

Impact Report

Q3 2026

July - September 2026

DREAMING FOR CHANGE
PAINTING THE IMAGE OF AFRICA

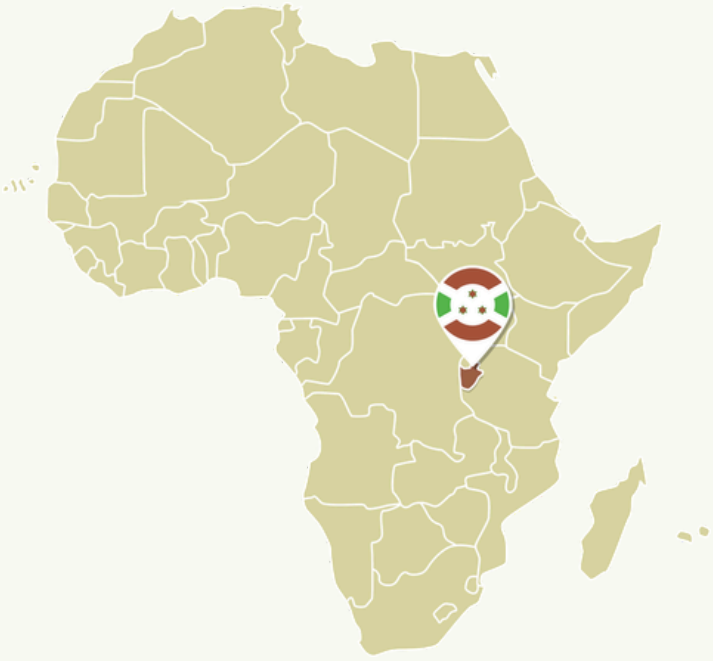
About Dreaming for Change



Dreaming for Change is an education-centered organization in Burundi, working to expand opportunities for children and young people in underserved communities. Our flagship work focuses on improving access to quality education through Butanuka Community Academy, early childhood development, girls' scholarships, and other community-based learning opportunities. Because poverty, hunger, and family instability can directly affect a child's ability to learn and thrive, we complement our education work with livelihoods, nutrition, and other community-based support for families.

OUR MISSION

To promote human dignity and social development by expanding access to quality education and strengthening opportunities in agriculture and economic empowerment, enabling children, youth and families to thrive.



OUR VISION

To build healthy, peaceful and educated communities in Burundi.

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am happy to share that the period from July to September was a remarkable quarter for Dreaming for Change with important progress across our programs and communities.

Butanuka Community Academy opened the new school year with 305 learners, up from 222 at the end of the previous school year.

We also expanded our Home-based early childhood development program from one existing site to four sites. Together, these sites are expected to serve 240 young children, bringing quality early learning closer to families in rural communities.

Another major education highlight was our annual Girls Rising for Change retreat where nearly 200 girls spent three days at the D4C community center learning, connecting with mentors, building confidence and preparing for the new school year.

This quarter also marked an important milestone in our relationship with the Government of Burundi through a new partnership between Dreaming for Change and the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research.

This gives us a stronger framework to work together around early childhood development, quality education, girls' education, teacher development and community learning. For us, this is an important step as we continue building education approaches that can grow beyond D4C and contribute more broadly to education in Burundi.

We also made strong progress on our new modern kitchen and bakery at the D4C community center. The facility is being developed to support the continued growth of our education programs and is designed with the capacity to serve more than 1,500 children as we expand. It will help us prepare meals faster and more efficiently, move from charcoal to cleaner gas cooking and produce nutritious bread for children through the bakery.

Our livelihoods work also continued to grow. Our VSLA network now brings together more than 2,700 members across 106 groups mostly women who are saving together, accessing loans and investing in their families and small businesses. We also launched our rotational goat-rearing initiative, beginning with 100 goats distributed to selected VSLA members. Through the pass-on model, the goal is for the benefit to gradually reach more families over time.

Of course, not everything went exactly as planned. Some activities took longer than expected, particularly construction, and we did not meet every target we had set for the quarter. These experiences continue to help us learn, improve our planning and strengthen the systems behind our work. I am deeply grateful to our staff, community members, partners and supporters who continue to make this work possible.



Thank you for continuing to walk this journey with us.

Janvier Manirakiza
Founder and Executive Director

Q3 2026 at a glance

305 learners

Butanuka Community Academy (BCA) enrollment grew by 37% from the end of the previous school year as BCA expanded to Grade 5.

196 scholars

196 of 200 targeted girls are enrolled in the Girls Rising for Change scholarship program, receiving full scholarship support, mentorship and ongoing follow-up.

240 children

Expanding Home-based ECD from 1 to 4 community sites means 240 young children can now access early learning closer to home.

2,761 members

Reached 130% of the planned target of 2,125 members, reflecting strong community demand for the VSLA model.

100 VSLA members

Across 20 VSLA groups received goats through a rotational model designed to help families build livestock assets and strengthen household livelihoods over time.

BIF 95.9M

(approx. USD 31.9K) saved in Q3

Between July and September, 2,761 VSLA members across 106 groups accumulated BIF 95.9M in collective savings, about 50% above the Q3 target.



Education remained at the center of D4C's work during Q3 2026. The quarter covered an important transition period: closing the 2025-2026 school year, keeping children engaged during the summer, preparing teachers, supporting scholarship students, expanding early childhood education and opening the new academic year with significantly more learners.

Teacher development and education quality

D4C continued investing in the quality of teaching alongside the growth in enrollment. During the quarter, 24 teachers in our programs (Butanuka Community Academy and Home-based ECD) participated in eight days of professional development focused on child development, storytelling and classroom routines. Teachers also continued learning through weekly professional learning community meetings. Our collaboration with U.S educators in Boone, N.C also continued during Q3. Their sessions with D4C teachers covered practical topics including preparation for the first weeks of school, positive behavior, sensory processing and child-centered teaching approaches.



Butanuka Community Academy



Butanuka Community Academy opened the new school year on 21 September with 305 learners and 18 teachers, compared with 222 learners at the end of the previous school year. The school also added Grade 5, allowing more children to continue their education at BCA.

During the holiday period, 334 children participated in a 12-day summer learning program. Activities included reading, storytelling, science, art, educational games and socio-emotional learning, helping children stay engaged between school years. At the start of the new term, BCA also strengthened daily learning routines through structured reading, digital attendance tracking and the integration of IT into Grades 1–5.

Home-based early childhood development expansion

Q3 marked an important expansion of our Home-based early childhood development (ECD) program. From one existing site, D4C added three new community-based sites, bringing the total to four. Together, the four sites are planned to serve 240 young children, bringing early learning closer to families in rural communities. The new sites are located in Kanenga, Gatagura and Gifurwe alongside the existing Tura site. Eight community ECD facilitators were prepared to support the expanded program, while parent meetings helped families understand the program, the selection process and their role in supporting children's learning and nutrition at home.



The Girls Rising for Change Scholarship Program

The Girls Rising for Change Scholarship program also grew significantly during the quarter. By the end of September, 196 girls were receiving scholarship support toward the 2026-2027 school year. The program provides full scholarship support together with mentorship, monitoring and ongoing follow-up throughout the academic year.

A major highlight was the annual Girls Rising for Change retreat held from 26-28 August at the D4C community center. Nearly 200 girls spent three days learning from mentors and role models and participating in conversations on education, leadership, health, confidence and future opportunities. D4C also strengthened the management of the scholarship program through a tracking database and a quarterly school-visit schedule to improve follow-up on girls' progress.

SUCCESS STORY

Chancelline: "She never stopped wanting an education"

Chancelline, a student at ECOFO Muramba, lost her father in primary school and nearly had to leave school to help at home. D4C provided school materials and paid her fees. Her first-term result fell short of the scholarship requirement, and a D4C staff member gave her one more chance. She raised her second-term result to 57% and scored 59% in the national examination, earning a place in boarding school.

She told 196 girls at the August retreat:

"I then decided that I will work the hardest I can."

Her story reflects what the retreat set out to do: show girls that perseverance, supported by the right opportunity, can change a future.





Our livelihoods work continued to grow during Q3, especially through the Village Savings Loan Association (VSLA) groups. D4C now works with 2,761 active members in 106 groups, most of them women. These groups are becoming an important space where members save together, access loans, start or grow small businesses, and respond to household needs. By the end of the quarter, members had accumulated BIF 95.9 million (approx. USD 31.9K) in savings while loans disbursed reached BIF 91.8 million (approx. USD 30.7K).

We also continued strengthening the groups through coaching, leadership training and entrepreneurship support. Thirty-eight VSLAs obtained agreements with the communal administration in Mpanda, helping them become more recognized and organized in their communities. During the quarter, nine groups completed their annual cycle and shared out BIF 33.5 million (approx. USD 11.2K) while 24 more groups were preparing for their next share-out.

Rotational goat-rearing initiative



One of the most important milestones this quarter was the launch of our rotational goat-rearing initiative. On 16 September, D4C distributed 100 goats to 100 selected VSLA members in Mpanda and Bubanza. Before distribution, the goats were vaccinated and checked by livestock officers from the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock. The model is designed so that the first healthy female kid is passed on to another member, allowing the benefit to move from one family to another over time.

We also wanted to understand more clearly what VSLA members themselves are experiencing. During the quarter, D4C spoke with 788 members from 49 groups. Many shared that the groups had helped them increase income, improve access to food and invest in small businesses. Eighty-three percent reported higher income since joining, while average meals per day increased from 1.4 to 2.1 based on members' own reports. Members also told us that they would like greater access to larger loans, livestock and digital saving options.

Farming, nutrition gardens and food security

Agriculture and food security remained another part of our livelihoods work. D4C followed up 73 kitchen gardens, supported 126 women through the farming school, and about 90% of farmers were applying improved practices. The dry season, however, affected production, and harvests remained below target. This reinforced the need to strengthen water access and dry-season farming strategies.



Community engagement also continued through awareness sessions, community service activities and GBV prevention work. These spaces brought together local leaders, women, men and young people to discuss practical issues around farming, nutrition, hygiene, family wellbeing and community responsibility.

SUCCESS STORY

Mrs Emmanueline: "From unemployment to three businesses"

Emmanueline lives on Muramba hill in Bubanza. After finishing her studies, she was unemployed and had never managed to earn as much as BIF 100,000 (approx. USD 33) at one time. After attending D4C community awareness activities, she joined a VSLA and took her first loan to start a banana-beer business.

At the end of her first savings cycle, she received BIF 360,000 from the share-out and used it to buy two young pigs. After selling the pigs, her family was able to buy farmland. During the second VSLA cycle, the family saved and invested further, eventually building a house and opening a small shop.

Now in her third year with the VSLA, Emmanueline took a BIF 600,000 loan to start producing concrete construction blocks, a product that was not being made locally. She also received a goat through D4C's new rotational goat initiative which will support her farming through manure.

Her story shows how a VSLA can become much more than a savings group. Starting with one small loan, Emmanueline has gradually built multiple sources of income, productive assets and greater stability for her family.



During Q3, D4C's community health workers continued supporting families across 13 intervention hills, with a focus on malnutrition, maternal health, hygiene and community awareness. A total of 187 malnourished children were screened and followed up, including 46 children who showed improved nutritional status while 60 pregnant women received community-based support.

SUCCESS STORY

Raissa's journey back to strength

Raissa is a 13-year-old girl whose condition deeply affected our team. When D4C first met her, she weighed only 11 kgs and was suffering from severe malnutrition. She was extremely weak, withdrawn and needed more than occasional food assistance.

Because her condition required consistent care, D4C brought Raissa to stay temporarily at the Community Center, where she could receive regular meals, nutrition support and close follow-up in a safe environment. For nearly a month, she received breakfast, lunch and dinner every day, along with additional nutrition support and care from the team.

By the end of that period, Raissa's weight had increased to 14.6 kilograms, a gain of 3.6 kilograms. Just as importantly, her strength, confidence and smile began to return.
Raissa's story reminds us that malnutrition is rarely only about food. Children may also be dealing with illness, emotional distress, poverty and limited access to care. This is why D4C continues to connect nutrition support with community follow-up, family support and other services that help children recover and remain well.



PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING

Dreaming for Change ended Q3 with 63 staff members (37 male and 26 female) as our programs continued to grow. A major highlight was our first all-staff retreat which brought the entire team together for wellbeing, reflection, spiritual renewal and stronger relationships.

The quarter also brought important learning and capacity-building opportunities. D4C participated in Segal 2026: The Next Beat in Nairobi, a gathering focused on relationships, collaboration and the future of African-led change. The gathering also gave D4C an opportunity to reconnect with existing donors and build relationships with potential new funding partners.

We also continued strengthening our internal capacity through Nonprofit Builder, communications support from Partners for Equity and organizational capacity support connected to the Micah 6:8 Foundation and Era93. Our teachers also benefited from virtual professional development led by educator friends in Boone, NC, strengthening classroom practice and teacher learning.

Another important milestone was D4C's new partnership with Burundi's Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, creating a stronger framework for collaboration around early childhood development, girls' education, teacher development and quality learning.

These investments in our people, partnerships and systems are helping prepare D4C for its next stage of growth.





Financial Overview



Fundraising

By the end of Q3 2026, D4C had raised approximately USD 450,000, representing 56% of our USD 800,000 annual fundraising goal.

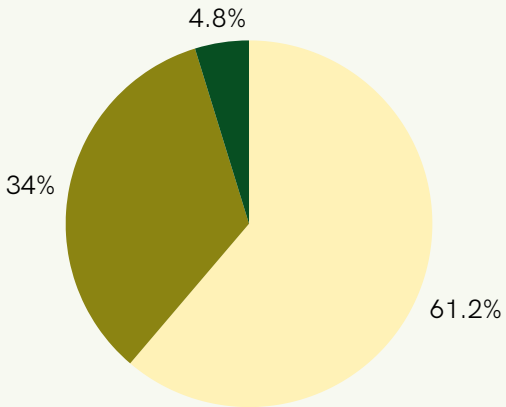
Q3 contributed USD 141,337, slightly above the USD 137,815 raised in Q2.

As the year progresses, we have reviewed our ambitions against available resources and implementation capacity. To protect program quality and avoid overextending the organization, some activities originally planned for 2026 have been rescheduled to 2027.

This allows D4C to prioritize core commitments and grow at a sustainable pace.

Expenditure

Most D4C expenditure continued to support direct program delivery, including education, livelihoods, community health, program personnel and infrastructure required to deliver these services.



Program delivery	Administration & operations	Development & fundraising
61.2%	34%	4.8%

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