

Kenya Connect

Annual Impact Report 2025

www.kenyaconnect.org



We're on a mission

To ensure rural children leave education with options, by developing the skills, values and pathways to thrive.

As we move into 2026, we are taking time to reflect on the impact of our work across rural Kenya. Kenya Connect exists to ensure children leave education with real options, equipped with the skills, values, and pathways they need to thrive beyond school.

The scale and diversity of our programs make it difficult to capture our full impact in one place. This report is designed as a highlights reel, showcasing selected projects and unpacking the evidence behind their impact. Each story offers a snapshot of how our work supports children, teachers, and schools at key stages of learning.

To explore our full range of programs and outcomes, visit **www.kenyaconnect.org**

We split our work into 6 core focus areas

In-School

Improving attendance and getting every child ready to learn.

We believe a child who is in school, healthy, and supported has the best chance to learn and thrive. When children attend regularly and their basic needs are met, they are ready to engage in learning and our programmes can have the greatest impact.

Quality Education

Equipping teachers to ensure every child receives a quality education.

Quality education starts with well-supported teachers. This focus area strengthens teaching practice and equips educators to deliver engaging lessons that improve learning outcomes for every student they reach.

Literacy

Children finishing school able to read, write and communicate.

Literacy is the foundation for learning across all subjects. It also sparks curiosity, imagination, and confidence, helping children explore new ideas, envision a wider world, and engage more deeply with their education.

Technology

Children equipped with 21st-century technology skills.

Technology unlocks powerful opportunities in an increasingly digital world. By building digital skills, we help rural children access learning, information, and future careers that might otherwise feel out of reach.

Empowerment

Children that know themselves and have the confidence to make choices.

Empowerment begins with knowing yourself and strong values. We support children to understand their bodies, rights, and boundaries, build confidence and integrity, and develop the skills needed to make safe, informed choices and navigate life with resilience.

Pathways

Ensuring children leave school with clearly defined pathways.

Children are more likely to thrive when they know they have options and clear goals to work towards. We help students explore, define, and act on their pathways, ensuring education leads to meaningful opportunities beyond school.

We believe that these 6 focus areas all work together holistically to help children develop the skills, values and pathways to truly have options.



In 2025, we worked directly with over:

18,000 ↑ students

500 ↑ teachers

76 ↑ partner schools



In-School

Improving attendance and getting every child ready to learn.

Why this focus area?

We believe that children who are in school, healthy, and supported have the greatest chance to learn and thrive. When attendance improves, children are ready to engage in learning and we are best placed to reach them with the support they need.

Current Situation

Many children face barriers that prevent regular school attendance, including illness, financial constraints, and limited understanding of the importance of education. This focus area addresses these challenges by removing barriers to attendance, working with families and communities to reinforce the value of education, and supporting schools to keep children healthy and in school. Once children are attending regularly, we focus on ensuring they are ready to learn. This means supporting children's health and wellbeing so they can see, hear, and fully engage in the classroom.

Our Goals:

- Breaking barriers so children attend school
- Every school age child joining a school
- Provide girls with sanitary pads which allow them to stay in school
- Work with parents to promote the importance of education
- Reduce the number of sick days and absences
- Encourage the community to support children going to school

We believe

- A child in school knows the importance and benefits of education for their future success and personal growth
- A child in school will discover who they are and what they want for their future
- A child needs to be healthy in order to get the most out of their time in school
- The school is the discovery ground for future careers
- A child in school has the best chance to succeed in life
- A healthy mind resides in a healthy body

Our In-School Programs

We have a wide range of programs looking at how we get more children in-school, healthy and ready to learn. Below are just a few examples, for more, check out: kenyaconnect.org/in-school



Water Tanks & Hand washing

Clean drinking water at the schools and hand washing stations help keep students healthy.



Wings Poa

Wings Poa provides reusable sanitary pads to all girls at school ensuring they don't miss school during their period.



Parent Income Generation

Many households struggle to pay their school fees. We support parents with skills they can use to earn funds.



Solar Lights

Getting ready for school and reading at night are both helped by access to sustainable solar lights.



Eye Glasses

Being in school is a great start but many children struggle to see the board and learn. We test and provide eye glasses.



Hearing Tests

Early hearing tests help identify hearing challenges and ensure children get the support they need to hear clearly, learn, and succeed in school.

In-School Key Numbers 2025

1,313

Wings Poa Kits distributed in 2025

3,762

Total Wings Poa Kits distributed



Highlighted Impact

Keeping Girls in School Through Menstrual Health Support

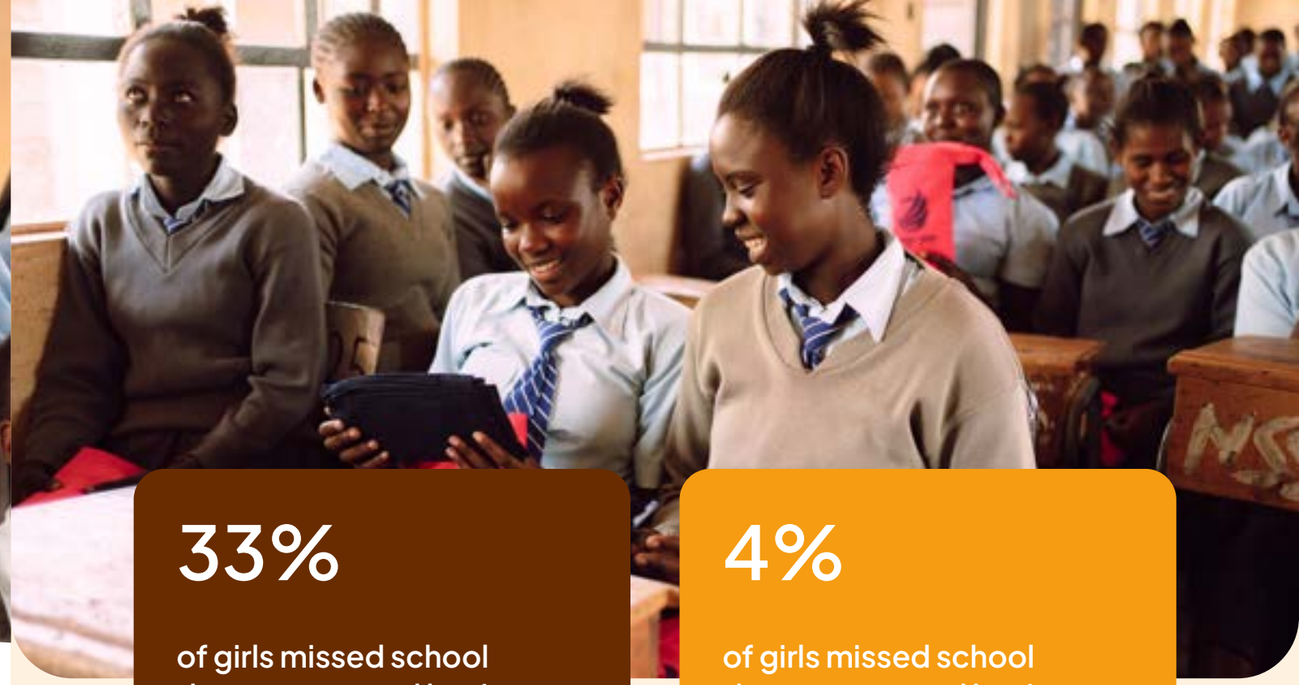
For many girls in rural Kenya, menstruation remains a major barrier to consistent school attendance.

Before receiving support, 33% of girls reported missing school due to menstrual hygiene challenges, including limited access to products, concerns about comfort and safety, and difficulty talking openly about menstruation. These barriers disrupt learning and can undermine girls' confidence and well-being.

To address this, Kenya Connect created the Wings Poa program, providing reusable menstrual hygiene kits made by parents at our makerspace facility to support family income generation. The program pairs product distribution with education and training, equipping girls to manage their periods with dignity and confidence.

The impact has been clear. After receiving Wings Poa kits, 96% of surveyed girls reported regular school attendance, with only 4% missing school, mostly due to cramps rather than lack of products. In addition, 96% used the pads, 84% reported comfort, and 85% experienced no leakage, demonstrating how menstrual health support enables girls to stay in school, participate confidently, and remain engaged in learning.

> "I am happy to receive my Wings Poa kit and be trained on menstrual hygiene. During my period, I would only use one pad a day for fear of running out. With my Wings Poa kit, I can change often and stay clean."
>
> **Mumbua**
> Kaitha Comprehensive School



33%

of girls missed school due to menstrual hygiene challenges **before the program**

4%

of girls missed school due to menstrual hygiene challenges **after the program**

96% ↑

of girls used the Wings Poa pads during their periods

96% ↑

of girls reported regular school attendance after receiving Wings Poa kits

84% ↑

of girls reported the pads were comfortable

85% ↑

of girls experienced no leakage, supporting confidence at school

Survey of 79 girls who received Wings Poa Kits



Quality Education

Equipping teachers to ensure every child receives a quality education.

Why this focus area?

Quality education is essential for children to discover their pathways and truly have options for the future. This focus area recognises that strong teaching is central to learning, and focuses on supporting partner schools to deliver consistent, engaging, and effective education.

Current Situation

The quality of teaching can vary widely, and many teachers have limited access to ongoing professional development. This can leave educators under-equipped to deliver the best possible learning experiences for their students. This focus area responds by strengthening teaching practice, supporting teacher growth, and working alongside partner schools to improve quality, consistency, and outcomes in the classroom.

Our Goals:

- Deliver Teacher Professional Development to at least a teacher at every partner school once per year
- Focus on equipping teachers of all levels with technology skills
- Develop our own Foundation Teacher Professional Development Program
- Develop TPD on emerging skills and contemporary issues

We believe

- *Teaching makes 3× more impact than any other factor in schools." - **World Bank 2018**
- Every teacher has a chance to inspire a child
- A quality education gives a firm foundation for all skills
- Teachers are lifelong learners

Our Quality Education Programs

We have a wide range of programs looking at how we support teachers and schools to provide quality education. Below are just a few examples, for more, check out: kenyaconnect.org/quality-education



Teacher Professional Development

With each partner school, we deliver a foundational teacher training course.



Teacher Awards

Teacher awards each year help promote the importance of continued professional development.



Technology Training

We offer specific teacher training around technology providing both skills and equipment.



Dyslexia Training

Specific training for teachers on how they can identify and support students with dyslexia.



Parent Learning Community

Learning opportunities for parents about early learning, communication with your child and early literacy.



Pre-Primary

In partnership with Peeple and Wolf Trap, we offer parent and teacher training to improve learning at home before their child reaches school.

Quality Education Key Numbers 2025

45

teachers participated in Professional Learning Community groups at 4 Empowered Schools

84

Early Childhood teachers were trained in arts integration

195

secondary teachers were trained to integrate STEM activities into classrooms

99

teachers recognised for exemplary work at the Kenya Connect Teacher Awards

117

teachers were trained on AI in education



Highlighted Impact

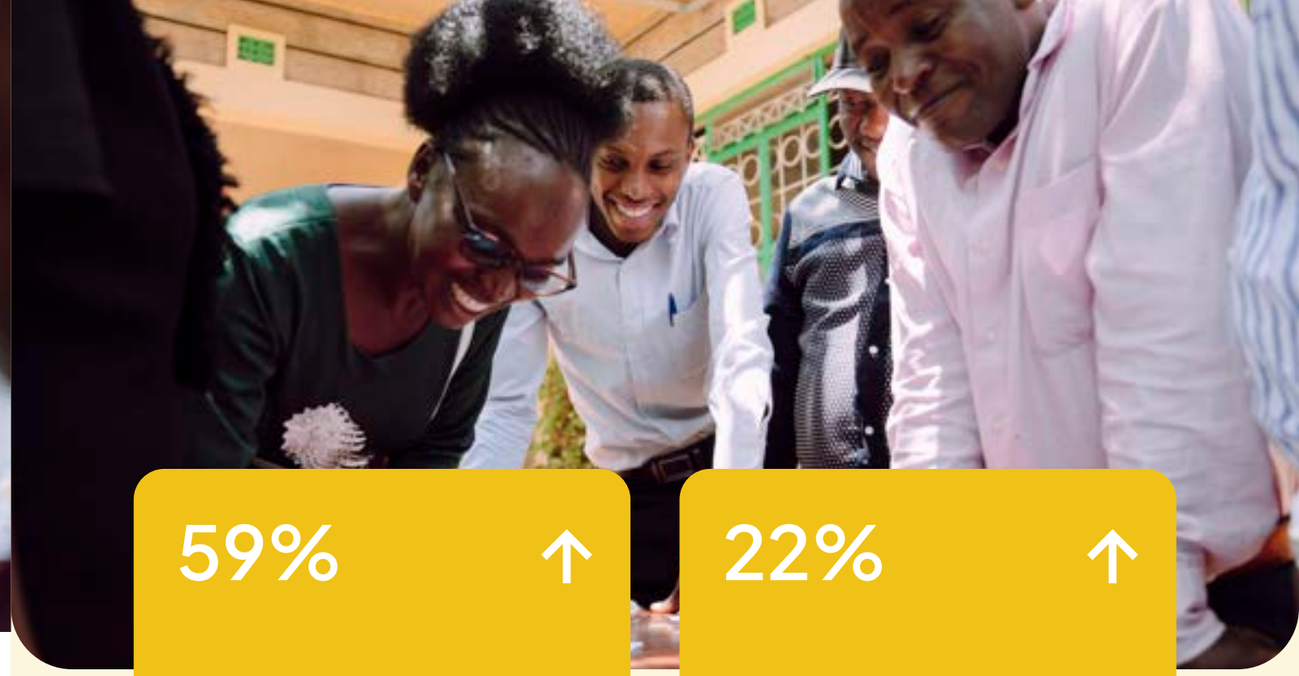
Technology Teacher Professional Development increases digital confidence by 26% on average.

Many teachers in rural Kenya face limited access to training and resources, particularly when it comes to technology.

As digital tools become increasingly embedded in the national curriculum, this gap can directly affect the quality of classroom learning. Kenya Connect delivers targeted technology training workshops to help teachers build confidence, strengthen digital skills, and integrate technology effectively into their teaching practice.

Throughout the year, multiple workshops were delivered across professional learning communities. To understand their impact, Kenya Connect surveyed 45 teachers from four communities after training. Results show clear improvements in confidence, classroom application, and digital efficiency. On average, teachers demonstrated a 25–30% improvement across digital confidence, resource creation, and classroom technology integration, highlighting the value of sustained, practical professional development.

> "I am now confident using technology to plan my lessons and create more engaging learning experiences for my students."
>
> **Tr. Mule**
> Kaitha Comprehensive School



59% ↑

of teachers confidently using digital tools and smartphones after training

22% ↑

Improvement in effective digital tool usage

78% ↑

of teachers integrating digital resources into lesson delivery

65% ↑

of teachers demonstrating strong online safety practices

23% ↑

Improvement in data and Wi-Fi management efficiency

80% ↑

of teachers actively participating in professional learning communities

Survey of 45 teachers from 4 different Professional Learning Communities.



Literacy

Children finishing school able to read, write and communicate.

Why this focus area?

Literacy is the foundation for learning across all subjects and plays a key role in shaping confidence, curiosity, and imagination. That's why we focus on shifting mindsets around reading and working alongside schools, teachers, and families to build strong reading cultures and improve the delivery of literacy education.

Current Situation

Many schools have limited access to books, with libraries that are under-stocked or outdated, or no library at all. There is also limited training and support for literacy teaching. This focus area works to increase access to books, promote a culture of reading, and support schools with the resources and skills needed to strengthen literacy outcomes.

Our Goals:

- Ensure every child in our partner school has access to books.
- Nurture the love of reading among children.
- Improve communication skills among students.
- Improved reading stamina among younger learners.
- Ensure students read at least 25 books and above in the reading challenge.
- Promote reading to parents and the community

We believe

- Reading is a foundation for success across other curriculum areas.
- A person who can read, write and communicate has the confidence to thrive in the World.
- Reading connects people.
- Reading can take you places.
- Reading expands the mind.
- Books change lives.

Our Literacy Programs

We have a wide range of programs that improve literacy in the community. Below are just a few examples, for more, check out: kenyaconnect.org/literacy



Library Cards

Our dedicated library team provide library cards that give access to our Kenya Connect library.



Mobile Library

With our mobile library bus, we travel to over 51 schools allowing children to borrow and read books.



Saturday Storytime

Each Saturday we run a community read along with children to help promote reading.



Reading Challenge

We conduct dedicated reading challenges in the community encouraging children to read as many books as they can!



Radio Read Aloud

Radio is still super popular in Kenya. That's why we host a read every week during school breaks.



LitClubs / Lit Moms

This program involves mothers with reading in partnership with LitWorld.

Literacy Key Numbers 2025

1,719

new library cards issued, bringing total membership to 10,672

51

schools supported through the mobile library program

37,683

library books checked out by students

447

students, parents, and teachers engaged through 4 LitFest celebrations

57,181

books in the Kenya Connect library collection

2 years running

The Village That Reads recognised as a Global Innovation by HundrED



Highlighted Impact

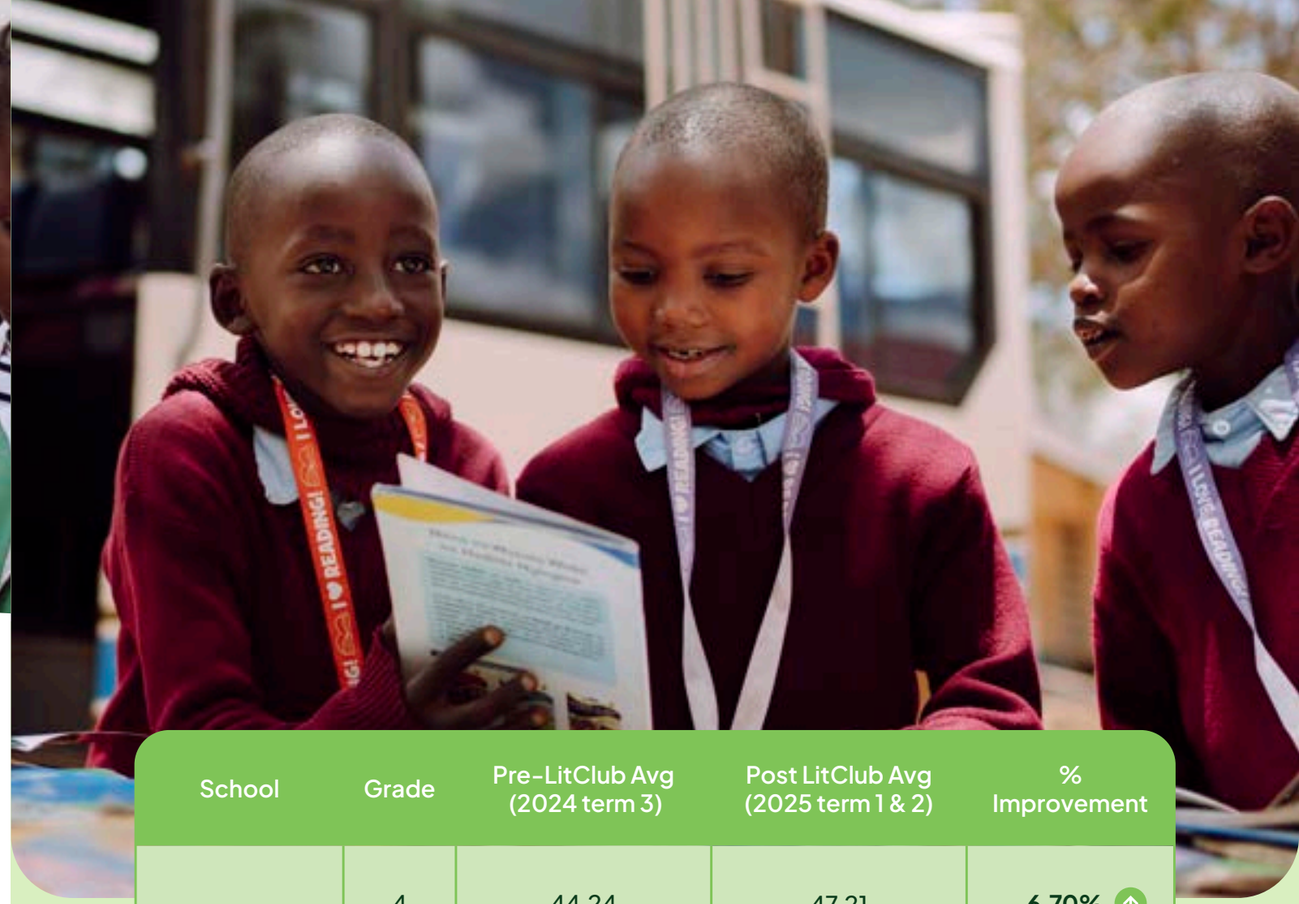
LitClubs see significant academic growth amongst partner schools.

Reading is the foundation of learning, confidence, and opportunity. Yet many children in rural Kenya have limited access to books, structured reading support, or spaces where reading and self-expression are celebrated.

To address this, Kenya Connect partners with LitWorld to run LitClubs; creative, interactive reading clubs built around seven strengths including belonging, courage, curiosity, and confidence. These clubs offer students a safe space to read, write, share stories, and build communication skills while nurturing a love of reading and a stronger sense of self.

Across four participating schools, LitClubs have delivered measurable academic and social gains. Students have not only improved literacy outcomes but also become more engaged, confident, and resilient learners. Across the LitClubs we've offered, 100% of teachers reported that LitClub participants are more engaged in class, confident in discussions, and active learners. These results show how structured reading support, combined with strength-building activities and supportive mentorship, can help students grow both academically and personally.

> "Our learners have become more confident in expressing themselves and asking good questions in class. Their love for reading books has increased."
>
> **Teacher Muoka**
> Itunduni Comprehensive School



School	Grade	Pre-LitClub Avg (2024 term 3)	Post LitClub Avg (2025 term 1 & 2)	% Improvement
Itunduni	4	44.24	47.21	**6.70%** ↑
	5	35.3	39.6	**12.20%** ↑
Ngului	5	48.73	56.06	**15.00%** ↑
Mangolota	4	43.23	49.35	**14.20%** ↑
	5	46.82	52.86	**12.90%** ↑
Nduluku	5	34.91	43.5	**24.60%** ↑
			Mean	**14.27%** ↑

Results from all four participating schools



Technology

Children equipped with 21st-century technology skills.

Why this focus area?

Technology can unlock a whole host of options for a rural child. Not only does technology support a child's education, allowing research and continued learning, but a number of job options and careers all require technology skills.

Current Situation

While technology is now part of the national curriculum, many schools lack the equipment, infrastructure, and training needed to deliver it effectively. Teachers often have limited support, and challenges such as unreliable power further widen the digital divide in rural areas. This focus area works to address these gaps by training students, improving access, building teacher confidence, and supporting schools to deliver meaningful technology learning.

Our Goals:

- Children successfully completing the school curriculum
- Higher uptake in STEM at University level
- Schools with improved access to the technology they need
- Introduce AI innovative technology to schools (coding, robotics, 3D printing)
- Help teachers integrate technology in teaching and learning
- Use technology to expose students to diverse cultures, issues affecting the world and encouraging global citizenship

We believe

- The future of work will be based on technology
- A child with technology skills has unlimited opportunities to succeed
- The illiterate of the future are those lacking technology skills
- Technology opens the world and removes barriers to education

Our Technology Programs

We have a wide range of programs looking at how we improve access and education of technology. Below are just a few examples, for more, check out: kenyaconnect.org/technology



Coding Clubs

Working alongside Raspberry Pi Foundation, our Coding Clubs introduce new ideas and tech to children.



Robotics Clubs

In addition we also offer robotics classes covering the basics of robotics and engineering.



Technology Provision

Our mobile technology library moves around schools brining the technology needed to conduct technology lessons.



STEM Bootcamps

School break bootcamps with students to spark interest and educate around STEM fields.



Computer Classes in School

Bringing our trained Kenya Connect staff into our partner schools to deliver series of technology lessons.



Technology TPD

Teacher professional development aimed specifically at technology education.

Technology Key Numbers 2025

3,151

students enrolled in Code Clubs across 76 schools

242

students completed Basic Computer and coding training, bringing the total to 2,490

5

teams competed in the National World Robotics Olympiad, with 1 team winning

3

students represented Kenya at the International WRO in Singapore



National World Robotics Olympiad Champions, Lobster Team



Highlighted Impact

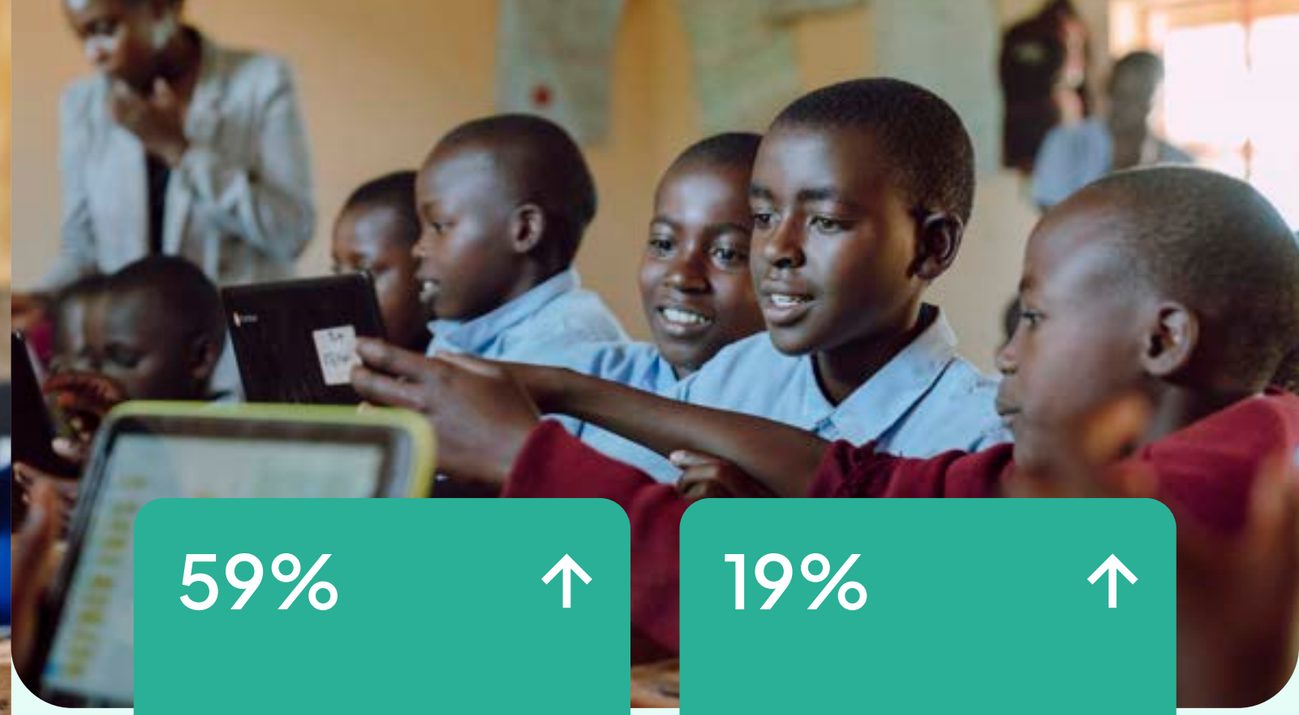
Technology Bootcamps result in 70% increase in student skills and confidence.

Access to technology skills can open powerful pathways for rural students, yet many children encounter computers for the first time only at secondary school, if at all.

Kenya Connect's technology bootcamps are designed to close this gap by introducing primary school students to the fundamentals of computing in a practical, supportive environment.

In 2025, two bootcamps reached 255 students, with impact data drawn from 110 surveyed participants. Students demonstrated substantial growth across core digital skills, including computer use, Microsoft applications, and Scratch programming. Overall, skills and confidence increased by 50–90%, with a 70% average gain, closing foundational gaps and equipping students with the knowledge and creativity needed to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

> "I have learnt a lot during this bootcamp, I can confidently make a game using Scratch, do calculations using spreadsheets and type a word document using MS word!"
>
> **John**
> Kisola Comprehensive School



59% ↑

improvement in identifying computer parts

19% ↑

Increase in confidence using the mouse and keyboard

40% ↑

improvement in text formatting within Microsoft Word

60% ↑

improvement in using formulas (SUM, AVERAGE) within Microsoft Excel

25% ↑

increase in ability to create a basic game within Scratch

48% ↑

increase in ability to explain Scratch sprites

Survey of 110 students from 2 two bootcamps (total 255 students)



Empowerment

Children that know themselves and have the confidence to make choices.

Why this focus area?

For children to succeed, they need strong values, self-belief, and a clear sense of who they are. This focus area helps young people understand their bodies, rights, and boundaries, build confidence, and develop the skills to make safe, informed choices about their futures.

Current Situation

Many children experience low self-esteem and have limited opportunities to express themselves or shape decisions about their lives. Topics such as mental health, sexual health, and healthy relationships are often not openly discussed, leaving young people vulnerable to poor outcomes, including teen pregnancy. This focus area creates safe spaces for learning, discussion, and guidance to support healthier choices and stronger futures.

Our Goals:

- Eliminate Gender-based violence
- Reduce Teen Pregnancy
- Develop confident students
- Develop critical thinking skills among children.
- Family engagement in education
- Reduce economic poverty
- Nurture future leaders

We believe

- Our work is more than just skills, it's attitudes that will help give a child the best opportunity to succeed
- A child who understands and believes in themselves will make good decisions.
- An informed parent will raise children in a way that empowers them to make their own decisions.
- Economically empowered parents will support their children in school and at home.
- Educated parents will understand the importance and the value of educating their children.

Our Empowerment Programs

We have a wide range of programs looking at how we empower students, parents and the community. Below are just a few examples, for more, check out: kenyaconnect.org/empowerment



Girl/Boy Empowerment

This program teaches students about their rights and boundaries and promotes positive sexual health.



Parent Courses

Dedicated course for Parents talking about difficult topics within the Community



PenPals

Helping students reach out to a wider world and communicate with children around the globe.



Expanding Horizons

Sessions building life skills, communication, leadership, empathy, and critical thinking.



LitMoms Program

Supporting mothers and grandmothers with income generation and encouraging them to read.



Parent Income Generation

Parents who can fund their children's lives will be better placed to help support their dreams.

Empowerment Key Numbers 2025

90
Students joined the 4th Girl/Boy Empowerment Program across 3 schools

179
parents attended empowerment advocacy sessions

111
students joined WISH / The Man I Am clubs across 2 secondary schools

23
students graduated from the Expanding Horizons Club at Makaalu Secondary School

427
students learned practical food-growing skills across 4 schools

52 kg
of honey harvested from 15 hives across 4 apiaries, supporting parent income generation



Highlighted Impact

Building Confidence and Resilience Through the Girl/ Boy Empowerment Program

Many young people in rural Kenya face challenges beyond the classroom. Low confidence, peer pressure, teen pregnancy, and limited understanding of emotions, boundaries, and relationships can affect well-being, decision making, and personal safety.

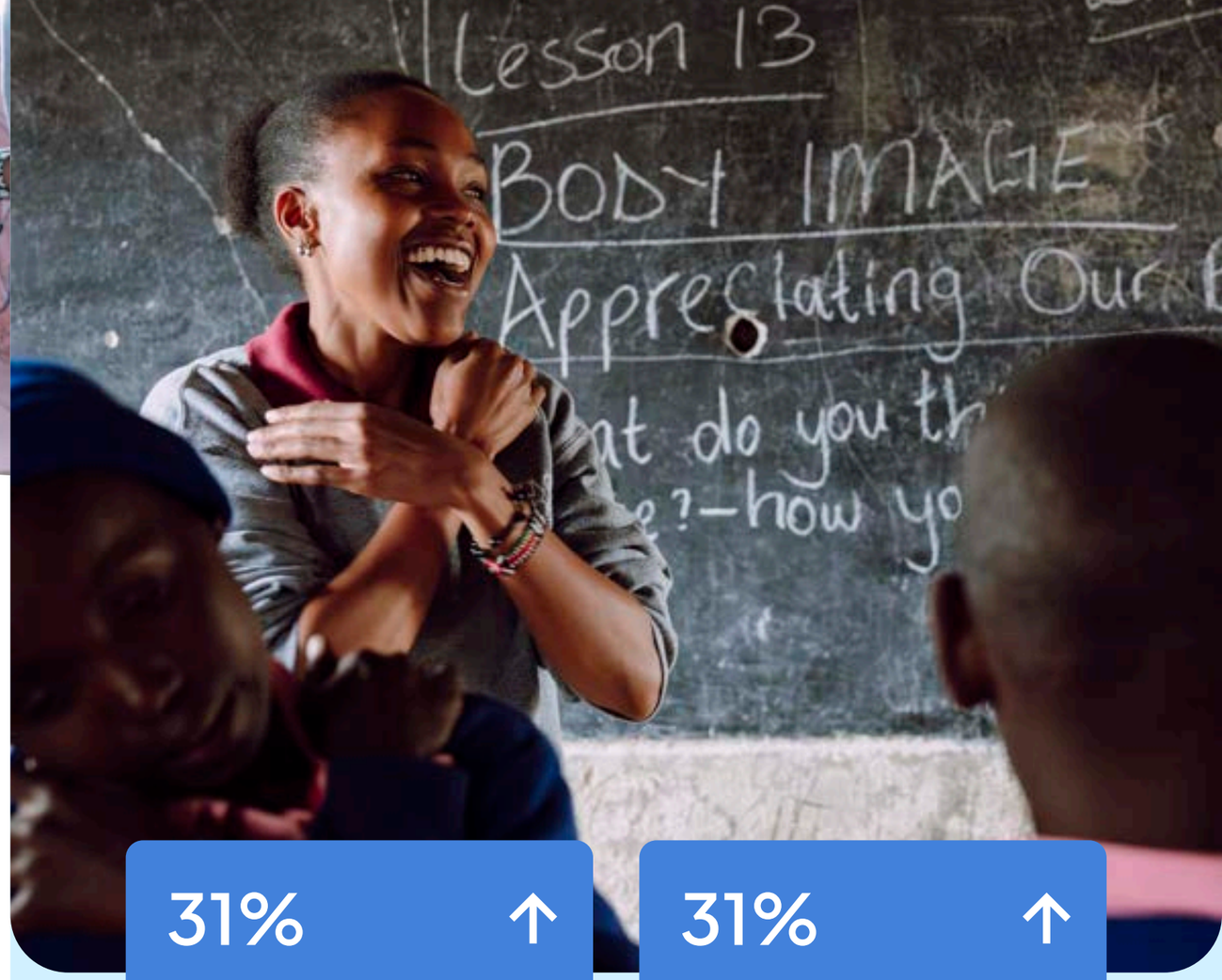
In response, Kenya Connect developed the Girl/ Boy Empowerment Program, a structured, year-long initiative designed to help students build self-belief, develop healthy coping strategies, and strengthen their social and emotional skills.

Delivered through weekly sessions led by trained mentors, the program creates safe spaces for discussion, reflection, and practical learning. Students explore topics such as self-identity, peer pressure, relationships, consent, and goal-setting, giving them the tools to make positive choices and stand up for themselves and others. Impact data collected before and after the program shows clear and measurable change. Overall confidence increased from 38.3% to 69.1%, the ability to handle peer pressure rose from 57.3% to 88%, and social-emotional awareness improved from 69.5% to 84.7%.

Together, these outcomes demonstrate how targeted empowerment programs play a critical role in helping young people navigate social challenges with confidence and resilience.

> "Through the Girl/Boy Empowerment Program, I have learned to dream about my future and make my own choices. I know my body belongs to me, and I am the boss of it. I can say no to unwanted touch, identify risky situations, and feel empowered to speak up for myself and others without fear."

Betty (11 years)
Wamunyu ABC Primary School



31% ↑
Confidence & Self-Assertion

31% ↑
Peer Pressure Handling

15% ↑
Social-Emotional Awareness

32% ↑
Awareness of Consent and Boundaries

Survey based on 82 students across the three schools.



Pathways

Ensuring children leave school with clearly defined pathways.

Why this focus area?

Children are more likely to thrive when they know they have options and clear goals to work towards. This focus area supports young people to explore, define, and act on their pathways, helping education lead to meaningful outcomes beyond school.

Current Situation

Many students receive little guidance in identifying or planning for their future pathways. Limited exposure and support often lead young people to default to a narrow set of traditional careers, leaving many options unexplored. This focus area addresses these gaps by helping students understand a wider range of opportunities and build clear, achievable plans for their futures.

Our Goals:

- More children going onto further education
- More children finding meaningful work
- Children's confidence and hopes to improve
- Children being able to adapt to changing job market
- Children pursuing the right careers and succeeding in the job market
- Children who are problem solvers with ideas of generating income

We believe

- It is crucial to our work that we send children out into the world with a clear pathway to follow
- Children need help to see all options available to them
- Children with career guidance and defined steps are more likely to succeed.
- It is crucial for students to have transferable skills.
- Children who are innovative, creative and have problem solving skills are likely to succeed

Our Pathways Programs

We have a wide range of programs looking at how we develop and support a pathway for every child. Below are just a few examples, for more, check out: kenyaconnect.org/pathways



The School Fund

This partnership helps connect donors to specific students looking to go onto University of higher education.



Workforce Development

In partnership with Nairobits we offer training on digital literacy, graphic design, online working and marketing.



Hershot

A program designed to open the world of professional photography to girls.



Environmental Clubs

Clubs enabling students to explore environmental pathways through climate action and sustainability.



Expanding Horizons

Sessions building life skills, communication, leadership, empathy, and critical thinking.



Field Trips

Opportunities to take children out into different industries and experience different job opportunities.

Pathways Key Numbers 2025

10

School Fund students graduated from the scholarship programme

211

students attended 2 career fairs

26

students completed workforce development training

30

learners joined a newly established environmental club



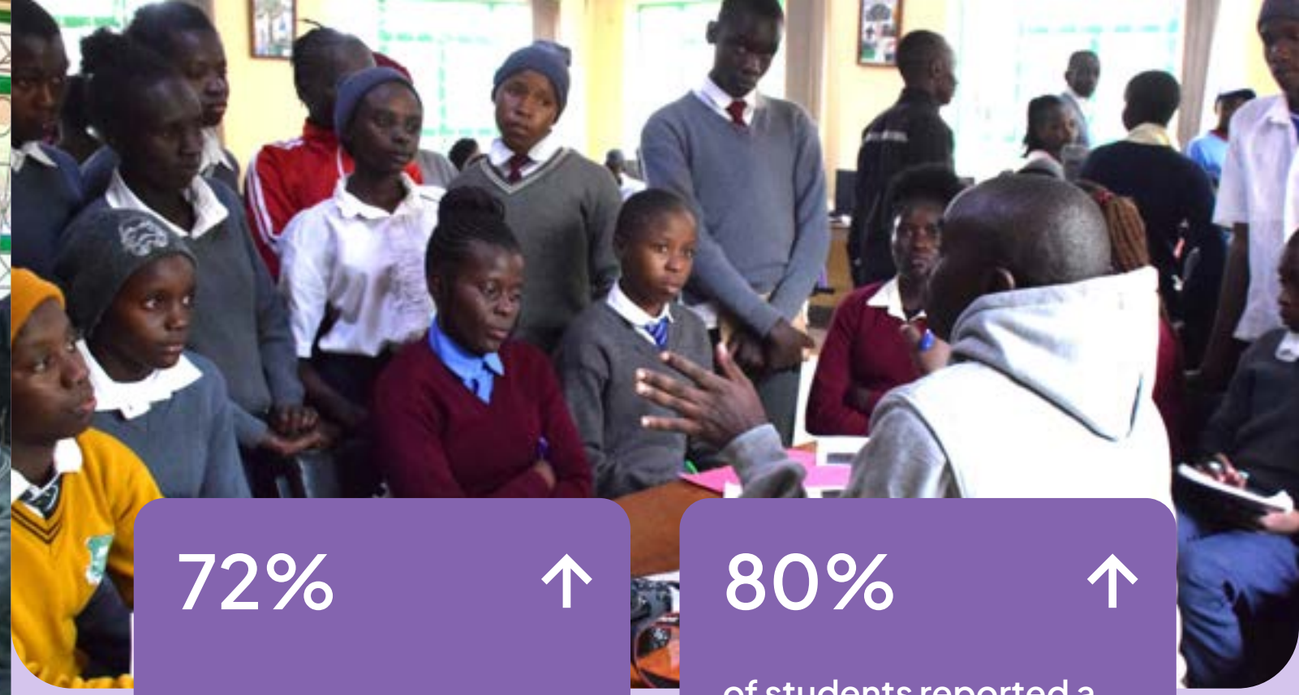
Highlighted Impact

Career fairs open new pathways for students

For many young people, future career pathways can feel distant and unclear, particularly when exposure to different professions is limited. To address this gap, Kenya Connect introduced career fairs to help students explore career options, challenge assumptions, and begin shaping their aspirations.

Two career fairs reached 211 students, with impact data drawn from 109 survey responses. For many participants, this was their first experience of a career fair. After attending, students reported increased awareness of career options, stronger motivation, and clearer direction for their futures. With 100% of respondents rating the experience as useful, the results show how career fairs can play a critical role in helping students see what is possible and plan more intentionally for life beyond school.

> "Today, I have learned to be determined about the career I want to pursue despite my background. I am grateful for the opportunity to ask the professionals a lot of questions at the different career stations"
>
> **Cynthia**
> Kambiti PS



72% ↑

first time exposure to a career fair

80% ↑

of students reported a mindset shift, learning their background does not define their future

77% ↑

of students expressed interest in medicine after the fair

67% ↑

of students identified law as a potential career path post-event

65% ↑

of students showed interest in engineering following the fair

100% ↑

positive usefulness rating confirms the fair met or exceeded student expectations

Survey based on 109 responses from 211 who attended

Message from the Directors

We are proud of the work that has been accomplished in 2025. Our new strategic mission, vision and framework were successfully launched after a comprehensive planning process. As you read in the report, our work centers on six focus areas: In-School, Quality Education, Literacy, Technology, Empowerment and Pathways. What has been especially heartening is how the programs in these six focus areas weave together to provide children with options and new pathways.

Our work would not be possible without the financial support of hundreds of donors, foundations, schools, corporations, faith organizations and Rotary Clubs. Partners including Team4Tech, The Raspberry Pi Foundation, The Gupta Family Foundation, LitWorld, HundrED, Peeple, Global School Forum, Level-Up Village, BookAid International and Kwanda have broadened our horizons and provided program support, ideas and friendship.

Our dedicated and creative staff of 25 give their hearts and energy in working with students, teachers and parents and are transforming lives every day. The deep relationships that they have formed with teachers and Ministry of Education officials have resulted in successful program implementation, follow-up and results. We are also grateful to our respective Boards who champion our work, garner resources and ensure we are compliant and fiscally sound.

As we begin 2026, we are filled with excitement for a new program year to begin with our innovative programs designed to lift our community through the power of education.

Thank you for your belief in our work.



James Musyoka,
Co-Founder and Executive Director, Kenya



Sharon Runge,
Executive Director, USA

Want to support our work? Donating is easy!

You can donate via venmo, paypal, donor advised fund, stock transfer or check.

Head to:
www.kenyaconnect.org/donate

Or use the QR code below:



