



COME TOGETHER WIDOWS AND ORPHANS ORGANIZATION (CTWOO)



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CTWOO	Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization
WISALA	Widows' Savings and Loan Association
FIDA	Federation of Women Lawyers
LSK	Law Society of Kenya
ILC	International Law Commission
NGAAF	National Government Affirmative Action Fund
WEF	Women Enterprise Fund
GROOTS	Grassroots Women's Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
KHRC	Kenya Human Rights Commission
TOTs	Trainers of Trainers
ASALs	Arid and Semi- Arid Lands
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization's (CTWOO) programs & activities, achievements, financial performance, challenges encountered in the the year 2025 and concludes with a future outlook that outlines CTWOO's strategic priorities for continued growth and impact.

MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Partners, Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on 2025, my heart is full of honour and gratitude for the incredible strides Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization (CTWOO) has made in uplifting the lives of widows and orphans across Kenya. Third quarter 2025 has been a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the power of collective action.

CTWOO was founded on a simple yet profound belief: that every widow and orphan deserves the opportunity to live a happy, dignified and fulfilled life. Looking back to 2013, CTWOO started with a small group of 150 widows to now impacting thousands of lives across the country.

In 2025, we witnessed countless stories of transformation. We saw widows empowered with new skills, connected to new opportunities, their stories being rewritten and their lives full of resilience, their children accessing quality education, and communities changing attitudes towards widows.

I am deeply grateful to our dedicated staff, volunteers, partners, and donors whose unwavering commitment made these achievements possible.

As we move forward, CTWOO remains steadfast in its mission to create a brighter future for widows and orphans. Together, we can build a world where every vulnerable individual has the chance to reach their full potential.

Thank you for being a part of the CTWOO family.

Warmly,

Dr. Dianah Kamande

Founder & Executive Director

Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization (CTWOO)

ABOUT US

Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization (CTWOO) is a non-profit making Non-Governmental Organization based in Kenya. The organization was founded in 2013 as a Community-Based Organization committed to empowering widows and orphans and later blossomed into a National Non-Governmental Organization in 2019. Over the past 12 years, we have championed the rights of widows and orphans, impacting change across all 47 counties through Advocacy, Education, and Empowerment programs.

We understand that widowhood is a profound journey that begins immediately after the loss of a husband. Our role in supporting widows starts with empathetic engagement during their time of grief and sorrow, offering a compassionate space for them to share their feelings and gradually overcome the initial challenges of bereavement. Central to our approach is prioritizing the Physical, Emotional, Social, Intellectual well-being and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of widows and their children. We believe these form the cornerstone of any meaningful empowerment we provide. We engage in comprehensive advocacy efforts to raise awareness about the Rights and Plight of widows, empowering communities to acknowledge and combat these injustices. Our Empowerment initiatives focus on social, legal, and economic support providing widows with the resources and skills they need to achieve independence and stability. We provide widows with essential guidance on family law, property rights, and inheritance matters, ensuring they are not subjected to discrimination due to harmful cultural practices.

Mission Statement

We are committed to fostering a more equitable and just society where widows and orphans have access to the resources, opportunities, and legal protections necessary to lead dignified and empowered lives. We strive to implement strategies and policies that guarantee and safeguard their rights while ensuring their economic, social, and political empowerment.

Core Values

Commitment
Equality
Love
Justice
Humility

Vision Statement

We envision a society where social norms, justice, human rights, happiness, and prosperity are guaranteed for every widow and orphan in Kenya.

Offered educational scholarships to 135 Orphans and Vulnerable Children, ensuring access to quality education.

Conducted widowhood survey in Kwale County in collaboration with our Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development (CCGD) and Tuwajali Wajane CBO to collect data on widows, challenges and key policy interventions.

Launched Fanikisha Mjane Project funded by Christian Aid Kenya in Ganze Sub-County in Kilifi County, to promote the economic empowerment and resilience of widows through sustainable livelihood initiatives.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2025

Trained 75 widows paralegals in Meru county equipping them with knowledge and skills to advocate for their rights and support access to justice within their community.

Invested in training programs for our staff and interns & attachees, therefore enhancing their skills and expertise.

Successfully convened a High-Level Consultative Meeting from 12th to 14th May 2025, bringing together key stakeholders whose deliberations culminated in the development of the Widowed Persons Protection Bill, a landmark legislative proposal aimed at strengthening the rights, protection, and welfare of widowed persons in Kenya.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

In 2025, Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization hosted impactful events, including Valentine's event, International Women's Day and Widows Day and 16 days of activism celebrations across multiple counties. These events highlighted our commitment to raising awareness about women's rights, showcasing community resilience, and uplifting the voices of widows and orphans through engaging activities and advocacy efforts

1 VALENTINE'S EVENT

The Valentine's Event held on February 14, 2025, at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, was a remarkable gathering that celebrated love, resilience, and solidarity among widows and orphans. The event brought together 400 widows from across Kenya and was graced by the Guest of Honour, Harriette Chiggai, the President's Advisor on Women Rights. The occasion featured heartfelt speeches, the presentation of the Unwavering Advocacy Award, and various activities designed to uplift, empower, and support the participants. The gathering highlighted the organization's unwavering commitment to strengthening community bonds, championing the rights and welfare of widows and orphans, and fostering a more inclusive and compassionate society.

2 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

During the month of March, we commemorated International Women's Day through advocacy events held in two counties, Kiambu (Gatundu North and South) and Nyeri. The celebrations brought together 300 widows from each county, providing a platform to raise awareness on the rights, challenges, and empowerment of widows. Through discussions, community engagement, and advocacy activities, the events reinforced the organization's commitment to promoting gender equality, social inclusion, and the protection of widows' rights within their communities.

PHOTOS OF THE VALENTINE'S EVENT



3 INTERNATIONAL WIDOW'S DAY

We held International Widows Day 2025 celebrations in Kilifi County, beginning with a powerful pre-activity focused on empowering widowed persons and amplifying their voices. The event featured testimonials from Ms. Prudence Kai, Coast Region Chapter Widow Leader, who shared the lived experiences and challenges faced by widows in the county. Key sessions were led by Kenya Land Alliance and FIDA-Kenya on land rights, succession, access to justice, and legal aid, while the Kenya National Chambers of Commerce and Industry emphasized sustainable livelihoods and inclusion in the blue economy. The Premier Maritime Training Institute also encouraged skills development for widows' children, reinforcing a collective commitment to the empowerment, dignity, and rights of widowed persons in Kenya.

4 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

We celebrated the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in Nairobi and Kilifi counties through community engagements and sustained social media campaigns throughout the period. The activities focused on raising awareness, amplifying advocacy messages, and strengthening collective action to end gender-based violence, particularly against widowed persons and vulnerable groups.

5 HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIVE FORUM

From 12th to 14th May 2025, we convened a high-level consultative forum on the protection of widowed persons' rights in Kenya. The forum brought together key stakeholders to deliberate on the challenges facing widowed persons and culminated in a Joint Communiqué calling for urgent action, legal reforms, and strengthened accountability to uphold their rights and dignity across the country. It further led to the development of the Widowed Persons Protection Bill, 2026.

PHOTOS OF INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY 2025



PHOTOS OF INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY 2025



PHOTOS OF 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN 2025



PHOTOS OF THE HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIVE FORUM



PHOTOS OF THE HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIVE FORUM



6. WORKING SESSIONS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WIDOWED PERSONS PROTECTION BILL, 2026

Following the High-Level Consultative Forum on the Protection of Widowed Persons' Rights held from 12th–14th May 2025, Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization (CTWOO) convened a series of technical working sessions bringing together representatives from government institutions, civil society organizations, legal experts, development partners and widowed persons' groups to review the forum recommendations and address legislative gaps affecting widowed persons. Through collaborative consultations, stakeholder engagements and technical drafting processes, the working sessions culminated in the development of the Widowed Persons Protection Bill, 2026, a landmark legislative proposal aimed at protecting widowed persons from discrimination, disinheritance, property grabbing and harmful cultural practices while promoting access to justice, social protection and economic empowerment.

7. COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW69)

From 10th to 21st March 2025, our Founder and Executive Director, Dr. Dianah Kamande, HSC, participated in the 69th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA. The session, which marked the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+30), brought together governments, civil society organizations, development partners and women's rights advocates from across the globe to review progress and accelerate action towards gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Through her participation, Dr. Kamande amplified the voices and experiences of widowed women in Kenya, engaged in global policy discussions, strengthened strategic partnerships and advanced advocacy efforts aimed at promoting the rights, dignity and socio-economic empowerment of widowed persons.

PHOTOS OF THE STAKEHOLDERS DURING THE BILL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



PHOTOS OF THE STAKEHOLDERS DURING THE BILL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



CSW 69 PHOTOS



ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

1 ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

At the forefront of change, we have been dedicated to empowering widows economically through innovative and sustainable initiatives. During the third quarter of 2025, we conducted the launch of Fanikisha Mjane Project showcasing our commitment to fostering financial independence and improving the lives of widows across the country.

Launch of Fanikisha Mjane Project

The Fanikisha Mjane Project in Ganze Sub-County, Kilifi County, is an economic empowerment initiative designed to enhance the livelihoods of 150 widows through climate-smart cassava farming. The project promotes sustainable agricultural practices aimed at improving food security, increasing household income, and strengthening resilience to climate change. By equipping widows with knowledge in modern cassava production, value addition, and agribusiness management, the initiative fosters self-reliance and economic independence. Ultimately, the project contributes to the broader goal of advancing gender equality, restoring dignity, and promoting sustainable community development among widows in the region.

PHOTOS OF THE PROGRAM'S ACTIVITIES



2

Legal Empowerment

Our Legal Empowerment Program is committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5 and 10: Gender Equality and Reduced Inequalities. Through targeted legal education and empowerment initiatives, we strive to create a more just and equitable society for widows in Kenya therefore enabling them to realize their rights and live with dignity.

1. Paralegal Trainings

Paralegal training for 75 widows from Mutethia, Tumaini, and Mukiria Widows' Groups marked a key milestone in strengthening legal awareness and advocacy. The training covered the following thematic areas:

- The Constitution of Kenya
- Gender equality
- Succession law
- Early child marriage
- Matrimonial property law
- Land ownership law

The program equipped participants with essential legal knowledge and confidence to advocate for their rights and those of their communities. The graduation ceremony, held at Kariene Primary School grounds, celebrated this achievement and inspired the widows to use their skills to promote justice and equality.

2. Legal Education & Awareness

We conducted widespread legal education sessions and outreaches. These initiatives raised awareness about key legal issues affecting widows and provided practical legal knowledge to the widows and the communities at large. These activities benefitted from collaborations with legal experts, including officers from the Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) and the Law Society of Kenya (LSK), who generously contributed their time and expertise to educate widows during these activities and outreaches.

Social Impact



75

Widows Trained as Paralegals

These trainings have a profound impact, empowering widows to:

- The Constitution of Kenya
- Gender equality
- Succession law
- Early child marriage
- Matrimonial property law
- Land ownership law

The paralegal training was conducted in Meru County with the legal education and awareness. This has created a ripple effect of legal empowerment and awareness.

10

Legal Education sessions

Our legal education sessions have raised awareness in the wider community, fostering a culture of respect for widows' rights and gender equality.

PHOTOS OF THE PROGRAM'S ACTIVITIES



PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED

3

ORPHANS & VULNERABLE CHILDREN EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

The OVC (Orphans and Vulnerable Children) Education Sponsorship Program continued its mission to provide educational opportunities to vulnerable children in the third quarter 2025. This quarter, we are proud to announce the sponsorship of 7 new students, bringing the total number of students supported by the program to 139.

The Education Sponsorship Program provides comprehensive support, including:

Scholarships: Covering tuition fees, school supplies, and uniforms.

Mentorship and Career Guidance: Providing guidance and support to help students make informed decisions about their future.

PROGRAM IMPACT

We achieved significant milestones in our mission to empower Orphans & Vulnerable children through education: The following are some of our notable achievements;

- Sponsored 7 additional students, bringing the total number of sponsored students to 135
- Enhanced mentorship, career guidance, psychosocial support, life skills training, and vocational training programs to meet the evolving needs of our students.

We collaborate with various institutions, agencies, and stakeholders to:

- Ensure quality education.
- Provide comprehensive support.
- Create sustainable impact.

The program empowers students to:

- Achieve academic success.
- Develop essential life skills.
- Become self-reliant and contribute to their communities.



"Being part of the OVC Education Sponsorship Program has changed my life. I am now able to go to school and pursue my dreams." - Beyonce Adhiambo, sponsored student

STUDENTS' STORIES



"The mentorship and support I receive from the program have helped me overcome many challenges" - Mark David, sponsored student

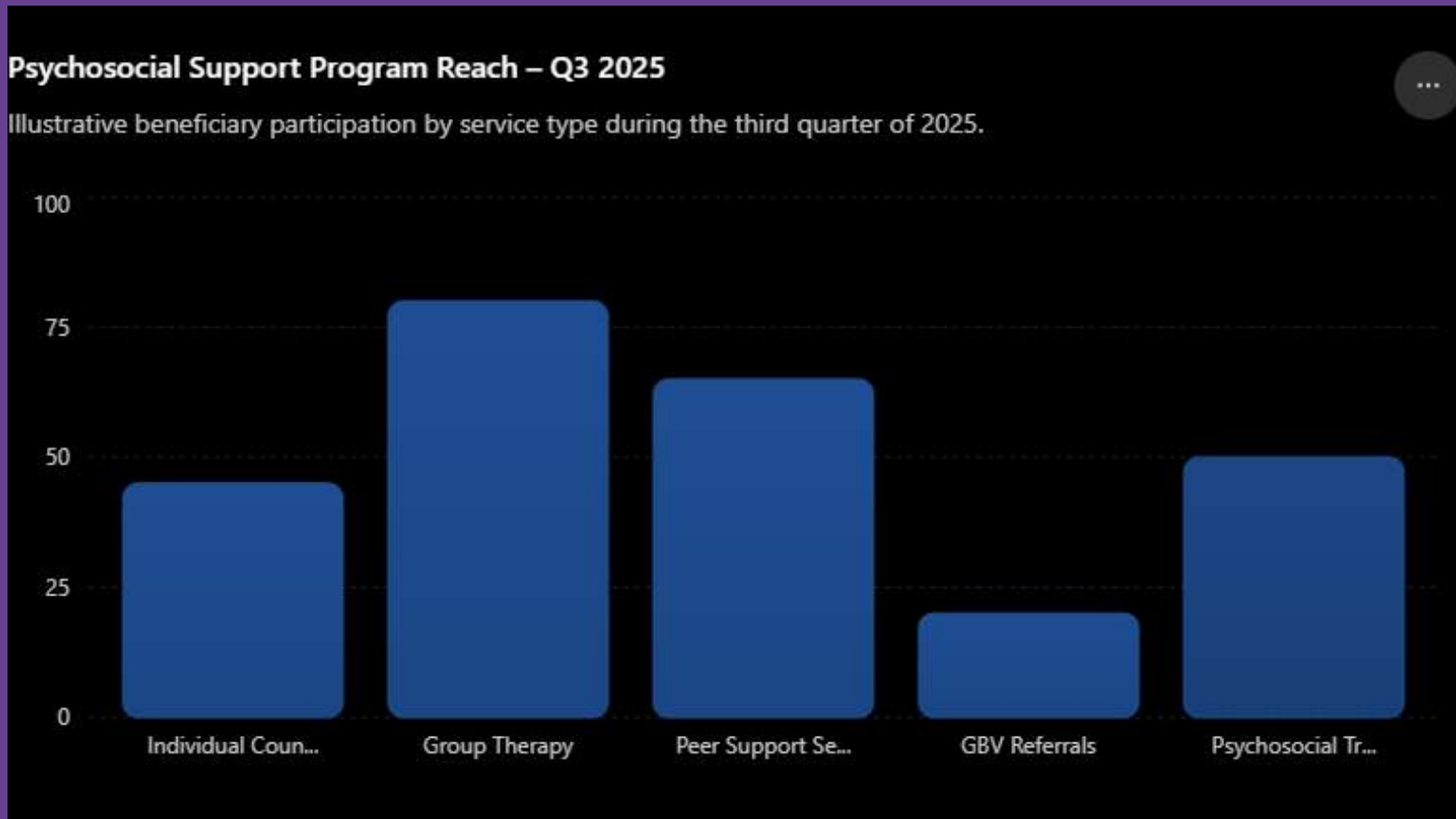
We extend our deepest gratitude to our well-wishers and supporters, whose generosity enabled us to sponsor 7 new students in 2025. Your contributions are transforming lives and creating a brighter future for vulnerable children.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Throughout 2025, the Psychosocial Support Program remained a cornerstone of our efforts to restore dignity, emotional well-being, and resilience among widows affected by grief, trauma, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and social exclusion. Through a structured, trauma-informed approach, the program provided counseling, peer support groups, psychosocial education, and referrals to specialized services, creating safe spaces for healing and recovery. These interventions enabled beneficiaries to strengthen coping mechanisms, rebuild social connections, and regain confidence to participate actively in family, community, and livelihood activities. By addressing emotional and psychological challenges while promoting social inclusion, the program contributed significantly to improved mental wellness, reduced isolation, and enhanced resilience among vulnerable widows and their families.

Psychosocial Support Program Reach

Illustrative beneficiary participation by service type during the year 2025.



MEETINGS ATTENDED

Empowering Widows Through Supplier Diversity and Public Procurement Opportunities

Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization participated in a forum hosted by UN Women at Glee Hotel, Nairobi, under the theme “Pledge to Practice: Inspiring Tangible Actions on Supplier Diversity.” The event focused on promoting women’s participation in public procurement, aligning with our Widows’ Economic Empowerment Program.

It was noted that although 30% of government procurement opportunities are reserved for women, youth, and persons with disabilities, only 18.1% has been achieved for women. Key challenges highlighted included the complexity of procurement processes, lack of accurate data, and limited inclusion of grassroots women, especially widows.

We emphasized the need for training, mentorship, and digital literacy programs to help widows access procurement opportunities, particularly with the shift to Electronic Government Procurement (e-GP). We appreciate UN Women for organizing this impactful session and remain committed to advancing widows’ economic empowerment through inclusive and collective action.

Launch of NGECE Strategic Plan (2025–2029) and USAWA Awards

We participated in the official launch of the National Gender and Equality Commission’s (NGECE) Fourth Strategic Plan (2025–2029) and the USAWA Awards Ceremony held at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi.

As a key partner, we joined other stakeholders and changemakers in celebrating this milestone, reaffirming our commitment to promoting gender equality and the inclusion of marginalized groups, particularly widows and orphans in national development initiatives.

Strategic Engagement with CREAM-Kenya

We held a strategic engagement with the Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAM-Kenya) to strengthen our partnership and explore collaborative strategies that promote widows’ rights, access to justice, and empowerment. During the meeting, we discussed ways to expand our outreach and deepen our impact in addressing the unique challenges faced by widows. This partnership seeks to amplify widows’ voices, advance their rights, and ensure no widow is left behind.

Engagement with GROOTS Kenya

We held a strategic meeting with the leadership team of GROOTS Kenya to explore collaborative strategies that position grassroots women, particularly widows, at the center of sustainable development. The discussion focused on fostering inclusive, community-led solutions that promote gender equity, uphold human dignity, and strengthen community resilience through meaningful partnerships.

Participation in the Affecto Foundation Charity Golf Event

We participated in a charity golf event organized by the Affecto Foundation at Sigona Golf Club, aimed at raising funds to support education initiatives. The event brought together partners and supporters committed to creating lasting change through education.

We were honored to be part of this noble cause and to network with other stakeholders and friends who share our vision of empowering communities. The event was supported by several reputable sponsors, including Equity Bank Kenya, Urbann Vacations, AMCCO Properties Ltd, and other distinguished brands.

Participation in the KEPSA Foundation Breastfeeding Run

We participated in the Breastfeeding Run organized by the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) Foundation at Karura Forest, Nairobi, under the theme “Prioritize Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support Systems.”

The event brought together stakeholders committed to promoting child well-being through better business practices that support breastfeeding, child nutrition, and family-based care. We reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening child support systems and promoting environments that prioritize children’s health, protection, and development.

Leadership and Reflection Meeting with Nairobi Chapter Widow Leaders

We held a consultative meeting with our Nairobi Chapter widow leaders representing all 17 constituencies to reflect on leadership, unity, and growth following the 2025 International Widows

The meeting provided a platform to discuss key concerns affecting widows, strengthen leadership capacity, and explore effective conflict resolution approaches within groups. We also reviewed ongoing and planned initiatives, emphasizing the importance of strengthening our SACCO through active member registration and consistent saving to enhance financial and economic empowerment. We appreciate the openness and dedication of our leaders as we continue building stronger structures for the betterment of our community.

Kenya Land Alliance Land Reform Meeting

We participated in a meeting convened by the Kenya Land Alliance (KLA) on 26th August 2025 at Jacaranda Hotel, Nairobi, under the theme “Land Struggle of Our Time: Galvanizing the Land Sector Actors Towards

Sustainable Land Reform Agenda.” The discussions focused on addressing land challenges in Kenya, where we emphasized women’s land rights and the need for cultural, legal, and institutional reforms to ensure gender equality in land ownership.

Networking Engagement with UFacilitate Team

Our team attended a networking event organized by the UFacilitate Team at About Thyme, Nairobi, which brought together partners and stakeholders passionate about community impact and transformation. The engagement provided an opportunity to connect with organizations such as Amplify Change, Guide to Good the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (UK), Intellect Advisory Services, and Shujaaz Inc. The team left the event with strengthened networks, renewed inspiration, and a shared commitment to building impactful partnerships for sustainable social change.

Engagement with Representatives from the Geneva Graduate Institute

We were honored to host Ms. Lore Vandewalle and Mr. Lumumba Augustine from the Geneva Graduate Institute, who visited our office to learn about our programs and the socio-economic realities of widowhood in Kenya. The discussion highlighted the economic challenges widows face and the impact of empowerment initiatives on improving their livelihoods. They commended our efforts in promoting widows' rights and inclusion. Their visit was part of an international study on widowhood, reflecting growing global interest in our work and its contribution to sustainable change.

GALLERY





PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

In 2025, we strengthened partnerships with organizations such as:

- Geneva Graduate Institute
- UFacilitate
- Gorgeous Technical Institute (GTI)
- Kenya Land Alliance
- GROOTS Kenya
- CREAM Kenya
- UN Women

FUTURE GOALS FOR 2026

As we continue our mission to empower and support widows and orphans, our priorities for this year focus on expanding programs, strengthening advocacy, building partnerships, and improving services to meet the evolving needs of our communities. Below are the key priorities, goals, and new initiatives that will guide our efforts:

- **Expand economic empowerment programs to reach more widows:** To enhance the livelihoods of more widows, we aim to scale up our economic empowerment programs by offering more diverse and accessible skills training in counties with a high concentration of widows. In 2026, we aim to conduct more community outreach programs to reach widows in rural areas. We will also strengthen support networks like WISALA Table Banking and Come Together Widows SACCO to provide widows with more financial literacy tools, savings options, and access to credit, empowering them to create and sustain businesses. This expansion will ensure that more widows have the opportunity to achieve economic self-sufficiency and financial independence.
- **Strengthen advocacy efforts for widows' rights and policies:** We aim to prioritize our advocacy to create a stronger, more supportive environment for widows. We look forward to mobilizing support for the Widowed Persons Protection Bill that is currently under development

CONCLUSION

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has been part of our journey. Your unwavering support has enabled us to reach out to more widows and orphans. The impact we've made together is no just a statistic. It is a testament to the power of collective effort in transforming lives. As we look forward to 2026, we are filled with hope and determination to continue our mission. Together, we can create world where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

CONTACT US

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