



**Dandelion
Africa**

**Quarter 1
Report
2026**



THANK YOU

Dear Partners,

This is a year of positivity and that is the attitude in which we landed in 2026. Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to advancing community centered change.

We are pleased to share our Quarter 1 Report, which highlights the progress made through the implementation of our Deep Impact Model.



This work would not have been possible without your generous support and shared commitment and vision for sustainable, community solutions

Over the past quarter, we have seen significant outcomes, with 19,543 new household visits by community health promoters, enhancing access to health services which supported 15,582 skilled deliveries. We launched a specialized training program for a new cohort of 36 Youth Peer Educators using the Youth Peer Educator model who will work with 100 schools over the next 3 years. These gains reflect the value of investing in approaches that prioritize long-term impact and community resilience.

Your support has enabled us to innovate and together with communities develop initiatives that are sustainable. We remain grateful for your trust, support and partnership. As we look ahead, we are committed to continuing this momentum, learning from our current implementation, and refining our approach to ensure even greater impact in the coming quarters.

I hope you enjoy reading our quarter 1 report.

With gratitude

Wendo Sahar
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WHO WE ARE

Dandelion Africa is a female-led grass root organization, focused on women's health, economy and agency. We work through an integrated model that focuses on improving health outcomes, economic power, education outcomes and amplifying the choice, voice and power of communities. We are locally-led, rooted and deeply embedded in our communities.

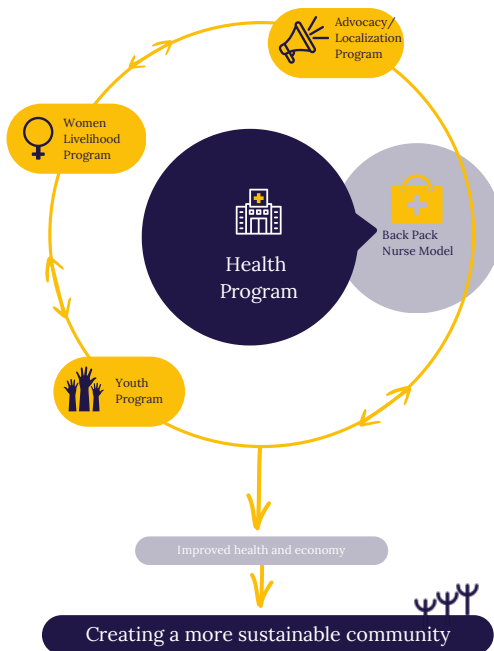
VISION

We want a world where communities live healthy and educated lives

MISSION

Our Mission is to improve the health and economy of women in rural areas.

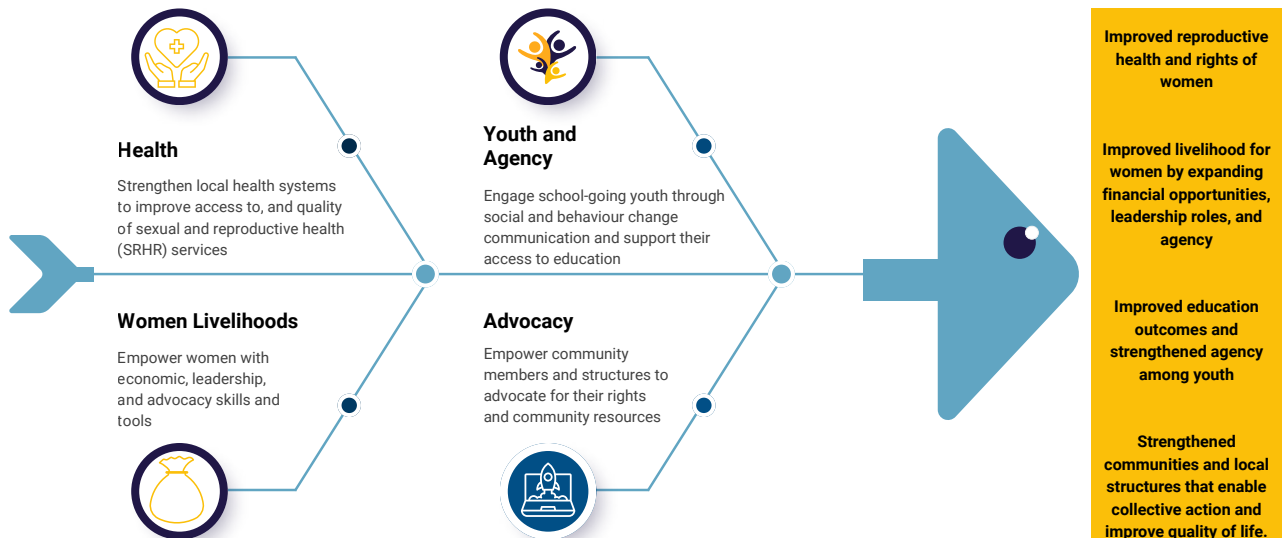
OUR MODEL



WHERE WE WORK



THEORY OF CHANGE



STORY OF IMPACT



In the remote village of Lomerimeri, Tiaty East, the journey to basic healthcare was once defined by a 20-kilometre walk, a distance that often made life-saving services inaccessible for Jane, a mother of five. Like many women in her community, the lack of nearby facilities meant Jane delivered all her children at home without skilled medical assistance, remained unaware of family planning options, and struggled to ensure her children were fully immunized. Her days were further strained by the geographic isolation of her village, requiring an additional 20-kilometre daily round trip just to fetch water from the nearest dam.

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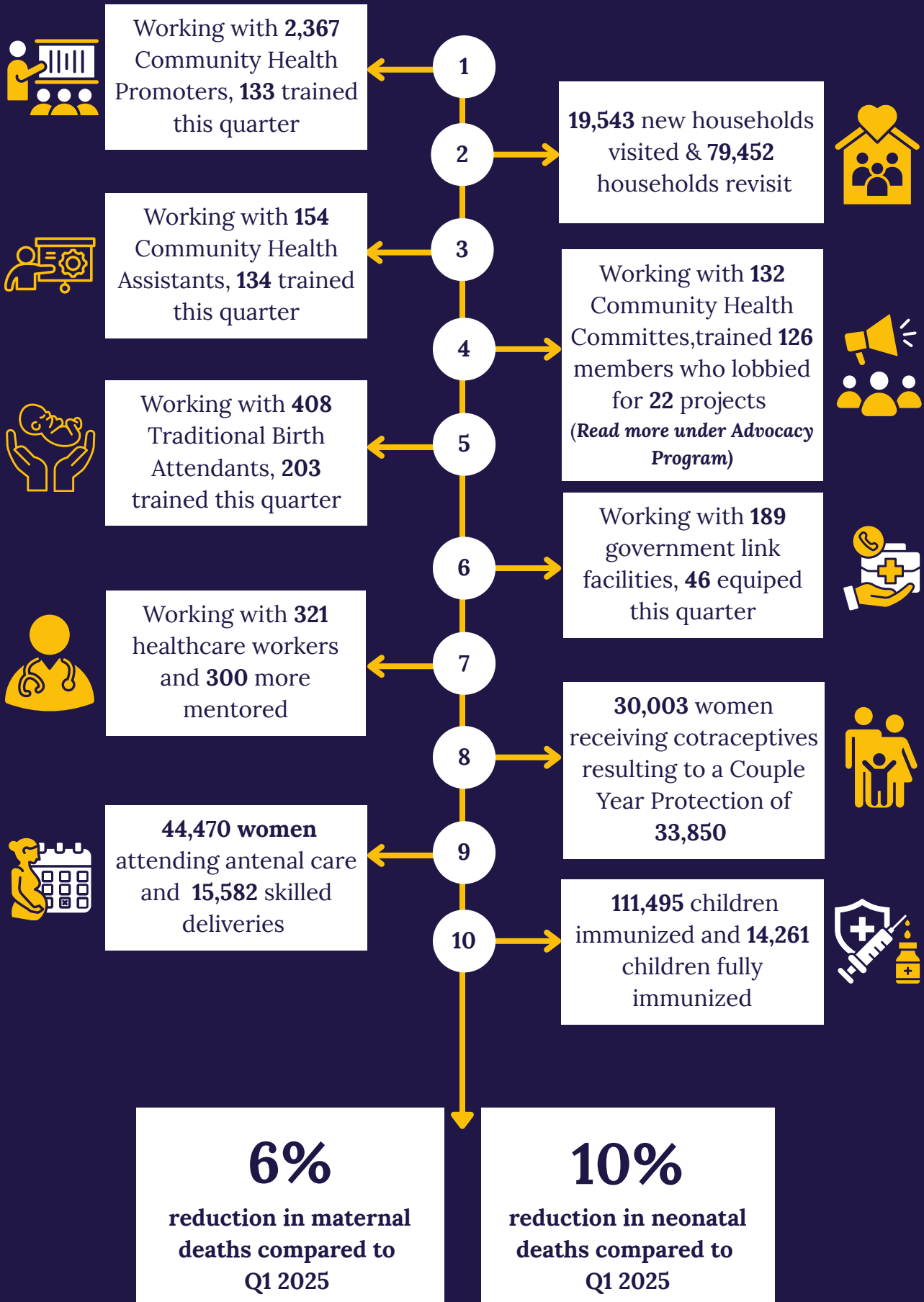
When Dandelion Africa brought the outreach services to our village, it was a big relief for us. Now we are able to attend antenatal clinics, take our children for immunization, and receive education. We are very grateful for bringing healthcare closer to our community.

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When Dandelion Africa established a dedicated Backpack site directly within Lomerimeri, Jane and her community, started accessing critical reproductive, and maternal child health services at their convenient locations.

Today, Jane consistently attends antenatal care, ensures her children receive their vaccinations, and through reproductive health education, she can make informed decisions about her body. This intervention has done more than just reduce travel time; it has closed a critical gap in health equity, ensuring that geographic location no longer dictates the quality of life or the safety of motherhood in Tiaty East. Jane now looks to the future with relief, knowing that her community has the support and the proximity to care needed to thrive.

A Snapshot of Our Health Reach and Results



HEALTH PROGRAM

Strengthen local health systems to improve access to, and quality of sexual and reproductive health (SRHR) services

Community Health Promoters: Last Mile solutions

We invested in **2,367** Community Health Promoters and **154** Community Health Assistants as a deliberate strategy to bridge the persistent gap between households and critical health care services. These front line workers, are not just service providers but trusted community anchors, walking alongside communities, identifying risks early, and ensuring that no woman or child is left behind.

Through **19,543 first-time household visits and 79,452 follow-up engagements**, they built consistent, trust-based relationships that are critical to improved health seeking behaviour. This continuity of care is what drives change. As a result, we are seeing a shift toward proactive health-seeking behaviours, particularly among women and young mothers. We further embedded WASH and SGBV dialogues into routine household engagement, communities are not only informed but activated. Households are adopting safer sanitation practices, identifying and addressing risks, and collectively taking ownership of disease prevention. By strengthening community systems and centering women's lived realities, we are not just improving health outcomes, we are advancing dignity, safety, and the fundamental right of every woman to live in a clean, secure, and healthy environment.

Backpack Nurse: Proximate Healthcare

Youth Sexual Reproductive Health

Adolescent pregnancies carry heightened risks, yet stigma and distance continue to place young women beyond the reach of health care. Through the Backpack Nurse safe spaces, **13% of antenatal mothers reached were adolescents**, signaling a critical need toward early, proactive engagement with reproductive health services. By taking health care services directly into communities, geographic barriers became entry points to consistent, trusted care. This quarter recorded a 10% increase in reach from the previous period and generated 5,483 Couple Years of Protection, an important milestone of sustained reproductive autonomy and reduced maternal risk. Strengthened by an active network of Community Health Assistants and Community Health Promoters, this model continues to deepen demand, reinforced follow-up, and built a continuous, accountable system that upholds every woman's right to access health care, no matter where she lives.

Nutrition and Economic Resilience

Through the support of **8 young mothers' groups**, we have moved beyond education to behavioral and financial transformation. By combining Infant and Young Child Feeding practices with table banking initiatives, we are fostering a model of total health. The peer support networks have reinforced positive health outcomes while providing the economic support necessary for young mothers to sustain these health gains independently.

Health System Strengthening

Scaling Systemic Impact

Our strategic partnership with **189** health facilities has moved beyond service delivery to fundamental system transformation. By aligning facility support with community-level interventions, we achieved a **6% reduction in maternal deaths** and a **10% reduction in neonatal deaths** compared to Q1 2025. These outcomes are the direct result of closing gaps in the care continuum. By equipping **46** facilities with essential SRH commodities and **26** facilities with sterile delivery sets, we transitioned from reactive care to a proactive, zero-sepsis environment. The provision of ANC profiling equipment has shifted the standard of care from basic check-ups to comprehensive, early-risk detection for thousands of women.



Clinical Excellence and Emergency Readiness

Using a rigorous Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response framework, we have built a culture of accountability and continuous learning. Mentorship of **300** Healthcare Workers was not merely a transfer of knowledge but a boost in frontline resilience. This investment resulted in a **34%** increase in providers' confidence in managing life-threatening obstetric emergencies. The successful deployment of non-pneumatic anti-shock garments and mastery of labour management protocols mean that the health system is now better prepared to manage complications that previously led to stillbirths and maternal loss.

The Birth Companion Transition

We have transformed the role of Traditional Birth Attendants into trusted Birth Companions, anchoring them within a responsive, community-linked system of care. By equipping **203 TBAs** with the knowledge to identify danger signs and act on obstetric emergencies, we strengthened the first line of the referral pathway and accelerated timely decision-making. This TBA engagement contributed to **15,368 skilled deliveries** this quarter, advancing safe, dignified childbirth and reinforced every woman's right to quality maternal care.

Dandelion Medical Centres

Eliminating Preventable Mortality

The leading cause of maternal mortality is Postpartum hemorrhage which is preventable. While medications and surgical interventions are important in managing PPH, blood transfusion is often the only life-saving option in cases of severe bleeding. Access to safe blood for women before, during, and after childbirth remains unequal between urban and rural health centres, with women in rural arid areas, disproportionately affected the most. This quarter we mobilized **162 pints of blood**, enhanced diagnostic through providing **339 women with** ultrasound services, a 50% increase from last quarter, and promoting mobile laboratory services. The medical centres have closed the gap between complications and care. The impact of this readiness is definitive: zero maternal deaths was recorded this quarter, and **perinatal mortality dropped by 67%**. Through innovative approaches like Group Antenatal Care and Maternity Open Days, we have built institutional trust, resulting in an **average of 70 skilled deliveries per month**. We are no longer just providing a service; we are building a high-reliability health system that guarantees safety for both mother and child.

Advancing Reproductive Autonomy

This quarter, the Dandelion Medical Centres achieved a **16%** increase in Couple Years of Protection, driven by a strategic shift toward long-acting reversible contraceptives and permanent methods for women. Beyond clinical uptake, this expansion represents a significant gain in reproductive autonomy. By successfully integrating cervical cancer screening, we have moved toward a model of total wellness. These interventions ensure that women spend less time managing preventable health crises and more time engaging in productive work, directly enhancing the socio-economic stability of their households.

Building a Blueprint for Integrated Health

Our integration of HIV and TB services within maternal and child health has created a one-stop continuity of care. **97%** of our Comprehensive care clients have achieved viral suppression, with only two cases of high viral load currently under intensive management.

Similarly, our active TB case-finding and integrated treatment model are yielding tangible recoveries. This quarter, **one previous TB client, tested negative**, while seven others remain stable and on track to complete their treatment.

Innovation Spotlight: The Triambulance 2.0



To bridge the life-threatening last mile in Risa and Tiaty, where rugged terrain can determine a good or bad maternal outcome, **we developed the Triambulance 2.0**. This innovation transformed a three-wheeled motorcycle into an emergency vehicle through on-site fabrication at Dandelion Africa, combining welding, carpentry, and biomedical engineering. We manufacture a solution that standard ambulances cannot match, providing a terrain-specific, sustainable lifeline for pregnant women in the most remote regions. This is an advanced

model from our first innovation in 2023. We were further contracted to build one other Triambulance for an organization that works in Kajiado West under similar topography to improve health outcomes

2.0 Engineering & Medical Features

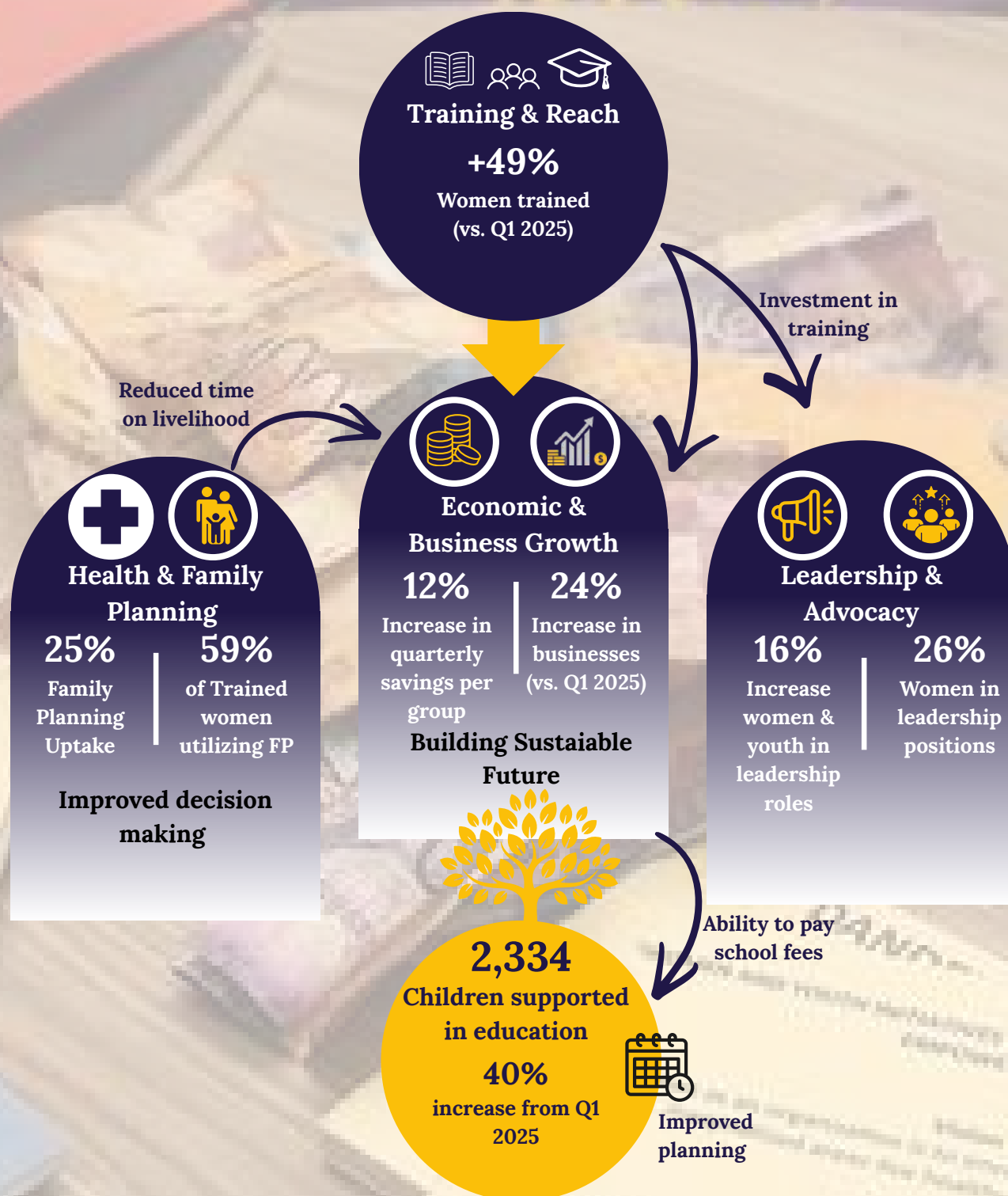
The design features reinforced trailers and stabilized wooden floorboards specifically engineered to minimize vibration when navigating rough, off-road terrain. Each unit functions as a mobile medical suite equipped with an ambulance stretcher, oxygen cylinders, fetal Doppler, and essential diagnostic tools, including glucometers, Hb meters, and BP machines. We ensured full operational readiness through integrated electrical systems that power emergency lighting, sirens, and medical equipment. Custom weather-proof tents were fitted to guarantee patient privacy and provide protection from elements during transit. To maintain high standards of clinical safety, the fabrication **includes built-in handwashing facilities and dedicated waste isolation bins for effective infection control**.

In one month:

- ✓ **13** women supported to access skilled delivery services.
- ✓ **100+** women received antenatal care.
- ✓ The model provided **24-hour** emergency referrals that eliminate delays



WOMEN LIVELIHOOD OUTCOMES SINCE 2025 QUARTER 1



WOMEN'S LIVELIHOODS

Empowering women with economic, leadership, and advocacy skills and tools

The Power of Time

By addressing the time-poverty associated with reproductive roles, women have gained the agency required to increase their economic participation. Through culturally tailored training that dismantled deep-seated myths, women in Kajiado and Baringo counties transitioned toward informed reproductive health choices. **59%** of participants actively adopted family planning methods this quarter, directly translating into improved health outcomes and, crucially, securing the time necessary to engage in income-generating activities. This shift from reproductive to productive roles is a foundational step toward expanding women's financial opportunities and fostering long-term household economic stability.

During this quarter, strategic investments in financial literacy and technical skills directly translated into increased economic autonomy and household stability for 972 women.

Scaling Financial Capital & Entrepreneurship

The integration of the Village Business Training module with table banking sparked a significant shift in financial behaviour. Compared to last quarter, women achieved a **42%** increase in collective savings, providing the internal capital needed to launch **132** new micro-enterprises. By moving from theory to practice and focusing on high-demand products like dairy processing and hygiene supplies, participants moved from subsistence to sustainable income.

Economic Alternatives as a Catalyst for Social Change

Beyond direct business growth, the program successfully leveraged economic empowerment to address sensitive community health issues. By equipping Traditional Birth Attendants with skills in liquid soap production, we established a viable economic alternative to home deliveries. This transition replaces high-risk traditional roles with sustainable, safe livelihoods, aligning economic gain with women's health.

Bridging the Gap to Formal Finance

The objective of expanding financial opportunity was further realized through institutional linkages. Three women-led groups transitioned into the formal economy by securing government funding. This access to external capital allowed these groups to scale their operations, resulting in measurable increases in household income and a greater capacity to manage essential family expenses.



Literacy as a Gateway to Financial Agency

Foundational literacy and numeracy training have empowered 48 women in Nkiito and Nchakita (Kajiado County) to take full command of their economic lives, transitioning from dependency to independent financial management. **27%** of these women have already achieved literacy and numeracy proficiency within **7 months**. By mastering these skills, these women have improved the transparency and accuracy of their table banking records and micro-enterprises, reducing the risk of record-keeping errors. This shift has closed the agency gap, so that they can now protect their earnings, advocate for their rights in the market systems, and lead their community's economic growth with verified data and greater confidence.



Harvesting Economic Independence

Targeted climate-smart interventions have empowered women to transition from subsistence farming to key drivers of the local green economy, resulting in a **55%** adoption rate of resilient agricultural practices compared to the last quarter. This shift has generated tangible economic gains, evidenced by Machungara and Matug women-led groups commercializing **11,000** tree seedlings from their nurseries. By blending productivity with environmental conservation, these women have secured enhanced household incomes and long-term climate resilience, moving beyond traditional labour roles to become leaders in sustainable agribusiness.

The Leadership Leap

Capacity building has accelerated women's entry into governance, resulting in a **21%** increase in women holding decision-making positions compared to the previous quarter. This growth in representation is anchored by a measurable shift in organizational management, as group leaders have transitioned from informal roles to providing structured, goal-oriented leadership. By combining rights-based advocacy with technical financial training, these leaders have built a culture of financial discipline and increased informed loan uptake. This dual focus has not only enhanced collective economic independence but has also positioned women as active community advocates, leading to a tangible reduction in rights violations and a stronger, more influential voice in local decision-making spheres.

STORY OF IMPACT



As a widow and mother of six, Grace Chirchir faced an impossible choice. After selling her livestock and battling severe drought, she had no resources left to send her daughter Janet who was also in the Girls For Leaders club, to secondary school despite Janet's impressive 371 marks in her primary school exams. Janet was forced to stay home, her academic dreams on hold.

“ Everything changed the day Janet received her scholarship from Dandelion Africa. It was the answer to my prayers. With the burden of fees lifted, Janet poured her heart into her studies, eventually scoring a B+ in her final exams. That grade was **her ticket to university**, and my heart overflowed with joy when she was admitted.

Today, Janet is on her way to becoming **a teacher**. Watching her pursue a **Degree in Education** makes me so proud; she is transforming from a student into a leader who will give back to others. I am eternally grateful to Dandelion Africa for seeing my daughter's potential when I had nothing left to give.

I was worried and depressed. Dandelion Africa changed everything. Their support has given my family hope and my child a bright future.

”



Janet Jematian, currently pursuing a degree in Education at the University of Nairobi.



YOUTH PROGRAM

We engage school-going youth through social and behaviour change communication and support their access to education.

THE SCALE OF REACH

2,053

students transitioned
to the next level of
education in 2026

2,041

school-going
youth engaged
this quarter

77,518

Learners reached
since 2021

36 Youth Peer Educators certified as Lead Mentors

As we saturate the counties with Backpack nurses, we have found an increasing number of teen mothers. This quarter, we launched a specialized training program for a new cohort of 36 Youth Peer Educators using the **Youth Peer Educator model**. Youth Peer Educators are a critical force in changing the trajectory of adolescent reproductive health outcomes, where access to accurate information and youth-friendly services remains limited. By equipping young people with knowledge, confidence, and leadership skills, they become trusted voices within their communities, breaking stigma, dispelling myths, and encouraging open dialogue around sexuality, consent, and contraception. Their proximity to their peers enables timely, relatable, and culturally grounded engagement that drives behavior change, increases uptake of contraceptive services, and strengthens referral pathways to health care. Through this approach, Youth Peer Educators not only reduce the incidence of teenage pregnancies but also build a generation of informed, empowered young people who can advocate for their health and future. The trained YPEs will work with 100 schools over 3 years with the goal of improving education outcomes especially for girls through boys engagement and involvement.

GIRLS FOR LEADERS BOYS FOR CHANGE

The Girls for Leaders, Boys for Change program is a critical catalyst for transforming gender norms and advancing equitable outcomes for adolescents. By equipping girls with leadership, agency, and decision-making skills while engaging boys as allies in challenging harmful cultural norms, the program addresses the root causes of early pregnancy, child marriage, Female Genital Mutilation and limited educational opportunities; especially for girls. This dual approach creates opportunities for education and a supportive system where girls are encouraged to stay and complete their schooling, make informed choices about their bodies, and pursue opportunities, while boys actively champion to end retrogressive cultures while learn about the role of boys and men, they further learn about respect, consent, and shared responsibility. The result is measurable outcomes in attitudes and behaviors; improved school retention, increased uptake of reproductive health services, reduced gender-based violence, reduced female genital mutilation, and a generation of young leaders committed to healthier, more equitable communities.

The Power of Agency

This quarter, we engaging 2,041 school-going adolescents; of whom **505** stepped into leadership roles to establish school clubs. We further reached 1,935 tertiary students with comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights information through targeted college and university sessions. These investments are translating into tangible progress, with 2,053 students who sat for national examinations at the end of 2025, successfully transitioning to the next level of education. 12 scholarships were awarded to disadvantaged Girls for Leaders / Boys for change in recognition of outstanding performance in the 2025 Kenya Junior Secondary Education Assessment (KJSEA) and Kenya Primary School Education Assessment (KEPSEA), strengthening pathways for sustained learning and opportunity.



ADVOCACY PROGRAM

We empower community members and structures to advocate for their rights and community resources.

On-boarding of 20 Community Advocacy Facilitators- Strengthening Regional Advocacy

Our advocacy toolkit is critical to building sustainable communities because it shifts power to the local communities, equipping them, especially women and youth; with the knowledge, skills, and agency to demand accountability, influence local decision-making, and champion solutions that reflect their lived realities. By strengthening community voices and developing collective action, communities drive locally led change, improve access to essential services, and ensure that development gains are not only achieved but sustained. This quarter **20 community advocacy facilitators across Nakuru, Baringo, Kajiado, and Narok counties** were trained on the Advocacy Toolkit. They will train 400 other community facilitators across these 4 counties to support in advocating of 100 government projects over 3 years.

Driving Systems Change

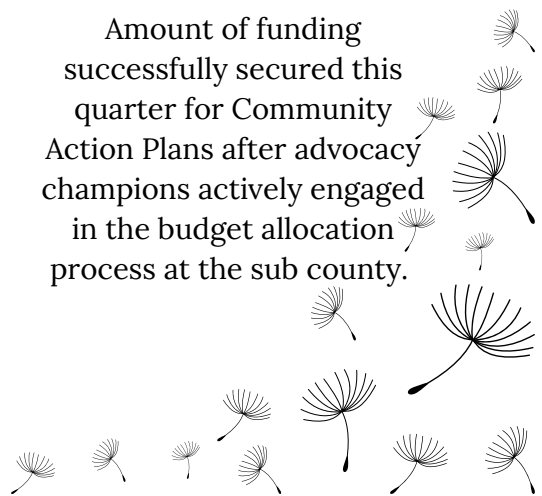
Our Advocacy Champions, including Community Health Promoters and Committees, successfully lobbied for critical infrastructure. These efforts led to the **construction of Turi Dispensary and the renovation of Mukutani Dispensary, alongside the fencing of Kituro Dispensary for enhanced security.**

Access to life-sustaining resources reached a new milestone with the **drilling and operationalization of boreholes in Majimazuri and Sagasagik, plus improved water systems in Tiaty.** Additionally, the **maintenance of feeder roads in Marigat** has significantly improved community connectivity and access to emergency care.



KES 5.5 MILLION

Amount of funding successfully secured this quarter for Community Action Plans after advocacy champions actively engaged in the budget allocation process at the sub county.



A 62% Surge in Male Engagement

We achieved a breakthrough in male engagement by creating safe, targeted spaces that acknowledged men's unique lived experiences and identities. Through open dialogues on mental health and Sexual Reproductive Health, men felt seen, shared challenges and sought support, leading to a direct increase in the uptake of sensitized health services.

The impact of these conversations extended into economic resilience, with **11** men initiating the formation of a livelihood group to strengthen their financial sustainability and peer support network. Overall, male participation surged by **62%** compared to the previous quarter, a clear indicator of improved trust and community reach.



THE POWER OF LOCALIZATION

Our mentorship model scales grassroots potential into sustainable, locally-driven impact.

Capacity Meets Community

The mentored Community Based Organizations continue to serve as the front line of sustainable impact. This quarter, an Organizational Capacity Assessment revealed significant institutional growth, highlighting strong leadership structures and robust documentation systems across our partners.

This organizational strength translates directly into life-saving service delivery. For instance, IPFAT CBO conducted HIV

screenings for patients, ensuring that 22% of those who tested positive were successfully linked to healthcare, while 9% were initiated on Tuberculosis treatment.

686

**Documented Sexual
and Gender-Based
Violence cases**

9%

**Conviction rate
across supported
stations, marking
a significant step
towards a
responsive legal
system.**

**619 via health
facilities and 67
via police stations.**

STORY OF IMPACT

My name is Ann Keter, an Advocacy Champion from Mogotio and a Gender-Based Violence champion in my community. Before I started this work, there were many cases of violence against women, and most women did not know their rights or where to report such cases.

Through the Dandelion Africa Advocacy Program, I gained knowledge and confidence to educate women in my community on how they can report violence. I began holding small discussions with women and sharing information about their rights and available support.

As a result, women are now more aware and confident to speak out. I have seen a reduction in GBV cases in my community, and most people appreciate the work I am doing to support and empower my fellow women.



ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



We welcome our new partners,
Greenwood Place,
thank you for partnering with us.

Partner Site Visit

We were honoured to host **Every Mother Counts** at our Kilimanjaro branch, where we have built a Medical Centre from repurposed shipping containers to provide quality care in the heart of the community with the goal of reducing maternal and infant mortality.

Research and Learning

At the Future of Women's Conference 2026 in Bali, we joined leaders from 37 countries to advocate for community-led systems change. Our Board Member, Dr Faith Yator, and Founder, Wendo, presented a seminal research paper on **Integrated Empowerment Models in Kenya's ASALs**. This presentation provided a data-driven look at how feminist, community-led interventions in Baringo County successfully intersect with climate justice, economic inclusion, and women's leadership.



International Maternal Newborn Health Conference

Dandelion participated in a case study with Gates Foundation at the IMNH Conference on **Healing Trust: Combating Misinformation and Disinformation in Maternal and Newborn Health**. We tackled a sustainable response to misinformation in maternal and newborn health and the importance of creating trusted systems where communities feel heard, respected, informed, and connected to quality care.

We participated in a panel discussion at the **SPHR Conference at Dayton University; tackling Rights Under Pressure: Building Institutional and Grassroots Resilience**. While we are seeing a worrying rollback of democratic systems, where leaders weaken checks and balances and put human rights at risk. We also saw how Social justice plays a vital role in holding governments accountable and safeguarding the rights and dignity of communities.