



**Brighter
Communities**

Worldwide

CREATING BETTER FUTURES

Living in each other's shelter: Standing with Communities in a Year of Challenge



Summary Report - December 2025


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 Brighter Communities Worldwide

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Contents

About Brighter Communities	3
Living in Each Other’s Shelter in a Year of Challenge	3
Health Programme: Advancing Health Justice	4
Maternal and Child Health.....	5
Strengthening Community Health Systems	6
Clean Water and Environmental Health	7
A Landmark Achievement: The Living Hope Emergency & Trauma Centre	8
Climate Resilience: Climate Change Ambassadors	9
Education Programme: Advancing Education Justice	10
Healthy and Safe School Environments	10
Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR): Schools and Communities	11
SRHR in Schools	11
SRHR in Communities.....	12
SRHR Outcomes.....	12
Education Justice in Practice: Stories from Schools and Communities	12
Education & Gender Justice: Lifeskills and Ending Harmful Practices	13
Lifeskills Education.....	13
FGM/C Abandonment and Alternative Rites of Passage (ARP)	13
Gender Justice in Practice	14
Economic Empowerment: Economic Justice and Livelihoods	14
Building Entrepreneurial Skills and Capacity	14
Supporting Income-Generating Activities	14
Follow-Up, Networking and Resilience	15
Economic Justice in Practice.....	15
Volunteering	15
Looking Ahead: Standing Forward Together	16
Closing Reflections: Thank You for Standing with Us	16

About Brighter Communities

Brighter Communities Worldwide (BCW) is an Irish Kenyan development organisation working in long-term partnership with communities in Kericho County, Kenya. Founded in 2002, BCW's work is rooted in a simple belief: sustainable change is strongest when it is locally led, inclusive, and shaped by the priorities of those most affected.

BCW works alongside communities, local volunteers, frontline workers and government systems to strengthen access to essential services, build resilience, and address the underlying drivers of inequality. Our programmes span health, education, economic empowerment and climate resilience, with a deliberate focus on reaching those furthest behind — particularly women, girls, adolescents, people with disabilities and remote households.



Rather than delivering stand-alone interventions, BCW takes a whole-of-life, systems-strengthening approach. We invest in community capacity, support public services to function more effectively, and create pathways that link households, community structures and formal systems. Volunteers — local and international — play a supporting role within this locally led model, contributing skills, solidarity and shared learning.

This report reflects BCW's work over the past year within a challenging and changing context. It documents not only activities and results, but also how communities, partners and systems responded together — adapting, supporting one another, and sustaining progress under pressure.

Living in Each Other's Shelter in a Year of Challenge

As we reflect on the past year, one phrase has stayed with us more than any other: “*Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine*” — ***we live in each other's shelter***. It is a simple truth, and a powerful one. It reminds us that none of us stands alone — not as individuals, not as communities, and not as nations. Our wellbeing is shared, and our futures are deeply connected.

For the communities Brighter Communities Worldwide (BCW) works alongside in Kenya, this truth has been lived very practically over the past year. The year was shaped by overlapping pressures on health systems, livelihoods and daily life — and by the ways in which communities, frontline workers and partners stood together to respond.

Across BCW's programmes, a volatile aid and service delivery context affected access to essential health and social services. Reductions in international health funding narrowed the availability of some services, disrupted staffing and training, and placed additional strain on already stretched facilities. In some areas, this made continuity of care harder to maintain and increased the burden on families.



Evarline Chelangat & Charity Chepkurui

Rising household costs — for food, fuel, school fees and healthcare — further eroded resilience. Many families delayed seeking care, stretched treatment, or faced difficult choices between meeting basic needs and accessing services.

Climate shocks added another layer of disruption. Prolonged heavy rainfall and flooding damaged roads, livelihoods and crops, interrupted schooling and delayed construction, reinforcing existing vulnerabilities and limiting mobility.

Across all of these challenges, the greatest impact was felt by those already most marginalised — adolescents, remote households and the poorest families.

In this context, *living in each other's shelter* was not a metaphor, but a necessity. Communities relied on trusted local health volunteers, teachers and group leaders to share information, maintain follow-up and support one another. Frontline workers adapted under pressure, and partners worked together to localise outreach, adjust activities and protect access where possible.

BCW's role during this year was not to replace public systems, but to stand alongside them — strengthening community pathways, supporting local leadership, and helping families navigate barriers with dignity. Through a flexible, community-led approach, BCW worked to sustain access and continuity for those furthest behind.

In 2025, the project reached a total population of **275,902** people across Kericho County. Of these, **180,688** people directly benefited, including **40,552 males, 55,354 females, 48,751 girls, and 36,031 boys.**

This report reflects a year of challenge, but also of solidarity, resilience and shared responsibility — a year that reaffirmed a simple truth: when we live in each other's shelter, we are better able to withstand the storms we face together.

Health Programme: Advancing Health Justice

Health justice is about more than access to services. It is about dignity, readiness, and the right to timely, quality care — regardless of where you live or what resources you have.

In the past year, Brighter Communities Worldwide (BCW) continued its mission to strengthen health systems, improve access to care, and empower communities across Kericho County, Kenya. This work took place in a context of rising costs of living, increasing climate pressures, and ongoing inequities in access to essential health services — particularly for women, children and those living in remote communities.



Students from Kimasian Primary School



Guided by a locally led, systems-based approach, BCW worked in partnership with communities, county health authorities, and frontline health workers to deliver practical, community-driven solutions.

The programme was implemented in alignment with Kenya's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Community Health strategies, addressing both preventive and curative care. Health interventions spanned maternal and child health, community health system strengthening, access to clean water, environmental health through smokeless stoves, sexual and reproductive health education, and emergency and trauma care — recognising that improving health outcomes requires action across the full continuum of care.



Maternal and Child Health

Maternal and child health remains a central priority for Brighter Communities Worldwide, as the wellbeing of mothers and children is foundational to healthy families and resilient communities. During the year, BCW worked alongside communities, Community Health Promoters and health facilities to improve access to antenatal, delivery and postnatal care, with a particular focus on reaching women facing economic, geographic and social barriers.

Through strengthened community outreach and follow-up, more women were supported to engage with maternal health services earlier and more consistently. During 2025, **24,133 women** were supported to deliver safely with skilled care. **Outreach clinics** played a critical role in extending services to hard-to-reach areas, reaching **15,967 women and children** who might otherwise have faced significant barriers to care.

At facility level, BCW supported improvements in the quality and responsiveness of services through targeted capacity strengthening. Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) was reinforced through EmOC mentorship for **50 healthcare workers**, alongside **30 Continuous Medical Education workshops** that reached over **2,000 health professionals**. These efforts strengthened clinical confidence, teamwork and readiness to manage complications when they arise.



Solar Power installed in Ndubusat Health Facility

Investment in essential infrastructure further supported safe care. **Solar energy systems** were installed at the Londiani Sub-County Hospital Trauma Centre and Ndubusat Medical Clinic, ensuring reliable power for life-saving functions including lighting, water pumping, monitoring equipment and emergency response—particularly critical during outages and periods of extreme weather.

Across communities, awareness sessions, household follow-up by Community Health Promoters, and strengthened referral pathways helped increase uptake and continuity of care. Where distance, cost or weather made access difficult, services were localised and schedules adapted to reduce barriers, ensuring that women and children were not left behind.

Together, these combined community- and facility-level efforts contributed to safer pregnancies, more supported deliveries and improved continuity of care during a challenging year. For many women, the difference was not only medical, but emotional — knowing that care was available, trusted and delivered with dignity.

Strengthening Community Health Systems

Strong community health systems are the backbone of accessible and resilient healthcare, particularly for families living far from health facilities or facing economic and social barriers. In Kenya, these systems rely on local volunteers and frontline workers — Community Health Promoters (CHPs) and Community Health Assistants (CHAs) — who form the vital link between households and formal health services. Often the first point of contact for families, they provide health education, early identification of risk, follow-up, and referral, helping ensure that care reaches those who need it most.



Health Care Workers attend a CME session, Londiani June 2025

During the year, Brighter Communities Worldwide continued to invest in strengthening these community-level systems so that health services could reach people where they live. Eight Community Units were established or strengthened, expanding access to basic health services for **35,260 people** across underserved areas. Alongside this expansion, **302 CHP's and CHA's** received training and ongoing mentorship, equipping them with practical, life-saving knowledge and reinforcing their role within the health system.

Training focused on real-world priorities, including maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, basic emergency response, and community mobilisation. By strengthening skills and confidence at the frontline, CHPs and CHAs were better prepared to identify risk early, support timely referral, and maintain continuity of care within their communities.

Community engagement was further strengthened through Action & Dialogue Days, which brought together community members, health workers and local leaders in structured, participatory forums. A total of **2,734 community members** took part in these sessions, using the space to identify health challenges, share experiences and agree practical actions to improve local services. These forums helped build trust, accountability and communication between communities and service providers, reinforcing a shared responsibility for health outcomes.

In a year marked by pressure on services and household resources, strengthened community health systems played a critical role in sustaining access to care. Regular follow-up visits strengthened referral pathways and localised outreach helped ensure that women, children and vulnerable households did not fall through the gaps, even when access was disrupted by cost, distance or weather.



Reuben & Joyce and their family next to their smokeless stove

By investing in people, relationships and local leadership, BCW supported

communities to sustain access to care — not as passive recipients of services, but as active partners in their own health and wellbeing.

Clean Water and Environmental Health

Access to clean water and a healthy living environment is fundamental to good health, dignity and resilience. For many families, the distance to a safe water source or the quality of the air they breathe while cooking has a direct impact on daily wellbeing — particularly for women and children, who bear the greatest burden of water collection and household labour.

Throughout the year, Brighter Communities Worldwide continued to work in partnership with communities to improve access to safe water and reduce environmental health risks at household and community level. Reliable access to clean water plays a critical role in reducing waterborne disease, improving hygiene practices and easing the daily physical and time burden on families.

During the year, **six water sources** were protected or rehabilitated, improving access to safe drinking water for **7,375 people** across communities, schools and shared facilities. These improvements strengthened water reliability for households while also supporting safer learning and care environments in schools and community institutions.



Kapsingaru Water Spring

Community ownership was central to this work. Communities actively identified priority sites, contributed local labour and established management and maintenance structures to safeguard water sources over the long term. This locally led approach helped ensure sustainability while reinforcing shared responsibility for protecting essential resources.

For women and girls, improved water access translated into significant time savings and reduced physical strain, creating space for schooling, income-generating activities and household care. Together, these gains strengthened not only health outcomes, but dignity, opportunity and resilience at household and community level.

Indoor air pollution remains a major but often overlooked health risk. Traditional open-fire cooking exposes families to smoke-related illness and increases demand for firewood. BCW's smokeless stoves programme continued to deliver health, environmental and economic benefits: **1,103 smokeless stoves** were installed, reaching **5,743 people** reducing household firewood use by approximately 45%, improving indoor air quality, significantly lowering respiratory illness and burn-related injuries, and easing the daily burden on women and girls while contributing to environmental protection.



Lonner Kosgei using her smokeless stove Kaburenik Village

For many households, the stoves reduced cooking time and fuel costs, while easing the physical burden on women and girls responsible for fuel collection. Reduced firewood use also contributed to environmental conservation and climate resilience.

Together, clean water access and improved household cooking environments strengthened health outcomes while supporting dignity, time savings and resilience at household level.

A Landmark Achievement: The Living Hope Emergency & Trauma Centre

The completion of the **Living Hope Emergency & Trauma Centre at Londiani Sub-County Hospital** marks one of the most significant milestones in Brighter Communities Worldwide’s history. The centre was established in response to the tragic road accident at Londiani Junction in June 2023, which claimed 52 lives and exposed critical gaps in emergency response capacity. For families and communities affected by that night, the loss was devastating. For health workers and responders, it revealed the urgent need for dedicated trauma and emergency care facilities.



Today, where those gaps were once painfully visible, the Living Hope Centre now stands as a place of readiness, humanity and healing. The completed facility includes:

- 10 beds dedicated to emergency and trauma care
- A fully equipped nursing station with access to diagnostic information
- An ambulance bay designed for rapid patient transfer
- Direct, sheltered linkage to the hospital’s operating theatre
- Sustainable energy and water solutions

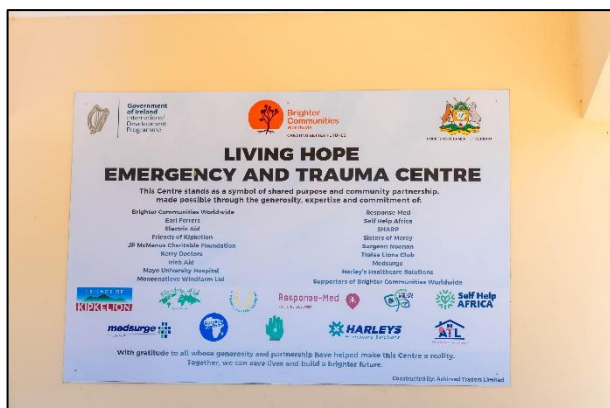
Importantly, the centre is not a stand-alone structure, but an integrated part of the hospital’s emergency response system — improving patient flow, stabilisation and coordination of care during critical moments.

Alongside the construction of the Centre, BCW focused on building the skills and confidence needed to turn infrastructure into life-saving action. A total of **135 hospital staff** received **advanced emergency and trauma care training**, while **245 community members** were trained in Remote Emergency Care—equipping frontline responders with the skills to provide immediate, life-saving stabilisation during the critical “golden hour” before referral.

Since the accident, BCW has been supporting **46 children orphaned** by the tragedy to remain in education—across primary, secondary, and third level—recognising that the impact of such events extends far beyond the immediate loss. By ensuring continuity of education, this support helps protect children from long-term vulnerability, preserves future opportunities, and enables them to rebuild their lives with dignity, stability, and hope.

The Living Hope Emergency & Trauma Centre stands as a tribute to lives lost, a commitment to safer futures, and a powerful example of what is possible when communities, health workers and partners walk together in solidarity.

Health, safety and dignity are not privileges for the few. They are rights that should be available to all.



Climate Resilience: Climate Change Ambassadors

Climate change is no longer a future threat for the communities Brighter Communities Worldwide works alongside — it is a daily reality. Unpredictable rainfall, prolonged dry periods and extreme weather events are affecting food production, water access, health and household incomes.

In response, BCW expanded its Climate Change Ambassadors Programme, placing community leadership at the centre of local climate action and resilience.

Climate Change Ambassadors are trusted community members — women and men — who are trained to understand climate risks, share practical adaptation strategies, and mobilise action at household and community level. Rather than delivering one-off interventions, the programme focuses on building local knowledge, ownership and long-term resilience.

During the year, BCW trained **80 Climate Change Ambassadors**, who reached **11,952 community members** through awareness sessions and community activities. These locally led actions translated learning into practice, with communities implementing kitchen gardens, tree planting, water conservation, and climate-smart farming to strengthen resilience to climate change.

By sharing practical, locally appropriate solutions, Ambassadors supported households to protect food security, manage scarce resources and adapt livelihoods to changing conditions.

The programme also strengthened links between climate action and other areas of BCW's work. Improved household nutrition supported maternal and child health, reduced pressure on water sources reinforced WASH gains, and diversified livelihoods enhanced economic resilience.

Most importantly, the Climate Change Ambassadors Programme reaffirmed a core belief at the heart of BCW's approach: communities are not passive victims of climate change, but active leaders in shaping their own resilience and futures. This leadership translated into tangible action, with **1,639 trees planted at household and community levels** through Ambassador-led sensitisation and mobilisation.



Naima jepkemboi (Left) and the Climate Change Ambassadors from Kenegut village

Education Programme: Advancing Education Justice

Education justice is about more than access to a classroom. It is about safe and supportive learning environments, dignity, accurate information, and the ability for children and young people — especially girls — to remain in school and complete their education.

For many students in the communities BCW works alongside, barriers to education extend beyond school fees. Poor sanitation, ill health, gender inequality, harmful practices and lack of accurate information all contribute to absenteeism and early drop-out.

Throughout the year, Brighter Communities Worldwide continued to work with schools, communities and government partners to address these barriers through a holistic, school- and community-based approach.

Healthy and Safe School Environments

A healthy learning environment is foundational to education justice. Through the Healthy Schools Programme, BCW worked with schools to improve hygiene, sanitation and overall wellbeing, creating environments where children can learn safely and confidently.

During the year, **40 new schools** joined the Healthy Schools Programme, bringing the total to **472 participating schools** and extending healthier, safer learning environments to approximately **153,255 students (79,749 girls and 73,506 boys)**.

Targeted infrastructure investments strengthened school health and dignity. These included the construction of **2 boys' latrines benefiting 434 boys, and 4 girls' latrines and washroom facilities benefiting 591 girls**—critical for improving attendance and retention, particularly for adolescent girls.



Nyabangi Students receiving handwashing materials.

Eight water tanks were installed, improving access to safe water for **3,481 students, teachers, and staff**. Environmental improvements were reinforced through the planting of **593 trees across 25 schools**, benefitting a school population of 9,301 learners and staff.

Clean cooking solutions were also prioritised, with **24 smokeless stoves** installed in 24 school kitchens, benefitting **7,189 students and 427 teachers**.

Together, these improvements contributed to reduced illness, safer school environments, and a more dignified daily experience for students and staff.

Student-led HECA Clubs (Healthy Environments for Children Alliance) played a central role in sustaining change. Through peer-to-peer learning, environmental reviews, and hygiene promotion campaigns, students became active agents of wellbeing, embedding healthy practices within their schools and communities.

These investments deliver measurable results. Findings from the 2025 HECA Survey across 100 schools show strong links between improved WASH infrastructure, student wellbeing, and education outcomes. **Over 93% of teachers reported improved attendance for girls (85% for boys), while 90% observed improved retention for girls (83% for boys).** From the student perspective, 71% reported missing fewer school days and 97% said they are more likely to stay in school because of HECA, citing better hygiene, safer facilities, and improved menstrual dignity.

Behaviour change has been equally strong, with nearly **99% of students** reporting improved hygiene practices, and teachers noting reduced illness and cleaner school environments. Importantly, these changes extend beyond schools, with over **87% of teachers** reporting improved hygiene practices in students' homes, demonstrating HECA's wider community impact.

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR): Schools and Communities

Education justice also requires that children, adolescents and adults have access to accurate, age-appropriate information about their bodies, health and rights — and that communities are able to discuss these issues openly and without stigma.

Brighter Communities Worldwide's **Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) programme** is implemented in both schools and communities, recognising that young people's choices are shaped not only in classrooms, but within families, cultures and social norms.

SRHR in Schools

In schools, the SRHR programme strengthens both student and teacher capacity, building the knowledge, confidence, and practical skills needed to support healthy decision-making and wellbeing. During the year, SRHR clubs were established or strengthened in 47 schools, engaging **2,432 students**, while **162 teachers** were trained through a train-the-trainer approach to ensure sustainability and scale.

Through structured SRHR clubs and guided discussions, students explored critical topics including puberty, menstrual health, relationships, and gender-based violence. Peer education reinforced learning, fostered safer and more informed school environments, and helped challenge stigma, while the provision of reusable sanitary starter kits enabled vulnerable girls to manage menstruation with dignity and remain engaged in their education.



Commissioning of a 60,000 litre Ferro-Cement Water Tank; Masubeti Girls Secondary School



Students from Kimasian Primary School at a SRHR Workshop

SRHR in Communities

Recognising that lasting change requires whole-community engagement, the SRHR programme extended beyond the school gate to reach families and communities directly.

During the year, **91 SRHR Ambassadors** were trained and, together with facilitators, reached **11,369 community members** through household visits, group discussions, and community workshops.

Ambassadors tackled stigma and misinformation around sexuality and menstrual health, creating safe spaces for open dialogue among women, men, adolescents, and elders. Practical menstrual health sessions—including the making of reusable sanitary products—strengthened dignity, sustainability, and participation in education and economic life. To ensure no one was left behind, SRHR messages were also integrated into routine household visits by trained Community Health Promoters, enabling accurate information to reach even the most remote and marginalised households.



Chepsoo and Samutet SRHR Ambassadors Training

SRHR Outcomes

Evidence from the 2025 SRHR School Survey confirms that the programme is delivering meaningful changes across schools and communities. Over 80% of students reported a significant improvement in their SRHR knowledge and awareness, while more than 83% said they now feel comfortable discussing SRHR topics, indicating reduced stigma and greater openness around menstruation, sexuality, and relationships. Teachers corroborated these findings, reporting improved hygiene practices, increased confidence among students, and reduced school dropouts linked to early pregnancy.

By working simultaneously with students, teachers, families, and community leaders, BCW's SRHR programme is helping to create safer, more supportive environments for young people—particularly girls—to remain in school, make informed choices, and grow up with confidence, dignity, and greater control over their futures

Education Justice in Practice: Stories from Schools and Communities

Across schools and communities, education justice became visible in everyday moments:

- A girl attending school consistently because she has access to sanitation and menstrual supplies
- Students leading hygiene and environmental initiatives through HECA Clubs
- Adolescents speaking openly and confidently about their health and rights
- Communities choosing education and dignity over harmful practices

These changes may seem small in isolation, but together they create pathways for children and young people to learn, thrive and lead.

Education & Gender Justice: Lifeskills and Ending Harmful Practices

Gender justice is central to Brighter Communities Worldwide’s approach to education and community development. It is about ensuring that girls and women are safe, informed and heard — and that communities have the knowledge, confidence and support to challenge harmful norms and protect the rights of their members.

Lifeskills Education

Lifeskills education equips adolescents and adults with the confidence, resilience, and practical skills needed to navigate everyday challenges and make informed, positive choices. Delivered through safe, participatory spaces, the programme enables participants to reflect on values, relationships, and wellbeing while strengthening communication, problem-solving, and self-awareness.

During the year, **40 lifeskills workshops were delivered across 179 communities**, engaging **1,356 participants**. Sessions addressed priority issues including mental health, relationships, safeguarding, HIV awareness, substance use, and effective communication.

Participants consistently reported increased self-confidence, stronger communication skills, and an improved ability to manage personal, family, and social challenges.

Beyond individual change, lifeskills education contributed to **stronger trust and dialogue within communities**, fostering peer support networks and reinforcing positive social norms around respect, equality, and wellbeing—creating environments where healthier choices are understood, supported, and sustained.

FGM/C Abandonment and Alternative Rites of Passage (ARP)

Ending harmful practices requires community leadership, cultural sensitivity, and sustained dialogue. BCW’s FGM/C Abandonment Programme continued to work closely with families, elders, and community leaders to challenge the social norms that perpetuate Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C), while supporting locally led pathways to change.

Through **Alternative Rites of Passage (ARP)**, communities were supported to replace harmful practices with culturally appropriate ceremonies that celebrate girls’ transition to adulthood **without violence**. During the year, **2,592 girls participated in ARP programmes**, while **16,189 community members** were reached through sensitisation events across **161 communities**.

Notably, **98.76% of participants reported increased confidence to reject FGM/C**, reflecting a powerful shift in attitudes and social norms.



ARP Graduation; Kamachungwa Primary School; November 2025



ARP graduation; Kichawir Primary School, Nov 2025

ARP programmes combined education on health, rights, and lifeskills with public affirmation ceremonies that signalled collective commitment to protecting girls. The active involvement of parents, elders, and community leaders was central to legitimising change, strengthening social support, and enabling families to choose alternatives that uphold dignity, wellbeing, and the rights of girls.

Gender Justice in Practice

Together, lifeskills education and ARP create pathways for lasting change. Girls gain knowledge, confidence and support to remain in school and pursue their aspirations, while communities strengthen their capacity to protect children and uphold shared values of dignity and equality.



Cynthia Cherop, ARP Graduate

By grounding gender justice in dialogue, respect and community ownership, BCW supports change that is both transformative and sustainable.

Economic Empowerment: Economic Justice and Livelihoods

Economic justice begins at household level. When families are able to earn a stable income, they can meet their basic needs, keep children in school, access healthcare, and build resilience to shocks. In the communities Brighter Communities Worldwide works alongside, rising living costs, climate variability and limited access to capital continue to place pressure on household livelihoods. In response, BCW's Economic Empowerment Programme focuses on strengthening skills, confidence and collective action — supporting people to build sustainable livelihoods rather than short-term coping strategies.

Building Entrepreneurial Skills and Capacity

BCW supported women, men, and youth to develop practical business and financial skills through inclusive, participatory training designed to strengthen household livelihoods and long-term resilience. During the year, **47 business skills workshops were delivered**, engaging **767 participants** from **210 communities**—with women forming the majority of participants.

Training focused on financial literacy, savings, project planning, income generation, and record keeping. Participants reported increased confidence to manage resources, plan viable ventures, and make informed financial decisions. A strong emphasis was placed on **group-based approaches**, recognising that collective action enhances peer learning, accountability, and resilience—particularly in resource-constrained and climate-vulnerable settings.

Supporting Income-Generating Activities

Skills training was complemented by targeted start-up support, enabling learning to translate into action. **Forty-five community groups received start-up resources**, reaching **885 participants** including **youth and people living with disabilities**. Supported income-generating activities reflected local opportunities and climate realities, and included poultry farming, beekeeping, crop production, equipment hire, and small retail enterprises.



Cheptembe Self Help Group receiving IGA resources.

Groups selected activities based on local resources, skills, and environmental conditions, strengthening ownership and sustainability. Follow-up visits and mentoring supported problem-solving, adaptation, and long-term viability. Participants consistently reported reinvesting income into **school fees, food security, healthcare, and small business expansion**, strengthening both household wellbeing and community resilience.

Follow-Up, Networking and Resilience

Ongoing follow-up and peer networking were integral to sustaining progress. During the year, **76 follow-up and networking sessions were held**, bringing together **1,231 participants**. These sessions provided space for groups to share experiences, refine business practices, strengthen collaboration, and adapt to changing economic and climate conditions.

Importantly, the sessions also reinforced links between economic empowerment and wider programme outcomes, including improved nutrition, increased health-seeking behaviour, and strengthened climate resilience.

Economic Justice in Practice

Across the programme, economic empowerment delivered more than income alone—it enabled **dignity, choice, and opportunity**, particularly for women who often shoulder the greatest economic burden within households. By strengthening skills, supporting locally appropriate enterprises, and fostering collective action, BCW's Economic Empowerment Programme helped families move from vulnerability towards greater stability, self-reliance, and resilience.

Volunteering

Volunteers remain central to BCW's work. **More than 2,500 local volunteers were actively involved during the year**, forming the bedrock of our programmes and working alongside staff to deliver community-led health, education, climate resilience, and economic empowerment initiatives.

International volunteers complemented this work through an accompaniment and learning role. **Twenty-five international volunteers joined BCW in June and November**, working alongside our staff and local volunteers to support skills exchange, training, reflection, and partnership-building. All volunteer engagement is guided by BCW's commitment to ethical, locally led practice, ensuring that volunteering strengthens systems, relationships, and community ownership.

Looking ahead, **a range of international volunteering opportunities are planned for 2026**. Those interested in contributing their skills in support of locally led change please get in touch.



Volunteers People with Disabilities Group receive 1 month old chickens to start their poultry farming project following the completion of their business plan.



Harambee Volunteer teams in June (Left) and November (Right), 2025

Looking Ahead: Standing Forward Together

This year also marked important progress under Brighter Communities Worldwide's Strategic Plan 2025–2029, which guides how we work with communities in the years ahead. The strategy sharpens our focus on four interlinked priorities: standing with those who are most marginalised; strengthening community resilience to climate and other shocks; ensuring women, children and young people can access quality health and essential services; and strengthening Brighter Communities Worldwide itself so that we remain a capable, sustainable and locally led organisation for the long term.

The challenges ahead are significant. Yet the past year has shown what is possible when communities, frontline workers, partners and supporters stand shoulder to shoulder — adapting, sharing responsibility and protecting access even under pressure.

It has reaffirmed a simple truth that underpins our work: *when we live in each other's shelter, we are better able to face uncertainty together.*



Closing Reflections: Thank You for Standing with Us

As this report shows, the past year has been marked by challenge — but also by resilience, partnership and shared purpose. Across health, education, climate resilience, gender justice and livelihoods, communities have continued to lead change under difficult circumstances, taking practical steps to protect health, dignity and opportunity for the most vulnerable.

None of this happens in isolation. It is made possible by people like you — donors, partners and friends — who choose to stand in solidarity with communities in Kenya and to invest in long-term, locally led change. Your support has helped ensure that mothers and children can access care with dignity; girls remain in school and grow up informed and confident; communities are better equipped to respond to climate shocks; families can build livelihoods and resilience; and harmful practices are challenged through dialogue and collective action.

In a year when systems have been under strain and household pressures have intensified, your commitment has been a source of stability and hope.

“Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine” — we live in each other's shelter. This idea has shaped our work throughout the year. It reminds us that progress is built through relationship — between communities, frontline workers, volunteers, partners and supporters — and that resilience is something we create together.

As we enter the giving season, we warmly invite you to continue walking this journey with us. Your generosity in the months ahead will help sustain life-saving health services, strengthen education and gender equality programmes, support climate resilience, and enable families to build more secure livelihoods.



Jacinta Muthoni; Nyairobi Village

From all of us at Brighter Communities Worldwide — and from the communities we serve — thank you for your trust, your solidarity and your belief in what is possible when we stand together.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh. Asante sana.