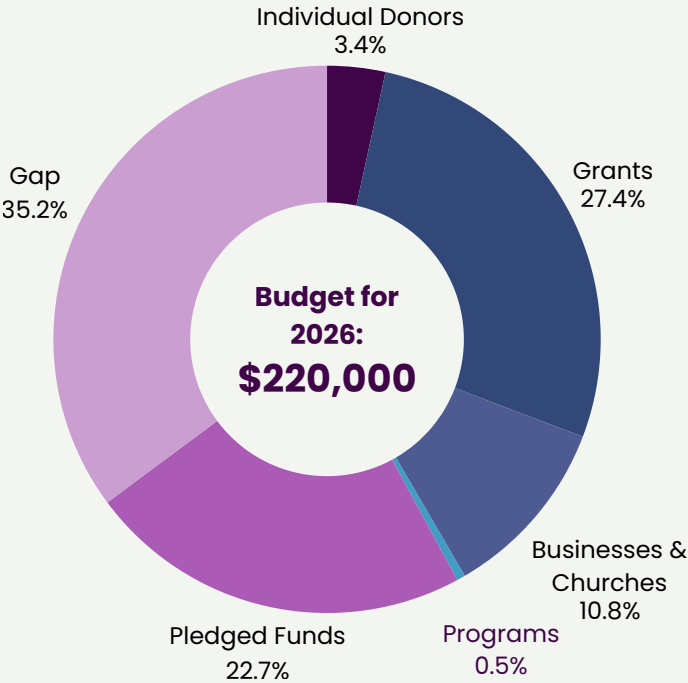
In-school mentor Madam
Mourine, Oyola primary school

”



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Income Year to Date: \$91,533



Expenses – \$75,265

Expenses Year to Date

SomaSawa Program	\$26,041
Economic Development – Youth Hub	\$4,044
Program Expenses	\$30,085
Administrative Expenses	\$18,578
Fundraising	\$3,064
Q2 TOTAL EXPENSES	\$51,727

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Donate to **support our teacher training** **cost** of \$85,000 in 2026.
- We'd love for you to **share this report** with your networks – it helps raise our profile and grow our organization.

GET IN TOUCH



www.sawaafrika.org



<https://www.instagram.com/sawa.africa/>



<https://www.facebook.com/SawaAfric/>



dorothy@sawaafrika.org



Tom Mboya, Kisumu
Kenya

