



**MUSLIMS WOMEN
ADVANCEMENT OF
RIGHTS AND PROTECTION**

NEWSLETTER

May Addition 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.

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 ,

As we reflect on the past month, we do so with a deep sense of sorrow following the tragic fire at Utumishi Girls Senior School, which claimed the lives of 16 students and left many others injured and traumatized. On behalf of MWARP, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the families, friends, and school community affected by this devastating incident. This tragedy reminds us of the urgent need to strengthen safety measures in our learning institutions and to prioritize the protection, safety, and well-being of all children.

This edition of our newsletter highlights key milestones and achievements realized through our various programmes and partnerships.

Under the Sponsorship Project, implemented in partnership with Plan International Kenya, we were formally introduced to Community Volunteers and Focal Point Persons across the project areas. This engagement strengthened collaboration, clarified roles and responsibilities, and reinforced our shared commitment to improving the lives of children and their families.

In May, through the Sponsorship Project, MWARP supported the payment of bursaries for 52 students in 30 schools amounting to KES 990,811. This support helped ensure that vulnerable children remained in school by reducing financial barriers to education. Investing in education is essential for improving learning outcomes, preventing school dropouts, and creating opportunities for a brighter future for children and their communities.

In addition, MWARP and Plan International Kenya successfully facilitated cluster meetings that brought together parents, guardians, and programme stakeholders. These forums provided an opportunity for dialogue, information sharing, and collective reflection on programme progress, strengthening community ownership and support for children's well-being and development.

Through the Scaling Care Innovation Project, MWARP conducted Financial Literacy Trainings in Lamu County. Participants gained practical knowledge on budgeting, saving, responsible borrowing, and financial planning, equipping them with the skills needed to make informed financial decisions and improve household economic resilience.

Promoting transparency and accountable governance remains central to our work. Through the RITAI Project, MWARP conducted a community capacity-building training on the Access to Information Act, 2016 in Modogashe. The training enhanced community members' understanding of public participation processes, budget-making, memorandum writing, and mechanisms for accessing public information.

MWARP hosted a team from CARE Kenya for a Focus Group Discussion on Intersectional Gender and Power Analysis, bringing together women's rights organizations from across the Coastal Region. The discussions explored strategies for strengthening feminist movements, supporting women human rights defenders, promoting inclusive leadership, and addressing systemic barriers that hinder the rights and empowerment of women and girls facing multiple forms of marginalization.

As we move forward, we remain committed to advancing the rights, protection, and empowerment of women, children, and communities. Together with our partners and stakeholders, we will continue building resilient, informed, and empowered communities capable of shaping a more just, inclusive, and prosperous future for all.

Rahma Gulamu, Shujaa 2025

Executive Director

Muslim Women Advancement of Rights and Protection

WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Strengthening Digital Advocacy Skills Across Lamu County

MWARP successfully conducted a series of Digital Advocacy and Social Media trainings across Faza, Lamu Island, and Mpeketoni under the RITAI Project, supported by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Nairobi through Uraia.

The trainings equipped community groups, youth networks, and women's organisations with practical skills in digital literacy, social media advocacy, digital storytelling, online access to information, and digital security. As a result, participants are now better positioned to use digital platforms to amplify community voices, promote accountability, and enhance civic engagement within their communities.



Strengthening Community Voice and Accountability

MWARP Garissa Office, through the RITAI Project, conducted a community capacity-strengthening session in Kulan Location, Liboi Sub-County, Dadaab Constituency.

The engagement enhanced community awareness of the Access to Information Act, 2016 and provided a platform for residents to identify key development challenges affecting their area. As a result, a 10-member community committee was formed to champion priority issues, strengthen engagement with duty bearers, and promote accountability in service delivery.

MWARP Hosts X Space Dialogue on Access to Information Act 2016

Through the RITAI Project, MWARP successfully convened an X Space discussion on the Access to Information Act 2016, enhancing public awareness on citizens' right to information and strengthening engagement on accountability and transparency.

The session improved participants' understanding of information access mechanisms and encouraged increased civic participation in governance processes.



Strengthening Community Accountability Through Access to Information Training in Modogashe

WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Community Strengthened on Access to Information and Civic Action

On 13th May 2026, MWARP, through the RITAI Project, conducted a community capacity-building session on the Access to Information Act 2016. The forum brought together women, youth, elders, and community representatives to enhance understanding of the right to access information and promote civic participation.

Participants gained practical knowledge on public participation, budget-making processes, memorandum writing, and procedures for requesting information from public institutions, as well as the role of the Commission on Administrative Justice in handling access-related complaints.



Community Forum in Mpeketoni Strengthens Access to Information Awareness and Documents Service Gaps

On 12th May 2026, MWARP, through the RITAI Project, held a community forum in Mpeketoni to raise awareness on the Lamu County Access to Information Act 2025 and identify key service delivery challenges.

Participants learned how to request information from public institutions and highlighted major gaps affecting Mpeketoni Sub County Hospital, including inadequate staffing, poor infrastructure, water shortages, and weak road and drainage systems.

Strengthening Civic Awareness and Community Voice in Dujis

MWARP, under the RITAI Project, conducted a capacity-building training on the Access to Information Act, 2016 at Al Amin Hall in Dujis. The session brought together women, youth, and elderly community members to enhance their understanding of governance structures, access to public information, and the role of the Commission on Administrative Justice.

The training also provided a platform for participants to openly discuss key challenges facing Dujis Village, with access to clean and safe water and the absence of an ECDE centre identified as the most pressing concerns.



SEXUAL & GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Strengthening Community Support for Sponsored Children

On 28th May 2026, MWARP, in partnership with Plan International Kenya under the Sponsorship Project, held a Cluster Meeting for families of Sponsored Children in Mgome, Lunga Lunga Sub-County.

The meeting provided a platform for parents, guardians, and community members to engage in discussions on community participation, accountability, and local ownership of the programme, while promoting collaboration to enhance the well-being of children and their families.



Women Gain Financial Skills to Improve Household Livelihoods

On 23rd and 25th May 2026, MWARP, through the Scaling Care Innovation Project funded by the Aga Khan University Institute for Human Development, trained women caregivers from Mokowe and Hindi on financial literacy.

As a result, participants gained practical skills in budgeting, saving, financial planning, and income management, empowering them to make informed financial decisions, strengthen household economic resilience, and improve their families' livelihoods.

Strengthening Financial Resilience Through Financial Literacy

On 21st May 2026, MWARP, through the Scaling Care Innovation Project funded by the AKU Institute for Human Development, conducted a Financial Literacy Training to enhance community members' financial management skills.

The training equipped participants with practical knowledge on budgeting, saving, responsible borrowing, income management, and business financial planning. As a result, participants gained the skills and confidence to make informed financial decisions, improve household economic stability, and strengthen their financial resilience.



Strengthening Community Participation and Accountability

From 20th to 22nd May 2026, MWARP, in partnership with Plan International Kenya under the Sponsorship Project, conducted cluster meetings for Sponsored Children families in Mazola Ward, Kinango, and Dzombo Ward, Lungalunga.

The meetings enhanced community participation, strengthened safeguarding awareness, improved coordination among stakeholders, and promoted greater ownership of project activities. Through information sharing and community structuring discussions, families and community volunteers were better equipped to support sponsored children and contribute to effective programme implementation.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND GROWTH

Strengthening Feminist Movements Through Inclusive Dialogue

MWARP hosted a team from CARE Kenya at its Mombasa office for a Focus Group Discussion on Intersectional Gender and Power Analysis. The session brought together women's rights organizations from the Coastal Region to share experiences and recommendations aimed at strengthening the implementation of the RWVL Programme in Kenya.

Key discussions focused on enhancing the capacity of women's rights organizations, supporting women human rights defenders, and advancing feminist movements that promote the rights of women and girls facing multiple forms of marginalization. Participants also examined strategies for movement-building, inclusive leadership, safety and care systems, sustainability, and structural challenges affecting feminist organizing.



Strengthening Support for Sponsored Children Through Joint Reflection

Plan International Kenya and MWARP convened a Reflection and Sponsored Children Monitoring Feedback Meeting with Community Volunteers and Focal Point Persons.

The meeting enabled participants to review progress in the field, share experiences, and identify key challenges affecting implementation. Practical solutions were developed to improve support systems, and stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing coordination and ensuring timely, effective support for sponsored children across communities.

MWARP Introduced to Community Volunteers to Strengthen Sponsorship Programme Delivery

MWARP was officially introduced to Community Volunteers and Focal Point Persons by Plan International Kenya under the Sponsorship Programme.

The engagement brought together representatives from Lungalunga, Msambweni, and Kinango sub-counties, reinforcing coordination at the grassroots level. It strengthened collaboration, built shared understanding of the programme's goals, and clarified roles in supporting implementation.

The meeting enhanced partnerships that will improve service delivery and sustain impact for children, families, and young people across the region.



STORIES OF CHANGE

Strengthening Community Networks for Better Outcomes

When Plan International Kenya introduced MWARP to Community Volunteers and Focal Point Persons under the Sponsorship Programme, it marked the beginning of a stronger partnership dedicated to improving the lives of children and families across Kwale County.

The engagement brought together volunteers and focal persons from Lungalunga, Msambweni, and Kinango sub-counties, creating a platform to build trust, clarify responsibilities, and align efforts toward a common goal. Through open discussions and shared learning, participants gained a deeper understanding of the programme's objectives and their critical role in connecting communities with essential services and support.

As a result, coordination between stakeholders has been strengthened, communication channels have improved, and grassroots actors are now better equipped to identify and respond to the needs of sponsored children and their families. The enhanced collaboration is laying a solid foundation for more effective programme implementation, ensuring that children, young people, and communities receive timely support and benefit from sustainable development initiatives.

This strengthened partnership demonstrates how investing in local leadership and community networks can drive lasting impact and create opportunities for children to thrive.



Building Trust and Strengthening Partnerships Through Cluster Meetings

The May Cluster Meetings brought together parents and guardians of sponsored children from Lungalunga and Kinango sub-counties, alongside representatives from Plan International Kenya MWARP.

The meetings provided an important opportunity to formally introduce MWARP as an implementing partner within the Sponsorship Programme. Prior to the meetings, many parents and guardians had limited knowledge of MWARP's role and how the organization would support programme implementation within their communities.

Through interactive discussions and information-sharing sessions, participants gained a better understanding of the Sponsorship Programme, the partnership between Plan International Kenya and MWARP, and the roles each stakeholder plays in promoting the wellbeing of sponsored children. Parents and guardians were able to ask questions, share concerns, and receive clarification on programme processes, helping to build confidence and trust in the partnership.

As a result, the meetings strengthened relationships between families, community structures, and implementing organizations. Parents and guardians expressed appreciation for the opportunity to engage directly with programme staff and demonstrated increased awareness of available support mechanisms. The successful introduction of MWARP laid a strong foundation for collaboration, ensuring that families are well-informed and actively involved in creating positive outcomes for sponsored children.

Strengthening Digital Advocacy Skills Across Lamu County

MWARP, through the RITAI Project, successfully empowered communities across Faza, Lamu Island, and Mpeketoni with essential digital advocacy and social media skills.

The trainings brought together youth groups, women-led organisations, and community networks, many of whom had limited experience in using digital platforms for civic engagement and advocacy. Participants were equipped with practical knowledge on digital literacy, social media advocacy, digital storytelling, online access to information, and digital security.

One notable outcome was the increased confidence among participants to use social media platforms as tools for amplifying community concerns and promoting accountability. Following the training, several participants began creating and sharing digital content highlighting local development issues, community priorities, and governance matters affecting their areas. Women and young people, who often face barriers to participation in public discourse, reported feeling more empowered to engage in online conversations and advocate for issues that matter to their communities.

The trainings also enhanced participants' understanding of digital safety, enabling them to navigate online spaces responsibly while protecting their personal information. Through practical exercises and hands-on learning, community members gained the skills needed to access information, tell their stories effectively, and engage wider audiences through digital platforms.

As a result, communities across Lamu County are now better positioned to leverage technology to strengthen civic participation, promote transparency, and ensure that local voices are heard in governance and development processes. The initiative has laid a strong foundation for sustained digital advocacy and citizen engagement, contributing to more informed, connected, and empowered communities.



NEWSLETTER

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Follow Us

For more information

Email: 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

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