



**Health & Water**  
foundation

## Health and Water Foundation

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### Introduction

The Jasiri Teen Girls Bootcamp continues its mission to empower 150 girls from rural Nyamira County, Kenya, with leadership, critical thinking, and 21st-century skills to combat high school dropout rates, early marriages, and female genital mutilation (FGM). In the second quarter, we focused on expanding our reach, strengthening community engagement, and building on the foundation established in the first quarter. Despite ongoing funding challenges, the program has made meaningful progress toward its goals.

### Achievements

In the second quarter, the program achieved the following:

- *Increased Participation:* With an additional \$3,500 raised through local fundraising and small grants, we expanded the program to mentor 12 more girls, bringing the total to 16 participants.
- *Workshops Conducted:* The new cohort participated in interactive workshops focusing on:
  - Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving: Girls developed skills to address personal and community challenges creatively.
  - Effective Communication and Leadership: Training emphasized advocacy and public speaking to foster leadership confidence.
  - Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR): Sessions equipped girls with knowledge to make informed health decisions and advocate against harmful practices like FGM.
- *Jasiri Clubs Initiation:* The initial four girls mentored in Q1 successfully established Jasiri Clubs in two local schools, engaging 30 additional students in peer-led discussions on gender equality and education.
- *Counseling Support:* Group and individual counseling sessions continued, addressing emotional and societal barriers, with a focus on building resilience against cultural pressures.

- *Community Outreach:* Conducted two community awareness meetings with local leaders and parents, reaching 50 community members to address resistance to girls' education and harmful practices like FGM and early marriage.

### **Challenges**

- **Funding Shortages:** Despite raising \$3,500 locally, the program still faces a significant funding gap, limiting our ability to reach the target of 150 girls.
- **Cultural Resistance:** Some community members remain hesitant to support the program due to deeply rooted cultural norms favoring early marriage and FGM.
- **Resource Constraints:** Limited access to materials, transportation, and facilities hindered the expansion of workshops to additional schools.

### **Impact**

The 16 girls mentored so far have shown remarkable growth in confidence, leadership, and advocacy skills. The establishment of Jasiri Clubs has created a ripple effect, with club members inspiring their peers to prioritize education and challenge harmful cultural practices. Feedback from participants indicates improved self-esteem and a stronger commitment to staying in school. The community outreach efforts have begun to shift perceptions, with some parents expressing support for girls' education after attending awareness meetings.

### **Next Steps**

- **Fundraising Initiatives:** Continue seeking partnerships with local and international donors to secure the remaining \$20,500 needed to meet the \$25,000 goal.
- **Expand Jasiri Clubs:** Support the formation of Jasiri Clubs in three additional schools to broaden peer support networks.
- **Enhanced Community Engagement:** Organize quarterly community forums to further address cultural barriers and involve more stakeholders in promoting gender equality.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Implement a feedback system to track the progress of mentored girls and the impact of Jasiri Clubs on school retention rates.

### **Conclusion**

The second quarter of the Jasiri Teen Girls Bootcamp has marked significant progress in empowering young girls in Nyamira County. The expansion to 16 participants and the establishment of Jasiri Clubs demonstrate the program's potential to create sustainable change. With continued support, we are confident in scaling the program to reach more

girls, reduce school dropout rates, and foster a generation of empowered female leaders in Nyamira County.