

Providing family support to help children thrive

Impact Report 2026



Tushinde means
‘We Succeed’ in Kiswahili.



From our founder, Megan Wright.

In December 2009, I was moved by the plight of a three-year-old girl who, after being rescued from abuse, spent two weeks in a police station because officers had nowhere safe to take her. That moment inspired me to reach out to friends and family, and through their overwhelming generosity, Tushinde was born.



Reflecting on this impact report sixteen years later, it is rewarding to see the statistics of the children we have reached and the individual stories of transformation. Beyond the numbers, I am struck by the community of change we have built.

This report, covering the period January 2022 to December 2025, demonstrates that it is possible to support families with complex needs, enabling them to raise their children in loving, safe environments with the opportunity to thrive.

However, these achievements come during a time of extreme global challenge. The cost-of-living crisis continues to be felt most acutely by the poorest families, who were already struggling to survive. As funding from major institutions and donor nations faces significant cuts, our intervention is needed more than ever.

We are incredibly grateful to our loyal supporters and donors. Please enjoy this report and join us in celebrating the resilience and success of the families we serve.

Thank you.

Executive summary

Between January 2022 and December 2025, Tushinde's integrated model has transformed the lives of over 24,000 people, directly supporting 1,375 caregivers and children - strengthening family resilience on the journey toward independence, moving families from crisis to long-term stability.

Achievements

Economic independence

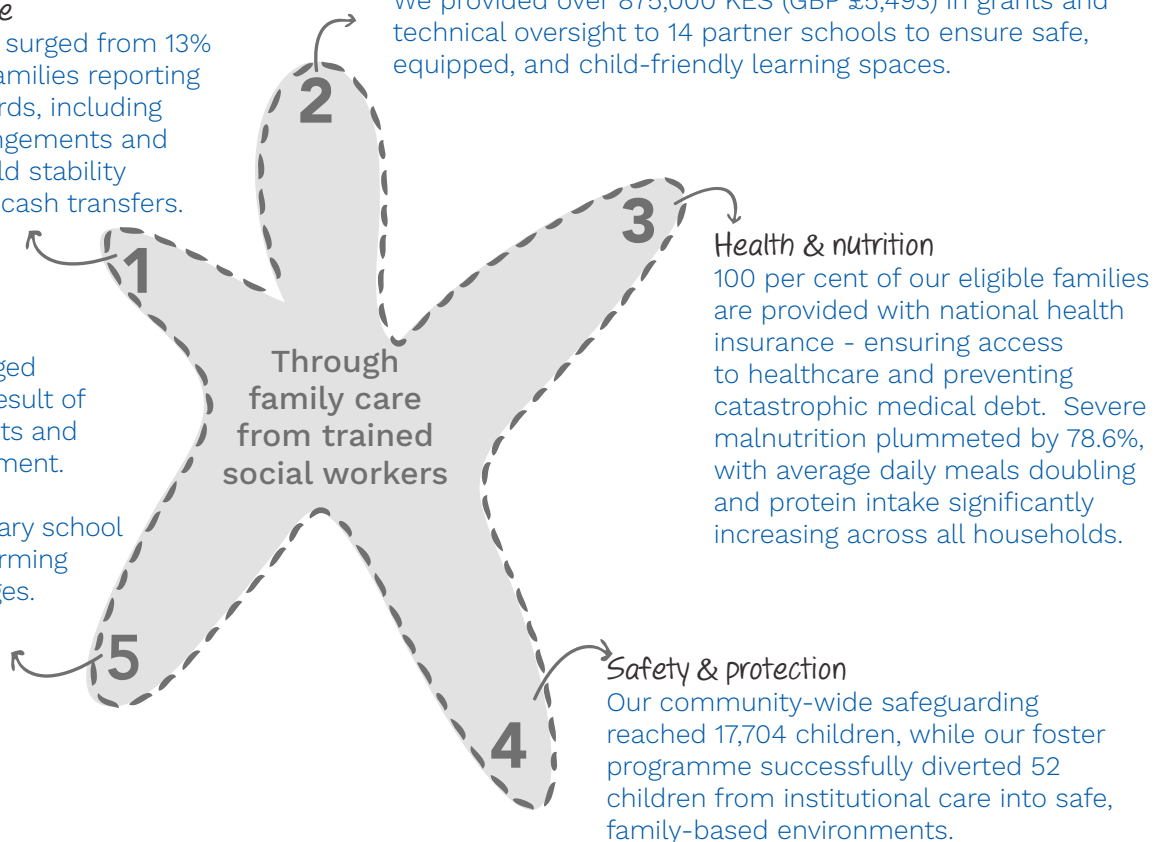
Caregiver employment surged from 13% to 80%, with 100% of families reporting improved living standards, including dignified sleeping arrangements and strengthened household stability supported by targeted cash transfers.

Education & youth

School attendance surged from 9% to 93%, as a result of 752 school fee payments and targeted family engagement. With half of all children transitioning to secondary school - consistently outperforming local settlement averages.

School infrastructure

We provided over 875,000 KES (GBP £5,493) in grants and technical oversight to 14 partner schools to ensure safe, equipped, and child-friendly learning spaces.



To ensure our interventions are deeply rooted and sustainable, Tushinde collaborates with a network of frontline community actors:

- ★ Community Health Volunteers (CHVs): Serve as essential connectors between households and Tushinde, conducting home visits and linking families to critical healthcare, HIV support, and child protection systems.
- ★ Youth Mentors: Act as trusted role models providing psychosocial care and life skills development. They co-facilitate holiday camps and youth forums to address emerging challenges facing young people.
- ★ Area Chiefs: Strengthen local governance and accountability by addressing family conflicts early. Their partnership builds the institutional trust necessary for community participation.
- ★ Nyumba Kumi Leads: Function as grassroots gatekeepers for clusters of ten households. They provide vital insights into local dynamics and identify safeguarding concerns to ensure safe, effective family engagement.

Our vision: Building a future of resilience and protection

Overview

Our model of care addresses the interconnected challenges of poverty, health, education, and family instability through five pillars: **family strengthening, educational access, economic empowerment, early childhood development, and rights and protection.**

Supported by trained social workers and counsellors, we provide professional, evidence-based guidance to help families navigate crisis and build resilience. Over the next five years, we aim to strengthen family stability, remove barriers to education, and promote economic self-sufficiency, ensuring our community-led interventions create a lasting, sustainable impact for every child.

Our vision

Tushinde Children’s Trust envisions “**a world where every child is protected.**”

Our strategic plan for 2026–2030 builds on over 16 years of experience in Nairobi’s informal settlements of Mathare and Kiambu, ensuring no child falls through the gaps. We aim for a future where all children realise their rights to protection, education, and development within safe and nurturing family environments.

Mission

Our mission is to reduce risks to children by strengthening family structures, providing access to education, social protection, and economic empowerment.

By equipping children and caregivers with the tools and resources to thrive, we ensure that children from marginalised backgrounds grow up healthy, educated, and supported in caring families.

Values

Our work is guided by six core values:



Today, our work is more relevant than ever, directly embodying the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office’s Global Charter on Children’s Care (2025). This alignment is further strengthened by our role in supporting the Kenya National Care Reform Strategy.

“Our vision is not just a statement; it is lived daily. It is reflected in our staff, who serve with purpose, compassion, and professionalism, ensuring no child is overlooked, regardless of the complexity of their circumstances. Through strengthened systems, partnerships, and intentional actions, our commitment remains clear: no child should fall through the gaps.”

Anne Njine
Tushinde Country Director Kenya

Navigating the complexity of informal settlements

The communities we serve

Tushinde Children's Trust works in Mathare and Kiambiu, two densely populated informal settlements in Nairobi where structural poverty and environmental constraints shape daily life for families.

Mathare, comprising of multiple villages in northeast Nairobi, is estimated to house over 500,000 people within approximately 3.0 km², making it one of the most densely populated urban areas in Kenya. The constituency has a poverty headcount ratio of about 36.5%, indicating that over a third of residents live below the national absolute poverty line. In urban settlements like these, this equates to living on less than Ksh 8,000 (GBP £50) per month (USD\$2/day) - a sum that must cover all food, water, rent, and healthcare for the entire family. Kiambiu, covering approximately 0.5 km² with an estimated population of 40,000–50,000 residents, faces similar challenges.



Tushinde provides a vital lifeline in Nairobi's most volatile settlements



Substance use within supported households halved, leading to more stable and secure environments for children.



Economic and Environmental Pressures

At the household level, families struggle with unsustainable livelihoods, high dependency ratios, and limited access to social protection, often worsened by a lack of legal identification. These economic hurdles are frequently compounded by environmental shocks: recurrent flooding and fires repeatedly disrupt incomes and cause displacement. Furthermore, housing instability and forced evictions linked to urban development have destabilised family units and weakened traditional social support systems.

Escalating Risks to Children

Child protection risks have intensified within these crowded environments. We have observed a rise in cases of neglect, gender-based violence, and child rape, which are often underreported due to deep-seated stigma. An increasing number of children are spending time on the streets or going missing, while gaps in government support continue to delay access to justice. Additionally, periods of political unrest and general insecurity create safety risks for both beneficiaries and the staff working to support them.

Barriers to Education and Wellbeing

In education, the path to success is obstructed by financial constraints, teenage pregnancies, and substance abuse among adolescents, all of which contribute to high dropout rates. Beyond the classroom, safeguarding concerns - such as the persistent use of corporal punishment - and a lack of caregiver knowledge regarding child rights further impact student wellbeing. When combined with chronic illness among caregivers and widespread mental health challenges, the pressure on the family unit becomes immense.

Our Integrated Response

It is within this volatile context that Tushinde delivers family-centred, community-based interventions. By addressing the root causes of instability - from economic empowerment to child protection and education - we aim to break persistent cycles of poverty. These multifaceted challenges highlight the urgent need for our integrated, adaptive approach to ensure that children in Mathare and Kiambiu can achieve safe, sustainable, and positive long-term outcomes.

From crisis to self-reliance: Our integrated model of care

Family Support Programme

Tushinde’s Family Support Programme reaches families who often remain hidden from formal support systems, bridging the gap to essential services through a dedicated family-strengthening approach.

By focusing on household stabilisation, the programme builds clear pathways toward long-term self-reliance. This progress is driven by a structured four-phase model that moves families through crisis resolution, life skills development, and economic empowerment toward a final graduation into self-sufficiency.

Family in crisis joins the programme



Introducing the process

Case assessments can take up to six weeks, during which Tushinde stabilises families by providing emergency food, rent support, and negotiating with schools to ensure children remain in learning.

Once completed, families formally join the programme and are assigned a dedicated social worker to guide them. This integrated care includes weekly M-Pesa transfers, school enrolment, and registration with the National Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF). To ensure holistic stability, we also provide professional counselling, psychosocial care, and referrals to specialised services.

Crucially, Tushinde operates an emergency foster-care programme in close collaboration with the Department of Children’s Services. In alignment with Kenya’s care reform agenda, we prioritise safe, family-based care to prevent unnecessary institutionalisation. This unique model, combining immediate stabilisation, sustained family support, and active diversion from institutional care, is a Tushinde hallmark that ensures children thrive within a secure family structure.

Tushinde utilises **M-Pesa**, a cash-transfer programme, to provide caregivers with 500–850 KES (GBP£3 - £5 weekly). This accessible system requires only a SIM card and ID, allowing recipients to withdraw cash or pay bills directly. These reliable transfers empower families to prioritise nutrition, healthcare, and school attendance, fostering long-term household stability and independence.

Tushinde facilitates annual **Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF)** payments for all our eligible families, enrolling them in Kenya’s national health scheme. For KES 5,400–10,200 (GBP £33–£63) per year, households gain full hospital coverage. This essential protection removes the fear of unanticipated expenses, ensuring children receive medical care without sacrificing the family’s food security or stability.

A family in crisis

A child and their family join Tushinde if they meet at least one of the following criteria;

- ★ A child is acutely malnourished, severely undernourished, or living with a serious chronic condition.
- ★ A parent or primary caregiver has a chronic illness (including HIV, TB, cancer, diabetes, or other long-term conditions) that leaves them too unwell to work or provide adequate care.
- ★ The child is orphaned or separated from both parents and cared for by a relative or guardian who lacks income, particularly when combined with another barrier such as disability or acute risk.
- ★ The household lives in extreme poverty, approximately KES 100/ GBP£0.62 per day.
- ★ The family faces eviction, homelessness, or is living in an unsafe shelter.
- ★ A child is out of school, has dropped out, or is street-connected and at risk of exploitation or institutionalisation.

“Before the SHIF payment support, illness brought fear and forced us to borrow money because we could not afford medical care, but now we attend clinic appointments consistently, access medication easily and I feel more stable about my family’s health.”

Neema

During this period, Tushinde supported 278 households, with 100 families successfully graduating from our three-year programme, moving from crisis to independence.

Case study - Family Support Programme

In 2024, Grace, a single mother of two living in an informal settlement, was referred to Tushinde at a moment of extreme hardship. Living in a single-room home without electricity or a support network, she faced an unstable income and severe food insecurity. Her premature infant required urgent medical care, while her five-year-old daughter was malnourished and unable to attend school.

Through our Family Support Programme, Grace received coordinated, holistic care. Both children were enrolled in a partner Childcare Centre, providing them with daily nutritious meals, early learning, and a safe environment. Tushinde further stabilised the household by providing bedding, medical follow-ups, and enrolment in the Social Health Insurance Fund, alongside consistent counselling and mentorship for Grace.

With this dedicated support, Grace rebuilt her confidence and began saving toward self-reliance. Today, her children are healthy and thriving, and she looks toward the future with newfound optimism.

'I now believe my children will grow healthy and happy,' Grace says. 'I thank Tushinde for walking with me when I had no hope.'



547 emergency food parcels were distributed to support families during periods of acute need.

Empowering the Caregiver

While our programme is child-centred, the primary caregiver is the engine of family transformation.

Most of our caregivers are single mothers navigating a complex web of survival. For these women, the 'conflict of care' is a daily reality; they face the agonising choice between leaving young children unattended to seek casual labour, or staying home and watching their children go hungry.

Our intervention breaks this cycle by addressing the deep-seated barriers to stability. We support caregivers grappling with

interpersonal violence, providing a safety net that allows them to prioritise their physical safety and that of their children. We also move those living with HIV or chronic illnesses from a state of medical crisis to consistent health management through SHIF enrolment.

Recognising that long-term poverty often creates a psychological dependency trap, our social workers provide

intensive mentorship. This shifts the mindset from daily survival toward future-oriented planning. During the initial six-week assessment, we resolve acute stressors—providing emergency food, stopping evictions, and securing school placements. Once enrolled, the combination of M-Pesa transfers and professional social work provides the breathing room needed to build resilience, ensuring caregivers graduate both financially stable and empowered.

Mary's story

Mary, a mother of six, joined the Tushinde Programme in September 2024 during a time of significant instability. Living with a chronic illness and navigating emotional abuse, she struggled to meet her family's most basic needs. The situation became so dire that three of her children were forced onto the streets to search for food.

Through our Family Support Programme, Mary received holistic care, including professional counselling, material assistance, school fee coverage, and temporary support for rent and essentials. These interventions stabilised the household and allowed her children to leave the streets and return to the classroom. Demonstrating remarkable resolve, Mary even launched

a small business selling solar lamps to build an independent income.

However, in May 2025, shortly after she gave birth, Mary's husband abandoned the family, leaving her unable to work and facing immediate eviction. Tushinde responded quickly with emergency rent support, preventing the family from becoming homeless.

Today, Mary's family remains safely housed and her children are consistent in their schooling. Their risk of returning to the streets has been significantly reduced, highlighting how sustained, responsive support can protect a family's future even in the face of sudden, unexpected setbacks.





Empowering the next generation

Once a family joins our programme, a dedicated social worker partners with the caregiver to secure the child's future through education. We ensure every student is enrolled in a partner school, providing everything they need to thrive - from tuition fees and school materials to essential psychosocial support.

For our youngest children, we partner with Childcare Centres in Mathare and Kiambiu. These centres serve as a safe haven, offering nutritious meals and a structured routine that allows caregivers to seek work. As children enter their teenage years, those over 12 are paired with a mentor. These role models provide consistent guidance, helping adolescents navigate life's hurdles and make informed decisions.

To ensure this support continues year-round, children attend our holiday camps. These camps provide a vital layer of protection, offering a secure environment with nutritious meals, life-skills workshops, and creative arts. This holistic approach ensures every child remains supervised, inspired, and safe.



Our programme increased school access by over a third - ensuring far more children are now receiving an education.

Benjamin's story

In 2024, 13-year-old Benjamin was at a breaking point. Struggling with family instability and negative peer influences, he had become withdrawn and was at high risk of dropping out of school.

Tushinde intervened with a holistic support system, providing essential scholastic materials and tuition fees alongside consistent, one-on-one mentorship. Working closely with his teachers, we created a supportive environment that allowed Benjamin to re-engage at his own pace.

The transformation has been profound. Within a year, Benjamin regained his confidence, embraced positive social circles, and successfully transitioned to a public secondary school. To ensure his continued growth, Tushinde facilitated a referral to the educational organisation Madodo for ongoing guidance. Now a focused and responsible student, Benjamin reflects: 'I am happy to have been in Tushinde. I would not be where I am if it weren't for their support.'

His journey proves that with the right mentorship, even the most disconnected youth can thrive.



Building economic independence

Carer employment surged from 13.33% to 80%, representing a substantial improvement in access to regular income.

Once household stability is achieved, some of our caregivers are enrolled in our **Economic Empowerment Programme**. This initiative provides comprehensive business training followed by seed grants, ensuring families develop reliable income streams to meet their basic needs independently.

Since 2022, Tushinde has trained 52 caregivers who have successfully launched diverse ventures, including confectioneries, clothing thrifting, food vending, and childcare services. This transition is carefully managed; our social workers closely monitor household income and stability as we gradually reduce financial assistance and school fee coverage. This tapered support is a critical step in preparing families for successful completion of the programme, moving them from a state of crisis to long-term self-sufficiency.

With 86 per cent of our participants being women, our Economic Empowerment Programme ensures they have the financial autonomy to lead their families toward long-term independence.

“I have improved my customer service skills. I did not know that being friendly to customers could lead to more business! My customers keep coming back and referring other customers to my business. I am very intentional with customer engagement, hygiene, and establishing key networks in my business, which were all key lessons during the training and mentorship. I am very grateful to the sponsors of this project, it has definitely helped my business.”

Zuri



Attendance during the 2025 training cycle averaged 89%, demonstrating strong commitment from participants despite the demands of daily income generation.

Daphine's story

Daphine, a caregiver from Kiambu, joined Tushinde's Income Generating Activities (IGA) Programme seeking a more stable future for her family. Previously, she relied on gruelling casual labour, earning just Ksh. 300 (GBP£1.80) per day - an amount that made it nearly impossible to meet basic needs and left her doubting her own potential in business.

Everything changed through our 14-session IGA training. Daphine gained practical skills in business development, financial management, and record-keeping, which shifted her mindset from survival to entrepreneurship. After completing the first eight sessions, she received a Ksh. 7,500 (GBP£46.87) grant, which she strategically used to launch a small business selling footwear.

With newfound dedication, Daphine now maintains accurate financial records and is steadily growing her venture. Her sights are set high: she dreams of expanding into a fully stocked shoe shop and eventually creating employment opportunities for young people in her community. Daphine credits the combination of training, mentorship, and financial support for her transformation, proving that economic empowerment is the key to building sustainable, independent livelihoods.



The Tushinde Childcare Centres

The Tushinde Childcare Programme addresses the critical childcare crisis facing families in the Mathare and Kiambu informal settlements.

In these densely populated urban areas, the pressures of poverty often force parents, particularly mothers, to make difficult choices between earning an essential income and ensuring their children's safety. Without affordable options, many caregivers are left with no choice but to leave young children in hazardous, unsupervised conditions or bring them into unsafe work environments, exposing them to preventable risks and developmental setbacks.

Our programme operates on a collaborative model, partnering with community-based Childcare Centres to provide a safe, nurturing environment for young children. We currently support two of these centres, one in Mathare and another in Kiambu. By subsidising the cost of care, we enable parents to pursue stable employment while the Childcare Centres provide nutritious meals, early learning opportunities, and consistent child protection oversight.



Our Childcare Centres provide full-time care for up to 60 babies a day, six days a week, 52 weeks a year.

- giving mothers the peace of mind to secure regular work and a stable income.

This dual-generation solution creates a secure foundation for children while simultaneously empowering their parents to build sustainable livelihoods. Our approach recognises that child protection and family economic stability are fundamentally interconnected; when a child is in a high-quality Childcare Centre, the whole family has the opportunity to thrive.



A total of 76,957 meals were provided for our Childcare Centres, improving food security for children from vulnerable households.

Brian's story

When Brian enrolled in our Childcare Centre on 28 July 2025, his Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measured just 11 cm. This indicated acute malnutrition and signalled an urgent need for intervention. In response, our partner centre immediately implemented a structured feeding and care plan to support his recovery.

Brian's treatment focused on daily, nutrient-rich porridge and balanced meals to ensure he received the necessary caloric and micronutrient intake. Beyond nutrition, the centre provided a stable, nurturing environment with consistent routines, attentive caregiving, and opportunities for play and social interaction - elements just as vital to a child's recovery as food itself.

The transformation was steady and heartening. Brian began to show improved strength and higher activity levels, becoming more energetic, engaged, and confident in his surroundings.

In Brian's most recent assessment, we recorded a MUAC of 14.5 cm, placing him well within a healthy range.



Brian's recovery is a powerful testament to how consistent nutrition and quality care in a dedicated Childcare Centre can radically improve health outcomes and give a child a second chance at a healthy life.

Protecting children in schools and beyond

For children in informal settlements, school holidays shift rather than eliminate risks. While corporal punishment persists in classrooms, the loss of institutional supervision during breaks exposes children to neglect, exploitation, and food insecurity.

Without school structure or feeding programmes, unsupervised children become increasingly vulnerable, requiring intensive community monitoring to prevent them from falling into crisis during these precarious gaps.

Holiday camps

Recognising that school holidays bring heightened risks of neglect and exploitation, Tushinde operates the **Holiday Camp Programme**.

These camps provide a vital safety net when schools are closed, offering a secure environment where children receive nutritious meals and engage in child-led activities. Beyond recreation, the camps allow our social workers and youth mentors to maintain consistent contact with at-risk children. This strategic oversight ensures that any emerging emergencies or protection concerns are addressed immediately, keeping the progress made during the school term from being lost during the holidays.

Nine holiday camps were delivered, with an average of 500 children participating per camp, - strengthening resilience, confidence, and social skills.

School outreach

Tushinde partners with 14 primary schools to fortify child protection and expand access to quality education. This collaboration is built on a mutual commitment: Tushinde provides professional development for teachers and grants for learning materials and classroom refurbishments. In exchange, schools enrol Tushinde-supported children - many of whom navigate significant learning gaps - while strictly upholding safeguarding standards.

A cornerstone of this programme is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at each school. These leads work with Tushinde to identify and manage protection concerns through established referral pathways, ensuring rapid, effective responses.

To empower students, we support Children's Rights Clubs (CRCs) across all partner schools. These clubs offer a platform for children to advocate for their rights. By collaborating with partners like HAART Kenya and Friends of Karura Forest, we also facilitate community activities that expose children to new environments. These experiences are vital for their holistic development, helping to break the cycle of social exclusion and fostering confidence beyond their immediate surroundings.



100% of partner schools implemented child protection policies, improving safeguarding compliance.

Case study - School outreach programme

Tushinde Children's Trust is transforming learning environments for children in Nairobi's informal settlements through its School Outreach Programme. Tushinde provided targeted grants to 14 partner schools, directly addressing critical infrastructure and resource gaps. At Dr. Livingstone Primary School, new triplet desks reduced overcrowding, improving comfort and concentration. At Uhuru Estate Primary, repaired windows enhanced safety and classroom conditions, while Baraka Calvary School now benefits from a reliable 6,000-litre water supply, supporting hygiene and nutrition. Across schools, investments in teaching equipment, science equipment, textbooks, and digital tools have strengthened curriculum delivery and student engagement.

These practical, needs-based interventions are yielding immediate results: safer classrooms, increased learner participation, and improved academic outcomes. By focusing on foundational improvements, the programme restores dignity and creates equitable opportunities for all children.

Youth

The **Tushinde Youth Programme** is dedicated to nurturing resilient, skilled young people capable of thriving despite the challenges of informal settlements.

By addressing both immediate crises and long-term development, the programme fosters self-dignity and independence through several core components:

- ★ **Consistent Mentorship:** Weekly individual and group sessions with trained mentors provide stable guidance and emotional support.
- ★ **Skill-Building Workshops:** Quarterly group training focuses on personal development and practical life skills tailored to the specific needs of the youth.
- ★ **Safe Spaces:** Gender-specific sessions offer boys and girls dedicated environments to discuss unique challenges and develop peer-led solutions.
- ★ **Evidence-Based Care:** We utilise 'My Star' assessments to evaluate well-being and track individual progress, alongside regular social worker support to address psychosocial hurdles.
- ★ **Crisis Response:** When emergencies strike, we provide essential resources - including food, medicine, and temporary housing - to ensure a young person's trajectory isn't derailed by immediate hardship.



Twelve youth forums provided mentoring and life skills to 100 young people per session

- building the resilience and emotional wellbeing needed for them to navigate adulthood and break the cycle of poverty for good.



This holistic approach has transformed lives by equipping mentees with the resilience needed to care for themselves and their families. Today, Tushinde's scalable model serves as a vital engine for empowerment, contributing meaningfully to the long-term transformation of marginalised communities.



Amina's story

Fifteen year old Amina was navigating life in the Kiambu informal settlement while facing significant obstacles to her education. Raised by a single mother, persistent financial constraints frequently disrupted her schooling, leading Amina to struggle with trust and self-expression.

Everything changed when Amina was matched with a dedicated mentor through our programme. By participating in mentorship sessions and specialised girls' forums, she found a safe space to build her self-esteem and develop a more positive outlook on life. With Tushinde covering her school fees, the constant threat of being sent home vanished, allowing her to focus entirely on her studies for the first time.

The result of this stability was remarkable. Amina's academic performance soared, culminating in exceptional Grade 8 results. Her hard work earned her a prestigious scholarship to Jomo Kenyatta Girls Secondary School, one of Kenya's top high schools.

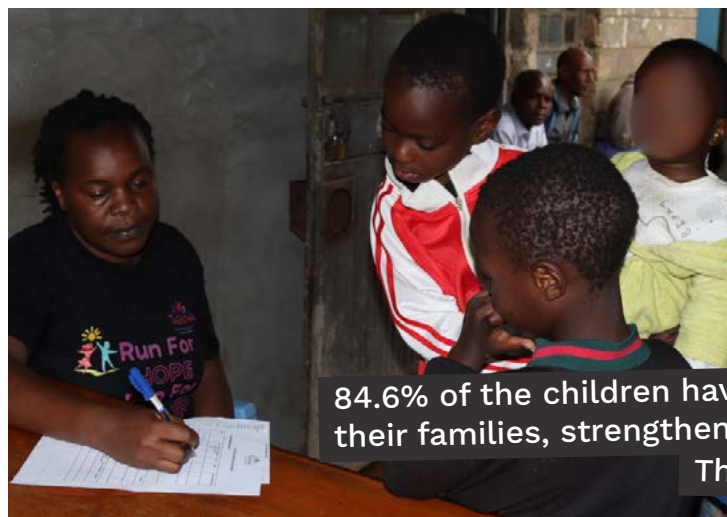
Today, Amina is a confident, motivated student whose journey demonstrates how the right combination of consistent mentorship and financial support can completely rewrite a child's future.

Strengthening alternative care

Foster care

Mid 2024, Tushinde launched the **Emergency Foster Care Programme**, filling a critical gap in Kenya's child protection system and aligning with national efforts to deinstitutionalise care. This initiative provides immediate, short-term, family-based placements for children in crisis, ensuring they are cared for in safe, nurturing environments while long-term solutions are arranged in their best interest. By prioritising these family-based alternatives, the programme ensures that children avoid institutionalisation, which can often undermine their development and well-being.

Our foster parents are rigorously trained and supported by Tushinde, with homes carefully selected for suitability and accessibility - including for children with disabilities. The primary goal is to stabilise the family situation so a child can safely be reunited with their caregivers.



84.6% of the children have been successfully reunited with their families, strengthening long-term family stability.

The remaining children are still in foster care.

If reunification cannot be achieved, our social workers move to trace suitable kinship or adoptive care within the extended family.

By combining proactive family support with emergency fostering, Tushinde ensures every child receives the most appropriate care, prioritising **safety, dignity, and a permanent sense of belonging**.

Vallery's story

Vallery's early childhood was marked by loss and separation. After her father's death, her mother left when Vallery was just five months old, leaving her to be raised by various relatives. As she grew older, the absence of her mother deeply affected her, eventually prompting her to travel alone to Nairobi in a desperate search for her. Found late at night by police while wandering the streets, she was identified as being at extreme risk and referred for immediate protection.

Through local authorities, she was placed under the care of Tushinde Children's Trust in a safe foster home. Here, she received essential needs support and consistent psychosocial care. Over three months, this stable environment allowed her to regain her confidence and emotional stability. Simultaneously, our family tracing efforts successfully located her grandmother in Murang'a County, who was then supported by our team to resume full - time care.

On 10th December 2025, Vallery was successfully reunited with her grandmother. Today, she is safe, supported, and hopeful about her future - a transition that demonstrates the life - changing impact of timely, coordinated family - based care interventions.



Data driven impact

At Tushinde, we believe that high-quality care requires high-quality data. **We don't just provide support; we measure every step of the journey to ensure our programmes are actually working.**

By using professional tracking tools and digital systems, we can see exactly how a family is progressing and where they might need extra help. This evidence-based approach ensures we are transparent with our donors and, most importantly, provides the best possible protection for the children in our care.



"Tushinde has been part of my journey from preschool to where I am now-studying Bachelors of Veterinary Medicine at University of Nairobi.

Their investment in my education and wellbeing has shaped who I am today and opened doors I never thought possible" Kendi

Digital case

The development of the Corteza database is a major step in strengthening Tushinde's data and case management. This centralised platform allows staff to easily access, update, and track beneficiary information in one place. Through specialised dashboards, social workers record case notes and monitor progress in key areas like education and health.

A primary strength of the system is its ability to visualise trends over time, helping our team flag emerging issues early and make timely decisions to support families. By reducing reliance on paper records, Corteza has improved data organisation, reporting, and organisational accountability. Ultimately, this system makes our data more functional for decision-making and programme monitoring, directly improving the quality of support we provide to our beneficiaries and ensuring every child's journey toward stability is accurately documented.



By mapping progress every few months, we don't just see that a family is doing better, we can see exactly where they are thriving and where they still need our support.

Caregivers become active partners in their own growth as they see their progress mapped visually over time.



Progress mapping example

We move beyond anecdotal success to provide donors and stakeholders with verifiable, data-backed proof of long-term transformation.

Measure Progress - The Outcomes Star™

To measure transformation, Tushinde uses the Outcomes Star, a specialised visual framework consisting of three key tools: Family Star Plus, My Star, and Recovery Star. These are used to assess caregivers, youth, and recovery clients across vital domains such as child wellbeing, education, mental health, and housing.

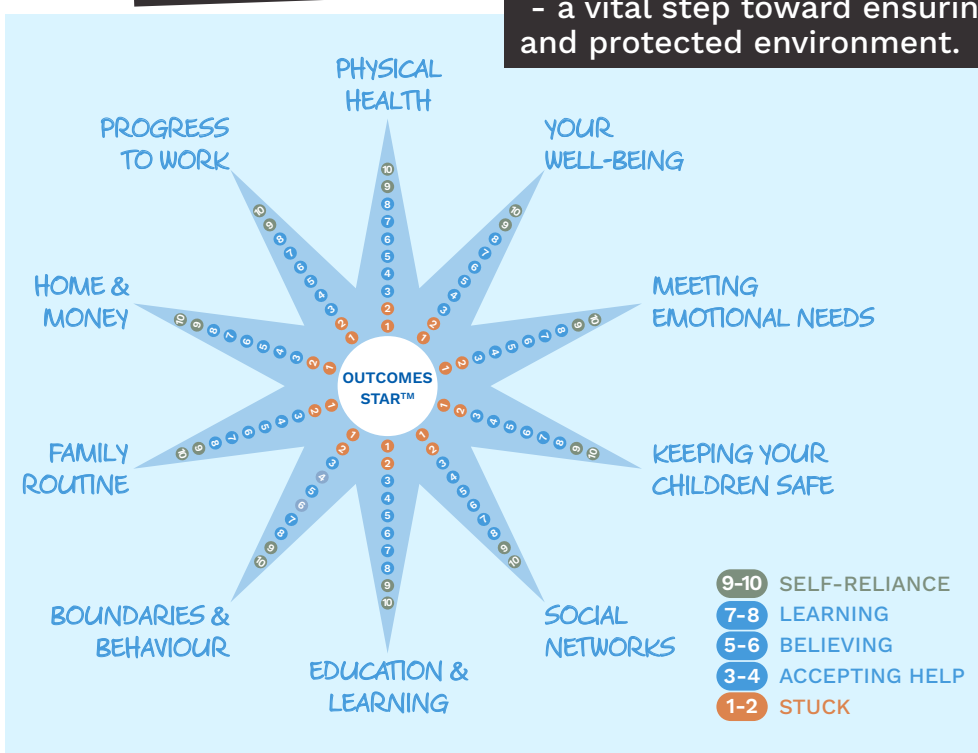
By conducting assessments every four to six months, our team can visually map progress, identifying both successes and setbacks to measure average gains. This data is aggregated into dashboards that inform case management and strategic decision-making. This systematic approach ensures that beneficiary outcomes are consistently captured and analysed. Ultimately, it allows us to strengthen programme effectiveness and allocate resources where they are needed most, ensuring every family has a clear, data-backed roadmap from crisis toward long-term independence and stability.

4,932 parents were trained in positive parenting techniques - improving the safety and wellbeing of children within the home.

Child protection concerns have nearly halved - reflecting a significant increase in family stability and safety.

The number of children who feel safe at home rose to nearly 96 per cent

- a vital step toward ensuring every child lives in a secure and protected environment.



Outcomes Star™ assessments



A culture of learning

Our work is guided by a Learning and Adaptation Framework. This dynamic feedback system ensures our support remains responsive to the evolving realities of the families we serve.

Social workers drive this process by tracking progress via the Outcomes Star and documenting assessments in the Corteza platform. This is bolstered by community health promoters and mentors, whose field observations feed directly into our learning systems to ensure intervention consistency.

Evidence-Based Decision Making

Centralised monthly statistics allow us to monitor key indicators across all departments. These routine updates inform both internal strategy and external reporting to the Directorate of Children Services and our donors.

To ensure safety, critical safeguarding issues are handled immediately by our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) during dedicated 'at-risk' meetings.

Beyond our internal systems, we actively participate in national benchmarking and stakeholder meetings. By exchanging knowledge on foster care and economic empowerment with peer organisations, we ensure our interventions are grounded in timely reporting and cross-organisational learning. This enables us to adapt in real time, ensuring every decision is backed by reliable, up-to-date evidence.

Our partners

Tushinde's success is built on a foundation of collaboration. We work alongside a diverse network of local and international partners to ensure holistic support for the families we serve

★ **Rose Women's Foundation**

Empowers women in extreme poverty through sustainable business development and entrepreneurship training. Their partnership is a key pillar of Tushinde's Economic Empowerment Programme.

rosewomensfoundation.org

★ **Friends of Karura Forest (FKF)**

Manages the Karura Forest ecosystem and provides a safe space for public recreation. FKF generously hosts our annual charity fun run/walk fundraiser.

friendsofkarura.org

★ **Triangle Consulting**

The social enterprise behind the Outcomes Star. Their tools allow us to measure transformation and help our beneficiaries reach their highest potential.

outcomesstar.org.uk

★ **Baraka Clinic**

A vital healthcare partner that refers families in need to our programme and provides supplemental feeding for malnourished children.

germandoctorsnairobi.co.ke

★ **Directorate of Children Services (DCS)**

We collaborate closely with the DCS on case conferencing, foster care, and reintegration to ensure interventions align with national guidelines.

childrenservices.go.ke

★ **Planet Crust (Corteza)**

Through our partnership with Corteza, we have developed a robust, centralised database that tracks participant progress and facilitates evidence-based decision-making.

planetcrust.com

★ **Ngong Road Children's Foundation (NRCF)**

An organisation dedicated to transforming lives through education. We partner with NRCF to share best practices in child-focused programming.

nrcfkenya.org

★ **Association for Alternative Family Care of Children**

A network promoting family-based care, including kinship and foster care, aligning Tushinde's work with Kenya's national care reform efforts.

alternativecare.or.ke



“The Fostercare mechanism I would say, is really working miracles in our community. Thank you so much Tushinde, long live Tushinde.”

Margaret Nzuki, Child Protection Officer (Mathare Office)
Directorate of Children's Services.

Moving forward

Over the past four years, Tushinde has applied the core lessons from our 15-year history: addressing instability in informal settlements requires more than direct service delivery - it requires strengthening the entire system surrounding the family.

Our integrated model - combining family support, foster care, childcare, education partnerships, and economic empowerment - supports families in moving from crisis toward stability, building a foundation for long-term resilience.

This approach is grounded in the stark realities of Mathare and Kiambiu, two of Nairobi's most densely populated areas where structural poverty shapes daily life. Rapid urbanisation continues to intensify these pressures. With urban populations growing at 3–4% annually, Mathare is projected to reach up to 640,000 residents, and Kiambiu up to 64,000, within five years (UN-Habitat; World Cities Report). At the household level, these statistics manifest in 3 by 3-metre homes where an average of six family members sleep, cook, and live. As one caregiver shared: "Everything happens in one room."

In response, Tushinde is intentionally strengthening its scalable model by deepening community systems, expanding economic resilience, and strengthening linkages with government and local actors. By evolving our approach to be family-centred and systems-driven, we are positioned to reduce the impact of structural poverty and ensure every child has a pathway to thrive.





Providing Family Support
To Help Children Thrive

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To find out more about the valuable work that Tushinde do please visit our website by scanning this QR code or by visiting www.tushinde.org.uk

