



QUARTER TWO NEWSLETTER

Catalyzing Community Change

APRIL — JUNE 2026

Introduction

The second quarter of 2026 demonstrated what is possible when communities take ownership of the change they want to see. Tunaweza Empowerment Organization worked closely with county governments of Migori, Kisumu, Homabay, Kisii and Nyamira, schools, community leaders, adolescents, young mothers, youth advocates and development partners to advance a shared vision of safer, healthier and more inclusive communities for women, girls and young people. Guided by our commitment to community-led development, we continued to strengthen local systems and partnerships that promote gender equality, protect the rights of women and girls and empower young people to become active agents of change.

During this quarter, we made significant progress in advancing gender equality, health and social inclusion through sustained stakeholder engagement and community action. Key milestones included continued progress toward the development of the County Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Anti-FGM Policy, expanded community engagement initiatives and strengthened girls' empowerment programmes. Across all our interventions, we deepened collaboration with government institutions, civil society and community stakeholders, broadened our reach to vulnerable populations and created more opportunities for learning, leadership and participation. We invite you to explore the highlights and impact of our work during this quarter as we continue building resilient communities where every woman, girl and young person can thrive.



WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Partners, Friends and Supporters,

The past three months reaffirmed the power of collaboration in creating lasting change. Together with our communities, partners and stakeholders, we strengthened efforts to advance gender equality, protect the rights of women and girls, empower adolescents, and improve maternal health through community-led initiatives.

The achievements in this newsletter reflect the commitment of everyone who believes in our vision of building safer, healthier and more inclusive communities. Thank you for your continued partnership, trust and support.

Gloria Ochola

Executive Director

“Sustainable change begins when communities own the solution.”

Program Highlights

FUTURE4BINTI

During the second quarter of 2026, Tunaweza Empowerment Organization, in collaboration with AMREF Health Africa in Kenya, under the Future4Binti program implemented in 10 counties in Kenya, strengthened county coordination by supporting the revitalization of the Gender Technical Working Group (GTWG). The platform brought together government, civil society, community representatives and development partners to advance the development of the Migori County Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Policy and the County-Specific Anti-FGM Policy.

To mark the Day of the African Child, Tunaweza and the Youth Anti-FGM Network led a media campaign featuring a radio talk show, an X Chat and community messaging to raise awareness on children's rights, girls' education, gender equality, and ending FGM and violence against children.

Tunaweza and C-SEMA Tanzania also convened the Ending Cross-Border FGM Taskforce, bringing together stakeholders from Kenya and Tanzania to strengthen referral pathways, coordinate joint prevention strategies and reinforce cross-border efforts to protect girls from FGM and child marriage.

Cross-border community dialogues in Gentotira and Masangora engaged elders, religious leaders, youth, women and local administrators to address the drivers of FGM, child marriage and gender-based violence while promoting community accountability and positive social norms.

The quarter also strengthened community-led prevention through intergenerational, peer-to-peer and mother-to-daughter dialogues in Gokeharaha Getambwega Ward. These conversations improved communication on sexual and reproductive health, leadership, education and protection from harmful practices, contributing to stronger families and communities committed to ending FGM and advancing gender equality.



AMPLIFY CHANGE

Tunaweza Empowerment Organization continued to convene Cross-Border Under the Tree Community Dialogues in Mutiniti, Ntimaru, bringing together community elders, women, youth, religious leaders, local administrators, child protection actors and representatives from both Kenya and Tanzania to strengthen collective efforts to end female genital mutilation (FGM). The dialogues provided a culturally appropriate platform for open and honest discussions on the persistent drivers of cross-border FGM, child marriage and other harmful practices. Participants reflected on the social, health and legal consequences of FGM while exploring community-led solutions that promote the rights, dignity and wellbeing of women and girls. The dialogues concluded with a commitment from community members and local leaders to champion positive social norms, strengthen cross-border collaboration and enhance early identification and referral of girls at risk. Elders and opinion leaders pledged to use their influence to discourage FGM and advocate for alternative pathways that protect girls' education and future opportunities. The forum also strengthened relationships between communities on both sides of the border, reinforcing a shared responsibility to prevent cross-border FGM through continuous dialogue, coordinated action and community ownership of the movement to end harmful traditional practices.



Program Highlights

continued

GIRLS AND BEYOND — INTERFAITH ADOLESCENTS HEALTH HUB

During the second quarter of 2026, Tunaweza Empowerment Organization continued implementing the Girls and Beyond Initiative – Interfaith Adolescent Health Hub, creating safe spaces where adolescents, parents, faith leaders and community members engaged in open conversations on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights (ASRHR). Through faith-led community dialogues and peer learning sessions conducted in Gwikonge and Kemakoba villages, the initiative promoted healthy relationships, prevention of early and unintended pregnancies, menstrual health, HIV prevention and gender equality while integrating positive faith values that encourage dignity, respect and responsible decision-making. By working closely with faith leaders, the programme strengthened community support for adolescents, reduced stigma around discussions on reproductive health and empowered young people with accurate information and life skills to make informed choices. The initiative further demonstrated the important role that faith institutions play in promoting adolescent wellbeing, strengthening family communication and creating supportive environments where young people can thrive.



GROUP ANTENATAL CARE (G-ANC)

During the second quarter of 2026, Tunaweza Empowerment Organization, with support from Girl Effect, continued implementing the Group Antenatal Care (G-ANC) model, in Nairobi and Migori County, to improve maternal and newborn health outcomes among pregnant adolescents and young mothers. The programme brought together expectant mothers in Migori County, in facilitated group sessions where they received quality antenatal care while learning from healthcare providers and one another in a supportive environment. Sessions conducted at Ikerege Medical Centre and Kehancha Sub-County Hospital covered key topics including birth preparedness, nutrition during pregnancy, danger signs in pregnancy, labour and delivery, breastfeeding, newborn care and postpartum family planning. The group model strengthened peer support, increased participants' confidence in preparing for safe deliveries and encouraged consistent attendance at antenatal clinics. Through this approach, the programme continued to promote adolescent-friendly maternal healthcare while empowering young mothers with the knowledge and support needed for healthy pregnancies and positive birth outcomes.



EVENTS

BI-ANNUAL STAFF REVIEW MEETING

Tunaweza Empowerment Organization successfully convened its Bi-Annual Staff Review Meeting, bringing together all staff members to reflect on organizational performance, assess progress against strategic and project targets and strengthen collaboration across all departments. The meeting provided a valuable platform for reviewing achievements from the first half of the year, discussing lessons learned, identifying operational challenges and sharing best practices that will enhance the quality and impact of our programs. Staff also reviewed key performance indicators, donor commitments and implementation progress across all initiatives. The review meeting further served as an opportunity to align the team on priorities for the next implementation period, reaffirm organizational values and strengthen accountability for results. Through interactive discussions, staff developed practical action points to improve efficiency, innovation, communication and service delivery to communities. The meeting concluded with renewed commitment to teamwork, excellence and the organization's mission of empowering communities and advancing sustainable social change.





DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD 2026

Commemorated at Motarakwa Primary School, Ntimaru Sub-County, this multi-stakeholder event — jointly supported by Future4Binti, AMREF, Tunaweza, County and National Government — brought together children, parents, leaders and CSOs to raise awareness on protecting children from violence and promoting quality education.

Educational presentations, cultural performances and advocacy messages emphasized the collective responsibility to safeguard children's rights. Stakeholders reaffirmed commitment to coordinated action against child marriage, FGM and child labour, closing with a renewed call for community-led action.

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS & MEDIA

Media Engagement

Combining digital platforms with community-based engagement significantly enhances the effectiveness of awareness and advocacy, especially in remote and underserved areas. Investing in youth-led digital networks strengthens the sustainability of advocacy beyond the lifespan of individual projects.



Case Study | Communities Taking the Lead

The Under the Tree Community Dialogue in Mutinititi brought together elders, youth, women, religious leaders and local authorities from Kenya and Tanzania to address cross-border FGM. Through open conversations, participants identified practical solutions and collectively committed to strengthening community surveillance, protecting girls at risk and promoting positive cultural practices. The dialogue reaffirmed that sustainable change begins when communities own the solution.

Stories & Impact



Success Story | Empowering Young Mothers

Through Group Antenatal Care (G-ANC), adolescent and young mothers received quality antenatal services while learning alongside their peers. Sessions on birth preparedness, breastfeeding, newborn care and safe delivery equipped participants with practical knowledge and increased their confidence to seek skilled maternal healthcare, contributing to healthier pregnancies and improved maternal wellbeing.



Human Interest | Faith Inspiring Change

The Faith Action Interfaith Adolescent Health Hub brought together adolescents, parents and faith leaders to discuss adolescent health in a respectful and supportive environment. By combining faith values with accurate health information, the initiative encouraged open dialogue, strengthened family communication and empowered young people to make informed and responsible life choices.

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

754+

People Reached

6

Villages Reached

237+

Followers Gained Across All
Digital Platforms

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Stay connected. Get involved. Be part of the change.

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