



SEMI ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



This newsletter provides a summary of activities and performance for the period of January to June 2026. The purpose is to evaluate progress made toward organizational goals and identify areas for improvement

During the reporting period, Mombasa Young Mothers CBO (MYM) implemented interventions aimed at improving the socio-economic wellbeing, resilience, and empowerment of young mothers and vulnerable women across five thematic areas: **Economic Empowerment & Leadership, Health & Wellbeing, Education & Gender, Democracy & Good Governance, and Climate Change & Resilience.**

Key activities: included the Inception Meeting, Youth Social Media Influencers Induction, Co-Creation Sessions, and Quarterly Check-in Meetings under the Empowered Resilient Determined Young Mothers Project (**AmplifyChange**); Baking Training and Hairdressing, Beauty and Barbering Training under the Youth Voice and Mazingira Projects (**SHOFCO**); Community Cook-out Sessions and Policy Makers Roundtable under the Adolescent and Young Women Rising with Information, Support and Empowerment Project (**CREAW**); International Women's Day commemoration under the Empowered Determined Young Mothers for Care Justice Project (**Oxfam**); Mental Health Training, Pre-Menstrual Hygiene Day and Menstrual Hygiene Day awareness activities, participation in the 9th KIPPRA Annual Regional Conference, the Femicide and GBV Walk, Public Participation on the **Mombasa County Childcare Facilities Bill 2026**, and the **National Policy on Gender and Development Review Workshop.**

Through these interventions, **542 participants** were reached, comprising **355 females (65.5%)** and **187 males (34.5%).**

By age, beneficiaries included **90 adolescents aged 12–17 years (16.6%)**, **409 youth aged 18–35 years (75.5%)**, and **43 adults aged 36 years and above (7.9%)**. The initiatives strengthened participants' knowledge, leadership, livelihoods, mental wellbeing, menstrual health, and civic engagement while reinforcing partnerships with government, development partners, civil society, and community stakeholders. Despite financial and logistical constraints, MYM continued to advance gender-responsive development and empower young mothers through sustainable, community-led interventions.



OUR HALF-YEAR AT A GLANCE (January – June 2026)

Achievements



542

Beneficiaries

Reached through MYM programmes and community interventions.



190

Learners (35%)

Reached with menstrual health, hygiene, and sexual and reproductive health education in schools.



435

Community Members
and Stakeholders (80%)

Engaged through advocacy, youth participation, policy engagement, and community mobilization activities.



10

Young Mothers

Completed entrepreneurship training and business mentorship through the Vijana2Thrive Programme, with **4 receiving start-up kits** to launch their businesses.



17

Young Mothers (3%)

Enrolled in vocational and livelihood skills training programmes.



150

150+ new young
mothers

Recruited into the MYM network, expanding peer support, mentorship, and advocacy initiatives.



30

Men and Boys

Engaged as champions of shared caregiving and gender equality through the Male Engagement Forum.



30

Policymakers,
government officials,
CSOs, and youth leaders

Engaged in a policy dialogue advocating for recognition, reduction, and redistribution of unpaid care work.



50

Multi-sector
stakeholders

Mobilized during the launch of the Empowered, Resilient and Determined Young Mothers (ERDYM) Project to strengthen collaboration on GBV and femicide prevention.



20

Policymakers
and duty bearers

Engaged to strengthen survivor-centred responses to Gender-Based Violence (GBV).



2

Gender-Based
Violence (GBV)
cases

Received and actively managed through referral and case support services.



MYM submitted a memorandum to the **Mombasa County Childcare Facilities Bill, 2026**, advocating for quality childcare services and the recognition of unpaid care work.



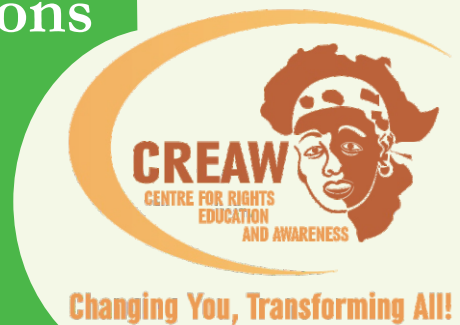
Executive Director represented MYM at the **National Policy on Gender and Development Review Workshop**, contributing to national gender policy reforms and strengthening strategic partnerships.

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

Project 001: Adolescent and Young Women Rising with Information, Support and Empowerment Project (CREAW):

Community Cookout Sessions

On 14th and 19th January 2026, Mombasa Young Mothers CBO, through the Adolescent and Young Women Rising with Information, Support and Empowerment Project funded by CREAW, conducted two community cookout sessions in Jomvu and Changamwe Sub-Counties, bringing together 60 at-risk and affected adolescent girls, young women, and young mothers. The informal cookout setting created a safe and welcoming space where participants openly discussed issues affecting their lives, particularly sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), early pregnancies, sexual and reproductive health, and psychosocial wellbeing.



Facilitators guided interactive discussions, storytelling, and peer-learning sessions that enabled participants to share personal experiences, challenges, and coping strategies. Key topics included recognizing different forms of violence, understanding survivors' rights, accessing available referral and support services, preventing early pregnancies, and promoting positive decision-making. The sessions strengthened peer support networks, enhanced participants' knowledge of available services, and empowered young women to seek help, advocate for their rights, and make informed life choices.



Policymakers' Engagement Meeting

On 10th February 2026, MYM convened a Policymakers' Engagement Meeting at the African Church of Kenya, Changamwe, under the CREAW-funded Adolescent and Young Women Rising with Information, Support and Empowerment Project. The meeting brought together 20 key stakeholders, including village elders, religious leaders, the Area Chief, the Changamwe Gender Desk, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Ministry of Health (MoH), Directorate of Children Services (Changamwe and Jomvu), County Gender Departments, and the Changamwe Assistant County Commissioner (ACC).

The engagement focused on strengthening policy and legal frameworks to improve the protection and accessibility of survivor-centred services, including shelters, free legal aid, psychosocial support, and trauma-informed counselling. Participants also discussed gaps in referral pathways, coordination, case management, enforcement of existing laws, and multi-sectoral collaboration in preventing and responding to SGBV. The meeting concluded with renewed stakeholder commitments to strengthen coordination, accountability, and a rights-based approach to protecting women and girls from violence.



Project 002: Empowered Determined Young Mothers for Care Justice Project (Oxfam):



OXFAM

Policy Roundtable on Unpaid Care Work

On 13th February 2026, Mombasa Young Mothers CBO convened a Policy Roundtable on Unpaid Care Work in Mombasa County under the Empowered Determined Young Mothers for Care Justice Project, funded by Oxfam. The forum brought together 30 participants (19 women and 11 men) representing Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), county government departments, development partners, and youth networks to deliberate on practical and policy solutions for addressing the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work on young mothers.





Male Engagement Forum

On 24th February 2026, MYM conducted a Male Engagement Forum in Mombasa County, reaching 30 male participants under the Empowered Determined Young Mothers for Care Justice Project funded by Oxfam. The forum created a platform for men to reflect on gender equality, positive masculinity, shared caregiving, and the need to recognize, reduce, and redistribute unpaid care work within households and communities.

Discussions challenged harmful gender norms that place the majority of domestic and childcare responsibilities on women and highlighted the social and economic benefits of shared caregiving for families. The forum also received a solidarity visit from the Executive Director of Mombasa Young Mothers CBO, accompanied by representatives from Oxfam International and Oxfam Kenya, who encouraged participants to become champions of care justice by actively supporting their partners, families, and communities in advancing gender equality and unpaid care work recognition.

The dialogue focused on the recognition, reduction, and redistribution of unpaid care work through community awareness, male engagement, capacity building, accessible childcare services, and policy advocacy. Participants also reviewed existing policy gaps, shared experiences, and developed recommendations to strengthen care-responsive policies and public investment in childcare. The meeting further emphasized strengthening MYM's institutional capacity to champion policy reforms and foster partnerships that enable young mothers to participate fully in education, employment, leadership, and community development.



International Women's Day Commemoration

On 10th March 2026, Mombasa Young Mothers CBO (MYM), through the Empowered Determined Young Mothers for Care Justice Project funded by Oxfam, participated in the International Women's Day celebrations held at Sharks Hall, Mombasa, under the theme "Give to Gain." The event brought together 100+ participants, including the Governor of Mombasa County, county government officials, civil society organizations, women's rights groups, youth representatives, development partners, and community members to celebrate women's achievements and advance gender equality.



During the event, the Executive Director of MYM presented a memorandum to the Governor highlighting key challenges affecting women and girls, including gender-based violence, the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work, economic inequalities, and limited access to opportunities and essential services. In response, the Governor committed to strengthening county policies, programmes, and investments that promote gender equality, protect the rights of women and girls, and improve access to quality services. The event strengthened collaboration among stakeholders, amplified the voices of young mothers, and reinforced collective commitment to advancing women's rights, care justice, and inclusive development in Mombasa County.



Project 003: Empowered, Resilient and Determined Young Mothers (ERDYM) Project–(AmplifyChange):

Project Inception Meeting

On 17th March 2026, Mombasa Young Mothers CBO officially launched the Empowered, Resilient and Determined Young Mothers (ERDYM) Project through an inception meeting held in Mombasa, reaching 50 participants (38 women and 12 men). The meeting brought together representatives from the Directorate of Children Services (Changamwe Sub-County), Department of Health, Ministry of Health (MoH), County Directorate of Gender Affairs, Assistant County Commissioner, National Police Service, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), Area Chiefs, County School Health Coordinator (Jomvu), Changamwe GBV Coordinator (Wema Justice Centre), SHOFKO, CREAM, Coast Civil Society of Human Rights, The Period Man Community Trust, Swahili Pot Hub Foundation, KECOSCE, Kenya Police, CareMind Network CBO, Amazing Group of Persons with Disabilities, religious leaders, and other community stakeholders.

The meeting introduced the project's goal of preventing and reducing gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide by amplifying survivor voices, challenging harmful social norms, and strengthening community and institutional response mechanisms. Participants reviewed the project objectives, expected outcomes, safeguarding measures, referral pathways, and implementation approach while committing to collaborative action to improve protection for women and girls.

Youth Social Media Influencers Co-Creation Session

On 29th May 2026, MYM convened a Youth Social Media Influencers Co-Creation Session, bringing together 10 youth social media influencers to strengthen youth-led digital advocacy on GBV and femicide prevention. Participants were equipped with practical skills in digital storytelling, responsible content creation, online safety, strategic social media engagement, and survivor-centred communication. Through collaborative learning, they developed advocacy messages and digital campaign content aimed at challenging harmful gender norms, amplifying survivor voices, and promoting positive behaviour change among young people.

A YouTube link to the co-creation advocacy message:

<https://youtu.be/4nrFYJvxZ40?si=FdhzQQQg8g-HvkxF>



Quarterly Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Review Meeting

On 12th June 2026, MYM convened the first Quarterly Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Review Meeting, bringing together project staff, youth social media influencers, selected survivor of GBV and psychological counsellors to assess implementation progress against planned targets. The meeting reviewed activity achievements, monitoring data, challenges encountered, safeguarding compliance, lessons learned, and emerging opportunities. Action points were agreed to strengthen implementation, improve data quality, and enhance coordination during the subsequent project quarter.



Board of Advisors Meeting

MYM also held a Board of Advisors Meeting to provide strategic oversight of the organization's programmes, governance, and institutional performance. Board members reviewed project implementation progress, financial performance, safeguarding and compliance matters, organizational risks, and strategic priorities for the remainder of the year. The meeting strengthened governance, accountability, and decision-making while providing strategic guidance to ensure effective implementation of the ERDYM Project and other organizational initiatives.

Project 004: Youth Voice Project – (SHOFCO)



Beginning in April 2026, Mombasa Young Mothers CBO, through the Youth Voice Project in partnership with Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO), enrolled 10 young mothers in a baking and entrepreneurship training programme. The training combines practical baking skills with financial literacy, business management, budgeting, savings, customer care, and entrepreneurship to prepare participants for self-employment and income generation. The programme is ongoing and continues to strengthen the economic resilience, confidence, and financial independence of participating young mothers.



Project 005: Mazingira Project – (SHOFCO)

SHOFCO

Also beginning in April 2026, MYM supported 7 young mothers to enroll in Hairdressing, Beauty, and Barbering training under the Mazingira Project in partnership with Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO). The hands-on vocational training equips participants with marketable technical skills, business management knowledge, and entrepreneurship competencies to improve employability and create sustainable livelihood opportunities. The programme remains ongoing and is contributing to increased self-reliance and economic empowerment among participating young mothers.



ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Participation in the 9th KIPPRA Annual Regional Conference



From 20th to 22nd May 2026, one of MYM's volunteers participated in the 9th Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) Annual Regional Conference, themed "Strengthening Value Chains for Inclusive Growth in Kenya." The three-day conference brought together representatives from national and county governments, academia, the private sector, development partners, and civil society organizations to discuss policy approaches for strengthening value chains and promoting inclusive economic growth. The conference provided valuable knowledge, policy insights, and networking opportunities that will inform MYM's programming on youth economic empowerment, entrepreneurship, and sustainable livelihoods.

Mental Health Capacity Building



As part of strengthening organizational capacity on mental health and psychosocial support, one MYM volunteer participated in mental health training sessions held at Chaani Youth Friendly Centre on 22nd May 2026 and Kenya Medical Training College (KMTTC), Port Reitz Campus, on 28th May 2026. The training enhanced participants' knowledge on mental health promotion, early identification of mental health conditions, psychosocial first aid, referral pathways, and community-based support. The skills acquired will strengthen MYM's ability to provide appropriate referrals and integrate mental health awareness into its community programmes.

Participation in the Femicide March

On 22nd May 2026, 10 MYM staff members and volunteers joined civil society organizations, community members, youth groups, and human rights defenders in a peaceful Femicide March in Mombasa, beginning at Pembe za Ndovu. The march raised awareness on the increasing cases of femicide and gender-based violence while advocating for justice, stronger protection mechanisms, survivor support, and accountability. Through placards, public engagement, and awareness messages, participants reaffirmed MYM's commitment to ending violence against women and girls.



Pre-Menstrual Hygiene Day and Menstrual Hygiene Day Commemorations

On 26th May 2026, one MYM volunteer facilitated Pre-Menstrual Hygiene Day activities at Chaani Primary School and Umoja Primary School, reaching 100+ learners. The sessions engaged both girls and boys in discussions on menstrual health, hygiene management, puberty, and addressing myths and stigma surrounding menstruation. On 28th May 2026, the volunteer also participated in the Menstrual Hygiene Day commemoration at Bomu Primary School, reaching an additional 90 learners. The activities were conducted in collaboration with the Department of Health, Department of Education, teachers, health workers, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to promote menstrual dignity, reproductive health education, and supportive school environments.



Vijana2Thrive Entrepreneurship Programme

MYM linked 10 young mothers to the Swahili Pot Hub Vijana2Thrive Programme, where they completed a 3-day entrepreneurship training followed by a 3-month business development mentorship programme. Participants developed practical business plans covering enterprise development, financial management, and marketing. Following the final assessment, four (4) young mothers were awarded business start-up kits to support the establishment of their businesses, strengthening their economic resilience and livelihood opportunities.

Gender-Based Violence Awareness Session

MYM conducted a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) awareness session at Bokole CDF, reaching 20 young mothers aged 15–24 years. The session focused on preventing GBV, recognizing different forms of violence, understanding survivors' rights, available referral and reporting mechanisms, and accessing health, legal, and psychosocial support services. The engagement strengthened participants' knowledge, confidence, and ability to seek assistance while promoting safer and more informed communities.



During the January–June 2026 reporting period, MYM recorded significant results across its programme areas, strengthening the resilience, leadership, health, and economic empowerment of young mothers while advancing gender equality and policy advocacy.

Programme Reach and Participation



542
direct beneficiaries

reached through trainings, mentorship, advocacy, awareness campaigns, and community engagement activities.



355 females (65%)
and **187** males (35%)

participated across all interventions.



190+
learners reached

with menstrual health, hygiene, and sexual and reproductive health education in schools.



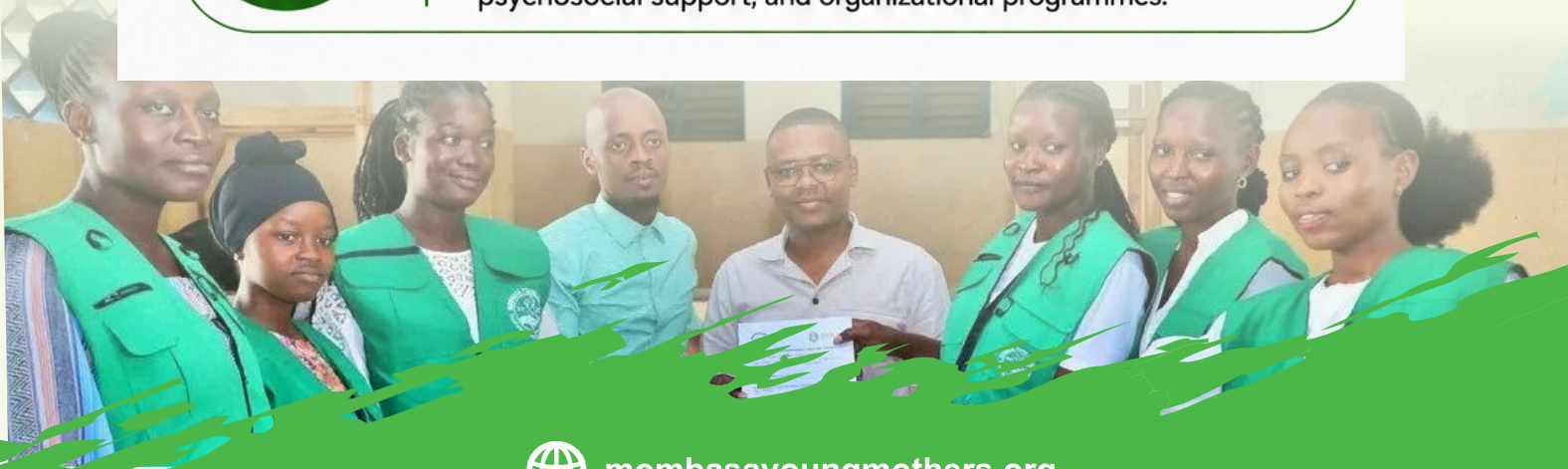
435
community members and stakeholders engaged

through policy dialogues, advocacy forums, public participation, and community mobilization initiatives.



150+
young mothers recruited

into the MYM network, expanding access to mentorship, psychosocial support, and organizational programmes.



Economic Empowerment

- 17 ▶ Young mothers enrolled in vocational and livelihood skills training programmes.
- 10 ▶ Young mothers completed baking, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy training.
- 7 ▶ Young mothers completed hairdressing, beauty, and barbering training.
- 10 ▶ Young mothers successfully completed the Vijana2Thrive Entrepreneurship Programme.
- 4 ▶ Young mothers received business start-up kits to launch income-generating enterprises.



Health and Wellbeing

- 190 ▶ Learners reached through Pre-Menstrual Hygiene Day and Menstrual Hygiene Day awareness activities.
- 60 ▶ Adolescent girls and young women participated in community cookout dialogues on GBV prevention, SRHR, and psychosocial wellbeing.
- 20 ▶ Young mothers reached through GBV prevention and referral awareness sessions.
- 2 ▶ Active GBV cases received referral and case management support.



Policy, Advocacy and Systems Strengthening

- 30 ▶ Stakeholders engaged in a policy dialogue on unpaid care work and childcare policy reforms.
- 30 ▶ Men and boys participated in Male Engagement Forums promoting shared caregiving and positive masculinity.
- 20 ▶ Policymakers and duty bearers engaged to strengthen survivor-centred GBV response and coordination.
 - ▶ MYM submitted a memorandum during the Public Participation on the Mombasa County Childcare Facilities Bill, 2026, advocating for recognition of unpaid care work and the needs of young mothers.
 - ▶ The Executive Director contributed to the National Policy on Gender and Development Review, strengthening MYM's influence in national gender policy processes.



Institutional Strengthening

- ▶ Strengthened partnerships with county government departments, civil society organizations, development partners, community leaders, and youth networks.
- ▶ Improved organizational visibility through participation in national policy forums, regional conferences, and advocacy campaigns on GBV, unpaid care work, and women's rights.
- ▶ Enhanced staff and volunteer capacity in mental health, safeguarding, policy engagement, and community-based programming.



A portrait of Susan Achieng Mito, a woman with dark hair, looking directly at the camera with a gentle smile. The portrait is partially obscured by the title and quote marks.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SUSAN ACHIENG MITO

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It was with profound sadness and heavy hearts that we honor and remember our beloved colleague, Susan Achieng Mito, who passed away on 14th April 2026 after courageously fighting for her life following a tragic stabbing incident on 5th April 2026. Susan was a dedicated and invaluable member of Mombasa Young Mothers CBO, where she served with distinction as both our Admin and Safeguarding Officer. Her commitment to excellence, compassion for others, and unwavering dedication to protecting vulnerable individuals made her a pillar of strength within our organization and the communities we served.

As an Admin and Safeguarding Officer, Susan played a vital role in ensuring the smooth running of our programs and daily operations. She worked diligently behind the scenes, coordinating activities, supporting staff, maintaining organizational systems, and helping the organization achieve its mission of empowering young mothers and vulnerable families. Her professionalism, reliability, and attention to detail earned her the respect and admiration of colleagues, partners, and beneficiaries alike. In her role as an Admin and Safeguarding Officer, Susan was a passionate advocate for the rights, safety, and dignity of women, children, and vulnerable members of society. She worked tirelessly to create safe spaces, promote safeguarding practices, and ensure that every individual under our care was protected and supported. Through her guidance and commitment, many lives were positively impacted, and countless women and young mothers found hope, protection, and a voice during difficult times. Susan's impact extended far beyond the office walls. Within the Mombasa community, she was known for her kindness, empathy, and willingness to support those in need. She touched many lives through her work, mentorship, and advocacy against gender-based violence and injustice.

Her dedication inspired others to stand up for the vulnerable and work towards a safer and more compassionate society. Even in the face of unimaginable challenges, Susan demonstrated remarkable courage, resilience, and strength. Her life reflected the very values she championed every day: care, protection, dignity, and justice for all. As we mourned her untimely passing, we also celebrated a life of service, impact, and selflessness. We extended our deepest condolences to her two children, family, friends, colleagues, and all whose lives she touched. We prayed that they would find comfort in the legacy she left behind and in the countless lives she transformed through her work and compassion. Susan's absence left a void that could never be filled, but her legacy continued to live on through the work of Mombasa Young Mothers CBO, the communities she served, and the many people she inspired.

May her soul rest in eternal peace. Susan Achieng Mito's dedication, strength, and love for humanity will never be forgotten. Her light continues to shine in the hearts of all who knew her.

**Forever remembered.
Forever appreciated. Forever missed.
Mombasa Young Mothers CBO Family**

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