COME TOGETHER WIDOWS AND ORPHANS ORGANIZATION (CTWOO)

QUARTERLY REPORT

Q2 2026 | April – June 2026

Advancing Widows' Rights, Justice and Economic Resilience

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1. MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Partners, Stakeholders, Widows and Friends of CTWOO,

It is with gratitude and renewed commitment that I present the CTWOO Q2 2026 Quarterly Report, covering activities implemented between April and June 2026. This quarter marked a significant period of advocacy, community engagement, economic empowerment, and strengthening of the rights and participation of widowed persons.

During the quarter, CTWOO continued to strengthen the voice and agency of widowed persons through community visits, advocacy, economic empowerment initiatives, and stakeholder engagement. Our efforts towards the Widowed Persons Protection Bill, 2026 provided an important platform for raising awareness of its key provisions and promoting meaningful participation by widowed persons in legislative processes.

We also strengthened grassroots leadership, civic participation, access to justice, legal advocacy, referrals, and rights-based skills among widowed persons and community structures. These efforts contributed to increased awareness of rights and improved access to relevant services and opportunities.

I sincerely thank all widowed persons, community leaders, government institutions, faith-based organisations, development partners, and other stakeholders for their continued support and partnership. Together, we remain committed to building a future where every widow and widowed person can live with dignity, access justice, and pursue meaningful social and economic opportunities.

Dr. Dianah Kamande
Founder & Executive Director, CTWOO

2. ABOUT CTWOO

Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization (CTWOO) is a national NGO operating under the Public Benefit Organizations Act, 2013, headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, with a coordination office in Meru. CTWOO is dedicated to advancing the rights, dignity, protection, and socio-economic well-being of widowed persons and orphans across Kenya through legal advocacy, economic empowerment, psychosocial support, leadership development, civic participation, and social protection initiatives.

3. PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

During the second quarter of 2026, CTWOO strengthened collaboration with key government institutions, civil society organizations, financial institutions, and community stakeholders to advance the rights and empowerment of widowed persons and orphans. Key partners included the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, FIDA Kenya, Office of the Ombudsman, Equality Now, Groots Kenya, Uwezo Fund, ECRA Interior, NGAAF, Equity Bank, UFAA, Collaborative Centre for Gender and Affirmative Action, as well as local administration, religious, and community leaders within Nairobi County. These partnerships enhanced referral pathways, legal awareness, financial literacy, community mobilisation, and access to essential services, while strengthening coordinated support and service delivery to widowed persons and vulnerable communities.

4. QUARTER OBJECTIVES

1. To strengthen widowed Persons legal awareness and access to justice.
2. To expand financial literacy and entrepreneurship knowledge among widows.
3. To increase awareness of government services and social protection programs.
4. To advance advocacy for the rights and protection of widowed persons.
5. To Promote civic education and meaningful participation of widowed persons in community affairs.
6. To strengthen policy advocacy and stakeholder engagement towards the enactment of the Widowed Persons Protection Bill, 2026.

5. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the April–June 2026 reporting period, Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization (CTWOO) implemented a range of empowerment, advocacy, civic education, legal support, and community engagement activities targeting widows across different counties in Kenya. The interventions focused on strengthening widows' access to justice, economic opportunities, social protection, health and well-being, and participation in decision-making processes.

Key activities during the reporting period included the Widows Financial Literacy Education Forum held on 16 April 2026 in Nairobi County; Widows Civic Education Forums held on 18 April 2026 in Gatundu North Constituency and on 25 May 2026 in Kayole; and the Legal Care and Health Dignity forum held on 1 May 2026 in Meru County. CTWOO also undertook community group visits and empowerment engagements aimed at strengthening grassroots participation and increasing awareness of the rights and entitlements of widowed persons.

The organization further advanced advocacy for the Widowed Persons Protection Bill, 2026, alongside ongoing social media advocacy campaigns to raise public awareness of widows' rights and promote policy attention to issues affecting widowed persons. CTWOO also participated in activities commemorating International Widows Day, held on 20 June 2026 at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) in Nairobi County, providing an important platform for visibility, awareness creation, and advocacy on widows' rights.

Across these interventions, CTWOO strengthened grassroots leadership, enhanced community awareness, and promoted engagement among community groups, institutions, and other key stakeholders. The activities contributed to the organization's broader objective of advancing justice, dignity, economic inclusion, empowerment, and social protection for widowed persons, while strengthening community-based mechanisms for sustained advocacy and support.

6 KEY HIGHLIGHTS

During the April–June 2026 reporting period, CTWOO recorded significant progress in advancing the economic empowerment, legal awareness, social protection, health, dignity, and rights of widowed persons. Key highlights included:

Economic Empowerment and Financial Literacy

CTWOO conducted an Economic Empowerment and Government Services Awareness Forum in Nairobi and other programme areas, providing widows with practical information on financial services, government support programmes, savings, investment, and income-generating opportunities. Participants also shared their lived experiences and identified priority issues requiring continued advocacy and community-based support.

Come Together Widows SACCO Capacity Building

The quarter also saw progress in strengthening the Come Together Widows SACCO through capacity-building activities focused on digital skills, entrepreneurship, savings, investment, and financial planning. The training, conducted in partnership with Equity Bank at Homeland Hotel on 16 April 2026, equipped participants with practical knowledge to strengthen their entrepreneurial capacity and promote the long-term financial well-being of SACCO members. The sessions also emphasized strengthening the SACCO's welfare and sustainability mechanisms.

Advocacy on the Widowed Persons Protection Bill, 2026

CTWOO made significant progress in raising awareness of the Widowed Persons Protection Bill, 2026 through community engagements and advocacy campaigns. These activities provided platforms for widows to share their experiences, articulate key challenges, and contribute community perspectives to ongoing advocacy for stronger legal and policy

Legal Empowerment, Advocacy and Access to Justice

In May, CTWOO organized a Legal Empowerment, Advocacy, Economic Empowerment, Inclusion, Social Protection, Care, Health and Dignity Forum in Meru County. The forum provided a safe and inclusive space for widows to access legal information, receive psychosocial and spiritual support, enhance their digital financial literacy, and engage on issues affecting their rights and well-being. The engagement reinforced the importance of ensuring that widows are recognized, supported, and able to access justice, services, and economic opportunities.

Community Engagement and Awareness Creation

Throughout the quarter, CTWOO strengthened community-level engagement through forums, group visits, and awareness initiatives. These engagements contributed to increased awareness of widows' rights, available support services, social protection mechanisms, and opportunities for economic inclusion, while strengthening grassroots participation in advocacy and community development processes.

7. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

7.1 Widows Civic Education Forum

Overview

CTWOO organized a comprehensive Widows Civic Education Forum,Digital Skills and economic empowerment forum aimed at equipping widows with practical knowledge on financial literacy& Entrepreneurial Skills, and available government services grants. The forum brought together 400 widows from different counties, religious leaders,Government,Civil Organization and Local LeadersWomen Representative.

Impact

The forum increased widows' awareness of economic opportunities, improved knowledge of sustainable livelihoods, and enhanced their capacity to pursue income-generating activities and build financial resilience.

Key Outcomes

- Widows received legal education on inheritance and succession rights.
- Financial literacy and money management training was conducted.
- Healthcare awareness and SHA registration sensitization were provided.
- Widows shared lived experiences and identified community priorities.
- Strengthening the Widows Civic Participation Forum
- Widows received legal education on inheritance and succession rights.

7.2 Roundtable Dialogue on the review of the Kilifi county Anti-Gender-based Violence policy (2024–2028) in Kilifi county

Date:8th to9 th June 2026

Venue:Kibaoni Social Hall-Kilifi Count

Overview

CTWOO, through the Fanikisha Mjane Kilifi County Project, implemented a comprehensive Stakeholder Roundtable Dialogue on the Kilifi County Anti-Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Policy (2024–2028). The project also promotes women's economic empowerment through climate-smart cassava farming.

The dialogue brought together representatives from county government departments, civil society organizations, community-based organizations, development partners, and other key stakeholders to review the implementation of the GBV Policy, identify existing gaps and challenges, and develop recommendations for strengthening policy implementation, GBV prevention and response, survivor support, and referral mechanisms in Kilifi County.

Anti-GBV Policy Aims To

- Strengthen GBV prevention by implementing proactive measures through awareness creation and community engagemen
- Improve recovery and rehabilitation programmes by expanding services that promote the long-term well-being, resilience, and reintegration of GBV sur vivors.
- Strengthen legal and policy frameworks by aligning county policies with national legislation and international standards to ensure effective legal protection against GBV.
- Promote multi-sectoral coordination by strengthening collaboration among government institutions, civil society organizations, healthcare providers, law enforcement agencies, and community leaders to ensure a coordinated response to GBV.

Key Outcomes

- Inclusion of widow representation in GBV coordination and implementation structures, including the County Gender Sector Working Groups.
- Recognition of widow-specific forms of GBV and the need for tailored responses.
- Strengthened access to justice through legal aid services and paralegal support systems.
- Establishment of psychosocial support services, rescue centres, and safe spaces for survivors.
- Promotion of economic empowerment programmes targeting widows and other vulnerable groups.

7.3 Stakeholders involved

The Stakeholder Roundtable Dialogue was joined by the intellectual and like minded organization from different Stakeholder participants drawn from diverse sectors, that include:

- **Kilifi County Government**
- **Kilifi County Attorney General Office**
- **Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) Kenya**
- **Kenya Red Cross Society**
- **Sema Nami Mama**
- **Maendeleo Ya Wanawake**
- **GROOTS Kenya**
- **Kenya Power Care**
- **Adonai Widows, Mombasa County**
- **Hopes and Dreams CBO**
- **Commission on Administrative Justice (Ombudsman)**
- **CECM Gender, Youth and Sports**
- **Director, State Department for Gender – Kilifi County**
- **FIDA-Kenya**
- **Widows' Representatives**
- **Development Partners**

8. ADVOCACY AND POLICY PROGRESS

8.1 Ongoing Advocacy Campaigns

Throughout the quarter, the organization sustained digital advocacy and awareness efforts through its social media platforms, highlighting key issues affecting widowed persons, including legal and property rights, social protection, access to healthcare, and economic empowerment.

8.2 Widowed Persons Protection Bill 2026 Legislative Process

The Widowed Persons Protection Bill Legislative Process, and consultations continued through April, with discussions concluding on 15 April 2026. On 12 May 2026, the Bill was submitted to the Speaker of the National Assembly and subsequently forwarded to the National the Clerk of Assembly. On 13 May 2026, the Bill underwent legal review budgetary and was referred for consideration of its emergencyimplications, particularly provisions such as shelters for widowed persons, before being forwarded to the Budget Committee for consideration. The Bill is expected to proceed through formal publication and consideration by the relevant departmental committee before completion of the parliamentary process and presentation to the President for legal consideration. The process seeks to strengthen property protection for widowed persons against dispossession, discrimination, violence, and other forms of abuse.

8.2.1 Stakeholders Involved

The legislative process of this Bill was made possible through the valuable intellectual property and expertise provided by the following partners:

- **L.N Wachira & Co Advocates & Mediators- Committee Chair**
- **FIDA Kenya**
- **LANDESA**
- **Manna Mission**
- **Kenya Land Alliance**
- **National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC)**
- **Equality Now**
- **Anti-FGM Board Kenya**
- **Kenya School of Government**
- **Margaret Kenyatta Institute of Social Development**
- **African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA)**
- **Unclaimed Financial Assets Authority (UFAA)**
- **Christian Aid Kenya**
- **Kenya Redcross Society**
- **World Vision Kenya**
- **UN Women**
- **UNFPA**

8.3 Pre-International Widows Day

Date: 20th June 2026

Venue:Kenyatta International Convention Centre

Overview

The Pre-International Widows Day 2026 Celebration was organized in Nairobi County to bring together widowed persons from different counties at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC), amplifying their voices and addressing key concerns affecting their lives. Under the theme, "Justice, Dignity, and Economic Power for Widows – The African Perspective," the event provided a platform for widowed persons to engage in legal empowerment, advocacy, and dialogue on access to justice, land and property rights, legal aid, economic empowerment, and social protection.

Impact

Theforumstrengthened widowed persons' sense of dignity, solidarity, and collective voice while increasing awareness of their rights, available support systems, legal aid, and justice mechanisms. It also enhanced their engagement in advocacy and strengthened the call for greater inclusion of widowed persons in government programmes and decision-making processes.

Key Outcomes

- Widowed persons received spiritual encouragement and psychosocial support, strengthening their sense of dignity, hope, and belonging.
- Participants enhanced their understanding of financial management and entrepreneurship as pathways to improved economic resilience and inclusion.
- Widowed persons increased their awareness of legal rights, access to justice, and available government services and support programmes.
- Participants gained awareness of the effects of drug and substance abuse on individuals, families, and communities.
- Widowed persons raised individual legal and administrative concerns, creating opportunities for appropriate follow-up, referral, and support.
- The forum promoted the inclusion of widowed persons in development processes and strengthened their participation in decisions affecting their lives and communities.

9. CHALLENGES OBSERVED DURING Q2

- Limited access to financial and economic opportunities: Some widows continue to face financial constraints and limited access to sustainable income-generating opportunities.
- Limited digital literacy: Some beneficiaries have limited digital literacy, affecting their ability to access digital financial services, information, and other online opportunities.
- Limited awareness of legal and civic rights: There remains a continued need to strengthen awareness of legal rights, civic responsibilities, and available support mechanisms among widowed persons.
- Inadequate access to government services: Some widow groups experience challenges accessing government services and programmes due to limited information, linkages, and referral pathways.
- Weak linkages with service providers: Stronger and more coordinated linkages between widow groups, government institutions, service providers, and other stakeholders are needed to improve access to essential services.
- GBV and SGBV-related barriers: Limited awareness of GBV prevention and response mechanisms, inadequate human resources, and persistent stigma surrounding SGBV continue to hinder open discussions, reporting, and access to support services. There is a need for more targeted awareness and prevention campaigns.
- Drug and substance abuse concerns: Drug and substance abuse remains a concern among children of widows, particularly in communities such as Kayole, highlighting the need for strengthened prevention, awareness, and referral interventions.

10. LESSONS LEARNED

- Integrated approaches enhance service access: Integrated forums combining legal, economic, psychosocial, health, and financial literacy support are highly effective in addressing the diverse needs of widowed persons and improving access to relevant services.
- Strategic partnerships strengthen service delivery: Collaboration with government institutions, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders improves referral pathways, service coordination, and access to essential support for widowed persons.
- Financial literacy strengthens economic confidence: Financial literacy and digital financial skills significantly enhance widows' confidence and capacity to manage financial resources, savings, and income-generating activities.
- Civic education promotes participation: Civic education strengthens widows' awareness of their rights and enhances their participation in community affairs and engagement with relevant institutions.
- Grassroots leadership strengthens identification and referrals: Grassroots widow leaders play a critical role in identifying vulnerable cases, facilitating referrals, and linking widowed persons to appropriate services and support mechanisms.

11.WAY FORWARD (Q3 2026 PRIORITIES)

- Strengthen legal aid, referral, and survivor support mechanisms to improve access to justice and essential services for widowed persons.
- Advance advocacy for the Widowed Persons Protection Bill, 2026 through sustained policy engagement, community awareness, and stakeholder collaboration.
- Strengthen partnerships with government institutions, development partners, and other stakeholders to enhance coordinated support and service delivery.
- Enhance SACCO membership and financial inclusion initiatives, including savings, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and income-generating opportunities for widows.
- Promote mental health and psychosocial support services to strengthen the well-being and resilience of widowed persons.
- Strengthen documentation, monitoring, and reporting of programme activities, emerging issues, and challenges affecting widowed persons to inform advocacy, programming, and stakeholder engagement.

12.PHOTO GALLERY

Widows Civic Education Forum-Within Nairobi and Beyond














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FIDA-KENYA
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RoundTable Dialogue-Kilifi County




ANTI-GBV POLICY
(2024–2028) KILIFI COUNTY
Location
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MAKE WIDOWS MATTER
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VISION
MISSION


STAKEHOLDER ROUNDTABLE DIALOGUE


ANTI-GBV POLICY
(2024–2028) KILIFI COUNTY
day 8th & Tuesday 9th
, 2026,
AM
Location
powered by:


MAKE WIDOWS MATTER
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STAKEHOLDER ROUNDTABLE DIALOGUE

Pre-Internationa Widows Day-Gallery














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EXIT

13.CONCLUSION

The second quarter of 2026 demonstrated CTWOO's continued commitment to advancing justice, dignity, economic inclusion, and social protection for widowed persons through legal empowerment and advocacy, economic opportunities, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, digital skills, civic education, social protection, and care and health dignity. These interventions created meaningful platforms for widowed persons to access critical information, engage with stakeholders, strengthen their rights and livelihood skills, and participate more actively in decisions affecting their lives and communities. Through strengthened partnerships and community-led approaches,

CTWOO continued to expand opportunities for widowed persons to live with greater dignity, protection, economic resilience, and hope.

COME TOGETHER WIDOWS AND ORPHANS ORGANIZATION (CTWOO)
Blessed House, Off Thika Super Highway, 1st Floor, Room 110
P.O. Box 34664 – 00100, Nairobi
Email: info@cometogewoo.org | Website: www.cometogewoo.org