



D4C staff joined the second cohort of community farm participants in harvesting corn, celebrating the fruits of their hard work and commitment to food security.

Quarter 1 REPORT

Dreaming for Change

+257 71 000 555

info@dreamingforchange.org

Kinanira III, Avenue Gasibe
Bujumbura-Burundi

January-March

2026

MESSAGE FROM

OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



are helping us strengthen financial management, organizational systems, and the quality of our indicators as we begin implementing our 2026-2030 Strategic Plan. This quarter, our leadership team also traveled to Rwanda for a learning visit to outstanding institutions in education and farming, while I joined the African Visionary Fellowship Summit in Nairobi, where I connected with inspiring African leaders and returned with fresh ideas and renewed energy.

The first quarter of 2026 has been a meaningful season of growth, learning, and foundation-building for Dreaming for Change. We began the year by strengthening our team through the recruitment of key leadership and support staff in programs, MEL, communications, HR, security, and hygiene. With support from the SFF, we also continued partnering with Nonprofit Builder to access consultants who

At community level, we continued to see encouraging progress in education, farming, and campus development. As always, we remain committed to building strong programs and a strong institution that can serve children, families, and communities with dignity and excellence.

Thank you for standing with Dreaming for Change. Every milestone we celebrate is also your victory.

With gratitude,

Janvier Manirakiza

Founder and Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janvier M." in a cursive, flowing script.

ABOUT US



Who we are

Dreaming for Change is a family-centered community development organization based in Burundi, serving disadvantaged children, youth, families, and communities through a holistic approach that places education at the heart of change.

At the heart of our work is a simple belief: lasting change happens when children learn, families are strengthened and communities are empowered, not just assisted.

Vision

To build healthy, peaceful and educated communities in Burundi.

Mission

To promote human dignity and social development through access to educational opportunities, agriculture, financial well-being, health, and protection services that help children, families and communities achieve positive transformation.

The Problem:

In many rural communities in Burundi, poverty affects every part of life. Children face barriers to education, malnutrition weakens healthy growth, women and girls remain vulnerable to inequality and families often lack stable income and access to basic services. Because these challenges are deeply connected, communities need more than one isolated response. They need a holistic approach that restores dignity, builds local capacity and creates opportunities for long-term transformation.

What we do:

- Provide quality education through Butanuka Community Academy, home-based ECD shelters and girls' scholarship support.
- Improve child and family well-being through community health, nutrition screening, referrals and nutrition rehabilitation.
- Strengthen livelihoods through village savings and loan associations (VSLAs), vocational training, entrepreneurship and women's empowerment.
- Promote agriculture and food security through climate-smart farming, kitchen gardens and household food production.
- Create safe community spaces for learning, growth and opportunity through our library, computer lab, kitchen, playground and other shared facilities.

Q1 2026 highlights



A young preschool boy at Butanuka Community Academy proudly presents his classroom artwork, reflecting creativity, confidence, and joyful learning.

Operations and HR support

- **11 new staff** were recruited, strengthening D4C's implementation capacity.
- **1** motorcycle was acquired to improve field mobility and operational coordination.
- **16** digital equipment items were secured to strengthen staff productivity and administrative systems.

Education

- **222** children accessed learning at Butanuka Community Academy.
- **56** young children benefited from the home-based ECD shelter model.
- **68** girls were supported to stay on their education journey.
- **291** children and youth accessed learning opportunities through the American Shelf.
- **13,339** cups of porridge and milk supported children's nutrition and attendance.
- **5,105** meals and snacks helped children learn in a healthier environment.

Health and Nutrition

- **157** malnourished children received nutritional support for recovery & growth.
- **3,653** nutrition supplies were distributed to strengthen child nutrition.
- **256** home visits were conducted to monitor children's wellbeing and support vulnerable families.
- **847** people gained awareness on maternal and child health practices.

Community Empowerment & Livelihoods

- **1,597** community members participated in VSLA groups that promote saving, solidarity and mutual support.
- **5,289 kg** of produce was harvested, contributing to food production and stronger community livelihoods.
- **76,500,000 BIF (approximately \$25,600)** was saved by VSLA members during the first quarter, strengthening household resilience and financial discipline.



D4C delegation tours the dormitories at Gashora Girls Academy.

LEARNING VISIT TO RWANDA

A delegation of 11 Dreaming for Change team members visited leading institutions in education and farming in Rwanda. We were inspired to learn from Gashora Girls Academy, Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village and Gardens for Health International.

Across these sites, we observed powerful examples of learner-centered education and whole-child support. Students were encouraged to participate actively, work in groups, manage their time responsibly, and build confidence through clubs, arts, sports and practical skills.

We also saw strong safeguarding and care structures, including a “family-home” model and values-based approaches that guide behavior constructively rather than through punishment.

Back in Burundi, we’re applying key lessons by strengthening learner-centered classrooms, expanding student enrichment and improving our nutrition, farm and campus systems.



D4C Executive Director presents a gift of appreciation to Gashora Girls Academy on behalf of D4C.



Willy, Gretta, and Aristide visit the storage warehouse at Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village



D4C team with Gardens for Health International.

STRENGTHENING OUR TEAM IN 2026



From left to right: Mr. Willy, the Education programs Manager; Mrs Raissa, the HR&Safeguarding officer; Mrs Edna, the Donor relations&Communication coordinator; Mr Diego, the MEL officer and Mr Pierre, the Community empowerment&livelihoods manager

A strong mission requires a strong team. At the start of 2026, Dreaming for Change expanded its staff by recruiting key personnel across leadership, administration and operations.

New team members joined D4C in Monitoring Evaluation and Learning, Donor relations and communications, Human Resources and Safeguarding, Education and Learning, Community Empowerment and Livelihoods while additional security and hygiene staff strengthened the daily functioning of our campus.

These additions are helping us grow as an institution and serve our community with greater excellence, care, and accountability.

D4C's leadership team is now composed of 4 women and 4 men who meet every Monday to review progress, coordinate priorities and strengthen the organization's work across all departments.



Mr Justin, head of hygiene team cleaning windows of a new primary school classroom



Primary school children at BCA participate in an outdoor learning activity at the farm, connecting classroom lessons with practical knowledge about plants and agriculture.

BUILDING STRONGER FOUNDATIONS FOR LEARNING

From January to March 2026, Dreaming for Change strengthened education across Butanuka, reaching 222 students at Butanuka community academy (BCA), 56 children in the home-based ECD program and 291 beneficiaries through the American shelf.

At BCA, students benefited from over 1,500 learning sessions, supported by 13,339 cups of porridge and milk and 5,105 meals. D4C also began providing meals to primary graders on Mondays and Wednesdays when they remain at school for the full day. Students also took part in outdoor practical learning activities including farm visits that connected classroom lessons with real-life learning. With 18 teachers engaged, BCA recorded 96% attendance, 99% retention, and 98% student success and ranked 1st out of 6 schools in the Butanuka zone.

The home-based ECD program continued to grow during the quarter. A total of 56 children participated in 480 learning sessions focused on play, creativity and early stimulation. Children also received 3,293 cups of porridge and milk, while the program maintained 70% parental participation and 96% attendance.

Through the American Shelf, 291 beneficiaries accessed English learning, reading activities, library resources and introductory IT exposure to help them build confidence, curiosity and practical digital skills among children and youth.



A preschool child builds self-confidence and courage through a fun blindfold jumping activity.

ADVANCING GIRLS' EDUCATION



High school girls in D4C's scholarship program pose with Gretta, program assistant, during a school visit.

Dreaming for Change continued to support girls' education through both its high school scholarship program and university scholarship pathway. During the quarter, 66 high school girls and 2 university girls remained supported in their education journey, helping them stay in school and continue learning.

The quarter also highlighted the progress of D4C's two university scholars. Juliette, who studied accounting with Dreaming for Change's support, began her academic internship at D4C where she is gaining practical experience in a professional setting. Anne Marie, who is studying nursing and midwifery, continued her academic internship at Kayanza Hospital, building hands-on skills for her future career in maternal and child health.

These milestones reflect D4C's commitment not only to helping girls remain in school, but also to supporting their transition into higher education, practical experience and future leadership.



Juliette, one of D4C's university scholars completes her accounting internship at the D4C office.



Anne Marie, one of D4C's university scholars, during her nursing and midwifery internship.

Anne Marie was supported from high school to university. Today, she is studying nursing and midwifery at Université Lumière de Bujumbura. [Watch her story here](#)

FARMING FOR FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS



Cohort two farming participants proudly display vegetables harvested from their kitchen gardens.

During Q1, Dreaming for Change continued to strengthen household food security and livelihoods through its community farming program. The program worked with two farmer cohorts: one cohort had already graduated and continued to receive follow-up support, while the second cohort remained active and continued to receive training and ongoing technical support.

Across the quarter, D4C supported 25 kitchen gardens, conducted 12 agronomist household visits and helped 165 households practice composting to improve soil fertility and promote sustainable farming methods.

The program also delivered 18 agricultural training sessions alongside 12 home visits to assess farm activities and provide practical guidance. As a result, farmers cultivated an estimated 7.1 hectares of land and 84% applied improved agricultural practices. These efforts contributed to a total harvest of 5,289 kg of crops during the quarter including 4,350 kg of maize, 46 kg of beans and 893 kg of vegetables.

In addition, 46 women participated in the farming school program, helping strengthen both household nutrition and income generation.



A cohort one participant poses proudly in her bean field.

IMPROVING HEALTH, NUTRITION AND WELL-BEING



Mr. Philbert, D4C's nurse, provides care to a child at the community health office.

Overall, Q1 2026 demonstrated the value of D4C's integrated health and nutrition approach. Through community screening, household follow-up, referrals and nutrition support, the program continued to improve child well-being while strengthening families' knowledge, care practices and resilience.

1. Community Health

During Q1 2026, Dreaming for Change continued to strengthen community health support through household follow-up and health education. Community Health Workers conducted 256 home visits, helping ensure closer monitoring of vulnerable children and families and improving follow-up care at household level. The program also reached 847 women and men of reproductive age with maternal and child health education, contributing to greater awareness and healthier care practices in the community.

2. Nutrition

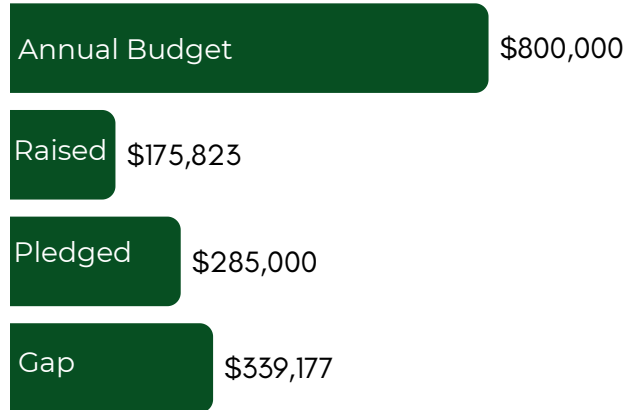
In response to child malnutrition, D4C enrolled 157 malnourished children in emergency nutrition support during the quarter. To promote recovery and healthier growth, the program distributed 912 liters of milk and 912 eggs to children under nutritional monitoring. Overall, 3,653 nutrition supplies were distributed through the program, reflecting a targeted effort to support vulnerable children and prevent further deterioration of their nutritional status.



Our nurse, Philbert, meets with mothers in the community to promote family health and well-being.

Q1 2026 FUNDING STATUS

Dreaming for Change's 2026 annual budget is **\$800,000**. By the end of Q1, the organization had already raised **\$175,823** and secured an additional **\$285,000** in pledged support for the year. This brings total secured and committed funding to \$460,823, representing 57.6% of the annual budget, with a remaining funding **gap of \$339,177**.



Category	Total in BIF	Total in USD
Program Expenses	127,066,695	44,352
Administrative & Operating Expenses (Including CAPEX)	93,157,342	32,515
Fundraising Expenses	7,950,406	2,775

When financial support brings life back

Behind every figure in our financial report, there is a child, a mother and a family whose life can be changed. Fleury's story reminds us that donor support is not only about funding activities; it is about restoring hope and saving lives.



Before



After

Fleury was severely malnourished and suffering from oedema, a serious sign of acute malnutrition. His condition was worrying and his mother had almost lost hope of seeing him survive. Through D4C's nutrition program, our nurse identified the seriousness of his condition. D4C took Fleury to Bubanza Hospital and paid his medical bills so he could receive urgent therapeutic milk support.

Our Community Health Workers also continued to visit Fleury's home to monitor his recovery and support the family. Today, Fleury weighs 22 kg, his oedema has completely disappeared and his health has greatly improved. His story reflects D4C's holistic model: we make sure Fleury goes to school, his mother joins a VSLA group and the family participates in our farming program to fight malnutrition and hunger at the root.

Together, we are building lasting change



VSLA members record savings and loans during a group meeting, building financial inclusion and community solidarity



+ 257 71 000 555



www.dreamingforchange.org



[Our facebook page](#)



Kinanira III, Avenue Gasibe No 17
Bujumbura-Burundi