

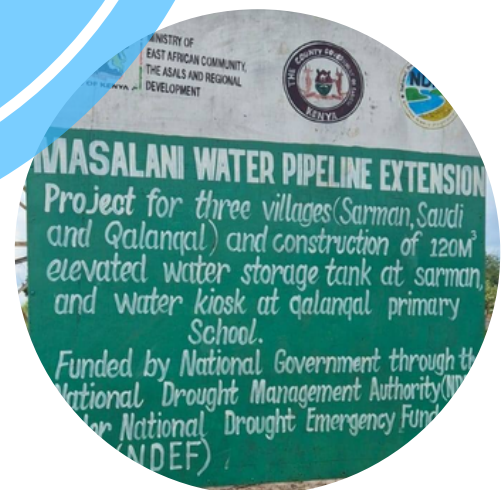


**MUSLIMS WOMEN  
ADVANCEMENT OF  
RIGHTS AND PROTECTION**



# NEWSLETTER

APRIL  
EDITION 2026



## OUR VISION

A just society where women and girls realize, embrace and enjoy their full rights and dignity.

## OUR MISSION

Actualize and advance women's and girls' social economic, legal and civil rights

## OUR MOTTO

We educate women because it is smart. We empower women because it changes the world.

2026

Produced by the Communications Department

# Message from the Executive Director

## Our Thematic Pillars

- Women Peace and Security
- Women Participation in Leadership and Governance
- Sexual and Gender Based Violence Against Women and Girls
- Institutional Strengthening and Growth

### Warm greetings from Muslim Women Advancement of Rights and Protection.

April marked the beginning of a transformative and inspiring journey under the Sponsorship Programme, reflecting our unwavering commitment to education, protection, and empowerment for vulnerable and deserving learners within our communities.

The month commenced with a successful onboarding meeting held in collaboration with Plan International Kenya, bringing together programme teams and key stakeholders to align on the goals, expectations, and implementation framework of the Sponsorship Programme. The meeting provided an important platform for strengthening partnerships, enhancing coordination, and reaffirming our shared vision of ensuring that young people, especially girls and marginalized learners, access quality education and holistic support systems.

In addition, MWARP participated in comprehensive safeguarding and child protection training sessions aimed at strengthening institutional capacity to uphold the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of all children and programme beneficiaries. The training enhanced staff understanding of safeguarding principles, reporting mechanisms, prevention strategies, and the importance of creating safe and inclusive environments that protect learners from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

These engagements not only equipped the team with valuable knowledge and practical skills but also reinforced MWARP's commitment to implementing programmes that prioritize accountability, child safety, and community-centered approaches. The sessions further encouraged meaningful reflection on our role as advocates and duty bearers in promoting children's rights and safeguarding standards across all programme activities.

As we move forward with the Sponsorship Programme, MWARP remains committed to working closely with partners, communities, parents, and young people to ensure the initiative delivers lasting impact. We look forward to empowering more learners through education opportunities, mentorship, protection interventions, and community engagement efforts that contribute to sustainable and inclusive development.

MWARP is proud to report the positive impact achieved through the RITAI Project in Lamu and Garissa Counties. Through strengthened civic engagement and increased awareness on the Access to Information Act, 2016, communities are now more empowered to participate in governance processes and hold duty bearers accountable.

The project has enhanced access to information, promoted transparency and accountability, and encouraged active community participation in decision-making. Women, youth, and local stakeholders are increasingly taking part in shaping development priorities within their communities.

As we approach the close of the project, MWARP remains committed to sustaining these achievements and continuing to amplify community voices in advancing rights and good governance.

Through the implementation of the RITAI Project by MWARP in partnership with Uraia, communities in Garissa and Lamu Counties are witnessing the power of meaningful civic engagement and accountability.

During a recent field visit to Masalani in Garissa County, community members shared inspiring stories of change driven by empowered women and youth who are now actively participating in local development processes. For years, residents had experienced unfulfilled promises and stalled projects despite allocations on paper.

Today, the story is changing. Through sustained advocacy and community participation, key development projects have been realized, including the construction of markets, rehabilitation and tarmacking of roads, and improved access to clean water for residents.

These achievements demonstrate that when communities are equipped with knowledge, platforms, and confidence to engage duty bearers, real and visible transformation becomes possible.

MWARP marked a significant milestone as the Executive Director participated in a high-level regional engagement convened by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The forum brought together influential women leaders from Faith-Based Organizations and Civil Society Organizations across Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Djibouti, Somalia, and Ethiopia to strengthen regional collaboration on peace and security.

During the engagement, the delegation presented a strong Call to Action aimed at advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda by promoting women's leadership and meaningful participation in peacebuilding and development processes. Discussions focused on critical regional priorities including climate action, digital security, early warning and response systems, capacity strengthening, and addressing transnational security challenges.

The meeting reaffirmed the growing recognition that women are key drivers of sustainable peace and resilient communities. Through its participation, MWARP continues to amplify women's voices and contribute to shaping inclusive regional solutions that place women at the forefront of peace, security, and development efforts.

MWARP extends sincere appreciation to all partners, stakeholders, and communities for their continued support and collaboration across our intervention. We remain committed to empowering communities, promoting inclusion, and driving sustainable impact through meaningful engagement and collective action.

**Rahma Gulamu, Shujaa 2025**

Executive Director

**Muslim Women Advancement of Rights and Protection**

# THEMATIC PILLAR 1: WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY

## United for Justice, Committed to Peace

MWARP joined fellow civil society organizations and human rights advocates in a coordinated effort to follow up on an ongoing case and strengthen accountability processes. The engagement involved key institutional visits and strategic discussions aimed at addressing rising tensions and rebuilding public trust.

The day concluded with a joint press briefing that brought together diverse stakeholders, including faith leaders and community peace actors. The briefing provided an opportunity to update the public on the current situation, highlight security measures in place, and reaffirm a collective commitment to peace, justice, and stability.

Through its participation, MWARP continues to champion justice, promote dialogue, and support peaceful coexistence within communities.



## Strengthening Peace from the Ground Up: Lessons from Lamu County

MWARP, in collaboration with the Horn Center for Democracy and the Agency for Peacebuilding, convened a peer-to-peer learning exchange on mediation and peacebuilding mechanisms. The hybrid session, broadcast live from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, brought together regional stakeholders to share practical, community-driven peacebuilding experiences from Lamu County, Kenya.

The exchange provided a platform for dialogue on community security, alternative dispute resolution including court annexed mediation, coordination in preventing and countering violent extremism, and strengthening policy frameworks. Participants emphasized the importance of women-led initiatives and locally grounded approaches in building sustainable peace and improving regional coordination.



## Women Leading Peace: From Voice to Action

The Muslim Women Advancement of Rights and Protection (MWARP) Executive Director joined a high-level regional engagement convened by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, alongside women leaders from across Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Djibouti, Somalia, and Ethiopia.

Received by Commander Abebe Muluneh, Director of IGAD Peace, the delegation presented a strong call to action on the Women, Peace and Security agenda, emphasizing the central role of women in advancing sustainable peace and development in the region.

The discussions highlighted key priorities including strengthening women's participation in peace processes, expanding leadership in peace and security spaces, promoting climate action through a gender lens, enhancing digital literacy and security, addressing cross-border security threats, and investing in early warning and response systems to support long-term stability.

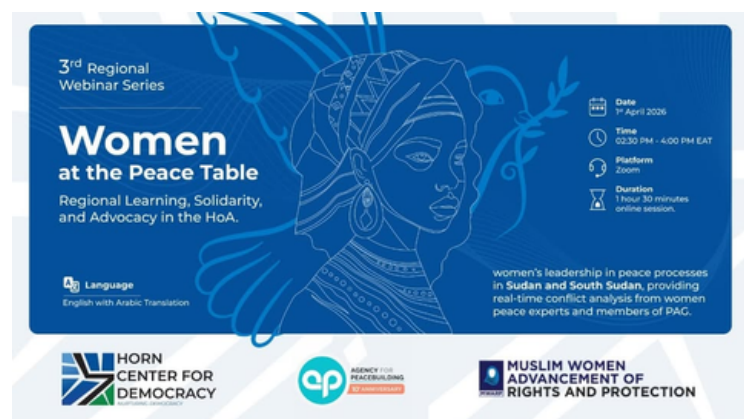


## MWARP Joins Regional Dialogue on Women, Peace, and Leadership in the Horn of Africa

The Muslim Women Advancement of Rights and Protection (Muslim Women Advancement of Rights and Protection) participated in the "Women at the Peace Table: Regional Learning, Solidarity, and Advocacy in the Horn of Africa" virtual convening held on April 1, 2026. The high-level session brought together women leaders, peace advocates, and civil society actors from across the region to reflect on inclusive peacebuilding and strengthen collaboration on women's meaningful participation in decision-making spaces.

During the engagement, participants exchanged experiences on advancing gender-responsive peace processes and addressing structural barriers that limit women's leadership in conflict prevention and resolution. MWARP contributed perspectives from its grassroots work in Kenya, emphasizing the importance of community-driven advocacy and sustained regional solidarity in shaping more inclusive and peaceful societies.

The dialogue reinforced a shared commitment to ensuring women's voices are not only heard but actively shape peace and governance agendas across the Horn of Africa.



# THEMATIC PILLAR 2: WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

## **EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH ACCESS TO INFORMATION FOR BETTER GOVERNANCE**

On 28th April 2026, Muslim Women Advancement of Rights and Protection (MWARP), through the RITAI Project, conducted impactful capacity-building workshops aimed at empowering community groups with knowledge and skills on the right to access information for improved governance.

The workshop brought together community representatives from different areas to deepen their understanding of the legal and practical frameworks that guide access to information in Kenya. Participants were sensitized on the importance of transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in governance processes. Through interactive sessions, community members gained practical skills on how to navigate available information systems and channels to request and obtain information from public institutions. Facilitators guided participants on the procedures for making information requests, understanding their rights under the Access to Information Act, and effectively engaging duty bearers to promote responsive governance.



### **Bridging Information Gaps, Building Community Confidence**

MWARP through the RITAI Project, held a vital community forum in Kashmir to raise awareness on the Access to Information Act and address concerns surrounding the ongoing land demarcation process.

The meeting came after fears emerged among some residents who had not been captured in the initial land survey, raising anxiety about possible exclusion from the title deed process. Through open discussions and engagement with committee members and local leaders, community members were informed that the demarcation exercise is being conducted in phases, with a second phase expected to include the remaining households.

The clarification brought relief and renewed confidence among residents, strengthening trust in the process and reinforcing the importance of access to timely and accurate information in promoting community cohesion and good governance.



## **VOICES ON AIR: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

MWARP under the RITAI Project, recently hosted an engaging Radio Talk Show at Radio Lamu aimed at raising awareness on the Access to Information Act.

The discussion highlighted the importance of citizens having the right to seek and receive information from public institutions. Access to information is a powerful tool that promotes transparency, strengthens accountability, and creates opportunities for meaningful public participation in governance.

The session also emphasized the critical role of informed communities, especially women, in driving positive change and influencing decision-making processes that directly affect their lives and communities.



## **EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES. DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY.**

MWARP convened a community engagement session bringing together youth, women leaders, and local stakeholders to strengthen citizen participation and promote transparency in service delivery.

Participants gained knowledge on accessing public information, using social accountability tools such as petitions and memorandums, and actively engaging in public participation processes.

The session also provided a platform for community members to raise concerns on gaps in essential services affecting livelihoods and development. In response, the community committed to seeking information from relevant authorities, engaging duty bearers through formal channels, and advocating for improved services and accountability.

# THEMATIC PILLAR 2: WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE



## Budget Talks That Matter: Youth and Community Voices Shape Local Priorities

On 18th April 2026, the Muslim Women Advancement of Rights and Protection (MWARP) convened a vibrant pre-public participation dialogue at Kanana Social Hall in Lungalunga Sub-County. The session brought together civil society representatives, creating an inclusive space for women, youth, and community members to engage with the draft budget for the 2026/2027 financial year. Participants carefully reviewed ward-level allocations, emphasizing the need for clearer project details, fair distribution of resources, and stronger alignment with community priorities. While acknowledging improvements in the budget structure, they also raised concerns about overdependence on national funding and called for more sustainable local revenue generation strategies. The dialogue reinforced the importance of citizen participation in shaping transparent, responsive, and people-centered budgeting processes.



## Budgets That Work for the People

MWARP convened a dynamic pre-public participation dialogue on the FY 2026/2027 budget in Msambweni Sub County, bringing together diverse community voices to review proposals and share insights.

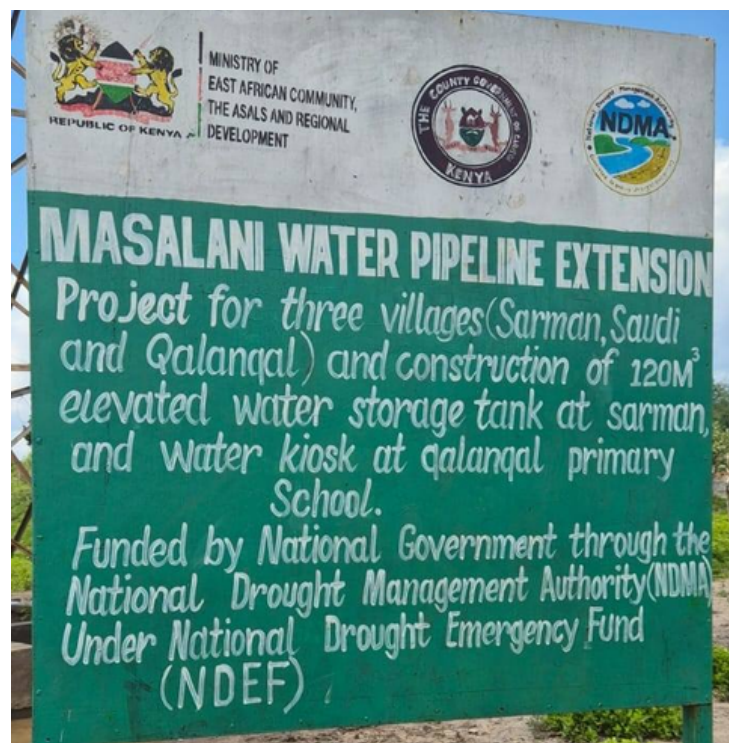
The forum provided a platform for open discussion on priorities that directly affect local communities. Participants underscored the importance of fair resource distribution, clear project planning, gender-responsive budgeting, and innovative local revenue solutions.

They also called for more inclusive governance processes, stronger environmental sustainability measures, and improved support systems for vulnerable groups. The engagement reaffirmed the need for budgets that reflect the real needs and aspirations of the people.



## Masalani's Quiet Transformation Through Community Action

During MWARP's implementation of the RITAI Project in Garissa County alongside Uraia, a powerful shift in Masalani community became evident. Once marked by unfulfilled development promises, the area is now experiencing real change driven by community-led advocacy. Markets have been built, roads repaired and tarmacked, and access to clean water has improved significantly. These developments reflect a growing sense of accountability and active civic participation, where residents are increasingly shaping the development agenda of their own community.



## Voices in Action: Garissa Communities Driving Real Change

MWARP Garissa Office, under the RITAI Project, recently convened a powerful community engagement session focused on outcome harvesting and validation.

The session brought together community champions, youth, and women advocacy groups in a dynamic space filled with inspiring stories and lived experiences of change. Participants shared real achievements reflecting increased awareness, stronger participation, and improved accountability within the community.

Through interactive group discussions and one-on-one engagements with duty bearers, the dialogue provided deeper insights into progress made so far, the challenges that remain, and practical ideas to sustain momentum. The session reaffirmed the growing impact of community-driven action in shaping inclusive development in Garissa.

# THEMATIC PILLAR 2: WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE



## This is what real people power looks like!

From meaningful conversations to tangible impact, community members in Ramisi Ward are proving that when citizens are informed, engaged, and organized, change truly happens.

Through the Amkeni Wakenya Programme, supported by UNDP Kenya, local voices are not just being heard, they're shaping priorities and driving action. With the support of trained budget facilitators, community members have been able to channel their ideas into practical solutions, leading to one of the most impactful outcomes: improved access to clean and safe water for everyday use.

This is more than just a success story, it's a powerful example of how civic participation, collective planning, and community ownership can transform lives and strengthen local development. It shows that when communities come together with a shared vision, sustainable change is not only possible, it's inevitable.

## More Than a Seat at the Table: Women Driving Development in Dzombo

In this feature, meet Shamim Mwatsuma, a bold community leader from Dzombo Ward, Lunga Lunga Sub County!

She shares a powerful, real-life story on how public participation is evolving, and guess what? Women are stepping up, leading the conversation, and shaping the development agenda in their community.

This impactful work is made possible through the Amkeni Wakenya Program, implemented by MWARP, with support from the Embassy of the Netherlands in Kenya and UNDP Kenya.



## TAX SMART: Empowering Communities in Dzombo Ward Through Tax Education

MWARP, under the Equanomics Project and supported by UNDP Kenya through Amkeni Wakenya, conducted a Tax Education Outreach in Dzombo Ward, Lunga Lunga Sub County.

The session brought together women, youth, and persons with disabilities in an inclusive learning space aimed at simplifying tax systems and strengthening civic understanding. Participants were guided on key areas including tax obligations, penalties, KRA PIN registration, e-TIMS usage, and access to opportunities such as the Biashara Fund.

The engagement strengthened community awareness on taxation and encouraged active participation in county budget processes, while promoting more inclusive and responsive development planning.



# THEMATIC PILLAR 3: SEXUAL & GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

## **FROM VOICES TO ACTION: AGYW AND MALE CHAMPIONS INFLUENCE KILIFI COUNTY BUDGET!**

(MWARP through the TIMIZA Project, supported Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) alongside male champions to participate in the public participation forums on the Kilifi County Budget Estimates for the 2026/2027 financial year.

Held across Dabaso, Jilore, Adu, and #Gongoni wards, the forums created a platform for community members to directly influence county development priorities. AGYW boldly shared the challenges facing their communities, highlighting gaps in essential services, limited opportunities, and socio-economic barriers affecting young people.

Their active participation demonstrated the power of inclusive governance and the importance of ensuring young women and community champions are part of decision-making processes that shape their future. Through these engagements, MWARP continues to amplify community voices and promote meaningful citizen participation in governance and accountability.



### **Youth Voices Shape County Planning in Kilifi**

Under the TIMIZA Project funded by the Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW), MWARP successfully convened a dynamic three-day County Budget Engagement and Annual Development Plan forums across Jilore Ward, Adu Ward, and Gongoni Ward.

The forums brought together young people, adolescent girls, and young women in large numbers, creating a vibrant space for learning and meaningful participation. Participants explored the budget cycle in depth and unpacked the public participation process, gaining practical knowledge on how county planning works and where citizen voices fit in.

The sessions sparked engaging discussions on governance and accountability, with participants expressing a strong desire to be more involved in shaping development priorities in their communities. The energy and enthusiasm reflected a growing confidence among youth and women to actively influence decision-making processes at the local level.



## **Voices to Action: Dabaso Community Sparks Real Conversations on GBV and Development**

Under the TIMIZA Project funded by CREAW, MWARP brought together community members in Dabaso Ward for a powerful dialogue on gender-based violence and community development.

The session was brought to life through a compelling theatre performance that portrayed the real challenges faced by adolescent girls and young women. The performance moved beyond storytelling, opening up honest conversations that encouraged reflection and collective problem-solving among participants.

Community members actively engaged, sharing practical solutions and linking them to broader development priorities within the County Budget process. Key areas of focus included improved infrastructure, accessible healthcare, quality education, and stronger agricultural support systems.

The dialogue not only raised awareness on gender-based violence but also empowered the community to take part in shaping development decisions, ensuring their voices are heard where it matters most.

# THEMATIC AREA 4: INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND GROWTH

## MWARP Staff Strengthen Safeguarding and PSHEA Response Capacity Through Intensive Training

The MWARP team participated in a four-day Safeguarding Training facilitated by Plan International Kenya at the organization's headquarters in Mombasa.

The training sessions continued to build on previous learnings, with a strong focus on strengthening staff capacity to effectively report, prevent, and respond to safeguarding concerns, including Protection from Sexual Harassment, Exploitation, and Abuse (PSHEA). Participants were equipped with practical knowledge and skills aimed at promoting accountability, safe programming, and the protection of children and vulnerable communities in all areas of operation.



## Reflecting on Impact, Strengthening the Future

Uraia, under the RITAI Project, conducted a Monitoring and Evaluation visit to the MWARP headquarters in Mombasa as the project approaches its final phase. The visit provided an opportunity to reflect on the progress made, assess achievements, and document key lessons learned throughout the implementation period.

During the engagement, meaningful discussions were held on the successes, challenges, and growth experienced across the project areas. MWARP shared inspiring success stories from Lamu and Garissa Counties, highlighting how communities have benefited from improved access to quality public services, increased civic awareness, and stronger participation in governance processes.

The project has played a significant role in empowering communities to actively engage duty bearers and take part in decision-making processes. A major achievement has been strengthening the capacity of community members and stakeholders to understand and utilize the Access to Information Act, 2016, promoting transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance.



# NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATIONS

## MWARP Shines at PBO Week 2026 Launch in Garissa

The Muslim Women Advancement of Rights and Protection (MWARP) marked a strong presence at the official launch of PBO Week 2026 in Garissa County, joining fellow civil society actors in a vibrant celebration of civic space and community impact.

The week-long event, running until 18th April under the theme “A New Dawn in Action: Celebrating Impact, Connecting Voices, and Collaborating for Transformation,” brought together organizations committed to driving grassroots change across Kenya.

MWARP showcased its ongoing work in civic engagement, women empowerment, climate action, and youth inclusion, highlighting practical initiatives that continue to strengthen community participation and development.

The launch provided a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and networking, reinforcing the importance of collective action in advancing sustainable transformation at the local level.



## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY VOICES THROUGH THE RITAI PROJECT

MWARP is proud to report meaningful progress under the RITAI Project following a Monitoring and Evaluation visit by Uraia at our Mombasa headquarters.

The engagement provided an important opportunity to review achievements, reflect on lessons learned, and document the journey of implementation across Lamu and Garissa Counties. The project has strengthened community awareness, improved access to public information, and enhanced participation in governance processes.

A key milestone has been the growing ability of communities to use the Access to Information Act, 2016 to engage duty bearers and demand improved service delivery. This has contributed to more open, responsive, and accountable governance at the community level.

As the project nears completion, MWARP remains committed to sustaining these gains and continuing to support empowered communities that actively shape their development agenda.



## From Silence to Action: How Community Voices Are Driving Change in Masalani

For many years, the people of Masalani in Garissa County watched development promises remain on paper while essential services and projects failed to reach the community. Limited citizen participation and weak accountability left many residents feeling unheard and excluded from decisions affecting their lives.

Through the RITAI Project implemented by Muslim Women Advancement of Rights and Protection (MWARP) in partnership with Uraia, this narrative is steadily changing. Women and young people have gained the confidence and capacity to engage in public participation forums, advocate for community priorities, and demand accountability from local leaders.

As a result, the community is now witnessing tangible improvements, including better road infrastructure, newly constructed markets, and increased access to clean water. These changes reflect the growing impact of community-led advocacy and the importance of empowering citizens to take part in shaping their own development agenda.

The progress seen in Masalani stands as a powerful reminder that informed and organized communities can influence meaningful and lasting change.



## Empowering Futures Through Education and Protection

April marked a significant milestone for MWARP as the Sponsorship Programme officially commenced, setting the foundation for a transformative journey aimed at empowering vulnerable and deserving learners through education, protection, and holistic support.

The programme began with a successful onboarding meeting conducted in partnership with Plan International Kenya, bringing together programme teams and key stakeholders to align on the vision, objectives, and implementation strategies of the initiative. The engagement created a strong platform for collaboration, coordination, and shared commitment toward improving access to quality education for young people, particularly girls and marginalized learners within the community.

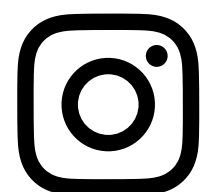
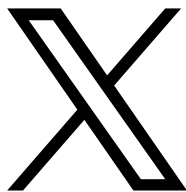
As part of strengthening programme delivery, MWARP also participated in intensive safeguarding and child protection training sessions designed to enhance institutional capacity in promoting the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of children and young people involved in the programme. The training equipped staff with practical knowledge on safeguarding principles, reporting procedures, prevention mechanisms, and the importance of creating safe and inclusive learning environments free from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and harm.

These important engagements not only strengthened the technical capacity of the MWARP team but also reinforced the organization's dedication to accountability, child-centered programming, and community-driven approaches. The sessions inspired deeper reflection on the collective responsibility of protecting children's rights while ensuring that learners are supported both academically and socially.

Through the Sponsorship Programme, MWARP continues to demonstrate its commitment to building brighter futures by investing in education, mentorship, protection interventions, and meaningful community engagement. As the programme progresses, the organization looks forward to reaching and empowering more learners, fostering resilience, and contributing to sustainable and inclusive community development.

# NEWSLETTER

*April Edition*



## Follow Us

For more information

Email: [info@mwarp.or.ke](mailto:info@mwarp.or.ke)



*SCAN ME*

## OFFICE LOCATIONS

### HEAD OFFICE - MOMBASA

Mombasa -Old Malindi Road  
P.O.BOX 34242-80118, Mombasa  
Tel: +254 737 388 485  
Email: [info@mwarp.or.ke](mailto:info@mwarp.or.ke)

### LAMU OFFICE

Lamu Town Square, Next to  
Bazaah Shop Fort, 1st floor  
of the Shop Building  
Tel No. +254 725 964873

### KWALE OFFICE

Ukunda Show Ground  
Tel No. +254 740 257170

### KILIFI OFFICE

Mijikenda Complex, next to  
fire station Malindi Sub  
County  
Tel: +254 780 911 550

### GARISSA OFFICE

Centre hive building  
second floor opposite  
hiding plaza along poster  
road, Garissa township.  
Tel No. +254 724 450803

### KIUNGA OFFICE

Around Fisheries Office,  
Kiunga  
Tel No. +254 723 124732

2026

© 2026