



# POLYCOM GIRLS IMPACT REPORT 2025

*One girl, One dream, One future at a time.*

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# Executive Summary

In 2025, Polycom Girls delivered transformative impact, empowering thousands of girls, young women and communities in Kibera, Nairobi, Homa Bay, and beyond. Through mentorship, life skills education, violence prevention, WASH support, economic empowerment, peacebuilding, male engagement, and climate justice advocacy, we directly reached over 15,000 beneficiaries while influencing policy at county, national, continental, and global levels.

Key achievements include mentoring over 7,000 adolescents across programs, collecting 2,173 anonymous reports via Talking Boxes (with 44.7% demanding FGM/SRHR information), distributing 10,000 Siri ya Mwezi comic books and essential menstrual products, providing detergents to 57 schools monthly, training young women in income-generating skills, and securing grassroots voices in UN processes (including co-development of the 2025 State of World Population Report), African Union frameworks, and media platforms

*This report highlights validated outcomes and sustained contributions to gender equality, violence reduction, and sustainable development*

## Our Vision

A society of empowered women and girls who are contributing effectively to the development of their communities.

## Our Mission

To sustainably mobilize, consolidate, and amplify the voices of women and girls in their diversity through collaborative activities that influence sustainable positive change/policy on issues that affect their lives.

# Introduction

Polycom Girls is committed to amplifying the voices of women and girls in underserved communities, with a primary focus on Kibera and surrounding areas. In 2025, we built on strategic partnerships with organizations including Daraja Letu, Zamara Foundation, UNFPA, KEBS, Huairou Commission, SDGs Kenya Forum, and others to deliver holistic empowerment. This impact report details completed activities, measurable results, and progress across key pillars.



# Increased Empowerment and Agency of Women and Girls

*Objective: Enable girls and women to achieve their full potential, make informed choices, and actively participate in shaping their lives, communities, and societies.*

In 2025, we mentored adolescents in various life skills using audiovisual, games, and structured facilitation sessions. Key topics included menstrual hygiene, decision making, critical thinking, digital literacy, and self-care.

5 staff and 15 mentors were trained in high-level UN advocacy language and procedures (CSW70/UPR), enhancing professional external engagement.

Produced 12 Passing the Baton podcasts to archive feminist memory and facilitate knowledge transfer across generations.

Two GYW co-developed the UNFPA 2025 State of World Population Report on the "Real Fertility Crisis," ensuring grassroots realities informed global policy; one GYW participated in the UN General Assembly and AUEVAWG adoption.

Emergent GYW-led initiatives included the An Jaber Foundation (which received a grant July 2025) and the FEMInspire mentorship network, demonstrating sustainable, autonomous youth leadership.

Two GYW served as guest panelists on NTV Kenya's "Your World" (May 2025), shifting media narratives on menstrual stigma.



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Held the Nyayo Zetu Cultural Exchange, integrating traditional and holistic knowledge (e.g., herbal remedies like coriander for cramps) into the mentorship curriculum. One GYW appointed Media Liaison for The Young African Women Congress Network Kenya Chapter (March 2025), gaining access to continental platforms.

Conducted 186 G-Pende Assemblies, engaging 3,197 adolescent girls and 2,976 adolescent boys, supported by 20 young women and men as mentors. Trained and sensitized 150 student ambassadors (50 per term) in partner schools to establish peer-to-peer support on FGM, GBV, SRHR, and life skills. Reinstalled and maintained 50 Talking Boxes in schools (expanded to 60 total), ensuring 100% functionality and biannual reviews for confidential reporting. Engaged girls and young women (GYW) and boys and men under the She Leads program, linking 62 women and 15 GYW-led groups with 15 CBOs and 7 NGOs.

# End Violence Against Girls and Women

*Objective: Reduce gender-based violence among girls and women through awareness-raising, support services, community engagement, and progress monitoring.*

Collected 2,173 anonymous reports via Talking Boxes from 50 schools, with 44.7% demanding FGM/SRHR information—providing quantitative evidence of priority needs.

Co-developed and launched the GYW-led She Leads Chaperoning Tool, embedding power-sharing principles in safeguarding standards

GYW participated in reviewing the Homa Bay SGBV Policy Bill and adopting the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AUEVAWG), integrating feminist perspectives.

Three GYW panelists influenced discourse at the Pan-African Summit on GBV and Mental Health (June 2025), advocating survivor-centered services.

Provided fire response support, medical assistance for UTIs, and strengthened referral pathways via paralegal support.

One GYW influenced a regional Generation Equality Media Forum declaration pledging gender-sensitive reporting using a GYW-developed comic tool

Participated in 16 Days of Activism commemoration with the Kibera consortium, engaging adolescent girls (3), young women (16), CSOs (10), CHVs (6), male youths (10), and community women/parents (15) in discussions on reporting barriers and referral pathways

Conducted review meetings with 89 head teachers, matrons, and patrons, who reported improved girls' wellbeing due to life skills mentorship and referrals.



# Providing WASH and Menstrual Hygiene to Girls and Women

*Objective: Ensure equitable access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities for girls and women in their diversity*

Participated in 2 dialogues and symposiums on menstrual hygiene, engaging over >200 stakeholders to advocate for quality affordable products and zero-rated taxes on menstrual products. In 2025, achieved KEBS compliance for the Kibera Pads Department.

Provided sanitary towels and underwear to: 3,958 school beneficiaries, 964 walk-ins, 766 forum/activity participants, and 2,117 via organizations.

Championed safety at WASH facilities, reducing sexual violence risks and improving toilet services

Distributed 10,000 copies of the Siri ya Mwezi comic book across 60 schools in Homa Bay and Nairobi, fostering open conversations on menstrual stigma and linking hygiene to GBV prevention.



Sanitary towels distributed  
7805



Soap distribution in litres  
3830

1000 Siri Ya Mwezi (Menstrual Hygiene Comic Book)



# Economic Justice for Girls and Women

*To establish strategies that enable Girls and Women to thrive in diverse economies and have access to resources, fostering individual and collective prosperity.*



Trained 50 young women in online business through the digital Hub.

Trained 20 Bado Binti (Young mothers) participants in economic empowerment and financial management in March 2025.

Conducted three-week Soko Plug training for 20 young women on digital skills, no-code platforms, and market access

Led People's Assembly discussions on economic justice (taxing the rich and debt cancellation); one young advocate recognized at Doha Summit held in November 2025 from her strong Advocacy.

Conducted social media campaign on economic justice, amplified by Global Call Against Poverty networks.

Provided startup/boost capital to 6 women to start income generating activities.

Trained 10 women in pad-making at Kibera Pads Company, providing waged employment.

Trained 20 young women and men in soap-making, with at least one mentor generating income through home production.

Advocated with UNFPA and KEBS for zero-rating taxes on raw materials during a joint stakeholders workshop.

One Young Woman discussed the impacts of USAID funding withdrawal on Ramogi TV, calling for investment in the local system

# Advancing Peace and Security for Girls & Women

*Objective: To strengthen efforts to prevent conflicts, engage girls and women as active agents of peacebuilding, create safe spaces for girls and women, and advocate for gender-responsive policies and legal frameworks.*

Two GYW participated in Homa Bay County FY 2025/26 CFSP budgeting, submitting a memorandum for increased investment in menstrual hygiene, GBV response, and child protection.

Shaped MoU between SDGs Kenya Forum and Homa Bay County Government for gender-responsive SDG planning

Produced a 12-episode podcast series exploring climate change, peacebuilding, security, politics, and women's empowerment, featuring diverse voices from both young women and experienced older women.

One staff attended Peace Connect Conference (October 2025), contributing to discussions on funding trends and innovative peace programs

Participated in community peacebuilding dialogue and International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which had over 300 attendees, 65% women/girls, >40% with disabilities.

Engaged in Kenya National Action Plan III launch, securing county-level localization mandate for 2026. The Plan focuses on implementing women peace and security agenda in Kenya.

Advocated digital literacy and safety barriers during Mahakama Popote (virtual courts) launch.

Joined Zamara Foundation Digital Safety Caravan in November 2025 during the onset of the 16 Days of Activism, reaching ~10,000 Kibera residents with edutainment; generated content reaching 5,000 online



# Collaborating with Men and Boys as Gender Champions

*Objective: To empower and encourage boys and men to challenge and change attitudes that gender stereotypes and inequality affecting Girls and Women.*



Two male champions contributed to reviewing Nairobi Male Gender Sector Working Group Strategy (June 2025), integrating Girls and young women priorities.

Engaged 2,976 boys/men in Boresha Binti-DAISY activities.

# Enhancing Meaningful Participation in Climate Justice for Girls & Women

Trained 20 women change agents in three-day Green Accountability program (March 2025, Kibera) on finance, policy, advocacy, Climate Budget Trackers, and Citizen Scorecards

Held 3 webinars on climate finance (27–613 participants) and 1 Twitter space on disaster risk management (600 participants).

Trained 20 GYW on green fund access; To ensure grassroots voices are heard in climate policy spaces.

Participated in tree planting and discussions on sanitary towel disposal.

Participated in Green Accountability conference in Brazil and joined Lightup Impact Conference on youth-led gender and climate justice (20 Urban Queens performed and one held a conversation on youth and climate).

Distributed 50 'Heal the Earth' comic books that focus on enhancing climate information flow among 20 grassroots women

Participated in tree planting and discussions on sanitary towel disposal within Kibera informal settlement.

Held joint discussions on food security to ensure women, who are adversely affected contribute their voices to such matters directly affecting them.



# Education, Mentorship, and Community Engagement

Commemorated International Day of the Girl Child with 50 girls and 50 boys to challenge stereotypes and promote empathy



Held 3 mentors feedback sessions and 2 teacher sessions (89 participants) to strengthen Boresha Binti life skills project alignment, content dissemination, and collaboration.



# Monitoring, Evaluation, and Program Enhancements

Completed 2025 evaluation of She Creates Change animated videos, confirming high comprehension and behavior change via surveys and focus groups; We collected 5 impact stories highlighting reduced isolation and increased openness.

Conducted two Talking Box monitoring visits (January, September 2025); achieved 100% functionality across 60 schools; produced a detailed analysis report informing 2026 FGM priorities; integrated monthly collection into mentorship sessions.

Maintained daily updates in PDP database and Pads Template, logging all activities and partnerships.

Produced branding materials: 1,000 Siri ya Mwezi comics, 200 Heal the Earth comics

Redesigned website for enhanced visibility.

Maintained visibility and Branding through an active social media engagement

## SOCIAL MEDIA PERFORMANCE

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

3,233

IG FOLLOWERS

1,789

TIKTOK

3,388

VIEWS

62,641

VIEWS

54,479

ENGAGEMENT RATE

10%

# Key Impact Metrics Overview

**Over 10000 adolescent girls and boys mentored in various life skills**

**2173 content (anonymous notes from the Talking Boxes).**

**7803 Sanitary towels distributed to adolescent girls and partners**

**3830 liters of soap distributed to enhance hygiene within the school premises and especially within the restrooms.**

**Distributed 200 Comic Books on Climate dubbed 'Heal the Earth' and 1000 comic books on menstrual hygiene dubbed Siri Ya Mwezi**

**2976 adolescent boys reached and 3197 adolescent girls reached directly with the life skills program**

**186 GPende Life skills session held in 2025 targeting adolescents**

# Conclusion and Future Outlook

In 2025, Polycom Girls achieved profound, measurable impact—directly empowering thousands while elevating grassroots voices to global platforms. We advanced agency, reduced violence, improved WASH access, promoted economic justice, built peace, engaged men as allies, and amplified climate advocacy

Looking ahead to 2026, Polycom Girls' key priorities include implementing data-informed interventions to combat Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), localizing KNAP III (Kenya's Third National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security) at the county level, expanding male engagement initiatives, broadening the dissemination of educational comics (such as those on Generation Equality Forum commitments), developing and rolling out life skills lesson plans, enhancing student feedback mechanisms, and establishing the Girls and Young women Portfolio.

Polycom Girls remains steadfast in its mission to empower women and girls, advancing toward a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable world.

# Our PARTNERS

**Dear Partners, Stakeholders & Collaborators,  
Thank you!**

Your trust, creativity, grit, and partnership turned ideas into real impact and challenges into wins this year. Every milestone, solution, and life touched happened because of you.

Deeply grateful for your belief, energy, and collaboration. Here's to 2025 and to crushing it even harder in 2026. With huge appreciation.





#Gpende

“We are a Pan-African feminist women-led organization located in Kenya that works to better the lives of adolescent girls and women in their various forms”.

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“Girls and women are our heroines who inspire us every day at Polycom, motivating us to do the work that we do.”

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Our Office  
Olympic Estate, Kibera  
P.O.Box 16797 - 00100  
Email: [info@polycomgirls.or.ke](mailto:info@polycomgirls.or.ke)

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