



YWCA Kenya

Empowering women and girls.



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AGYW	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
CUC	Court Users Committee
FBO	Faith-Based Organization
FCM	Feminist Consultation Methodology
FEMspace	Feminist safe space
FLLOCA	Financing Locally-Led Climate Action
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HRMIS	Human Resource Management Information System
IPLCs	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
LCOY	Local Conference of Youth
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
NOREC	Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation
PCVE	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
PBO	Public Benefit Organization
PWD	Person with Disability
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
ToT	Trainer of Trainers
VCA	Voices for Just Climate Action
WRO	Women's Rights Organization
YW4A	Young Women for Awareness, Agency, Advocacy and Accountability

Executive Summary

The year 2025 was a defining year for Young Women's Christian Association of Kenya, popularly known as YWCA Kenya. It marked the second year of implementing the 2024–2027 Strategic Plan, a period focused on consolidating gains made, deepening programming, strengthening targeted advocacy, expanding partnerships, mobilizing resources, and building a revitalized and adaptive organization.

Across its National Office and seven branches in Mombasa, Tana River, Meru, Nairobi, Kisumu, Siaya and Kisii, YWCA Kenya continued to advance the leadership, safety, health, economic participation and collective voice of girls and women. The organization worked through community safe spaces, schools, county structures, national policy platforms, media channels, faith and civil society networks, and regional and global advocacy spaces.

The 2025 context made this work urgent. Kenya continued to face rising public concern around gender-based violence and femicide, economic pressure on young people and households, climate-related vulnerability, and a changing regulatory environment for public benefit organizations. YWCA Kenya responded by staying close to communities while strengthening its internal systems, policy voice and public visibility.

Programming remained anchored in the strategic priority of deepening programmes to respond to the emerging and diverse needs of girls and women. Through the Young Women for Awareness, Agency, Advocacy, Accountability (YW4A), Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), Voices for Just Climate Action – Deepening African Youth, Women and Indigenous People's Engagement in Post Paris Climate Dialogue Processes, USAID Elevate Voice Yake, YWCA branch-led safe spaces, economic empowerment activities, peacebuilding and community development work, YWCA Kenya supported young women to build agency, speak in public spaces, engage duty bearers, participate in advocacy coalitions and shape solutions affecting their lives.

Young women's leadership was one of the strongest areas of outcome in 2025. Young women increasingly moved from participation to representation, contributing to policy dialogues, court users committees, gender sector working groups, radio advocacy and regional platforms. The story of Lorna Argwings, a Student Board Member, captures this transformation: a young woman who began by questioning whether her views belonged at the table and grew into a confident leader who now encourages others to show up, speak up and trust that they belong.

Advocacy and policy influence also deepened. YWCA Kenya contributed to climate policy processes, including engagement around the Draft Climate Change (Carbon Trading) Regulations 2025 and climate finance advocacy in Kisumu County. At county level, branches contributed to Gender Mainstreaming Policy process, GBV Technical Working Groups, Court Users Committees, gender desks, climate public participation and peacebuilding forums.

Institutional strengthening was a major achievement. Membership grew by a significant percentage compared to the previous year, with group membership remaining the largest contributor. Overall, 2025 demonstrated that YWCA Kenya's greatest strength lies in its dual identity: a national women's rights organization with deep community roots, and a membership movement capable of nurturing young women leaders from safe spaces into public decision-making spaces.

**Strengthening
Young Women's
Leadership,
Voice and
Collective
Action.**

ORGANISATION OVERVIEW

The Young Women's Christian Association of Kenya is a non-governmental, membership-based organization founded in 1912 on Christian principles. It is affiliated to the World YWCA and works to foster the collective power of girls

and women in Kenya through leadership, advocacy, safe spaces, empowerment, mentorship, skills development and community-based programming.



Vision

"An inclusive society in Kenya where girls and women actualize their potential and live fulfilled lives."

Mission

"We endeavour to be a leading non-profit-making organization in Kenya that, through membership, develops the leadership and collective power of girls and women, to achieve social, political and economic empowerment based on its Christian faith."

Programming - Key Thematic Areas

- a) Young Women's Leadership Development:
- b) Girls' Knowledge Acquisition Empowerment
- c) Women and Girls' Health and Wellness
- d) Socio-Economic Empowerment for Women and Girls
- e) Conflict Transformation and Peace Advocacy
- f) Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience:
- g) Rights Advocacy and Gender Equality

Message from the National Board Chairperson.



It is with gratitude and a deep sense of responsibility that I present the Young Women's Christian Association of Kenya Annual Report for 2025, a year in which we continued to consolidate the gains made while responding to the realities facing women and girls across Kenya.

The environment in which we worked remained complex. Communities continued to confront the painful realities of gender-based violence and femicide, the economic pressures affecting young people and families, climate-related vulnerabilities, and the need for stronger civic and policy spaces where women and girls can participate meaningfully.

In 2025, these priorities were not only institutional commitments; they became practical pathways through which our branches, programmes, members, staff, volunteers, partners and young women leaders carried forward the YWCA mission.

Across the year, I was encouraged by the evidence of young women stepping into leadership with courage. Through FEMspaces, school and community dialogues, county policy platforms, media advocacy, climate justice processes, peacebuilding spaces and governance structures, young women did more than attend activities. They spoke, organized, challenged harmful norms, engaged duty bearers and shaped conversations that affect their lives and communities. This is the kind of leadership YWCA Kenya exists to nurture.

The interest in membership and growth in partnerships from across the regions is an important indicator of renewed engagement and organizational vitality. It shows that women, girls, young people, professionals and community groups continue to see YWCA Kenya as a home for collective action. At the same time, the data also reminds us that membership growth must be supported by stronger retention, better data management, active branch programming and intentional engagement across all regions.

The National Board also recognizes the progress made in institutional strengthening. The full implementation and adoption of an integrated Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS) bridging the gap in real-time between headquarters and branches, the rollout of accounting systems, policy reviews and stronger IT and communications systems all contribute to an organization that is better positioned to serve. These systems may not always be visible to the public, but they are essential to accountability, transparency and long-term impact of the Organization.

I wish to appreciate our National General Secretary, management team, branch managers, staff, volunteers, members and young women leaders for their commitment throughout the year. I also thank our development partners, government partners, civil society networks, faith institutions, women rights organizations at the community level and friends of YWCA Kenya for walking with us.

As we look ahead, our task is clear. We must continue building safe spaces for girls and women, deepen our advocacy, strengthen our branches, invest in young women's leadership, and ensure that YWCA Kenya remains a trusted voice for equality, justice and empowerment.

Ms. Eunice Mungatana

National Board Chairperson

Message from the National General Secretary.



For YWCA Kenya, 2025 was a year of consolidation, adaptation and renewed commitment to the leadership and collective power of girls and women.

We are building on more than a century of service, Christian values, community presence and women's leadership, while responding to a rapidly changing operating environment. The needs of girls and women are evolving. The civic and development landscape is shifting. Funding patterns are changing. Technology and Artificial Intelligence is transforming how we work and communicate.

These realities require both courage and discipline.

In 2025, our branches and programmes continued to reach girls, young women, women's groups, youth, community leaders, duty bearers, schools, faith actors and civil society networks. Through the YW4A Initiative, we saw young women strengthen their agency, organize FEMspaces which are safe spaces for survivors and young women using the World YWCA transformative leadership model, RiseUp! , engage in legal and media advocacy, challenge harmful social norms and influence county-level conversations. In Kisii, young women contributed to the Kisii Gender Mainstreaming Policy process, In Meru County, they participated in Court Users Committee and Gender Sector Working Group spaces, and used radio to address the silence and stigma surrounding GBV in Migori County.

Through our SRHR work, which was amplified through the support of NOREC, young people gained life skills, built confidence, engaged in school and community outreach, strengthened disability inclusion and contributed to cross-border learning. Through climate justice programming, youth, women and marginalized communities engaged in climate finance, county climate planning, carbon market conversations, COP processes and Local Conference of Youth advocacy. In Kisumu and Mombasa, climate work increasingly moved from awareness to policy engagement, tracking of county climate finance and community-led solutions.

Our peace and security work, particularly at the Coast and in Kisumu, demonstrated the importance of interfaith collaboration, youth engagement and economic empowerment in building peaceful communities. Our branches also sustained practical community initiatives, including menstrual health education, safe space activities, young mothers' advocacy, mental health conversations, table banking, membership days, studio-based youth training, branch facility improvements and local fundraising.

Membership is the foundation of our identity as YWCA Kenya. It represents women, girls, young people, professionals and community groups who choose to belong, contribute and participate. Going forward, we must strengthen membership data systems, retention strategies, volunteer engagement and branch-led programming so that membership becomes an even stronger engine for sustainability and advocacy.

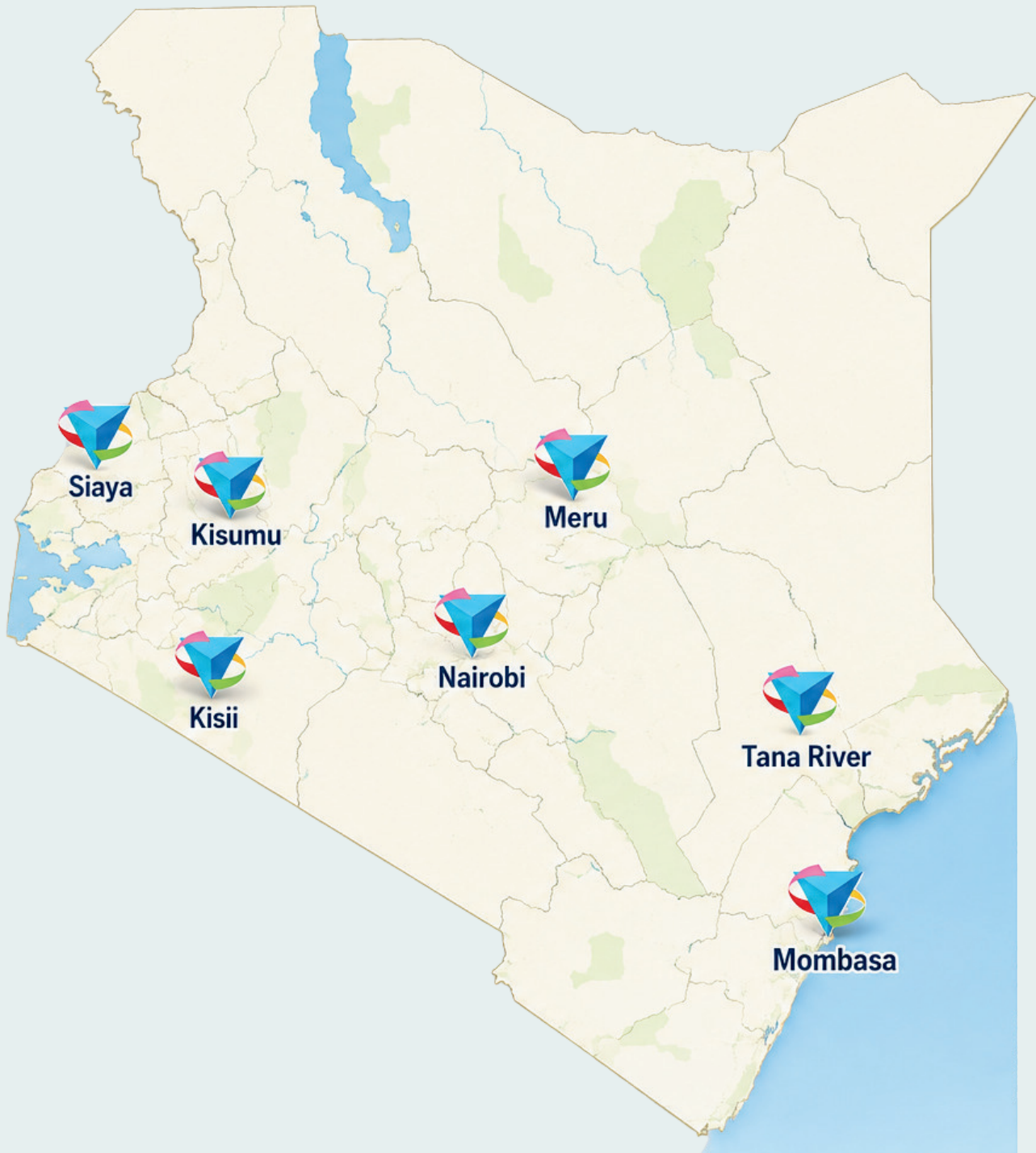
I am grateful to the National Board for its leadership and oversight, to our staff and branch teams for their commitment, to our members and volunteers for keeping the movement alive, and to our partners for their continued trust. I particularly celebrate the young women who continue to remind us why this work matters. Their voices, courage and leadership are the clearest evidence of impact.

Ms. Deborah Olwal

National General Secretary



Where We Work: YWCA Kenya Regional Footprint



Headquartered in Nairobi, YWCA Kenya operates through seven (7) branches located in Mombasa, Tana River, Meru, Nairobi, Kisumu, Siaya and Kisii. Through this branch network, the Association reaches twenty-one (21) counties, delivering programmes and advancing advocacy in partnership with communities, members and stakeholders across the country.

YWCA Kenya 2025 Summary

OUR REACH



7

Operational
Branches



21

Counties
Reached



46%

Membership
Growth



KSh 2.708B

Estimated
Asset Value



154,800+

Reach and impact from
Digital Engagement.

Across Facebook, Instagram,
LinkedIn and X (formerly
Twitter).

OUR PROGRAMME IMPACT



11,980+

Young People Reached

Through SRHR awareness sessions in
schools and communities.



300+

Young Women Trained as Trainers of
Trainers (ToTs) under YW4A in Meru,
Kisi and Migori Counties



200+

Positive Masculinity /
Community Dialogues



400

Young Women Leaders engaging actively
with YWCA on entrepreneurship, climate
action, advocacy and across different
initiatives.



17

Youth from YWCA Kisumu Branch
Studio completed training in
videography and photography.

9

Monitoring and Technical Support
Visits Conducted.

2

Young Women completed their
leadership journey as Student Board
Members for the period 2024–2025
leadership cohort.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

Contributed to the Kisii Gender Mainstreaming Policy process through CSO coordination, young women sensitization, Gender Sector Working Group engagement and follow-up with county actors.

Supported climate finance advocacy in Kisumu County, public participation, county climate finance tracking and validation processes.

Contributed to the Draft Climate Change (Carbon Trading) Regulations, 2025.

Participated in public participation on Gender Based Violence (GBV) including femicide. YWCA is a member of **County Gender Technical Working Groups (TWGs)** in the counties we operate.

Engaged in national and regional advocacy spaces including UNFCCC COP-related processes, LCOY, PALU Conference, YW4A regional learning spaces and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kenya King's Day stakeholder engagement at the Embassy in Nairobi.

Programming In 2025

To ensure the scope of existing YWCA Kenya programmes effectively addresses girls' and women's emerging and diverse needs, reaching a wider audience while ensuring inclusivity, relevance and sustainability. YWCA Kenya implemented several programmes in the year.

YW4A programme - Young Women for Awareness, Agency, Advocacy and Accountability

Counties of Implementation: Kisii, Meru and Migori

YW4A strengthened young women's leadership, advocacy and participation in decision-making across Kisii, Meru and Migori, equipping young women and women's rights organisations to challenge Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), harmful norms, influence policy and sustain action beyond the programme.

Young Women utilized different models such as the YW4A FEMspaces, RiseUp! transformative leadership guide, feminist methodology, safe space dialogues, integrated with YWCA branch-led advocacy initiatives, young women strengthened their confidence, advocacy skills, social capital and participation in decision-making spaces.

TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP

Young women increasingly moved from training to action, independently developing advocacy plans, engaging decision-makers and participating in public forums. Their engagement included Court Users Committees, Gender Sector Working Groups, county budget processes, community dialogues and national advocacy platforms.



POLICY & ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

Kisii Gender Mainstreaming Policy

Young women advocated for implementation, gender-responsive budgeting, stronger accountability and greater representation in decision-making.

County Finance & Budget Processes

Young women participated in public participation and budget analysis, raising concerns around inclusion, health financing and social protection.

SGBV & Justice

YW4A young women engaged Court Users Committees and were involved in developing structures to end and address Gender Based Violence, advocating for survivor protection, improved justice pathways and stronger institutional responses.

MEDIA ADVOCACY

Young women led radio conversations on ending SGBV, harmful practices, reporting pathways, positive masculinity and access to justice.

SUSTAINABILITY

YWCA Kenya supported Young Women and FEMspaces groups to develop advocacy resource tools, business mentorship initiatives, table-banking groups, local grant applications strategies and develop partnerships and networks to support and sustain their advocacy initiatives beyond YW4A.

BY THE NUMBERS



36

Young women trained as Lead Trainers of Trainers to reach 300 young women through their FEMSpaces focusing on

Transformative Leadership using RiseUp!, advocacy & Feminist Consultation Methodology.



111

Young women trained in legal & media advocacy



59

Young women leaders trained in Online activism & digital advocacy strategies to sustain online campaigns.



450

Girls & Young women engaged through gender equality & women's empowerment dialogue



225

Participants engaged in positive masculinity dialogues



40

Young women trained on community resource & referral pathways



12

FEMSpaces impacting the lives of over 300 young women supported directly through monitoring & technical support visits by YWCA Kenya.

**My
Voice
Matters**

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

Counties of Implementation: Meru, Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, Kisii, Siaya and Tana River

YWCA Kenya advanced SRHR through branch activities, NOREC exchange work, menstrual health education, school and community outreach, mental health conversations, disability inclusion and GBV prevention. The SRHR/NOREC project strengthened youth access to life skills-based SRHR through cross-border learning involving YWCA Kenya, Y Global South Sudan, Youth Peace Makers Tanzania and Y Global Norway.

The SRHR programme exceeded several planned targets across the branches. 575 youth leaders were engaged with SRHR information, while 38 training sessions were held in schools and communities. Campaigns and awareness activities reached more than 11,980 people, surpassing the target of annual target of 10,000. Exchange Participants developed resources, participated in proposal-writing and joint campaigns that strengthened youth-led advocacy and outreach.

Participants gained competencies in leadership, project management, cross-cultural communication and digital literacy. An Exchange participant hosted by YWCA Kenya was proud to participate and engage in 38 SRHR trainings and later sessions in five schools and three community forums.

Partnerships with disability groups, champions and organizations supported inclusive programming, leading to direct engagement with at least 80 young women with hearing impairment.

BY THE NUMBERS



575

YOUTH LEADERS
ENGAGED WITH
SRHR INFORMATION



38

SRHR TRAINING
SESSIONS
CONDUCTED

IN SCHOOLS AND
COMMUNITIES



11,980+

PEOPLE REACHED
THROUGH SRHR
CAMPAIGNS &
AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

EXCEEDED THE ANNUAL
TARGET OF 10,000



80+

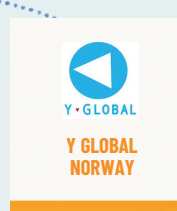
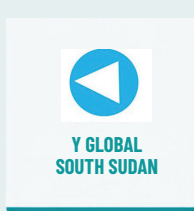
YOUNG WOMEN
WITH HEARING
IMPAIRMENT
DIRECTLY ENGAGED

THROUGH DISABILITY-
INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING



SRHR, MENTAL HEALTH,
MENSTRUAL HEALTH
EDUCATION & GBV
PREVENTION ACTIVITIES
IMPLEMENTED ACROSS
SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES

CROSS BORDER LEARNING AND EXCHANGE



CLIMATE JUSTICE & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Counties of Implementation: Kisumu, Mombasa and Nairobi

YWCA Kenya strengthened the capacity of women, youth and marginalised communities to participate in climate governance, influence climate finance and policy, and champion locally led, gender-responsive climate solutions.

Through inclusive and rights-based approaches to climate action with the support of Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) programme, SouthSouthNorth (SSN) and branch-led climate initiatives, YWCA Kenya amplified the voices of youth, women, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and local communities in climate dialogue, climate finance and policy spaces.

YWCA Kenya organized inter-county webinars, national workshops and pre- and post-COP processes that strengthened understanding of carbon markets, climate finance, adaptation, Action for Climate Empowerment and gender-responsive climate action. The VCA work supported youth, women and persons with disabilities to participate in post COP29 dialogues, linking global climate discussions with local realities.

In Kisumu, the SSN-supported climate finance project strengthened alternative voices in county climate finance. Youth and women engaged in Pre-LCOY, policy brief development, county climate finance tracking, FLOCA monitoring, public participation on sand harvesting, and validation of county climate planning processes. These efforts improved awareness, accountability and the capacity of young people to influence policy and develop bankable project proposals.



BY THE NUMBERS



150+

Youth participants engaged during webinar sessions



8

National climate workshops convened by YWCA Kenya



43

Participants engaged during the LREB region pre-conference of youth (LCOY)



40

Youth contribute to policy development (Kisumu NDC 3.0 roadmap)



59

Climate finance & carbon market stakeholders engaged

Social and Economic Empowerment

Counties of Implementation: Siaya, Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, Kisii, Meru and Tana River

Economic empowerment activities were implemented primarily through YWCA branches and community linkages. YWCA linked youth and groups to state and non-state opportunities including NGAFF, Youth Enterprise Fund, Women Enterprise Fund, NYOTA and small grant opportunities. Economic empowerment sessions supported youth to identify livelihood pathways, while branch initiatives such as table banking, computer classes, conference facilities, hostels and studio training contributed to local sustainability.

The YWCA Kisumu branch Studio initiated a programme that bridged digital skills and youth employment by training young people in videography, photography and content monetization. The first cohort of 17 youth graduated in November 2025, with further intake planned and accreditation with NITA being explored.



Peace and Conflict Resolution / PCVE

Counties of Implementation: Kisumu and Mombasa

YWCA Kenya's work on promoting peace focused on youth engagement, interfaith collaboration, conflict transformation, prevention of violent extremism and community resilience. In Mombasa, the branch continued PCVE work rooted in interfaith engagement, strengthening partnerships between peace groups, community structures and government security agencies. In Kisumu, youth were equipped with knowledge on peace and conflict transformation and participated in International Day of Peace activities and inter-county learning on deradicalization through economic empowerment.

YWCA Safe Spaces

Counties of Implementation: Kisii, Meru, Mombasa, Nairobi, Kisumu, Siaya and Tana River

YWCA Safe Spaces is a framework designed to build secure physical, emotional, or psychological environments where girls and women can express themselves, share ideas, and learn without fear of judgment, harm, or discrimination. YWCA Branch compounds, YW4A FEMspaces, school-based groups, community forums, membership events and youth gatherings facilitated by YWCA Leaders offered platforms where girls and young women could learn, heal, organize, build confidence and access referrals. YWCA Kisii branch spotlight shows how as a long-standing physical safe space, it has evolved into a base for county-level advocacy, policy engagement and young women's leadership.

YWCA has also expanded safe spaces into the virtual space, creating accessible platforms where young women and girls can connect, learn, seek support and engage safely, while addressing emerging risks including cyberbullying, online harassment and digital violence.

Targeted Advocacy and Policy Influence

Counties of Implementation: Meru, Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, Kisii, Siaya and Tana River

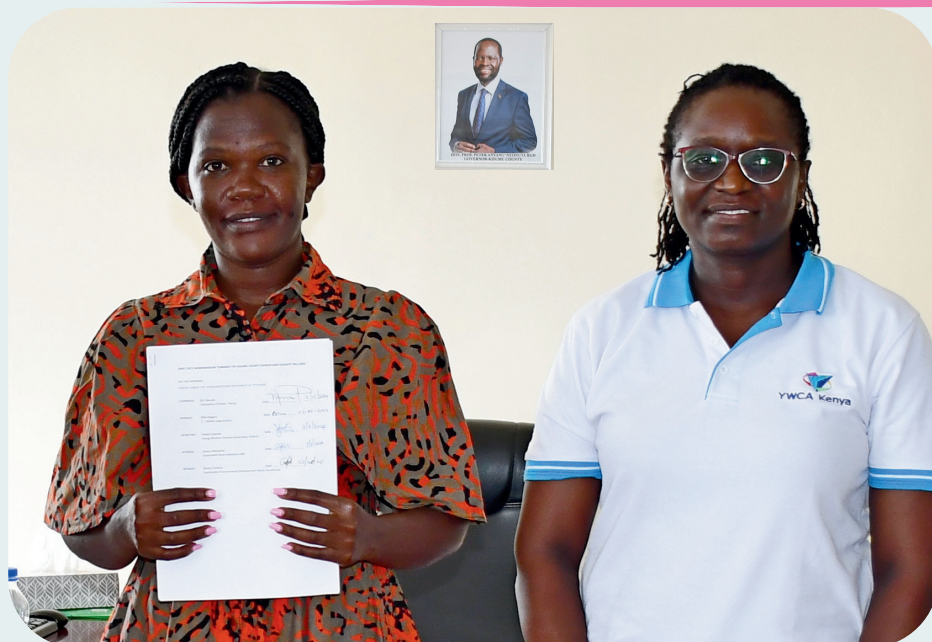
YWCA aims to harness advocacy as a catalyst for empowerment, equality and transformative change for girls and young women.

Policy Engagements and Legislative Influence

- Submitted and contributed to climate policy processes, including the Draft Climate Change (Carbon Trading) Regulations 2025 through collaboration with WWF-Kenya, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and Natural Justice.
- Supported climate finance advocacy in Kisumu County, including policy brief development, public participation, county climate finance tracking and validation processes.
- Contributed to the Kisii Gender Mainstreaming Policy process through CSO coordination, young women sensitization, Gender Sector Working Group engagement and follow-up with county actors.
- Participated in GBV and femicide public participation, Court Users Committee spaces, gender working groups, police gender desk support and media advocacy.
- Engaged in national and regional advocacy spaces including COP-related processes, LCOY, PALU Conference, King's Day stakeholder engagement and YW4A regional learning spaces.

Outcome Harvesting Highlights

The strongest advocacy outcomes in 2025 were observed where YWCA Kenya combined community evidence, young women's leadership and formal policy spaces. YWCA Kisii demonstrates this well: young women and branch leaders used lived experience, local statistics and survivor-informed evidence to engage county officials, MCAs and justice actors. In climate justice work, youth and women moved from consultation to proposal development, policy brief development and tracking of county climate finance implementation.



Ms. Beatrice Odongo, County CEC Member for Sports, Culture, Gender and Youth with YWCA Kisumu Branch Manager, Vallary Oyando as YWCA Kisumu Branch led the Gender Sector Working Group (GSWG) CSOs in the submission of the joint memorandum towards the Gender and Equality Bill.

Partnerships and Collaboration

YWCA continue to build synergies for girls' and women's empowerment and inclusion through strategic partnerships, networks and community structures.

We Extend Our Gratitude to the following:

- Development partners and Donors: Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, World YWCA, Y Global, NOREC, HIVOS, SSN and USAID.
- Civil society and technical partners in our various programmes: Equality Now, KIT Royal Tropical Institute | Amsterdam, Faith to Action Network, WWF-Kenya, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung - Kenya, Natural Justice, SUSWATCH, SDI, ALIN, Pamoja 4 Transformation, CREAM, LISP and county CSO networks.
- Government engagement: County governments, State Department of Gender and Affirmative Action, county climate directorates, National Administration, courts, police gender desks, ministries of Health, Education and Interior, and county gender technical working groups.
- Community structures: YW4A FEMspaces, WROs, FBOs, peace groups, youth networks, women's groups, school communities, paralegals, Ward Climate Change Planning Committees and branch membership structures.



In the year 2025, YWCA Kenya hosted representatives from YWCA of Bangalore City, YWCA Ghana, and a team of students from the USA, studying Gender & World Literature.

Resource Mobilization and Business Development

Resource mobilization in 2025 combined donor grants (restricted funds), operational income gained through the income-generating activities and membership contributions across the branches. The major challenge faced by YWCA in this area in current times is the dilapidated facilities across the branches, competition from modern Hostel facilities and land lease renewals.

YWCA Facilities - Safe Space Hostels, Conference Halls, Serviced Apartments, Grounds and Office space to let

Studio Serviced Apartments



Flats/Offices (Unfurnished) to Rent



Conference Halls for hire at the YWCA Headquarter and across all YWCA Branches



Safe Space Hostels at the YWCA Headquarter in Nairobi and all the YWCA Branches



Reservations



Institutional Capacity Strengthening

To create a revitalized, efficient and adaptive YWCA structure that aligns with contemporary needs and builds a foundation for enduring impact

Governance and Membership

YWCA Kenya is governed by the National Board, supported by trustees and branch governance structures. The Secretariat, led by the National General Secretary, oversees the day-to-day management of the Association, including its facilities, programmes and operations.

Membership strengthened significantly in 2025, recording a 46 per cent increase. This growth was driven largely by an increase in group and full membership, particularly in Mombasa and Kisumu. Meru recorded the most stable membership trend during the year. Meanwhile, Nairobi and Tana River require more focused membership revitalisation strategies, which the Secretariat has begun implementing to strengthen engagement, recruitment and retention.

Christian Emphasis



YWCA Kenya is founded and anchored on the Christian faith, which continues to shape our identity, values and commitment to service. Christian Emphasis provides a spiritual foundation for the work we do, encouraging faith, compassion, dignity, justice, peace and care for others.

Throughout 2025, we continued to nurture the spiritual life of its members and communities through Christian fellowship, prayer, reflection, Bible study and faith-based engagement. These spaces provided opportunities for members, staff and young people to deepen their faith, reflect on their calling and connect Christian values with the realities facing women, girls and communities.

A key moment in the year was the World YWCA - YMCA Week of Prayer, held from 9–15 November 2025 under the theme “Jubilee: 150 Years of Prayer in Action.” The celebration drew inspiration from the values of Jubilee in Leviticus 25, particularly restoration, renewal and release.

Across the YWCA branches in Kenya, the week provided an opportunity to reach out to those in GBV safe space shelters, prisons, schools in rural areas and distribute sanitary products as we celebrate God’s abundant blessings with them while reflecting on the role of faith in responding to injustice.

“I am because we are. As YWCA Kenya we believe that our strong foundation lies in the strength of each other.

Inspired by the Ubuntu Philosophy

Digital Dialogues & Webinars

YWCA Kenya used digital platforms to create spaces for dialogue, learning and advocacy throughout 2025, connecting young people, experts and partners around community leadership, mental wellbeing, menstrual health, sexual and reproductive health and civic participation.

WEBINAR
The Media's role in Suicide Prevention: Creating Hopeful and Responsible Narratives
Harnessing the power of media to foster hope, resilience, and mental wellbeing.

Moderator
Mariam Ngoya
Program Officer, YWCA

Speakers
Mkamburi Mwawasi
Journalist
Mavis Kwamboka
Counseling Psychologist
Fatma Swaleh
YWCA Mental Health Champion

ON FRIDAY 19 September 2025
START AT 2:00PM
SCAN TO REGISTER

WEBINAR
Driving Change through Community Advocacy and Leadership
EMPOWER
ENGAGE
ELEVATE

Panelists:
Velgonah Nyangaresi
Meroy Kendi
Pauline Boko

Moderator:
Neema Nyaundi
Hellen Mageto

REGISTER NOW
FRIDAY 7TH MARCH, 2025
#YW4A #IWD2025 #AccelerateAction

UNDERSTANDING THE GOVERNMENT BUDGETING PROCESS

SPEAKER: ISABELLA KIDEDE
(Coordinator-Coast Regional Budget Hub / YWCA member)

"The webinar will help us understand how the government plans, allocates and manages public funds and how it impacts us."

On 18th July, 2025
12:00 Noon - 2:00 pm
JOIN US ON SCAN QR TO REGISTER

**WORLD MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY 2025
BREAKING DOWN THE STIGMA OF MENSTRUATION**

Easter Achieng Okech
Executive Director & Programs Coordinator
Kenya Female Advisory Organization

Jenny Danielsson
Doctor
Obstetrics and Gynaecology Resident
Central Hospital Växjö, Sweden

Savia Juan Jackson
SRHR Advisor
YWCA Kenya
Moderator

Juliet Okoth
SRHR Advisor
YGlobal Norway
Moderator

Wednesday 28th May 10:30 - 11:45 am EAT
(09:30 - 10:45 am Norwegian time)
<https://shorturl.at/GYnWc>

Sexual and Reproductive Health-online lecture
Everyone is welcome!

18th Nov. 2025 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (EAT)

Topics include:
• Menstrual health
• Puberty
• STD

Scan here or click on the link in the description to register

Ragnhild H. Evang
SRHR Advisor, YWCA Kenya



Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning

YWCA Kenya's 2025 annual report was compiled from branch reports, programme reports, outcome harvesting documents, financial statements, membership reports, communications reports, HR reports and success stories.



Young women's leadership outcomes were strongest where capacity strengthening was paired with practical advocacy platforms.



Policy influence was most visible in county-level gender, GBV, climate finance and public participation processes.



Safe spaces remained critical entry points for leadership development, psychosocial support, referral pathways and collective organizing.



Digital systems strengthened institutional efficiency, but continued training and user support remain essential.



Branch-level data quality and consolidated indicator reporting require strengthening in 2026.



YWCA Kenya adapted to resource limitations by collaborating with partners, using virtual platforms, leveraging branch facilities, mobilizing members and strengthening online engagement and visibility.

Outcome harvesting approaches helped capture changes in young women's agency, confidence, policy engagement and institutional capacity that may not be fully reflected through activity counts alone.

Success Story: A Young Woman's Transformative Journey to Reclaim Her Voice

At 19, Fantasia Kerubo's life changed in ways she had never imagined. After completing high school, she became pregnant. What followed was rejection from her family, ridicule from friends and the sudden withdrawal of the emotional and financial support she had known.

Motherhood came early, and with it came the pressure of simply surviving. Fantasia had to put her education on hold and turn to informal work to support her young family. The pressure, isolation and constant judgment took a heavy emotional toll.



In 2022, Fantasia **joined YWCA Kisii Branch where she was introduced to the YW4A programme** and became part of a YW4A FEMspace where young women could sit together, share their experiences and speak without fear of being judged.

Through the FEMspace, she learned about sexual and gender-based violence, violence against women and girls, women's rights, legal reforms and referral pathways. But perhaps just as important was what happened when she began listening to other young women. She heard stories of struggle that felt familiar.

She realised that what she had experienced was not a personal failure. It was connected to wider patterns of gender inequality and the expectations placed on women and girls.

Through a FEMspace-led economic empowerment initiative, Fantasia learned mat-making. What began as a skill-building opportunity became a source of income and, more importantly, a renewed sense of possibility. She began making and selling mats independently and later expanded her small business to include clothes and scarves.

The business has enabled her to contribute to the wellbeing of her family while continuing to pursue her academic goals and regain a sense of control over her own life.

Today at 29 years-old, Fantasia is the lead Trainer of Trainers at a local secondary school, where she mentors 50 girls through her FEMspace. The young woman who once struggled to make herself heard is now creating space for other girls to speak, learn and understand their rights. She was also elected as the Youth Representative on the YWCA Kenya, Kisii Branch Board.

“My gratitude goes to YWCA for the YW4A programme which has empowered me as a young woman. I can now confidently speak about my rights and advocate for the rights of other women.”

Name and image changed to protect the identity of the young woman featured in this story.

Looking Ahead

YWCA Kenya will continue implementing the Strategic Plan 2024-2027 with emphasis on deepening programme quality, strengthening young women's leadership, consolidating advocacy gains, growing membership, strengthening branch capacity, improving MEAL systems and advancing resource mobilization.

- Deepen young women's leadership through safe spaces, mentorship, governance participation and advocacy platforms.
- Intensify advocacy on GBV, femicide, SRHR, climate justice and gender-responsive policies.
- Expand digital storytelling, website performance, cybersecurity and data protection.
- Strengthen branch membership recruitment, retention and volunteer engagement.
- Support branch business development through facilities, local fundraising and targeted marketing.
- Invest in staff development, performance management, policy implementation and safeguarding.
- Prepare for stronger donor engagement through evidence-based reporting, outcome harvesting and improved documentation.
- The **World YWCA's Vision 2035** will guide our focus on intergenerational leadership, strengthening the transfer of knowledge, leadership and power across generations towards a world where 100 million young women and girls transform power structures for justice, gender equality and a world without violence.



“As we build on the progress made in 2025, we look ahead with **renewed** commitment to expand opportunities, advance gender justice and create a more inclusive, resilient and peaceful future for all young women and girls.”

-Deborah Olwal
NGS, YWCA Kenya

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YWCA Kenya
Empowering women and girls.