



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

STORIES OF RESILIENCE, SKILLS & TRANSFORMATION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

119

**WOMEN TRAINED IN
2025**

69

**EMPLOYED OR
SELF EMPLOYED**

1790

**WOMEN SCREENED FOR
CERVICAL CANCER**

The WA-WA Bakery opens its doors, a new cohort of 47 women completes vocational training, and two women share in their own words what a second income and a second chance has meant for their lives.

APRIL-JUNE 2026

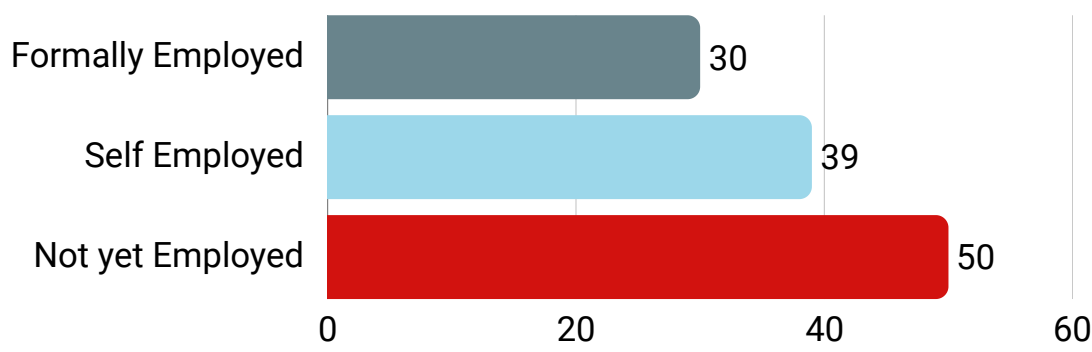
INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the April–June 2026 edition of the WA-WA Kenya Newsletter. This quarter, we celebrate new milestones in empowering women and youth around Lake Victoria through skills training, economic opportunities, and leadership.

Last year, WA-WA Kenya trained **119 women** in marketable vocational skills as part of our economic empowerment program, helping them build sustainable livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability to "**sex-for-fish**", the practice, common in fishing communities around Lake Victoria, in which women exchange sex for access to fish supplies because they have no other way to earn a living. Giving women a reliable income is one of the most direct ways we can help break that cycle.

Our highlight this quarter is the mid-year follow-up of those 119 women. It gave us the chance to celebrate their successes and measure the real impact of our training on livelihoods, income, and overall well-being. The results: 69 of the 119 are now either self employed or in formal employment, up from zero at the time they enrolled.

Where the 119 women stand today



30 formally employed + 39 self-employed = the 69 women referenced above; 50 have not yet secured employment or started a business and are the focus of our next-quarter mentorship push. (see "[Looking Ahead](#)").

This year's first cohort of 47 women completed their vocational training sessions in May and are preparing for graduation in November, as they complete practical attachments and finalise their business plans. At the same period, 10 additional women were enrolled in our newly launched bakery training program.

INITIATIVES' IMPACT

A closer look at five of the vocational programs in 2026, plus our ongoing women's health work.



WA-WA Bakery is officially Open

Over 3 months, **10 women** trained in cakes, pizza, coffee, and fresh juice making. Each woman started at zero income; today each is earning about **KES 300 per day**. That's enough to put have a meal for their children, stay away from sex-for-fish, and restore their dignity.



Hairdressing & Beauty

19 women completed their training. At enrollment they were earning an average of **KES 150 per day**. Today, 7 are formally employed and the rest are self-employed, together now earning an average of **KES 500 per day**, a more than threefold increase.



Fashion & Design

17 women successfully trained. 10 started their own businesses; the rest found work in the fashion industry. Daily income rose from **KES 200** at enrollment to **KES 490** today.



Paper Making & Vocational Skills

10 women trained, with 6 now producing ankara-fused books and hand-made paper products. Their craftsmanship earns them an average of **KES 1,800 per week**, proof that practical skills create sustainable income and new opportunities for independence.



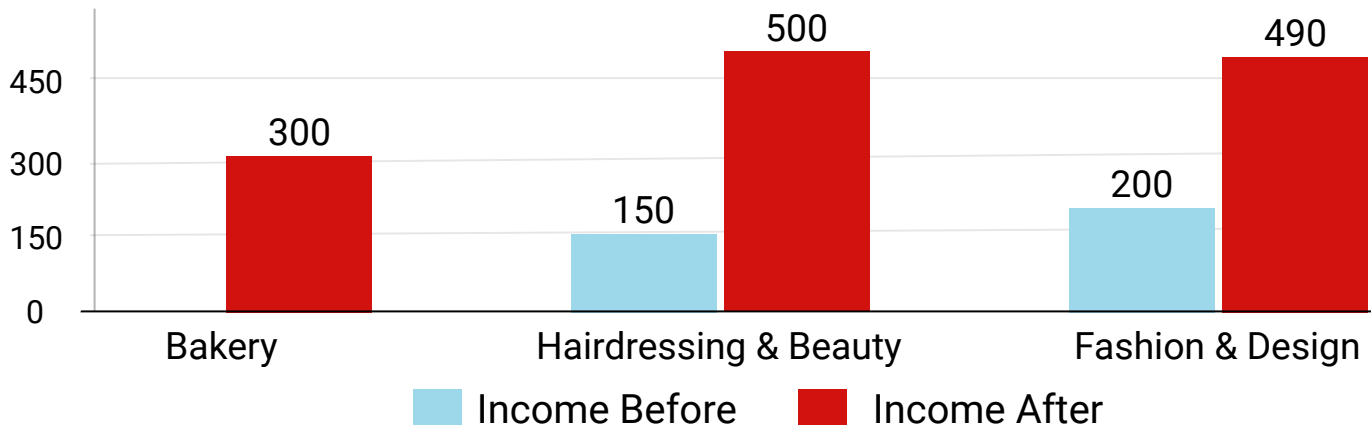
Women's Health & Kuku Project

1790 women accessed cancer screening services this quarter. Of these, 5 were diagnosed with cervical cancer, and WA-WA is supporting their treatment in full.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

Most trainees joined with little or no income, some earning as little as **KES 200 per day**. Today, thanks to hands-on skills training, graduates earn an average of **KES 400 per day**, doubling their income and building lives free from sex-for-fish.

Daily Income Before and After Training (KES)



Testimonials



Idah
Hairdressing
Graduate

"The hairdressing and beauty therapy skills I gained at WA-WA Kenya have enabled me to continue my education. While in college, I provide beauty services to fellow students, and the income helps me pay for my accommodation and my son's daycare during class hours. These skills give me a way to support myself while pursuing my dreams."



Mary
Widow &
Mother of Five

"During the cancer screening organised by WA-WA Kenya, I was diagnosed with cervical cancer. I could not afford treatment and feared for my life. Thanks to WA-WA Kenya, I received the treatment I needed and today I am cancer-free. I now look forward to joining the WA-WA poultry support program, which will help me build a sustainable business and provide for my children. My story is proof that early screening saves lives, and with support, hope can be restored."

THROUGH OUR LENSES



Looking Ahead

As we move into the next quarter, we are excited about:

1. Supporting trained women who are not yet employed with business start-up assistance and mentorship.
2. Building new networks and strategic partnerships to mobilize resources and increase our impact.
3. Promoting women's health, economic empowerment, and dignity.
4. Strengthening partnerships for greater impact.

Call to Action

Every story in this newsletter reflects the power of partnership. The 50 women still waiting for their own income are the reason we're writing this. Together, we can help them cross that same line, from training into a livelihood, and from vulnerability into dignity.

Join WA-WA Kenya by giving, partnering, or advocating and help create lasting change in our communities.



CONCLUSION

We close this newsletter with deep gratitude for every person who has been part of this journey, from our trainees and their families to the partners who stand with us.

Each story shared here is a testament to what's possible when communities work together. This quarter, that meant 69 women earning their own income, 1,790 women screened for cervical cancer, and 47 more women on their way to graduation.

We invite you to be part of what comes next.

OUR PARTNERS



REACH OUT

Whether you would like to give, partner, volunteer, or simply learn more about the women behind those stories, we are one message away;

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