



## **NARRATIVE REPORT FOR JANUARY 2026**

### **INTRODUCTION**

January 2026 marked a season of renewed hope and powerful beginnings for Kenya Keys. It was a month where dreams were reignited, barriers were broken, and lives were touched in ways that remind us why our mission matters. Each step taken whether guiding families, supporting learners, or strengthening community ties was a testimony that compassion and opportunity can transform futures.

This report captures those moments of impact. The activities carried out during the month were not just programs on paper; they are stories of dignity restored, resilience nurtured, and hope made real. The milestones highlighted here reflect both the generosity of our sponsors and the unwavering spirit of the communities we serve. Together, they remind us that when opportunity meets determination, futures are transformed.

### **SPONSORSHIP DEPARTMENT**

The Sponsorship Department enters 2026 with a clear goal: to continue serving students and their families with dedication, ensuring that education remains a source of hope, opportunity, and transformation throughout the year. The Department's mission is to break down barriers to learning by providing financial support, mentorship, and guidance, while also strengthening ties with the wider community so that no child is left behind.

The below January activities carried out by the Department reflected these goals in action.

#### **1. Launching of Grade 10**

One of the major highlights of January 2026 was the official launch of the newly vetted Grade 10 students into the Kenya Keys Scholarship Program. The Sponsorship Department successfully prepared and compiled all required biographical data and photographs for the Grade 10 cohort vetted for the 2026 scholarship intake.

As part of this process, the department organized and facilitated a **Grade 10 Launching Conference**. This conference brought together all vetted students and their parents or guardians for an official induction into the organization. During the conference, beneficiaries were formally welcomed into Kenya Keys and oriented on the organization's mission, values, and expectations.

Key areas addressed during the conference included:

- Scholarship procedures and requirements
- Roles and responsibilities of students and parents/guardians
- Academic expectations and behavioral standards
- Available departmental services and points of contact within Kenya Keys

In addition, policies and procedures governing communication between students and their sponsors were clearly explained. These students and parents/guardians were officially handed over to the designated class teacher, who serves as the primary liaison for matters relating to students' academic progress and overall wellbeing.

The department further supported the transition of Grade 10 students into their respective secondary schools. This included assisting with school admissions, making inquiries on behalf of parents, and facilitating transfer applications where parents deemed it necessary for their children to change schools. These interventions ensured smooth placement and minimized disruptions at the start of the school year.

This milestone was only possible through the unwavering generosity of our sponsors. It is through their support that the Grade 10 class was able to begin their journey with dignity, confidence, and hope. Sponsorship is more than financial assistance, it is the unlocking of potential, the assurance that dreams are worth pursuing, and the promise of a brighter future. For these young learners, the launch marked not just the beginning of a new academic level, but the opening of doors to possibilities that will transform their lives and uplift their communities.



*Together we rise; Grade 10 students welcomed into Kenya Keys.*



*Hope renewed, dreams unlocked-the Grade 10 class begins their journey.*

## **2. Support to Continuing College and Secondary School Students**

In January 2026, the Sponsorship Department focused on ensuring that continuing secondary, college, and university students remained supported both academically and personally. Working closely with the Finance Department, school fees cheques were processed promptly for learners who had reported with admission or reporting letters, allowing them to settle into their studies without delay.

College and university students also benefited from **Vital Student Support (VSS)** funds, which helped cover essential needs such as housing, welfare, and other approved expenses that directly contribute to academic success.

Beyond financial assistance, the department responded to student welfare concerns. A follow-up visit to Senior Chief Mwangeka Girls addressed cases of illness and discipline. Through collaboration with local administration and school authorities, affected students received medical care, health concerns were resolved quickly, and discipline issues were handled constructively. These interventions ensured that learners returned to class and continued their education without disruption.

Sponsors played a vital role in making this possible. Their support not only kept students in school but also safeguarded their wellbeing and strengthened their resilience. Each intervention is a reminder that sponsorship is about more than fees, it is about unlocking potential, nurturing confidence, and empowering learners to overcome challenges on their path to success.



### 3. Students' Laptops Program

In January 2026, the Sponsorship Department received a consignment of 74 laptops and 100 flash drives from the United States through Savo Traders. This initiative is part of Kenya Keys' commitment to enhancing digital access and strengthening academic capacity for college and university students.

Following receipt of the laptops, the department began preparation activities, including:

- Physical inspection and sorting of the devices
- Creation of individual user accounts
- Preparation for Windows 365 installation

The laptops are currently being configured and will be ready for distribution upon completion of software installation. All device details are being logged into the Kenya Keys Laptop Airtable (AT) to ensure accountability, proper allocation, and effective tracking.

To our students, a laptop is not just a piece of equipment. It is the key to keeping up with coursework, accessing online learning platforms, conducting research, and completing assignments. Yet, the cost of such devices places them far beyond reach for families already struggling to meet basic needs.

By providing laptops, sponsors are helping to level the playing field. They are ensuring that determined students, who might otherwise be left behind, can fully participate in modern education. Each laptop represents opportunity, dignity, and the unlocking of potential—empowering learners to pursue their studies with confidence and to build brighter futures for themselves and their communities.

We extend heartfelt appreciation to our sponsors, whose generosity makes this possible. Their support is not only equipping students with essential tools but also affirming that every learner deserves the chance to succeed.



*Empowering education through technology: laptops donated to support student success*

#### **4. 2025 KCSE Graduates Conference**

The Sponsorship Department successfully prepared and held the 2025 KCSE Graduates Conference in January 2026. The conference brought together both Kenya Keys-sponsored students and non-Kenya Keys students who completed their KCSE examinations in the previous year.

##### **Objectives of the Conference**

- Guide graduates in accepting and reflecting on their KCSE results
- Provide career guidance and mentorship
- Prepare students for transition into tertiary institutions through KUCCPS college application support
- Launch community voluntary service initiatives within institutions near students' homes

Through mentorship sessions and interactive discussions, students were supported to make informed decisions regarding career pathways, college and university applications, and skills development. The launch of community voluntary services further reinforced Kenya Keys' commitment to nurturing responsible, community-oriented young leaders.

For many of these graduates, completing secondary education was once only a distant dream. Coming from humble and needy backgrounds, the financial burden of school fees, uniforms, and learning materials seemed insurmountable. Without sponsorship, most would have been forced to drop out long before reaching Form Four.

With deep emotion, the students expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Kenya Keys for walking with them through the four years of secondary school. They acknowledged that the sponsorship not only lifted the heavy financial weight from their families but also gave them dignity, hope, and the courage to pursue education. Their KCSE results stand as a testimony of resilience, determination, and the transformative power of support.

**2025 KCSE ANALYSIS.**

Year	ENTRY	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	Z	Y	W	O	Mn pts	Mn Grd	Dev
2025	63	0	0	2	6	7	15	11	6	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.14	C	0.07
2024	58	0	0	4	6	2	12	14	9	6	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	6.07	C	0.031
2023	52	0	0	1	3	5	9	12	16	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.04	C	0.727
2022	45	0	0	0	1	4	9	5	10	9	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	5.311	C-	



*Proud KCSE graduates from humble beginnings, standing tall with gratitude and hope.*

**5. Interns Visit**

In January, the Kenya Keys office had the privilege of welcoming two interns from the United States, Marilee and Robin, who visited briefly for one day while en route to Mombasa. Both are close friends of Dr. Carolyn Jenkins, a long-time supporter of Kenya Keys.

The Kenya Keys team was thrilled and excited to welcome them, creating a warm atmosphere filled with joy and anticipation. Staff and students alike embraced the opportunity to share stories, experiences, and the impact of sponsorship.

During their visit, the interns engaged meaningfully with the Kenya Keys team and experienced firsthand the life-changing power of sponsorship. They met Hawa Masinga, a recent high school graduate sponsored by Dr. Carolyn Jenkins, and shared in her gratitude for the chance to complete secondary education.

For Marilee, the visit was especially memorable as she had the opportunity to meet Juma Sombo, the student she personally sponsors. Their encounter was filled with emotion, as Juma expressed how sponsorship had lifted the burden of school fees and made his education possible despite coming from a humble background.

Kenya Keys staff also shared the impact of every form of support received from sponsors, emphasizing that sponsorship is more than financial assistance, it is a lifeline that provides access to education, mentorship, dignity, and hope. They highlighted how graduates are now giving back to their communities through voluntary service, showing the ripple effect of sponsorship beyond individual students.

To deepen their understanding of Kenya Keys' mission, Marilee and Robin were gifted the 20th edition of the Kenya Keys magazine to take home. The magazine offered them further insights into the organization's programs and stories of resilience, ensuring they could share Kenya Keys' vision with others back home.

Kenya Keys extends its heartfelt appreciation to Marilee and Robin for their visit. Though brief, their presence brought joy, encouragement, and inspiration to both staff and students. Meeting Peter and Hawa was a powerful reminder of how sponsorship transforms lives, and their willingness to listen, connect, and celebrate these achievements left a lasting impact. By carrying the Kenya Keys magazine home, they also became ambassadors of our vision, helping to spread awareness and inspire continued support for education among needy students.

Their visit reinforced the spirit of global friendship and solidarity, showing that sponsorship is not only about academic success but also about building bridges of hope, opportunity, and lasting human connection.



*One act of generosity, a lifetime of impact. Robin and Marilee with Juma and Hawa sponsored students.*



*Marilee and Robin touring the CEC building with staff. Celebrating progress and shared vision*



*Marilee and Robin with staff; partners in purpose, united for impact.*

## **6. National Stakeholder Engagement – KUCCPS Conference**

In January 2026, Kenya Keys was represented at the national level through an invitation extended to James by the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS). He attended the first National Career Conference and Exhibition organized by KUCCPS, which brought together key stakeholders in the education sector from across the country.

The invitation was a significant honor and a recognition of Kenya Keys as an active and credible stakeholder in Kenya's education ecosystem. Participation in the conference provided an important platform for engagement with policymakers, education institutions, career development practitioners, and other partners involved in student placement and career guidance.

Through this engagement, Kenya Keys strengthened its networks, gained valuable insights into national career guidance trends, and reinforced its commitment to supporting students in making informed transitions from secondary education to tertiary training and employment pathways.



*Kenya Keys at the national stage: James participates in the KUCCPS Conference to strengthen mentorship and transition support for learners.*

## **7. Correspondence and Community Support**

During the reporting period, the Sponsorship Department managed extensive correspondence and walk-in consultations from parents and students seeking educational support. The department provided guidance on scholarship application processes, referred families to other organizations where additional assistance could be obtained, and advised parents and students on affordable education options, including enrollment in day secondary schools as a practical starting point.

These engagements not only addressed immediate needs but also strengthened Kenya Keys' relationship with the community, ensuring that even non-sponsored families received valuable direction and encouragement in their pursuit of education.



*Education is a shared journey. Kenya Keys standing with parents and students to light the path forward.*

## **LIBRARY DEPARTMENT**

January 2026 opened with renewed energy and hope for Kenya Keys Community Library. With a focus on strengthening school partnerships, expanding access to information, and supporting both learners and teachers, the library continued to serve as a hub of knowledge and community empowerment.

We sincerely thank our sponsors whose support makes these efforts possible. Your generosity fuels every step we take and every learner we reach. The following highlights capture the activities carried out during the month of January.

### **1. Mobile library pre-visits to Kenya Keys service schools**

In January, the library department carried out mobile library pre-visits to schools located far from our community library, ensuring that learners in remote areas would soon have access to books and reading resources. The schools visited included Karimani, Fuleye, Nuru, Mwembeni, Bahakwenu, and Magale Primary Schools.

These visits were an important step in preparing for the rollout of mobile library outreach. The team assessed the learning environments and available reading spaces, identified learners' reading needs and class levels, and consulted with head teachers and teachers to agree on suitable schedules. They also created awareness about the mobile library services and their benefits.

The response from the schools was overwhelmingly positive. Administrations welcomed the initiative with enthusiasm, recognizing the vital role of books in improving literacy, confidence, and academic performance. Learners expressed excitement and curiosity, while teachers appreciated the library's commitment to supporting classroom learning and nurturing a strong reading culture.

### **2. Evening reading session and Game playing**

In January, the library continued to host evening reading sessions and game-playing activities, giving learners a safe and supportive space after school hours. These sessions encouraged children to develop

reading habits, confidence, and social skills while staying positively engaged. Learners enjoyed silent and guided reading, group storytelling, and educational games that fostered teamwork, problem-solving, and communication.

For many vulnerable students who cannot afford books, the library has become their lifeline—providing access to resources that would otherwise be out of reach. We are truly grateful to our sponsors whose support makes this facility possible, ensuring that every child, regardless of background, can discover the joy of reading and the strength of community.

These sessions continue to inspire learners to see the library as a second home for growth and discovery, laying the foundation for brighter futures.



*Students enjoying evening reading and games, turning the library into a home of learning and joy.*

### **3. Library service Desk**

Throughout January, the library service desk stood as the heart of interaction between the library and its users. It ensured that every visitor received timely, accurate, and friendly assistance while accessing services and resources. By guiding learners, teachers, and community members, the desk strengthened relationships and upheld the library's commitment to quality service delivery.

From answering inquiries and helping users locate books, to offering consultations and registering new members, the service desk made the library accessible, welcoming, and supportive. It provided personalized guidance that met both academic and personal learning needs, ensuring that no learner felt left behind.

This facility has become a symbol of care and connection, and we are deeply grateful to our sponsors for making it possible. Their generosity ensures that students who might otherwise struggle to access books

and guidance can find a place where learning is nurtured, questions are answered, and dreams are encouraged.



*Guided reading at the library service desk, where sponsors' support turns questions into discovery.*

#### **4. Library statistics**

During January 2026, the library recorded steady usage as community members resumed activities after the holidays. Daily tracking included reference and consultation requests, user attendance, and book borrowing and returns. This consistent monitoring helps the library understand user needs more clearly and plan services, resources, and staffing with greater precision, ensuring that decisions are guided by real, everyday activity.

#### **Library Statistics – January 2026**

- Total library visits: **198**
- Books borrowed: **56**
- Books renewed: **44**
- Books returned: **12**

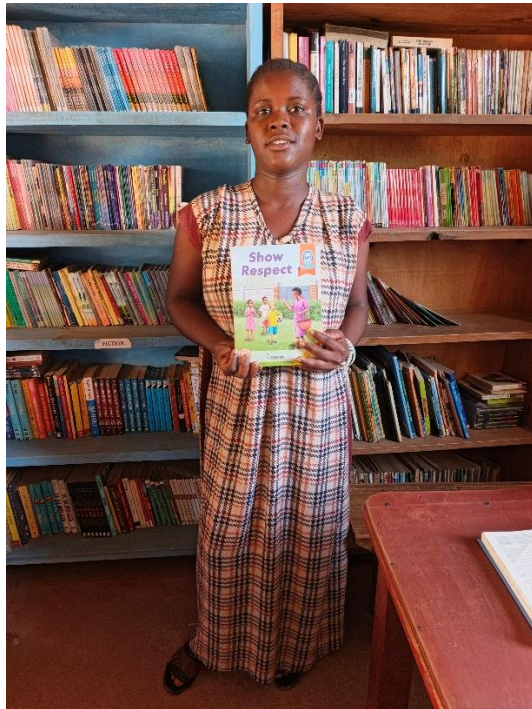
These figures highlight the continued relevance of the library as a trusted hub of learning and information within the community. Behind each number are learners who depend on the library for access to books and guidance they cannot find elsewhere. We are deeply grateful to our sponsors, whose support makes this possible. Their generosity ensures that every visit, every borrowed book, and every renewed book reflects lives being touched, knowledge being shared, and futures being shaped.

#### **5. Welcoming Our Library Intern**

An official departmental meeting was held during the month to welcome our new intern. The meeting provided a formal introduction to the library team, an overview of library policies, roles, and responsibilities, as well as encouragement and guidance to support the intern's learning and contribution.

The intern, a Form 4 graduate of 2025, was sponsored by Kenya Keys and is now giving back to the community through volunteering in the library department. This gesture reflects the true impact of sponsorship-producing students who not only succeed academically but also return to uplift their communities in meaningful ways.

We sincerely appreciate our sponsors for making this possible. Their support ensures that learners are empowered to grow into responsible, community-minded individuals who extend the gift of education to others. Welcoming the intern reinforced the library's culture of teamwork, mentorship, and service, while highlighting the long-term ripple effect of sponsorship in transforming lives and strengthening communities.



*From Student to Intern: Giving Back Through the Library*

## **6. Non-Formal Education (NFE) – Taru Non-Formal Centre**

Non-Formal Education (NFE) provides a vital second chance for learners who could not afford formal secondary school fees or who dropped out due to challenges such as early pregnancy, poverty, or other hardships. At Taru Non-Formal Centre, these students both youth and adults find a pathway back to education, a place where hope is restored, and where they can rebuild their futures with dignity.

In January 2026, some Kenya Keys staff met with teachers and students to strengthen coordination, reinforce discipline, and review academic progress. Student enrollment updates were shared, a code of ethics was adopted, and guidance sessions encouraged learners to remain focused and committed. Teachers were also equipped with diaries to support planning and record keeping, while the 2025 KCSE results were reviewed to highlight areas of strength and improvement.

**2025 KCSE Results (20 candidates, 14 results received, 6 pending):**

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
No. of Students	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	11	1

We sincerely appreciate our sponsors for making this program possible. Their support ensures that vulnerable learners who once thought education was beyond their reach are given the tools, guidance, and encouragement to continue learning. The impact of NFE is felt not only in the lives of individual students, who regain confidence and pursue their dreams, but also in the wider community, where families are uplifted, illiteracy is reduced, and young people who once faced despair now inspire others with their resilience. Every learner who re-enters the classroom through NFE carries a powerful testimony of hope, proving that education truly transforms lives and communities.



*Non-formal students, big dreams-Kenya Keys offering encouragement and opportunity*

## **GENDER AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION DEPARTMENT**

January sets the pace for the year. As a new academic calendar unfolded, Gender and Affirmative Action Department reaffirmed its commitment to student welfare, equity, and safe learning environments. The month marked not just a return to school, but a renewed promise to walk with learners as they took their next steps in education.

With students transitioning to different levels of studies and others resuming to their usual schools, the Gender and Affirmative Action (GAA) Department remained at the center of support. The team ensured that students' access to basic needs, good medical care and general well-being is top priority. A learner thrives where they feel seen, supported, and secure, and this has been the driving force behind this department.

Throughout the month, the department implemented key interventions under its core programs. These included the VSS Program, the Usalama Program, Psychosocial Support initiatives, and TechLit Classes. Together, the team addressed financial needs, mental well-being, digital skills, and inclusive participation in education.

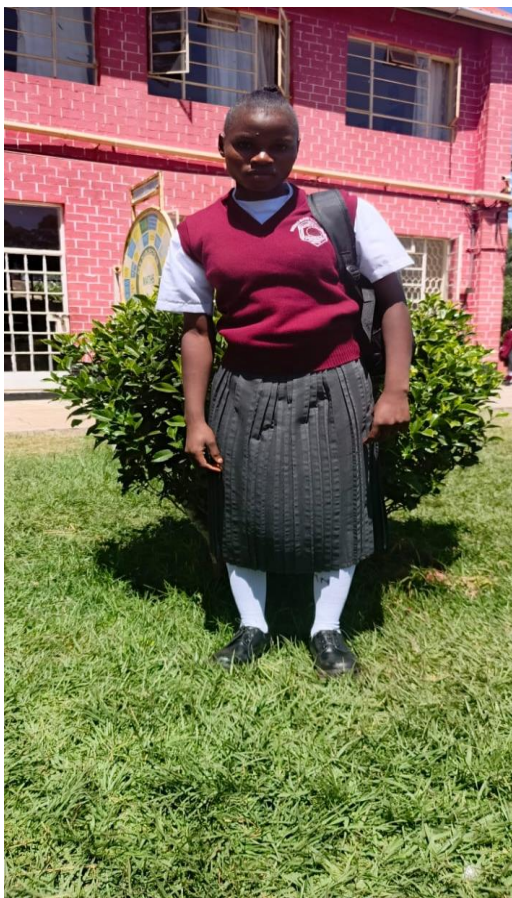
These efforts ensured timely reporting of students, access to essential items, and promoted emotional well-being especially for the most vulnerable learners. This report presents a detailed account of these interventions, their reach, and their impact to the beneficiaries. The sections that follow provide deeper

insight into the activities briefly highlighted and how they contributed to advancing the department's mission.

### 1. Usalama Program

The Usalama Program remained a key pillar of student support during the month. Its primary focus was to ensure that vulnerable high school students reported to school on time and fully equipped. The program supported both Kenya Keys sponsored and non-sponsored learners from extremely vulnerable backgrounds. A total of 53 students were supported through launching kits. These included 52 students transitioning to senior schools and one continuing student (form 4). Launching-kit support is majorly given to new Kenya Keys recruits to help them on getting basic requirements to join or continue with school. Other than essential school requirements, the support also helps in transport.

This timely support ensured that all beneficiaries reported to school well prepared and without delay.





*New Kenya Keys recruits ready for their senior studies*



*A dedicated team member, joyously serving the student*

In addition to launching kits, the program addressed medical emergencies, which remain a critical area of focus. Two medical cases were attended during the month.

One case involved Emmanuel Muinde of Voi Boys High School, a beneficiary who has a problem with his nerves. He had a neurosurgeon appointment at Pandya Hospital.

The second case involved Samuel Mnyika of Taru Boys High School, a critical new case diagnosed with *H. pylori*, requiring urgent medical attention. The boy is a total orphan under the care of Kenya keys, he was sent home to seek medication. A follow-up home visit was conducted by a staff member, and the prescribed medical package was delivered as directed by the doctor. This follow-up ensured continuity of care and close monitoring.



*A renewed hope as Samuel, a total orphan, receives the H-Pylori package of medicine.*

The programme also addressed the needs of continuing high school students. A total of 103 student cases were supported, covering both Kenya Keys and non Kenya Keys students.

Through these interventions, the Usalama Program ensured students settled in schools on time, academically prepared, and uninterrupted learning as they begin a new academic year.

## **2. Vital Student Support (VSS) Program**

The Vital Student Support Program focuses on post-secondary students in colleges and universities. The program aimed to reduce financial stress and enable learners to concentrate fully on their academic responsibilities.

During January 2026, the program supported 155 student cases. The assistance covers transport, accommodation, upkeep, medical needs, and graduation-related support. These needs are especially critical at the beginning of the academic year when students face high financial pressure. This support was sent directly to students and the cheques directly to schools, ensuring transparency, accountability, and timely access to support.

The intervention enabled students to report to their institutions on time, secure accommodation, access food, and settle into their studies without disruption. This in turn played a key role in promoting retention and academic focus among beneficiaries.

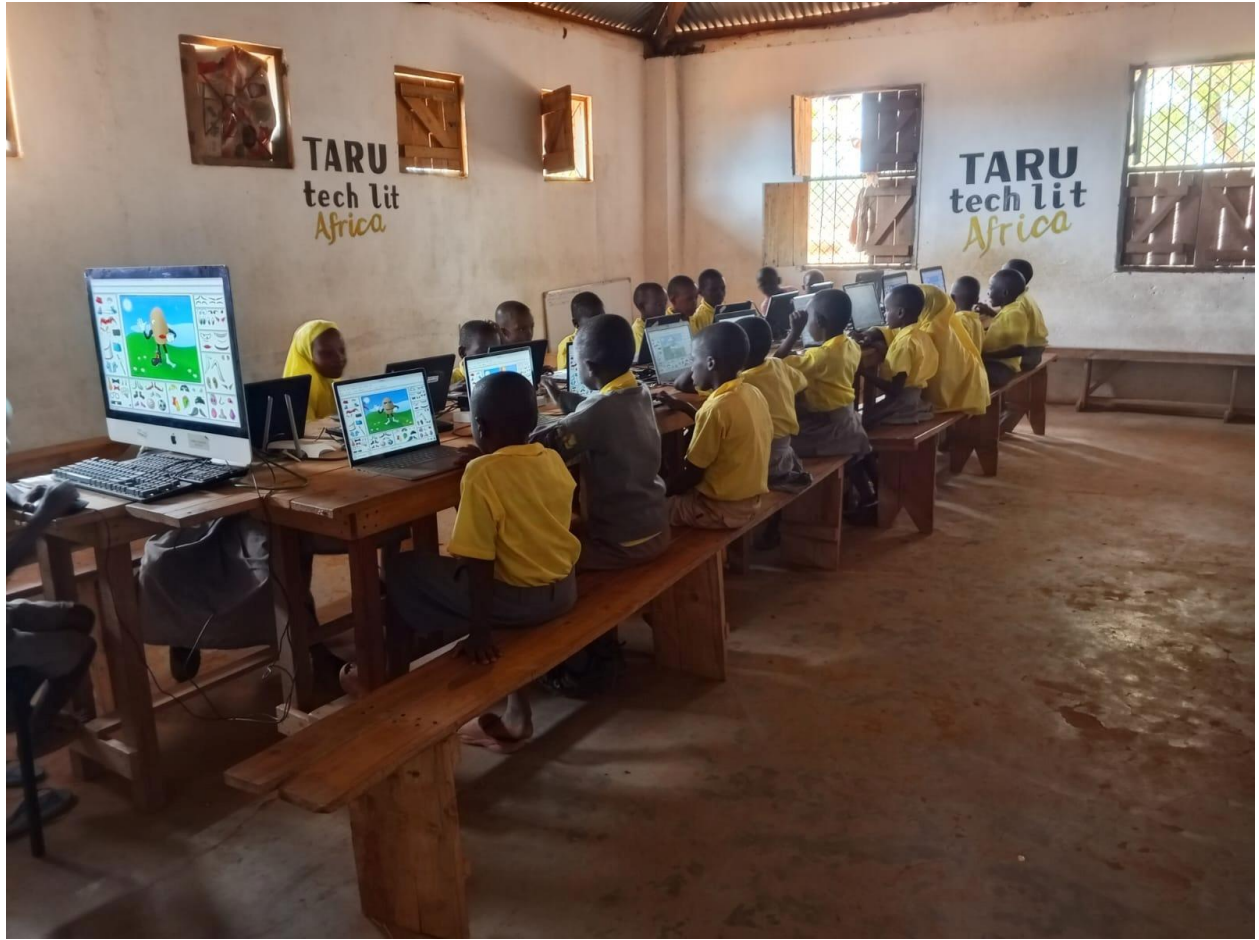
### 3. TechLit Program

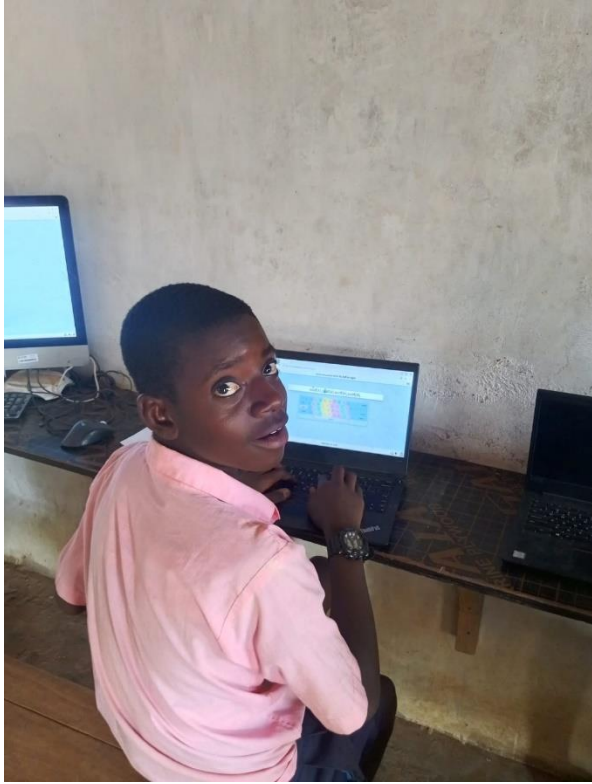
The TechLit Program continued to strengthen digital literacy among learners in partner schools. As a new year started, all schools hosting TechLit classes met the annual requirements. This included signing new Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with TechLit Africa and clearing agreed monthly financial contributions. These steps ensured smooth program implementation. Most TechLit Educators reported back on time at the beginning of the school term. However, educators from Taru Primary School and Egu Primary School failed to report. Immediate replacements were made to avoid disruption of learning.

At Fuleye Primary School, the program faced a power supply challenge. After consultation, it was agreed that the school would contribute 40% of the repair cost, while Kenya Keys Organisation would cover 60%, subject to the submission of a quotation.

Throughout the month, TechLit classes continued in Magale, Mgalani, Fuleye, Egu, and Taru schools.







*Young minds receiving transformative digital skills, equipped for a bright future*

In addition, preparations for a new TechLit class at Bahakwenu Primary School progressed well. This initiative is being implemented in collaboration with donors, Kenya Keys Organisation, and TechLit Africa. The setup is nearly complete, and an educator is currently being prepared.



*Bahakwenu TechLit class preparation in its final stages.*

By the end of February 2026, the organisation anticipates operating six TechLit classes within its service area, further expanding access to digital skills.

#### **4. Psychosocial Support**

Psychosocial support remained a vital focus area for the GAA Department. The team provided counselling and emotional support to students and community members facing academic, social, and economic challenges.

Several parents and students required encouragement after sponsorship outcomes did not meet expectations. The team offered guidance, reassurance, and information on alternative pathways and opportunities.

The department also supported two Kenya Keys Form 4 graduates from the class of 2025, both total orphans awaiting internship opportunities.

One student lacked accommodation and food, he was successfully linked to a well-wisher who provided housing support.

The second student faced food insecurity while living with an elderly grandmother who depended on casual labour. On top of getting some support through the Usalama, they both were guided on further ways to gain extra support.

## **MENTORSHIP DEPARTMENT**

In 2026, the Mentorship Department remains deeply committed to strengthening mentorship, guidance, and counselling services for students across all levels of education. Guided by a shared passion for student success, the department focuses on providing holistic support that nurtures academic achievement, emotional well-being, and social development, while responding thoughtfully to students' welfare needs.

January marked a critical foundation month for the department's work in the new year. During this period, the department focused on enhancing student engagement through structured mentorship activities, targeted career guidance, administrative support, and the provision of financial assistance through the Hope Spring Kit. These initiatives reflect the team's dedication to ensuring that students began the year supported, encouraged, and equipped to pursue their goals with confidence and hope.

Building on this strong start to the year, below are the key activities carried out by the Mentorship Department during the month of January.

### **1. Graduation Ceremonies for 2025 Phase II Students**

Mentors passionately led the planning, organisation, and execution of the Hope Spring graduation ceremonies for 180 Phase II students in nine schools across the service area. The students had gone through a six-month mentorship program prior to graduation. During this period, they were guided through critical areas including peer pressure, self-esteem, academic effort, hygiene education, and psychosocial support. The ceremonies were beautifully carried out, featuring heartfelt students' presentations, expressions of gratitude from teachers for the program, and inspiring words from mentors to the graduands-celebrating not only their completion but the remarkable journey of growth and transformation they had undertaken.

During the ceremonies, students received practical incentives including exercise books, pens, pencils, laundry soap, snacks, and sanitary towels for girls, aimed at supporting their continued learning and well-being. In recognition of the unwavering support and guidance of teachers, four educators from each participating school were presented with a 2026 diary as a token of appreciation for their commitment to nurturing the students.

Through the mentorship journey, the graduands grew in confidence, developed stronger communication skills, and cultivated a sense of self-worth and resilience. Many began to approach their studies with

renewed determination and demonstrated improved personal care and coping strategies for life's challenges.

The graduation ceremonies were more than an event—they were a celebration of transformation, hope, and possibility. Through the dedication of mentors and the support of teachers, the graduands emerged stronger, equipped not only with knowledge and skills but also with the confidence and hope to pursue their dreams. The event stood as a testament to the power of care, guidance, and encouragement in shaping young lives.



*Joy and gratitude as students and their teacher celebrate the milestone together with graduation gifts*



*Graduands with their well-deserved incentives, celebrating growth, resilience, and new beginnings*

## **2. New Students' Biography Taking and Incentive Distribution**

Following the successful completion of the 2025 Phase II Hope Spring program, with the graduating students now proudly serving as Hope Ambassadors, the Mentorship Department welcomed a new group of vulnerable learners from nine service schools, enrolling 20 students in each school. These students come from challenging backgrounds, and their inclusion in the program marks a new beginning filled with hope and opportunity.

As part of their onboarding, detailed biographies were taken for each student, capturing their personal stories, challenges, aspirations, and unique needs. This process is vital for understanding each learner holistically, allowing mentors to provide tailored support, guidance, and encouragement. By listening to their stories, mentors can anticipate potential challenges, offer personalized academic and psychosocial support, and build trusting relationships that empower the students to grow with confidence.

In addition, each student received incentives to support their learning and well-being. Individual mentorship sessions were held to engage every student personally, ensuring they felt valued, heard, and equipped to begin their journey in the Hope Spring program.

This milestone would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors, whose continued commitment ensures that vulnerable students not only receive the resources they need but also the guidance and hope that can transform their lives. Their partnership allows the program to nurture dreams, build resilience, and open doors to a brighter future for these young learners.



*A new chapter begins-students welcomed into the Hope Spring program with care and support.*



*Listening to every story: biography-taking and mentorship in action.*

### **3. Facilitating Career Counselling Sessions**

In January, career counselling focused on Grade 9 students preparing to transition to Grade 10 and 2025 KCSE graduates awaiting college and university placement. Through Kenya Keys, learners are not left to face these transitions alone, they have mentors and role models who guide them with advice, encouragement, and practical support.

Mentors addressed discipline, academic performance, responsible use of social media, KUCCPS placement procedures, and the importance of clearing school fees before joining tertiary institutions. Beyond conferences, they visited schools to support students struggling with personal challenges and held one-on-one sessions to help graduates discover their strengths and explore career options.

These sessions gave students clarity and confidence, turning uncertainty into hope. With mentors walking beside them, learners felt supported not only in academics but also in life, empowered to make informed decisions and inspired to pursue brighter futures.



*Mentorship in action! Support that transforms uncertainty into confidence*



*Individual support reminds students they are never alone on their journey.*

#### 4. Hope Spring Support Kit

The Mentorship Department continued to walk alongside vulnerable students through the Hope Spring Support Kit, meeting urgent educational and welfare needs such as school levies, stationery, uniforms, and transport. In January 2026, an allocation of Ksh 40,800 covering December 2025 and January 2026 was utilized. Though limited funds meant only a few students could be assisted, mentors ensured that every case was handled with care, guiding parents and learners through the application process and identifying needs during mentorship sessions, teacher referrals, and direct requests.

Among the cases supported was that of **Ebra Luvumbi**, a child living with a disability who had never accessed formal schooling or therapy. Through the Hope Spring Support Kit, the department facilitated his transport from Kagotoni in Kilibasi to Port Reitz, Mombasa, for physical assessment and registration at APDK. Following the assessment, Ebra is expected to be enrolled in Port Reitz PP1, where he will receive both education and therapy.

This intervention went beyond financial support, it broke barriers to learning, promoted inclusion, and gave Ebra his first real chance at education. Stories like his remind us that the Hope Spring Support Kit is not just about meeting immediate needs, but about restoring dignity, opening doors, and ensuring that vulnerable children are not left behind.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the sponsors who make this possible. Your generosity is more than financial aid it is the gift of hope. It is the reason a child like Ebra can take his first steps into a classroom, the reason a struggling student can stay in school with dignity, and the reason families facing hardship can believe in a brighter tomorrow. Through your support, lives are being transformed, and futures once thought impossible are now within reach.



*From Kagotoni to Port Reitz , Ebra 's journey toward healing and inclusion.*

#### Conclusion

January 2026 was more than the start of a new year, it was a powerful reminder of what hope, compassion, and partnership can achieve. Across every initiative, lives were touched, barriers were broken, and dignity was restored. From the youngest learners taking their first steps, to graduates standing tall with gratitude, to families finding guidance and encouragement, each story reflected the heart of Kenya Keys: walking alongside communities so that no one is left behind.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering generosity of our sponsors and supporters. Your commitment is more than financial aid, it is the gift of opportunity, the spark of resilience, and the promise of brighter tomorrows. Together, we are not only transforming individual lives but uplifting entire communities.

As we look ahead, we carry forward the lessons and victories of January with renewed determination. With every act of support, every moment of mentorship, and every door opened, we affirm that hope is alive, dreams are valid, and the future is within reach.

Together we rise and together we transform lives.

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