



**DREAMING  
FOR CHANGE**  
PAINTING THE IMAGE OF AFRICA

# Annual Report

**2025**



[www.dreamingforchange.org](http://www.dreamingforchange.org)





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# A LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

Dear Friends and Partners,

In places where opportunity is scarce, progress often begins quietly with a child returning to school, a mother harvesting vegetables for the first time, or a family gaining the stability they need to plan for the future. In 2025, these moments multiplied across the communities we serve.

This year marked important steps forward for Dreaming for Change (D4C). Children continued learning in safe, supportive classrooms, supported by committed teachers and engaged families. Girls remained in school and progressed toward higher education. Young children accessed early learning opportunities that had previously been out of reach.

Families strengthened their well-being through improved nutrition, community health support, and livelihoods rooted in local initiative. Women organized through savings groups, built economic confidence, and invested in their households. Smallholder farmers began practical, hands-on learning to improve food security and resilience. Across our programs, communities were not only supported; they were actively shaping their own progress.

Behind every number in this report is a human story of persistence, partnership, and possibility. Our work remains grounded in a simple belief: when communities are trusted, equipped, and accompanied, sustainable change becomes achievable, even in the most underserved settings.

This report reflects not only what was accomplished in 2025, but what continues to grow through your partnership and the leadership of the communities we serve.

Together, we are building pathways to education, health, dignity, and opportunity, one community at a time.

**Janvier Manirakiza**

Founder and Executive Director





# IDENTITY AND VALUES

**Dreaming for Change** is a community-rooted development organization serving children, young people and families in Burundi. We were founded on the belief that poverty is not caused by one single factor, but by interconnected barriers that affect education, health, nutrition, income, and opportunity at the same time.

Rather than addressing these challenges separately, we work as a local institution that integrates learning, well-being, women’s economic empowerment, agriculture, and community engagement. Our programs are designed to strengthen families as a whole, recognizing that lasting change happens when multiple dimensions of life improve together.

We operate from a community center in Butanuka that functions not only as a school, but as a platform for nutrition support, savings groups, agricultural training, youth mentorship, and local leadership development.

Today, Dreaming for Change is more than a project; it is a growing community institution.



## OUR VISION

Our vision is to build healthy, peaceful and educated communities in Burundi.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to promote human dignity and social development through access to educational opportunities, agriculture, financial well-being, health and protection services so that children, youths and communities can achieve a positive transformation.

## OUR VALUES

**Integrity**  
*We act consistently with our mission, ensuring transparency, accountability, and ethical leadership.*

**Commitment**  
*We remain dedicated to serving the most vulnerable communities with quality, consistency, and care.*

**Diversity-Equality**  
*We serve without discrimination & promote inclusive participation across gender, age, religion, and background.*

**Community-Driven**  
*We work alongside local families and leaders to co-create solutions.*





## 2025 MILESTONES IN ACTION

The year 2025 marked an important phase of growth and consolidation for Dreaming for Change. Across education, community health and nutrition, livelihoods, and community engagement, several milestones strengthened our role as a community institution serving children, young people and families in Burundi. These developments reflect both program expansion and growing partnerships that support community-led solutions.

### Launching home-based early childhood development shelter.

D4C launched its first home-based early childhood development (ECD) shelter pilot, expanding access to early learning for children who had not previously attended preschool. The initiative brings learning closer to families by creating community-based learning spaces that support school readiness while strengthening parent engagement in early childhood development.

### Progress in building new primary school classrooms

D4C expanded education infrastructure at the community center by completing the ground floor of the first four classrooms within a planned 12-classroom primary school building at Butanuka Community Academy. This milestone strengthens the school's capacity to serve more children and reflects D4C's long-term commitment to safe, quality learning spaces for the community.

### Community health, nutrition, and food security

D4C strengthened community well-being through integrated health, nutrition, and agriculture initiatives. 22 CHWs conducted household visits, screened children for malnutrition, and supported pregnant mothers with referrals. At the same time, families expanded kitchen gardens and community farming, improving access to vegetables and strengthening household nutrition.

### Women's savings and livelihood opportunities

D4C supported 56 VSLAs bringing together 1,400 women and girls; 48 groups shared out nearly 270 million BIF (about \$91,993) to strengthen household resilience and savings locally. The year also expanded income pathways: 100 women in Buterere-Bujumbura and Mpanda-Bubanza established four soap-making units through vocational training for income.







## EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT


Education remains at the heart of Dreaming for Change's mission to build healthy, peaceful, and educated communities in Burundi. Through Butanuka Community Academy and complementary learning initiatives, Dreaming for Change provides children and young people with access to quality education, supportive learning environments, and pathways for future leadership.


In 2025, the education program continued to expand its reach across early childhood, primary education, youth development, and scholarships for rural girls. Our approach focuses not only on academic learning, but also on building confidence, curiosity, and leadership among young people growing up in underserved communities.

 **280 children benefiting** from a safe and supportive school environment with access to preschool and primary education.


 **70 girls supported** through the Girls Rising for Change scholarship program in high school and university.


 **Our school ranked 1st** out of 38 schools in the Mpanda municipal exam, with an average score of 95.2%.

 **4 new classrooms** with ground-floor completed, increasing access to safe and dignified primary education.

 **1 home-based ECD shelter** opened, providing early learning for 56 children each day through morning and afternoon sessions.

 **23,000 nutritious** school snacks provided to 280 children over the same period.

 **270 learners accessed** the American Shelf, including 186 public school students and 84 preschool children.

 **6 virtual teacher training days** organized with American educators, covering multiple topics to strengthen teacher skills and classroom quality.



## HOW WE STRENGTHEN LEARNING



Dreaming for Change’s education program is built on a holistic, community-centered approach that ensures children and young people not only access school, but are supported to learn, grow, and succeed. Beyond classroom instruction, our model combines several key elements that reinforce one another to create a strong and sustainable learning environment.

### ✔ **Butanuka Community Academy (BCA)**

At the center of our education program is BCA, which provides preschool and primary education in a safe, structured, and nurturing environment. The school promotes academic excellence while also building discipline, responsibility, and confidence among students.

### ✔ **Girls’s education and youth pathways**

D4C supports girls through scholarships, mentorship, and leadership development, helping them remain in school and transition to higher education and future opportunities.

### ✔ **Access to learning resources**

Through initiatives such as the American Shelf, students gain access to books, computers, and English learning opportunities, expanding their exposure and strengthening literacy and critical thinking skills.

### ✔ **Early Childhood Development (ECD)**

We invest in early learning through preschool and home-based ECD shelters, ensuring that young children develop the cognitive, social, and emotional foundations needed for success in primary school.

### ✔ **School feeding and student well-being**

Daily school meals play a critical role in supporting attendance, concentration, and overall well-being. Combined with basic health and nutrition follow-up, this ensures that children are ready to learn each day.

### ✔ **Teacher training and quality**

We strengthen teaching quality through continuous support and virtual training sessions with American educators, helping teachers improve classroom practices and deliver more engaging and effective lessons.





## STORIES OF CHANGE IN EDUCATION

### Nadine's journey to stay in school



Nadine Niyogusengwa, a 16-year-old student in lower secondary school, has faced significant challenges in her education journey. After her father left the family, her mother was left to care for seven children alone under difficult economic conditions. Like many families in similar situations, covering school fees and basic materials became a daily struggle.

Her situation changed when she joined Dreaming for Change's Girls Rising for Change Scholarship Program, which provides comprehensive support including school fees, learning materials, hygiene supplies, and mentorship.

Through this support, Nadine has been able to stay in school with stability and confidence. Her mother shares: **"Without this program, my daughter would not be in school today."**

Nadine now continues her education with renewed hope, working toward her goal of completing her studies and building a better future.

Shima Peniella, a 6-year-old preschool learner at Butanuka Community Academy, is growing in confidence, responsibility, and leadership through early childhood education. Before BCA was established in the community, her parents worried about access to quality education and had even considered moving elsewhere in search of better schools for their children.

Today, Peniella learns in a safe, well-equipped environment with trained teachers who support not only academic development, but also social skills, discipline, and confidence. Her parents say the change is already visible: she is organized, expressive, and respectful, and often takes the lead among children in her neighborhood.

Her mother proudly shares: **"This school does not only teach academic subjects; it also teaches children how to live with respect and responsibility."** Reassured by the progress of their children, the family has chosen to remain in the community, confident that BCA offers a strong foundation for their future.

### Peniella's early start





## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND LIVELIHOOD

Dreaming for Change's Livelihood and Community Engagement program strengthens the economic resilience and social well-being of families by supporting women, farmers, and community members to build sustainable livelihoods and stronger local systems. The program integrates Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), vocational training, agriculture and food security initiatives, and community-based engagement activities, ensuring that families are not only supported, but empowered to lead their own development.

In 2025, the program expanded its reach by strengthening women's savings groups, launching income-generating activities, improving household nutrition through farming, and promoting community participation and social cohesion.



**1,400 women and girls** empowered through 56 village savings and loan associations (VSLAs)



**270 million BIF (\$91,993) shared out** by women across 48 VSLA groups, strengthening household resilience and income.



**4 soap-making units** established by 100 women in Buterere, Mpanda and Muramba



**50 farmers engaged** in agriculture training and community farming initiatives.



**6,437 Kgs of food and vegetable produced** through community farming and kitchen garden initiatives.



**3,850+ community members participated** in volunteering activities at the D4C campus throughout 2025.

## THE LIVELIHOOD AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MODEL



D4C implements a community-driven model that strengthens women’s economic power, promotes household resilience, and builds inclusive community systems. The model begins with women but expands to families and the wider community, ensuring sustainable and collective transformation.

### 1. Identification and group formation

The process begins by identifying marginalized and vulnerable women within the community. These women are organized into Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), typically composed of 25 members per group, creating a strong foundation of trust, solidarity, and collective action.

### 2. Structured and accountable groups

Each VSLA is supported to become a well-organized and self-managed structure, with:

- an elected leadership committee
- clearly defined bylaws and governance rules
- a group bank account

This structure allows groups to grow beyond informal savings and become capable of managing larger financial resources, including bank loans or external funding to support their entrepreneurial activities.

### 3. Financial literacy and savings culture

Within the groups, women receive training in financial literacy; saving practices and capital management; group lending and small business development. This enables them to build a culture of saving, access small capital, and start income-generating activities, strengthening their economic independence.



### 4. Livelihoods and income generation

As groups mature, members expand into small businesses and vocational activities, such as soap-making and other local enterprises. These initiatives allow women to move from saving to sustainable income generation, improving their ability to support their families.

### 5. Agriculture and Food Security Integration

The model integrates agriculture, kitchen gardens, and a “farm school program” that recruits new cohorts each year, linking women’s economic empowerment with household nutrition and resilience. Women are supported to grow nutritious food for their families and, as production increases, to engage in agribusiness by selling surplus produce.

### 6. Gender inclusion and social transformation

While the model focuses on empowering women, it also actively engages men and community leaders. Through gender-based violence prevention initiatives, men are involved as partners in promoting respect, protection, and equality, helping to build safer and more inclusive communities.





## STORY OF CHANGE: EUPHRASIE MINANI



Mrs Minani Ephrasie, a widow since 2020 and mother of six, first came to Dreaming for Change when two of her children were suffering from malnutrition. With support from the nutrition program including fortified porridge and regular follow-up, their health improved significantly over time. As her children began to recover, D4C's community health team encouraged Ephrasie to take part in another opportunity that could strengthen her family's long-term well-being. She was connected to the VSLA and farming program, where she received support to establish a home vegetable garden.

This garden now helps her family access more nutritious food and better protect her children from malnutrition.

Ephrasie was also encouraged to join a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) where she learned about saving and collective financial management. Later, she was selected into the community farming school in Nyange where she gained practical skills in composting, soil conservation, row planting and good hygiene practices.

Today, Ephrasie is applying these skills in her daily life and farming activities, while continuing to strengthen her family's nutrition and resilience. Her story reflects how Dreaming for Change's integrated model helps families move from crisis to recovery, and from recovery to greater stability and hope.



## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Dreaming for Change's Community Health and Nutrition program focuses on improving the health and well-being of children, pregnant mothers, and families through preventive care, nutrition support, and community-based health systems.

In 2025, the program strengthened its impact through a partnership with the Boone medical team in the United States, which supported the training of Community Health Workers, and through the launch of an emergency nutrition response to identify and care for children with acute malnutrition. The program combines household monitoring, nutrition support, and referrals to health facilities to ensure timely and effective care.



**272 malnourished children** supported through the nutrition program in 2025.



**95 children recovered** and were discharged from the nutrition program in 2025



**42 CHW-led sensitization** sessions conducted, reaching over **1,885** community members with key health and nutrition messages.



**55 pregnant women** supported through CHW-led follow-up and nutrition assistance.



**44 critical cases of severe** acute malnutrition identified, referred to public hospitals, and supported through treatment and recovery



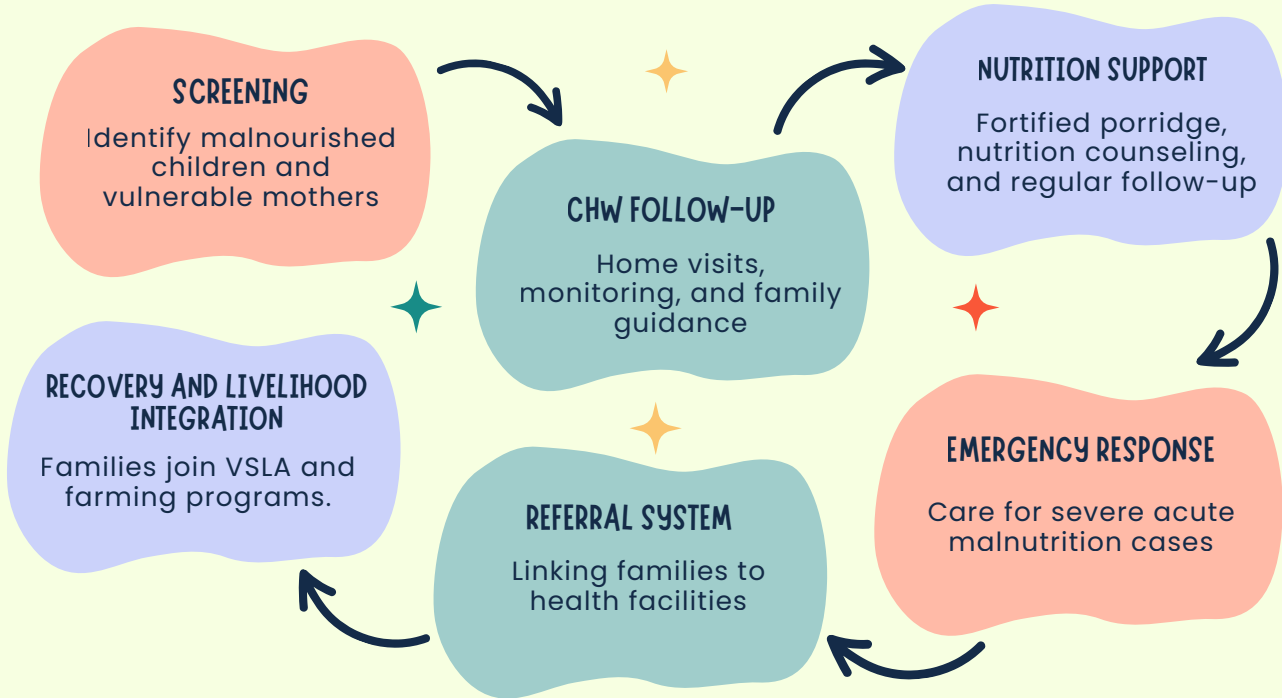
**10,104 Kg of fortified porridge flour** distributed to support the nutritional recovery of children enrolled in the program



**19 home visits conducted** by the health nurse to monitor children enrolled in the nutrition program

## A MODEL THAT SAVES LIVES

Through screening, Dreaming for Change identifies vulnerable children and mothers early, then supports them through CHW follow-up, nutrition care, emergency response, and referrals to health facilities. After recovery, families are connected to VSLA and farming programs to strengthen long-term resilience.



## STORY OF CHANGE: PASCAL’S RECOVERY



When Angeline’s grandson Pascal began showing signs of severe malnutrition, the family did not understand what was happening. Through Dreaming for Change’s Community Health Workers, Pascal was identified early and enrolled in the nutrition program.

The CHWs provided regular follow-up and home visits, while Pascal received fortified nutritious porridge and Angeline received nutrition education and practical guidance on how to care for him. With this combined support, Pascal’s health improved significantly. His story shows how community-based follow-up, nutrition support, and family education can save lives and restore hope.

Angeline shares: **“I do not know how to fully express my gratitude to Dreaming for Change. Their support changed my grandson’s life.”**



**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2026-2030**

*Our strategic plan for 2026–2030 sets the direction for Dreaming for Change’s next phase of growth—deepening impact, strengthening systems and expanding opportunity for children, youth, women, and families in Burundi.*

***By 2030, we envision healthy, educated, and resilient communities where people have the support, skills and opportunities to thrive across generations.***

- 1 Education & Skills Development**  
Expand access to quality learning and equip children and youth with the skills, confidence, and leadership needed for the future.
- 2 Economic Inclusion for women&youth**  
Strengthen women’s and youth economic power through savings groups, entrepreneurship, vocational training and access to capital.
- 3 Community health & nutrition**  
Advance maternal and child health through prevention, nutrition support, community health systems and stronger referral pathways.
- 4 Sustainable agriculture & food Security**  
Promote climate-smart farming, food production, and agribusiness to improve nutrition, resilience and household incomes.
- 5 Organizational capacity & governance**  
Build the systems, leadership, and accountability structures needed to support effective and sustainable growth.
- 6 Strategic partnerships & advocacy**  
Build strong partnerships and engage in policy platforms to expand impact and mobilize resources.
- 7 Visibility & positioning**  
Increase visibility, storytelling, and public engagement to showcase evidence, attract support, and amplify community voices.

- 2030 TARGETS AT A GLANCE**
- **15,500 children** enrolled in ECD and primary education;
  - **200 home-based ECD** centers established;
  - **1 model boarding** school established;
  - **5,000 teachers** trained in learner-centered pedagogy;
  - **2,000 rural girls** supported through scholarships;
  - **10,000 youth** trained in English, digital, and leadership skills
  - **20 public schools** co-governed: strengthening leadership, teaching quality, accountability;
  - **8,500 women&girls** engaged in VSLAs and economic inclusion;
  - **5,000 farmers** trained in climate-smart agriculture;
  - **1 farm school** developed for youth and farmers;
  - **2 greenhouses** established for seed multiplication;
  - **1 maternal and child health clinic** established
  - **20+ strategic** partnerships
  - Sustained year-on-year **funding growth**;
  - **An online sponsorship** platform established and active.



## GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS



In 2025, Dreaming for Change strengthened its partnerships, visibility, and learning through meaningful national and international engagements. These experiences created opportunities to share our work, deepen relationships and bring new ideas back to the communities we serve.



The Executive Director participated in Spotlight Africa in New York, engaging with global partners and sharing Dreaming for Change's work and vision. This was followed by a partnership visit to Boone, North Carolina, where Dreaming for Change deepened long-standing relationships and built new connections. During this visit:

- Local schools were visited to exchange ideas on education and student development;
- Engagement with the Boone United Methodist Church strengthened a meaningful partnership rooted in shared values and long-term support;
- A fundraising dinner organized by Springhouse farm and Dreaming for Change USA brought together supporters committed to agriculture and food security.



In 2025, Dreaming for Change welcomed several important visitors to its campus in Butanuka, strengthening partnerships and increasing visibility for its community-led work in Burundi.

The year included a visit from Dr. Karlen Jennings, Regional Public Engagement Specialist, followed by a Kenyatta University delegation led by Prof. Paul Wainaina, Vice Chancellor of Kenyatta University. D4C also hosted the Public Diplomacy delegation led by the Public Affairs Officer of the U.S. Embassy in Burundi, as well as learning visits from Faith in Action Africa and Jars of Love Community, both partners within the Segal Family Foundation network. These visits provided an opportunity to share D4C's integrated model and deepen relationships with partners committed to community transformation.



Dreaming for Change aspires to become a center of excellence that welcomes learning, partnership and opportunity into the community. Through each visit, exchange, and relationship, D4C continues to open doors for children, young people and families while strengthening its role as a local institution with global connections.



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 2025, Dreaming for Change strengthened its financial management systems to support transparency, accountability, and organizational growth. Through the support of the Segal Family Foundation through the Nonprofit Builder, the organization worked with a financial management consultant who trained the team in QuickBooks, enabling a successful transition from Excel-based tracking to a structured, online accounting system.

<i>Financial Overview</i>	<i>2025</i>
<b>Total revenue and support</b>	<b>\$360,423</b>
Total expenses	\$255,521
Change in net assets	\$103,944
Capital investment in long-term assets	\$129,695
Year-end cash and equivalents	\$5,472
Total assets at year-end	\$135,145

*D4C entered 2025 with an annual revenue goal of \$515,000. By year-end, the organization had raised \$360,423 in total revenue and support, representing approximately 70% of its annual target. While the goal was not fully met, the funds raised enabled D4C to sustain key programs, strengthen internal systems and continue investing in long-term assets such as buildings, equipment, and other organizational infrastructure.*

## MANY THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS



*Dreaming for Change USA represented individual donors in 2025, making it possible for friends and supporters to invest in our mission and impact. Below is a list of institutional donors and partners who supported Dreaming for Change during the year.*





# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

- **Construction of a teachers’ dormitory** at the D4C campus to improve staff retention, stability, and learning quality.
- **Completion the construction** of bathrooms, a primary school administrative office, a community kitchen, and a community hall.
- **Expansion of BCA school and scaling of home-based early childhood centers** while strengthening teacher development and learning quality.
- **Restructuring of the community health and nutrition program** into an integrated model combining agriculture, nutrition, and health with a focus on the first 1,000 days: from pregnancy to early childhood.
- **Establishment of a 4-acre community farm** school, development of greenhouses, expansion of kitchen gardens, and launch of a dairy project to improve food security and nutrition.
- **Expansion of VSLA groups and women’s economic empowerment** programs, including business training, coaching, and the construction of a community bakery onsite to create practical livelihood and income-generation opportunities.
- **Continued support for high school and university girls**, helping them stay in school, complete their studies and pursue future opportunities through scholarships, mentorship and holistic accompaniment



## OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

### D4C BURUNDI TEAM

- Elsie Charlène Dusabe**
- Janvier Manirakiza**
- Aline Hakizimana**
- Emmanuel Nsabimana**
- Gloria Niwemahoro**
- Fédor Rucumuhimba**
- Néstor Ndikuriyo**
- Lyse Irakoze**
- Joseph Ntirandekura**
- Thierry Nisabwe**



### D4C USA ADVISORY TEAM

- Connie Green, President**
- Barry Thomas, Treasurer**
- Gael Wood, Secretary**
- Jean Fiedler**
- Sue Spirit**
- Emily Scott**
- Randi Braun**
- Jana Duke**
- Janvier Manirakiza**
- Adam Jarrell**
- Marcia Hickman**





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