



Change Takes Generations...

WE'RE NOT WAITING!

1st Quarter Issue 2026

AfriNOV
Nonviolence | Evidence | Action
Nonviolence Works



The plan is the work and the work has begun.

This quarter marks the full launch of AfriNov's New Horizons Strategic Plan. Those familiar with our work will notice that governance activities feature more prominently in this report than in previous periods and that is a deliberate choice rooted in where Kenya stands today.

AfriNov was founded in the aftermath of post-election violence, born out of a conviction that communities deserve better than to be organised into conflict by those who stand to benefit from it.

As we move into 2026, we are watching the early signs of another volatile electioneering period take shape the Gen Z protests, the by-elections we had the privilege of observing, the political temperatures between the president and his former deputy at a faceoff in public platforms. We are not willing to wait for 2027 to arrive before we act.

The lessons of 2007/8 are too costly to forget. Our expanded governance programming this quarter is an early response to a risk we can already see. We intend to do everything in our power to ensure that what happened then does not happen again.

This quarter also marks the first meaningful test of a strategy AfriNov committed to at the start of 2026 which is deepening our presence on local radio and media platforms. The results speak for themselves.

A combined indirect reach of 4.92 million people achieved through seven broadcasting partnerships across five counties makes media amplification a leverage tool that cannot be ignored. We are not unrealistic about what radio reach means, not every listener becomes a forum participant. The goal for this form of reach is because every time a community member will hear AfriNov's name on their local station, every time they catch a voice they recognise discussing something that matters to their neighborhood, the distance between them and our work shrinks.

Familiarity becomes interest, interest becomes presence and presence becomes movement. The evidence is clear that this is a strategy that is working and we will be building on it deliberately.

1,011 Direct Participants

4.92M+ Indirect Participants

16 Activities

9 Counties Covered

561 direct · 4.9M+ indirect
5 forums · 5 counties

Good Governance

271 direct · 15,000+ indirect
5 activities · 4 regions

Gender Justice

179 direct · 2,826 indirect
6 activities · 5 areas

Peacebuilding & Nonviolence

Gender Justice

Five SGBV prevention and response activities were delivered across Nairobi (Korogocho), Nandi County (Kapkangani), Kisumu County (Nyakach), and virtual platforms covering Western, Nyanza, Nairobi and North Rift regions. The quarter significantly exceeded most output targets and generated unexpected institutional accountability commitments, most notably from the Assistant County Commissioner in Nandi.

What Changed

SHIVAM's existing community reporting desk established in 2025, already has four defilement cases actively being followed up in Q1 202.

In Korogocho, a settlement of 150,000–200,000 people where poverty, overcrowding and kangaroo courts compound SGBV barriers, 60 community members unanimously committed to village-level case reporting and sensitisation through SHVAM's existing community reporting desk. That desk, established in 2025, already has four defilement cases actively being followed up in 2026, demonstrating that reporting pathways are operational rather than merely aspirational. Participants identified Margret Kenyatta Hospital and MSF clinics as accessible survivor service points, showing practical knowledge of the referral ecosystem.

In Kapkangani, Nandi County, a forum planned for 50 participants drew 153, a 206% turnout that reflects deep community appetite for SGBV engagement. Harmful norms were publicly challenged and rejected: community members directly refuted the myths that GBV is a women's issue, that men have the right to beat their wives and that women have no land or inheritance rights, each time grounding their arguments in Kenya's constitution. When participants raised concerns about local administrators colluding with perpetrators and police accepting bribes, the ACC publicly committed that community members can approach his office directly when local officers fail to act, an institutional accountability signal made in the presence of 153 witnesses.

In Nyakach, 20 chiefs and duty-bearers were oriented on all four GBV forms and relevant legislation. The session revealed a critical gap: even chiefs lacked awareness of specific procedures under the Law of Succession Act 35, an area where survivors of property-related GBV most need legally informed support. Leaders left with a concrete action plan including the establishment of community GBV response committees and strengthened referral pathways. Across two virtual sessions, 38 community resource persons across four regions were equipped with step-by-step survivor support protocols, including P3 form procedures, health referral sequences, and legal aid pathways.

*"To bring to an end these cases it calls for unified voices that leave no one behind."
— Community member, Nandi County*

Inclusion



Good Governance & Accountability

What Changed

SHIVAM's existing community reporting desk established in 2025, already has four defilement cases actively being followed up in Q1 202.

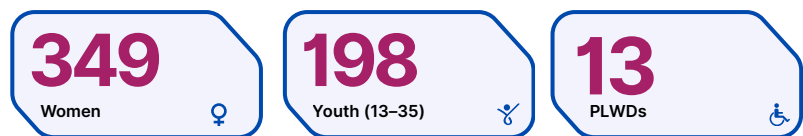
"I never understood how my vote actually works or what I can do when leaders don't perform. Now I know I have power, and I know how to use it peacefully."
— Women participant, Kabiria Ward, Nairobi

Inclusion

Five public accountability and civic education forums were held across Nandi, Trans-Nzoia, Kisumu, Nairobi and Kakamega, engaging 561 citizens directly and an estimated 4.9 million people indirectly through seven radio and television partners, exceeding the media coverage target of five outlets. Community action plans were generated in every forum and the quarter ended with measurable shifts in citizen agency across all five sites.

Across the five forums, a consistent pattern emerged: citizens who arrived with grievances left with structured strategies for nonviolent accountability. In Nandi County, the community identified stalled road construction as a collective priority, drafted a formal petition to the county government and elected a spokesperson to lead media engagement, a self-organised accountability mechanism that AfriNov facilitated but did not design. In Trans-Nzoia, community members who had previously resorted to demonstrations committed to structured dialogue with Keiyo Dispensary staff through a newly established Facility Management Committee, jointly identifying critical service gaps including water shortages in the maternity wing and drug stock-outs.

The Kisumu forum introduced the Disability Act 2025 as a curriculum module through a new technical partnership with Disability Agenda Kenya, prompting community members to independently identify PLWD discrimination and drainage management as priority action areas. In Nairobi's Kabiria Ward, women made up 86% of attendees and many reported their first structured introduction to Kenya's electoral process under the 2010 Constitution, the session produced commitments to counter vote-buying and promote peaceful elections. In Mumias East, participants agreed on a community-led mass civic education campaign ahead of the 2027 general elections and formally committed to resisting voter bribery.



The boundary dispute Kapkateny



Community peace dialogue in Mt. Elgon convened by AfriNov.



Community dialogue in Ndaret hosted by Kapkateny peace Initiative.

On 20 February, AfriNov supported the Kapkateny Peace Initiative in Mt. Elgon to convene a community peace dialogue. The dialogue was about coexistence, choosing understanding over division and committing, together, to a future grounded in stability and mutual respect. In this forum, apart from financial support AfriNov provided moderation and technical support.

The forum brought together a cross-section of Kapkateny diverse population, a cosmopolitan community in its makeup, shaped by generations of inter-ethnic coexistence. County and national government officials, security officers, opinion leaders, women leaders and youth leaders also took part, each voice contributing to a shared vision. The conversation centered on conflict resolution during the election period, examining root causes, reflecting on lessons from the past and reaffirming the responsibility to safeguard peace. At the end of the forum the participants developed an action plan and made a commitment to promote peace for a sustainable community cohesion.

On 13 March, members of the Kapkateny Peace Initiative took the message beyond the meeting room. They held a dialogue which the chief attended in Ndaret area, speaking directly with residents, reinforcing the values discussed and planting seeds of a peace.

2 days after this dialogue in Ndaret, a serious conflict erupted between two community members, one Luhya, one Bukusu, over a boundary dispute. The confrontation escalated rapidly, reaching a point of such severity that lives were at risk. What could have descended into inter-ethnic violence, with consequences extending well beyond two individuals, instead became a defining moment for the community.

Armed with nonviolence skills and guided by commitment from the forum, neighbors intervened. Those who stepped forward to de-escalate were not members of the same ethnic groups as the two men in conflict. Across tribal lines, community members spoke with calm authority, reminding the parties that boundary disputes, however deeply felt, can be solved the legal way. This message landed not from an authority figure, but as a moral appeal from fellow community members who had no stake in the dispute other than their shared humanity and their investment in the peace of their neighborhood.

The two men listened and chose to step back from the precipice and agreed to pursue their boundary dispute through legal channels.

As reflected upon by AfriNov Community Resource Person who documented this incident, the community's capacity to intervene was a direct product of the sensitization that had taken place just days earlier. Without the dialogue of 20 February, without the group's ground-level outreach in the following days, the community may not have had the shared language, the moral confidence or the cross-ethnic solidarity to act as they did.

The boundary dispute between the two parties has been referred to legal processes and the immediate threat of violence has been contained. AfriNov CRPs are continuing to monitor the situation and will follow up on the progress of the legal case as it unfolds.

The work, as always, is not finished. But a community that once might have watched a conflict spiral has shown to itself and to others that it has the capacity to choose differently.

Peacebuilding & Nonviolence

What Changed

20 women from the Kafawe Women Group none of whom had previously received peacebuilding training left with a practical 6-month campaign plan against drug and substance abuse, including direct dialogue with brewers rather than their condemnation...

Six activities were delivered across Mt. Elgon (Trans-Nzoia), Nandi Hills, Nyakach/Kericho, Nairobi (Kayole), and virtual platforms, equipping communities with nonviolence tools, creating structured dialogue spaces and supporting community-led peace campaigns ahead of Kenya's 2027 elections. Total direct reach of 179 participants already represents 101.5% of the full-year target, with significant further reach through digital and radio channels.

The Kapkateny Community Dialogue in Mt. Elgon brought together four ethnic communities; Luhya, Sabaot, Teso and Kikuyu in a historically tension-prone area. The session began with fear and blame but ended with a shared peace framework and a community rallying call: 'Tujipange, wala tusipangwe' (Let us organise ourselves and not be organised into violence). Most significantly, the area chief formally requested AfriNov to facilitate ongoing sub-group dialogues with organised community groups transforming a one-off activity into a sustained prevention process driven by community request rather than programme schedule.

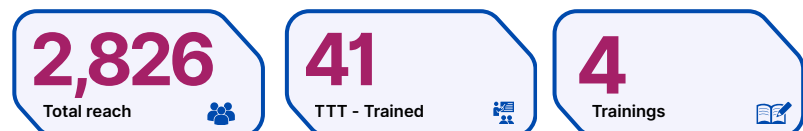
Two Turning the Tide (TTT) trainings were delivered in Nandi Hills and Nyakach. In Nandi Hills, 20 women from the Kafawe Women Group none of whom had previously received peacebuilding training left with a practical 6-month campaign plan against drug and substance abuse, including direct dialogue with brewers rather than their condemnation, embodying the TTT principle that everyone is capable of change.

In Nyakach, youth leaders shifted from believing only politicians hold power to understanding and articulating their own forms of agency. Youth in Kericho made their first structured cross-community connection with their Nyakach counterparts through a virtual cross-border session, identifying shared conflict drivers and committing to joint peace clubs and sports-based engagement.

In Kayole, Nairobi, 51 youth, women and community leaders co-created a permanent public peace mural carrying messages including 'Tumechoka Kutumika' and 'My Vote, My Life.' Koch FM radio coverage extended the message citywide. The digital campaign generated 2,647 views and 357 interactions on AfriNov's platforms, with individual participant posts reaching 500+ people on single Facebook posts.

*"I used to think that corruption is not violence, but from the discussions it came to my understanding that corruption is violence."
— Participant, Nandi Hills TTT*

Target progress



Transformative Civic Dialogue in Nandi County



Community civic education forum in Kaptumo/Kaboi Ward by Nandi Women Network supported by AfriNov.



The broken debris of rocks clearing a path for motorists.

On 24 February 2026, AfriNov supported the Nandi Women Network in North rift region to conduct a community civic education forum in Kaptumo/Kaboi Ward, Aldai Sub-County. The forum brought together community members, local leaders and civil society actors in a structured dialogue aimed at surfacing grassroots priorities and strengthening the social contract between citizens and their elected representatives. AfriNov offered financial and technical support that ensured an effective and fruitful discussions.

Among the concerns raised was an issue of infrastructure specifically, water and a blocked road route that had constrained the mobility and livelihoods of residents for years. Community members articulated a need to have the opening of the Chepkongony/Kapkitany route, a path that would reduce the distance to Kobujoi town from approximately 20 kilometers via the longer Kaptumo Trading Centre route to just 7 kilometers. The single obstacle between them and this shorter route was a large rock formation that required blasting to enable safe passage.

Participants launched a community-led advocacy to have the rock cleared. Those present appointed a community representative to formally liaise with the Nandi Women Network in advancing this cause.

Word spread rapidly and gained momentum across the ward. When AfriNov community resource person Sarah Korir encountered related conversations on social media, she added her voice with comments like "Operation Pasua Mawe" (Operation Break the Rock) and 'tafuta njia' (find a way). She also added "If you know, you know."

Her words seemed to resonate widely and the message reached further than anticipated. The local area chief seemed to have come across Sarah's social media comments and maybe recognizing something was wrong, reached out to her directly. The area Member of County Assembly (MCA) had been seeking information about the organization behind the forum, who had convened it, what had been discussed. This made him to move with speed. The following day work to blast and clear the rock formation had begun. The road is now open.

Looking Ahead

What this quarter demonstrates, above all, is that the communities AfriNov works with are not waiting to be saved. They are organising.

Moving forward we hold onto these first steps as we progress with other activities for the growth to hold.

AfriNov's role involves accompanying these communities that have already stepped forward and to ensure that the evidence of what they are doing reaches the people who need to hear it.

The seeds of nonviolent, accountable, gender-just communities are planted. We continue to water them.

Our resolve goes hand in hand with what one community member in Mt. Elgon said...

"Tunahitaji kujipanga, Sio Kupangwa"

Community member, Kapkateny, Mt. Elgon

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Contact Us:

Location: Shalom House, St. Daniel Comboni Road

Call: 020 8000380 / +254 768 310082

Email: afrinov@afrinov.org

website: www.afrinov.org

Social Media: [@afrinovke](https://www.instagram.com/afrinovke)