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# Annual Report



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## EXECUTIVE summary

Sahlim Charles

**Founder & Executive Director**



As many of our friends, partners and network are aware, our work at Re-Imagining New Communities, is grounded in a simple but demanding conviction that sustainable peace is built early, locally, and inclusively. It is shaped in classrooms before it appears in policy, nurtured in families before it is tested in society, and sustained through values before it is protected by institutions.

This understanding continues to guide our strategy, partnerships and programming as we respond to the complex realities facing children, faith communities, and young people in Kenya and beyond. 2025 provided us with an opportunity to deepen our focus on child-centered peacebuilding, intergenerational dialogue and faith-rooted social cohesion. Across the communities and groups, we work with, we have seen clear evidence that when children are meaningfully engaged, educators are supported, and religious leaders are equipped with conflict-sensitive tools, communities become more resilient to violence, polarization, and social breakdown.

Our flagship programs continue to demonstrate that prevention-oriented approaches are not only effective, but essential for long-term stability.

Our work is firmly aligned with Kenya's constitutional commitments, the Children Act, and national cohesion priorities, while also contributing to global frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, Women, Peace and Security, and international commitments on child participation and safeguarding.

All these alignments have helped us to strengthen the evidence base for investing in children as peace actors and positioned community knowledge as a legitimate driver of development practice. Sustainability remains central to our approach. Rather than short-term interventions, we invest in local capacity ensuring that peacebuilding skills, values and systems endure beyond individual projects. Our emphasis on collaboration has enabled us to work alongside reputable national and international organizations while remaining accountable to the communities we serve.

Looking ahead into 2025 and beyond, Re-Imagining New Communities will continue to consolidate its role as a **learning organization**. We remain committed to advancing inclusive peace architectures that protect children, empower youth, and harness the constructive role of faith and education in society. Therefore, I request every individual and organization that has interacted with our work to support us- financially as we strengthen our institutional capacity and programming.

We have operated on very little budget and sometimes no budget at all. This has directly affected our sustainability efforts.

Welcome to Re-Imagining New Communities. We look forward to working together to create meaningful and lasting impact.

Thank you!



# REFLECTIONS

Thida Soe

**Member, Advisory Board**

**Country Manager - Myanmar, Saferworld**



As a peacebuilder and Advisory Board member, I am encouraged by Re-Imagining New Communities' consistent focus on prevention, inclusion, and community-led change. Over the years, my own experience has reinforced that peace cannot be sustained through reactive measures alone; it must be nurtured early, shaped through dialogue, and rooted in everyday relationships.

The organization's values and approach reflect this understanding and contribute meaningfully to strengthening social cohesion in diverse and often fragile contexts.

What I particularly value is the organization's recognition of children and young people as active contributors to peace. In my experience, when young people are trusted with responsibility and supported to engage critically and empathetically, they bring creativity and honesty that can transform communities. By investing in inclusive and intergenerational approaches, Re-Imagining New Communities helps lay long-term foundations for resilience, mutual understanding, and peaceful coexistence.

I also wish to recognize the dedication of the Re-Imagining New Communities team, whose commitment and care are evident in their work. I extend my appreciation to the organization's partners, donors, and community stakeholders for their continued trust and collaboration.

Peacebuilding is never the work of one organization alone, and the collective effort behind Re-Imagining New Communities is a strong reminder of what is possible when people work together with shared purpose

In 2025, global peace and social cohesion indicators continued to deteriorate, with over 25% of the world’s population living in conflict-affected settings (World Bank), and one billion children experiencing violence annually (WHO/UNICEF). Against this backdrop, Re-Imagining New Communities advanced locally grounded, globally aligned peacebuilding interventions across education systems, faith institutions, and community dialogue platforms in Kenya.

Through child-centered peace labs, faith-based conflict transformation, and structured community dialogues, Re-Imagining New Communities directly contributed to strengthening community resilience, reducing everyday violence, and restoring trust in local institutions—key foundations for sustainable peace.

Evidence from global development and peace indices confirms that peace deficits increasingly manifest at the community level—through school violence, intergenerational mistrust, religious polarization, and political exclusion. Re-Imagining New Communities’ approach responds to this reality by investing upstream: in children, educators, faith leaders, and dialogue ecosystems.

Re-Imagining New Communities Thematic Impact Scoreboard for 2025

1. Peace, Social Cohesion & Community Resilience Index (PSCCRI)

Indicator	2025 score	Trend	Global Benchmark	SDG
Community Trust &	68 / 100	↑ Improving	OECD Social Cohesion	SDG 16
Local Conflict Prevention	72 / 100	↑ Improving	UNDP Governance	SDG 16
Faith-Based Peace	75 / 100	↑ Improving	KAICIID / UN Interfaith	SDG 16
Youth & Child Civic	70 / 100	↑ Improving	UNICEF Civic Engagement	SDG 16

## 2. Children, Violence Prevention & Safe Community Index (CVPSCI)

Indicator	2025 score	Trend	Global reference	SDG
Exposure to violence	62 / 100	↓ Reducing	WHO / UNICEF Violence	SDG 16.2
Child participation	74 / 100	↑ Improving	UNCRC General	SDG 16.7
Safe learning & faith spaces	71 / 100	↑ Improving	UNESCO / UNICEF Safe	SDG 4, 16
Adult capacity for child protection	69 / 100	↑ Improving	INSPIRE Framework	SDG 16.2

**N.B.** These scores do not represent national or global conditions. They are impact-adjusted estimates reflecting changes in capacities and conditions within communities, institutions, and spaces where Re-Imagining New Communities has actively engaged, interpreted in reference to internationally recognized frameworks.

## INTRODUCTION

The year 2025 marked a defining chapter in the journey of Re-Imagining New Communities. It was a year of strategic growth, deeper community trust, and rising national, regional, and continental recognition. Across the year, the organization strengthened its identity as a child-centered, inclusive peacebuilding institution by expanding programs, consolidating partnerships, refining internal systems, and advancing its evidence-building and advocacy agenda.

Throughout the year, the organization strengthened school-based peacebuilding through the Children-Led Community Peace Labs, advanced faith-centered peace initiatives through the Faith for Peace program, and significantly deepened its research portfolio through a child-led participatory action research process in Nairobi's urban slums. The organization also expanded its partnerships with institutions, while actively contributing to national, regional, and global peacebuilding platforms.

2025 further saw the organization strengthen safeguarding systems, improve documentation and communications structures, and enhance its representation in spaces shaping peace, education, freedom of religion or belief, youth leadership, and child participation. This growing influence was reflected in recognition such as the nomination for the IPSA Peacebuilding Award and invitations to contribute to high-level forums.

Despite resource limitations and stretched organizational capacity, Re-Imagining New Communities closed the year grounded, resilient, and forward-looking. The foundations laid in 2025 position the organization for deeper impact, stronger collaborations, and wider influence in 2026 and beyond.

In 2025, the organization undertook a period of reflection and program redesign, strengthening feedback systems, safeguarding frameworks, and learning loops across its work. This process sharpened program quality and strengthened the organization's focus on emotional well-being, ethical leadership, and inclusive participation. Across schools, faith institutions, and community forums, Re-Imagining New Communities observed growing resilience among children, teachers, and caregivers, alongside improved coping mechanisms, healthier relationships, and community cohesion

## Institutional Recognition and Excellence in Peacebuilding

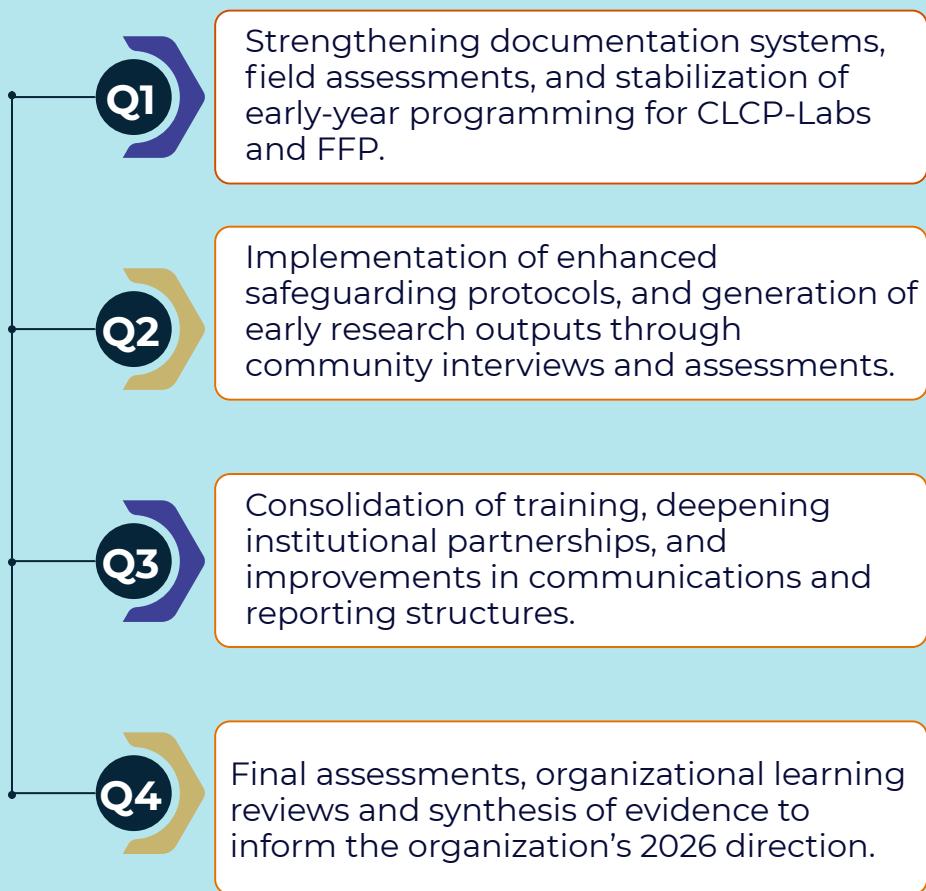
Received the **'Most Outstanding Peace and Security Initiative of the Year'** award at the **International Peace and Security Awards (IPSA)** ceremony held in **Dar es Salaam Tanzania**. The event was jointly hosted by the African Leadership Initiatives for Impact (ALII) and the Youth4Peace Agenda on Saturday, September 20 2025.



This award affirms the relevance, credibility and impact of our work in advancing inclusive approaches to peace, social cohesion and violence prevention, particularly through early intervention with children, educators, and faith leaders.

Beyond institutional recognition, the award reinforces our responsibility to continue strengthening local capacities, elevating community voices, and contributing meaningfully to policy, practice, and learning in the field of peacebuilding

## Quarterly Milestones for 2025





## 2025 in Review

Implemented FFP's Theory of Change with 15 churches.

Contributed to the IRF Summit in Kenya

Kick-started the 'Reimagining Children's Play Spaces in Urban Slums in Nairobi' research

Contributed to World Social Summit in Qatar

Feb

June

Aug

Nov

April

Aug

Sep

Nov

Formalization of inclusive an working environment

Contributed to the IF20 Summit in South Africa

Received the 'Most Outstanding Peace and Security Initiative of the Year' award by IPSA

Contributed to the Dallaire Institute Global Conference on "Advancing Children's Roles in Peace Processes and the Vancouver Principles" in Naiobi.

# Institutional Strengthening

The organization joined the Africa Impact Academy as part of its deliberate efforts to strengthen institutional capacity and governance practice.

The engagements focused on learning around organizational strengthening by informing internal systems development, ethical leadership, accountability, and expanding governance-focused approaches that support the organization’s long-term sustainability.





# PROGRAMS AND IMPACT



**2025**

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# Children-Led Community Peace Labs (CLCP-Labs)

2025 marked the fifth year of the Children-Led Community Peace Labs, and one of its most transformative seasons. The program continued to provide safe, inclusive spaces where children develop peacebuilding skills, explore social challenges, and design solutions within their schools and communities.

Through sustained consultations with children, teachers, caregivers, and child-focused organizations, Re-Imagining New Communities refined the model to strengthen dialogue, critical thinking, emotional literacy, and democratic participation.

## **Key Results (Deliverables and Immediate Outputs)**



- Integration of the 2025 cohort into the CLCP-Labs network, expanding the national community of practice for child-centered peacebuilding.
- Field monitoring and accompaniment visits conducted in approximately 85% of participating schools, strengthening programme oversight, quality assurance, and contextual learning.
- Establishment of three (3) new Peace Labs by teachers transferred to new duty stations, demonstrating institutional uptake, replication, and early indicators of sustainability beyond the original intervention sites.

- Delivery of a virtual learning workshop, reflecting adaptive programming and increased accessibility through digital platforms.
- Implementation of five (5) structured mentorship sessions across participating counties, providing continued technical and psychosocial support to learners and reinforcing core peace lab competencies.
- Implementation of the Teens in Sports Wellness Project, integrating sports-based engagement with emotional intelligence, mindfulness, and peace education through structured, facilitated sessions.

### **Observed Outcomes (Changes and Early Impact)**

- Teachers reported increased learner confidence, strengthened emotional awareness, and more positive peer interactions, indicating improved social and emotional learning competencies among participating children.
- Learners demonstrated improved conflict management skills, healthier emotional expression, and more reflective peer relationships, as observed during mentorship sessions and follow-up engagements.
- Positive behavioral shifts were observed among learners, enabling deeper engagement with thematic areas such as leadership, anti-bullying, inclusion, and personal well-being.
- Deepened partnerships contributed to the co-creation of locally grounded Peace Lab initiatives, particularly in the areas of environmental peacebuilding, climate action, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), strengthening the relevance and contextual ownership of interventions.
- The sports-based wellness approach supported improved emotional regulation, self-awareness, and joyful expression through movement, reinforcing non-verbal and experiential pathways to peacebuilding for adolescents.

# Faith for Peace (FFP)

The program is designed to provide comprehensive support to pastors and churches, enabling them to establish robust structures and systems that effectively harness the leadership and engagement potential within their congregations and communities. Recognizing the unique cultural and religious contexts of each community, the program offers tailored training, resources, and guidance to meet their specific needs.

A key component involves organizing workshops, seminars, and training sessions, carefully crafted to equip participants with essential skills and in-depth knowledge necessary for fostering mediation, reconciliation, and peacebuilding.

## Key Results (Deliverables and Immediate Outputs)

- Adopted three-year theory of change to guide design, implementation and measuring of the FFP with religious leaders and institutions.
- Conducted two (2) inception workshops with participating faith institutions to jointly identify and analyze challenges within religious and community spaces, including political interference, youth vulnerability, community polarization and gender-based violence.
- Piloted an eight-week (8-week) faith-based peace education programme for children, introducing age-appropriate learning modules on nonviolence, empathy, constructive conflict resolution, and faith-rooted peace values.



- Organized two (2) three-day residential bootcamps for pre-teenagers and teenagers, providing a structured, supervised environment that integrated leadership development, faith formation, psychosocial support, and recreational activities.
- In partnership with CKL Africa and Glory Church, Ongata Rongai, commemorated Mazingira Day through a community tree-planting initiative at Ongata Rongai Police Station, during which 50 trees were planted, linking environmental stewardship to peacebuilding and climate resilience.

### **Observed Outcomes (Changes and Early Impact)**

- Participating churches demonstrated increased readiness to engage in structured peace and social cohesion initiatives, as evidenced by sustained participation and commitment to a multi-year engagement framework.
- Faith leaders reported improved awareness of systemic risks affecting religious spaces, particularly the impact of political influence, youth exclusion, and gender-based violence on community cohesion and trust.
- Children participating in the faith-based peace education programme demonstrated improved understanding of nonviolence, empathy, and peaceful conflict resolution, with facilitators noting increased confidence and reflective engagement during sessions.
- Bootcamp participants exhibited strengthened leadership skills, resilience, and peer relationships, supported by the provision of safe spaces for learning, play, and guided reflection.
- Children and congregants involved in the Mazingira Day activity demonstrated increased awareness of environmental responsibility as a moral and faith-based obligation, reinforcing the linkages between climate action, peace, and community well-being.



# Participatory Action Research

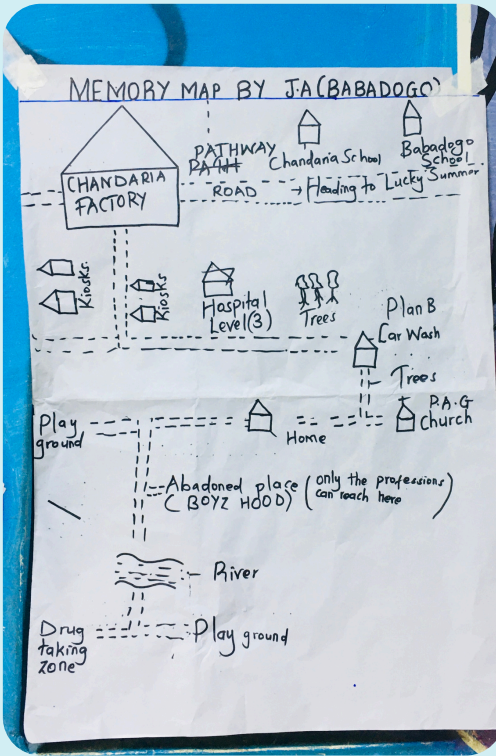
Through the participatory action research initiative “**Reimagining Children’s Play Spaces in Urban Slums in Nairobi**,” ( [A Children Right’s Research funded project through Maastricht University](#)) Re-Imagining New Communities strengthened its evidence-generation and learning agenda to inform child-centered urban peacebuilding. The research aligns with Kenya’s Constitution (2010), the Children Act, and national urban development policies, as well as global frameworks on child participation, the right to play, and safe public spaces. The study assessed the availability, accessibility, safety, and condition of play spaces within selected informal settlements, centering children as knowledge holders and contributors to urban policy discourse.

## **Key Results (Deliverables and Immediate Outputs)**

- Engaged twelve (12) children as co-researchers and facilitated a structured capacity-strengthening workshop to build foundational skills in participatory research methods, child-friendly data collection, research ethics, and safeguarding.
- Conducted field research across seven (7) informal settlements in Nairobi—Babadogo, Mukuru kwa Njenga, Lucky Summer, Dandora, Mathare, Korogocho, and Kariobangi—ensuring geographic and socio economic diversity in data collection.



- Completed 158 interviews, including 122 children, alongside parents, sports and creative practitioners, local administrators, health officials, community-based organizations, and religious leaders, enabling a multi-stakeholder understanding of children's play environments.
- Published two (2) public-facing blogs translating research insights into accessible narratives to support advocacy, learning, and wider public engagement on children's right to play and safe urban spaces.



## Observed Outcomes (Learning, Capacity, and Early Influence)

- Child co-researchers demonstrated increased confidence, analytical skills, and awareness of their rights, particularly regarding participation, safe spaces, and ethical research engagement.
- The research process strengthened ethical, child-centered data collection practices, reinforcing safeguarding awareness among facilitators and participating communities.
- Findings highlighted systemic gaps in the provision and maintenance of safe play spaces, particularly in high-density informal settlements, contributing to evidence on how urban inequality affects children's well-being, safety, and social development.



# ENGAGEMENTS, ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIPS



**2025**

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## Dallaire Institute Global Conference – Advancing Children’s Roles in Peace Processes and Vancouver Principles

Re-Imagining New Communities participated as a practitioner organization grounded in community-level peacebuilding and child-led action. Through CLCP-Labs, the organization shared a tested model for safely engaging children as peace actors within schools, faith institutions, and community level.



The 2025 Global Conference on Advancing Children’s Roles in Peace Processes and the Vancouver Principles was convened in recognition that sustainable peace cannot be achieved without systematically protecting children and meaningfully including their voices.

Held in Nairobi and mainly focusing on sub-Saharan Africa while drawing global expertise, the conference aimed to elevate children’s voices and building strong political will for the child-inclusive peace processes.

A defining feature of the organization’s participation was the direct leadership of CLCP-Labs children. Rather than adults speaking on their behalf, 4 children from schools located in Nairobi and Kajiado counties shared reflections, experiences, and lessons from their own peacebuilding journeys. These four represented the 4000+ active members from more than 55 CLCP-labs across the country. This approach reflected the conference’s commitment to meaningful participation and demonstrated how VP14 can be operationalized in practice.

## International Day of Peace 2025

Re-Imagining New Communities commemorated the International Day of Peace on 21 September through an online webinar featuring Mr. Charles Waitherero, President of the Kenya Sports Association for the Visually Impaired (KESAVI).

The dialogue examined sports as a tool for peace, highlighting its role in promoting inclusion, teamwork, and non-violent conflict resolution among children and youth.

### **National Coalition-Building Workshop on FoRB**

The organization contributed to a national coalition-building workshop organized by Kesho Alliance and Search for Common Ground, aimed at strengthening coordination among civil society actors working on interfaith peacebuilding and religious freedom. RNC shared learning from school-based peace labs and faith-rooted initiatives, emphasizing prevention-oriented approaches that begin with children, families, and educators.

### **CSO Roundtable on Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB)**

The organization participated in a Civil Society Roundtable on Freedom of Religion or Belief convened in Nairobi amid rising concerns around religious intolerance, digital hate speech, and polarization.

Our Executive Director, Sahlim Charles spoke in a panel discussion, sharing community-level insights from our faith- and child-centered peacebuilding work, emphasizing early peace education, interfaith engagement, and safeguarding within religious spaces.



## IF20 Summit – Interfaith Forum



The Interfaith Forum Summit convened religious actors, policymakers, scholars, and community practitioners to shape interfaith contributions to global development and peace agendas. The space carries historic relevance in advancing faith-based engagement within international policy processes, including education, peace, and social cohesion

Our Executive Director, Sahlim Charles, contributed to the youth and elders panel, advancing the role of values-based education and child participation in nurturing ethical leadership and peaceful societies. The engagement positioned the organization on a global interfaith platform, expanded cross-continental relationships, and strengthened its credibility as a contributor to values-driven peacebuilding discourse.

## Education Changemakers Conference – Kenyatta University

The organization contributed to the Education Changemakers Conference hosted by the Trevor Noah Foundation, a platform advancing youth-led innovation in education across Africa.

The engagement strengthened networks with education practitioners and emphasizing the intersection of education transformation and peacebuilding.





Re-Imagining New Communities contributed to discussions at the Africa edition of the International Religious Freedom Summit, centering community-rooted and Afro-centric approaches to freedom of religion or belief.

Drawing on its Faith for Peace and child-centered programming, the organization highlighted the importance of grounding FoRB efforts in local realities, safeguarding systems, and grassroots interfaith relationships.

### **Cost of Corruption Conference – Hekima University College**

Re-Imagining New Communities participated in dialogues at the Cost of Corruption Conference, examining the impact of corruption on child protection, equitable education, and social trust. The engagement informed advocacy approaches on child justice and accountability and strengthened collaboration with media and governance actors.

### **Ethiopian-Kenyan Youth Council Capacity Building Exchange on YPS**

The organization contributed to a regional capacity-building exchange supporting implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda.

Re-Imagining New Communities shared experiences from Kenya's National Action Plan processes, county-level consultations, and youth inclusion mechanisms, strengthening its regional policy engagement and learning exchange.

## World Social Summit, Doha



Re-Imagining New Communities participated in the World Social Summit in Doha, Qatar, contributing to an inclusive dialogue on social cohesion, equity, and peacebuilding in a rapidly changing global context. Sahlim Charles spoke on a panel during the featured event, highlighting the importance of faith-informed approaches in addressing social fragmentation and exclusion

The intervention emphasized that sustainable peace is built through inclusive systems that center children, youth, and marginalized communities as active contributors rather than passive beneficiaries. Participation in the Summit positioned the organization within global social development conversations, strengthened international partnerships, and amplified African-led perspectives on inclusive peace and community resilience.

## Youth Talk Project -Public Speaking Workshop in Kwale

Re-Imagining New Communities contributed to Search for Common Ground's **The Youth Talk Project**, facilitating a two days' workshop that focused on youth leadership, media literacy, and civic voice. The workshop brought together 34 teenagers, strengthening communication skills, confidence, and self-expression as foundations for youth civic engagement and non-violent leadership



## Consultative Engagement with Peace Agencies

Re-Imagining New Communities held high-level consultative engagements with key national peace and cohesion institutions to explore strategic collaboration in the implementation of peacebuilding initiatives across the country.



The organization met with the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), led by Former Chairperson Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia and Commissioner Eng. Phillip Okundi, to discuss partnership opportunities focused on community-based peacebuilding, social cohesion, and prevention-oriented interventions.

The organization also held a productive meetings with the National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management.

Discussions centered on collaboration, institutional linkages, and capacity-building support for grassroots peacebuilders.



Across both engagements, Re-Imagining New Communities shared its experience working with children, churches, and community-level peace actors, highlighting emerging impact and lessons from its programming.

The organization also presented its reports as a reflection of its evidence-based approach, accountability, and alignment with national peacebuilding priorities.

### **Peace in Colors Festival**

The organization contributed to the Peace in Colors Festival at Nyayo Gardens, Nakuru, organized by the Rotaract Peace Campaign.

Our Programs Lead, Grace Wendo, participated in a panel discussion.



The festival convened youth, Rotary members, civil society actors, government representatives, artists, and children, and featured music, art, dialogue circles, and creative therapy spaces focused on peace, mental health, and substance abuse.

The event underscored art as a unifying medium for social cohesion and dialogue. The festival called for joint effort in promoting peace in all sectors, emphasizing art as a powerful tool for bringing cohesion and bridging divides

# Financial Overview

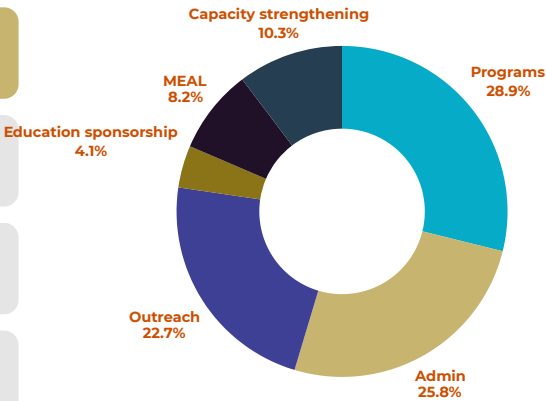
Despite operating within a constrained funding environment and navigating capacity and contextual challenges common to grassroots peacebuilding work, Re-Imagining New Communities demonstrated institutional resilience through adaptive planning, strong partnerships and efficient use of resources.

These approaches enabled the organization to sustain program delivery, safeguard quality, and continue advancing its mission amid evolving social and operational pressures.

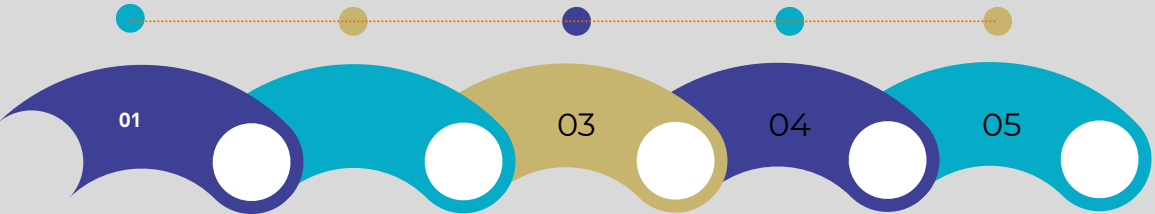
## Funding Sources

Source	%
Grants	15
Donations	45
Consultancies	40

## Allocation



# Looking Ahead: Priorities for 2026



01	02	03	04	05
Ensure long-term viability, accountability and effectiveness.	Establish child-centered peacebuilding as a recognized and institutionalized approach within systems.	Enhance the capacity of faith institutions as moral anchors.	Strengthen inclusive dialogue and local conflict resolution as foundational mechanisms.	Strengthen evidence-informed peacebuilding

## Conclusion

The year 2025 reaffirmed Re-Imagining New Communities as a bold, child-centered and community-driven organization committed to peace, inclusion, and social justice. From school-based peace labs and interfaith collaborations to youth leadership development, participatory research, and continental advocacy, the organization demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and vision.

With strengthened partnerships, improved internal systems, and growing visibility, Re-Imagining New Communities is well-positioned for a deeper and more sustainable impact in 2026.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all who journeyed with us through 2025: partners, volunteers, advisors, and community members. Your collaboration, generosity, and belief in our mission continue to propel us forward. As we look ahead, we remain inspired by our shared commitment to building inclusive, equitable, and thriving communities.







New Communities

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