QUARTER 2

In Focus



Rafikistry

SHAJARA

Q2 HIGHLIGHTS

April – June 2026

AT A GLANCE

17 Young mothers graduated through the Becoming programme

15 Young people engaged in digital & workplace readiness

33 Trees planted through Kisima's environmental learning

1 Community dialogue on financial responsibility

1 X-Cans cohort completed its programme

Q2 2026 | QUARTERLY IMPACT EDITION

Strengthening people. Expanding opportunity.
Building community.

The second quarter of 2026 brought together work across education, youth development, community engagement and organizational strengthening.

Across Rafikistry and Kisima Community Library, the focus remained on creating practical pathways for people to learn, participate and build greater agency in their lives.

The quarter also reinforced an important lesson: **Sustainable impact** requires more than delivering programmes. It requires investing in people, strengthening institutions, building partnerships and creating spaces where communities can access knowledge, skills and opportunity.

01 | EDUCATION, RESILIENCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

When circumstances interrupt education, opportunity should not end with them



For young mothers, returning to education can be difficult. Economic hardship, childcare responsibilities and disrupted schooling can limit access to skills and future economic opportunities.

The Becoming program responds by supporting young mothers with life skills, including financial planning, parenting, mental health and entrepreneurship, before connecting them to vocational training through Vicktel Institute of Hospitality and Business Studies.

In April, 17 young women aged 16–22 graduated from practical courses in hospitality, business and related fields, following 7–8 months of preparation and training designed around the realities of young motherhood.

Beyond graduation, these skills provide a foundation for employment, entrepreneurship and greater economic independence. The journey also demonstrates the value of partnerships that adapt to people's circumstances: Vicktel's flexible approach enabled participants to pursue education while navigating childcare responsibilities.

The result is more than 17 certificates. It is greater access to skills, opportunity and the possibility of a different economic future.

02 | KEEPING LEARNING OPEN TO EVERY CHILD

Learning extends beyond the classroom



Formal schooling provides the foundation for children's education, but learning does not stop when the school day ends. For children who may have limited access to books, digital resources, academic support or safe spaces for study outside school, community learning spaces can play an important complementary role.

At Kisima Community Library, structured learning activities continued throughout the April school holiday, with children, preteens and teens participating in academic and life-skills sessions. Following the holiday, the library continued providing after-school homework support as schools resumed.

This continuity matters. A child who arrives with a difficult mathematics problem, an essay to complete or a book to read is accessing more than a physical library. They are accessing additional time, resources and support to strengthen their learning.

The library's role is therefore not limited to providing books. It creates an environment where children can ask questions, practise skills, develop independent learning habits and engage with others around shared educational goals.

03 | GIRLS, DIGITAL ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION

Creating pathways for girls to see themselves in spaces of possibility

Gender disparities in access to technology and opportunities for participation in science, technology and leadership can begin early. Creating opportunities for girls to engage with technology, ask questions and encounter female role models can help broaden their understanding of what is possible.



Through Girl's Library Day, Kisima Community Library and Code Yetu CBO created space for girls to engage with reading, coding and collaborative learning.

The initiative encouraged participation, belonging and exposure to women in technology and leadership, helping girls see themselves as learners, creators and future leaders.

The goal extends beyond one day: greater participation and opportunity over time.

PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

When we partner, we combine skills, resources and expertise to expand what is possible for children and communities.

04 | BUILDING STRONGER INSTITUTIONS

Community impact depends on the systems behind it

Strong community programmes depend on strong systems, capable teams and sustainable partnerships. Without these foundations, consistency, accountability and long-term impact can be difficult to sustain.

During Q2, Rafikistry strengthened its institutional capacity through engagement with **KCDF**, resource mobilization training and a staff mental health and wellness session. The work focused on stronger systems, fundraising, partnerships, staff capacity and wellbeing.

These investments strengthen Rafikistry's ability to manage resources, deliver programmes effectively and adapt to changing community needs.

Investing in the people, systems and partnerships behind the work is an investment in its sustainability.



05 | YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE TRANSITION TO WORK

Skills matter, but access to opportunity matters too



The transition from school to employment or further education increasingly requires young people to navigate digital platforms, workplace expectations and a changing labour market. Rafikistry's X-Cans programme supports young people through this transition.

During Q2, Cohort 14 completed the program, while 15 young people participated in workplace readiness training among other many trianings.

Partnerships with employers and practitioners bring real-world knowledge and exposure that strengthen young people's readiness for their next step.

06 | LEARNING FROM PEERS

Sustainability is strengthened through collaboration

Community organizations often face similar questions: how to sustain programmes, build community ownership, mobilize resources and remain relevant as needs change. Sharing practical experience across organizations can reduce the need to solve these challenges in isolation.

During the quarter, the Kisima Library team visited Kangemi Resource Centre for a peer-learning exchange focused on organizational sustainability and community impact.

The exchange provided an opportunity to examine how another community-based institution has developed its library and programmes through community ownership, strategic partnerships and innovative approaches to sustainability.

Beyond the specific practices observed, the engagement reinforced the value of knowledge exchange within the nonprofit sector. Learning from organizations working in comparable contexts can provide practical insight, challenge assumptions and inform institutional decisions.

For Kisima, this forms part of an ongoing effort to build a library that is not only active, but resilient, responsive and rooted in its community.

07 | LEARNING THROUGH THE ENVIRONMENT

Turning environmental awareness into practical experience

Environmental education is most effective when children can connect knowledge with action. Practical experiences can make conservation and environmental responsibility easier to understand and apply.

During the April holiday programme, Kisima children visited Brackenhurst for environmental learning and tree planting, planting 33 young trees.

The activity connected environmental awareness with practical responsibility, helping children understand how healthy ecosystems support communities and how they can contribute to protecting them.

THE IMPACT

33 trees planted. Children gained a practical understanding of conservation, care and responsibility.

THE INVESTMENT

Integrating environmental learning into Kisima's programmes helps equip children with knowledge and values that can influence how they engage with their environment.



THE QUARTER IN PERSPECTIVE

Across education, youth development, environmental learning and organizational strengthening, Q2 reflected a common approach: creating access while building capacity.

A young mother completing vocational training, a child receiving homework support, a girl encountering coding for the first time, a young person learning how to navigate the digital workplace and a staff member developing new organizational skills may appear to represent very different interventions.

They are connected by a shared principle — people are more able to shape their futures when they have access to the knowledge, skills, relationships and environments that enable them to do so.

That is the role Rafikistry and Kisima Community Library continue to build towards: not simply delivering activities, but strengthening the conditions in which individuals and communities can participate, learn and create opportunity.

PARTNERSHIPS THAT MOVE THE WORK FORWARD

The work reflected in this quarter has been made possible through collaboration across community organizations, institutions, private-sector partners, development partners, volunteers and individual supporters.

These partnerships bring different forms of value — funding, expertise, facilities, technical knowledge, mentorship, learning resources and access to networks.

Impact is rarely produced by one organization working alone. It is built through the combination of resources, relationships and shared commitment

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LOOKING AHEAD

The next quarter will build on the foundations established during Q2, with continued attention to learning support, youth development, organizational strengthening and community engagement.

As Rafikistry continues developing its programs and partnerships, Kisima prepares for increased activity during school holidays and the focus remains on ensuring that available resources translate into relevant, accessible and sustainable opportunities for the communities we serve.
The work continues. So does the learning.