

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

MACHEO CHILDREN'S ORGANIZATION



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OUR VISION

A society where children live happily in a safe, caring, and stimulating environment that promotes the best of their potential.

OUR MISSION

To empower and protect vulnerable children and their communities so that they can lead a bright future.



OUR CORE VALUES:

INTEGRITY

We behave in an honest, ethical, and trustworthy manner.

CHILD-ORIENTED

We display a personal, caring, professional and efficient way to respond to pronounced and unpronounced children's needs. The children's best interest is always our guiding principle.

IMPACT-MAXIMIZATION

We set ambitious goals and strive towards creating the highest possible impact for all participants with continuous improvement.

TEAMWORK

We show respect for the views and contributions of other team members. We listen, support and care for others. And actively build on our team spirit by reconciling conflict and adapting to the team. See it, say it, fix it.

PROFESSIONALISM

We value the expertise and skills of workmanship, take the corresponding responsibility, and invest in our professional development.

INTRODUCTION



Taking over the role of Managing Director from the core founder and the 1st director of Macheo has been both humbling and inspiring. Marnix left behind very big shoes to fill, and stepping into this role felt a bit overwhelming at first. However, the warmth and support I have received from the entire Macheo team made the transition smoother.

Over the past year, I have learned so much not just about leadership, but also about resilience, compassion, and the power of teamwork. I often reflect on harsh realities vulnerable children experience, and it motivates me every single day to go and make a difference.

This job is more than a role, it feels like a calling. Every day brings new stories, new faces, and new opportunities to make a difference. It's fulfilling, challenging, and incredibly meaningful. Leading a team that is so committed to improving the lives of vulnerable children and their families gives me a strong sense of purpose. I truly feel honored to be part of this mission.

The biggest challenge is the ever-growing need among children and families we serve, often in the face of limited resources. Sometimes, the emotional weight of the stories we encounter can be heavy. As a leader, balancing strategic decision-making with the emotional aspects of this work is not always easy. But it's in these challenges that I have found strength, not just in myself, but in the amazing people I work with and the communities we walk alongside.

Sarah Mbira

Managing Director, Macheo.



GET TO KNOW MACHEO: WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Macheo Children’s Organization was founded to prevent and help children in Kenya overcome suffering. We believe this suffering is avoidable—and correctable where it has already occurred.

This is why Macheo applies both corrective (to overcome) and preventive interventions.

In our corrective interventions we believe that every situation deserves an approach that does the most justice to its complexity and will make the biggest difference.

For these interventions, we have developed a Theory of Change—a way of working—that includes separation of duties, and a solid monitoring & evaluation system. The preventive interventions aim to avoid harmful circumstances, and are generally where we reach larger numbers, but also the hardest to measure direct impact.

We see ourselves as the custodians of funds entrusted to us for the benefit of children who need assistance. Therefore, good governance is the minimum level of stewardship that should be expected from us.

We have always met all the requirements stipulated by the Kenyan government, we are a registered Kenyan NGO (registration number: OP.218/051/2005/0410/3824) and a Charitable Children’s institution by respective authorizing bodies.

In Kenya we are governed by an independent board that currently consists of three members

1. Josephat Ngaira Musembi—Chairman
2. Dirk-Jan Koeman—Treasurer
3. Jennifer Wanjiru—Secretary
4. Sarah Mbira—Member
5. Marnix Huis In’t Veld—Member

Philosophy & Approach for individual, corrective interventions.

Macheo supports vulnerable children using a tailored set of cost-effective interventions that address specific, individual needs and their underlying root causes.

We apply a holistic framework that considers the multiple types of needs¹ for each child. Our toolbox of interventions may address psychosocial well-being, health, education & skills, food & nutrition, shelter, care, and protection – while also looking at the underlying root causes from a family and societal level. Whenever possible, interventions are executed in partnership with local communities and authorities.

We are confronted daily with the fact that so many children around us have unmet needs. Unfortunately, our resources will always be limited and never sufficient to meet all of these needs, making it difficult to help everyone.

Therefore, Macheo is conscious on how to maximize the change we want to see with the resources available to us. Our approach focuses on children with a level of vulnerability that our support will benefit the most, giving priority to children in their first 1,000 days and adolescent girls:

- Step 1.** We make evidence-based assessments and prioritize children whom our interventions will have the highest impact in well-being.
- Step 2.** In case of emergency during the identification phase, we refer these children for emergency relief to relevant Government functions, or execute ourselves in the absence of these functions.
- Step 3.** Once we have identified those in most need, we assess their strengths, development needs and the root cause (s). Based on this assessment, we work together with their families on a support and empowerment plan.
- Step 4.** Based on this plan, we use our decision tree, along with the expertise of our local social workers, to select the most effective and appropriate intervention(s)², while addressing the root causes where possible.
- Step 5.** We continuously make follow-ups to check how our interventions affect their needs and adjust our strategy where necessary.
- Step 6.** Finally, we monitor the impact of our interventions by measuring our social return of investment through comparing our impact and cost.



¹ We distinguish between 7 different categories of needs derived from the Domains of Importance of the [Child Status Index](#)

² Macheo's interventions: <https://macheo.ngo/macheo-method/>

We believe in the separation of duties to create an internal push for continuous improvement. We always need to stay critical of the choices we make and the execution of the interventions we apply. The children we help should expect nothing else from us, they deserve our best efforts and the best we can offer. This is organized through a separation of duties within Macheo’s program staff.

The needs assessment of individual children—and the families they live in—is done by Macheo’s holistic Area Social Workers, who, on intake, ask themselves four critical questions:

- 1. What is the problem?**
- 2. What is causing this problem?**
- 3. What can be done to address this problem and its root cause?**
- 4. Who is the best provider of this solution?**

Answering these questions leads to the decision whether we feel Macheo can and should help this child or family, or whether our scarce resources are better allocated to another child or family.

When we decide to help, then this leads to internal or external referrals for children and/or caregivers to be helped. Internal referrals are done by Macheo’s Area Social Workers to Macheo’s colleagues who work in the Service Delivery of the different interventions. External referrals are referrals done to the Government services, to other NGO’s or by mobilizing the community. For quality assurance, our needs assessment social workers make follow ups to ensure the service delivery team provides the best services to our clients.

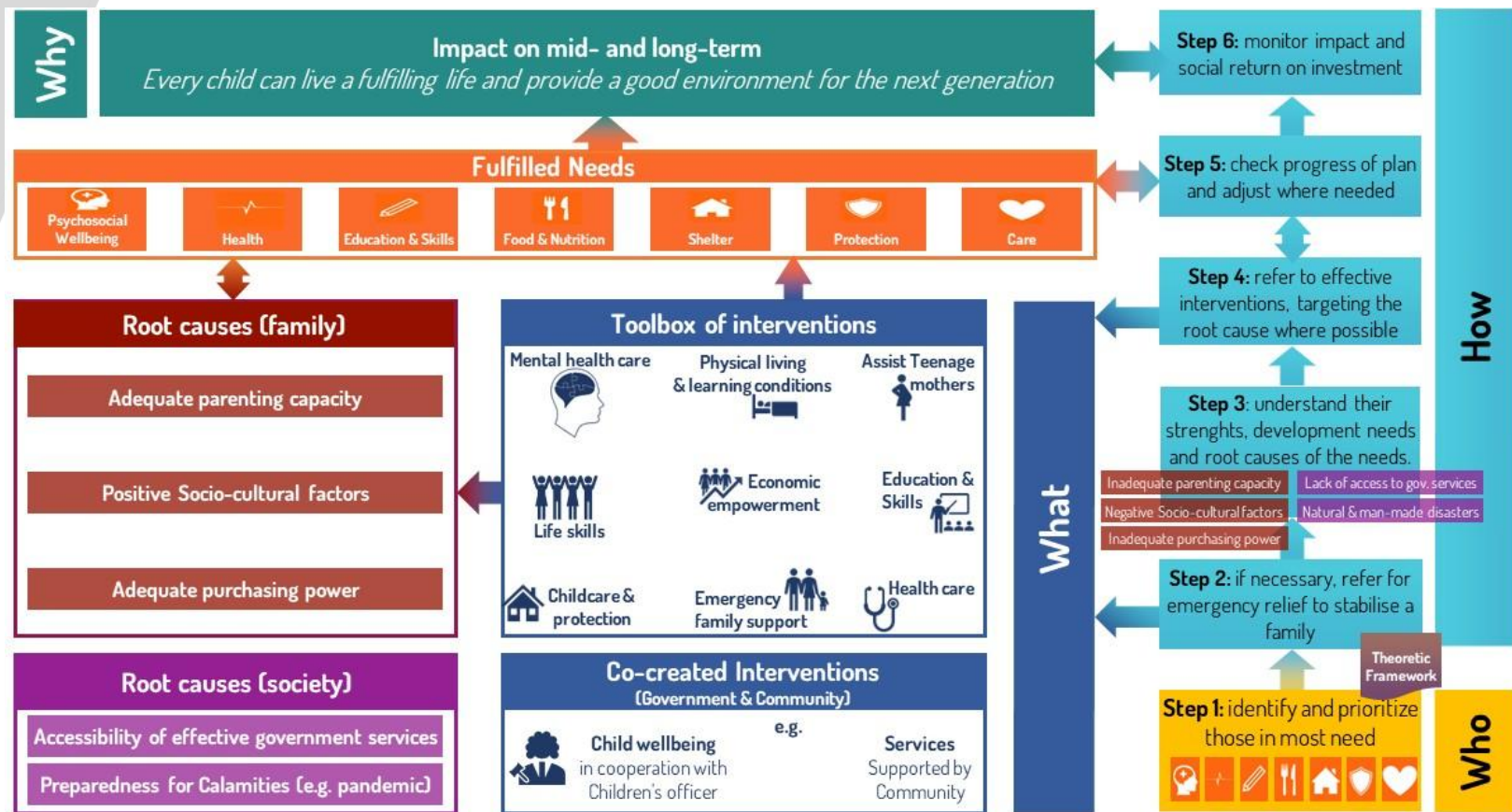
This approach acknowledges that every family is unique and has its own set of strengths, weaknesses, and circumstances that affect the child's well-being. By tailoring support to meet the specific needs of each family, we address issues more effectively and provide targeted assistance.

We are child-oriented. To provide impartial protection and assistance, we must respond based on needs. This means that we do not offer just one service or intervention, but give the families and children a central role in allowing them to discover and use their talents and strengths. We explicitly involve the caregivers and children in choosing the interventions that can work best for them.

Experience and research shows that the healthy development of children is multi-dimensional. We believe that our solutions should be, too. That is why we use a holistic approach: we focus on the situation of a specific child to determine which interventions we offer. To fully integrate this approach into our core operations, funding should also be needs-oriented. This means, we do not request for financial support for a single intervention but ask the funding partner to trust us with funding based on impact. Because we believe that children’s development is multi-dimensional, we look at 7 aspects of a child’s development:

- Care
- Protection
- Health
- Food & nutrition
- Education & skills
- Psycho-social wellbeing
- Shelter

This whole approach to individual, corrective interventions is visualized in Macheo's Theory of Change:



Philosophy & Approach for collective, preventive interventions

The approach towards our collective, preventive interventions is different. These interventions are mostly targeting larger groups, often through schools, where we aim to achieve a transfer of information or a change in attitude.

It is much more difficult to really measure the impact of the things we have prevented. However, from experience, seeing the response and hearing individual stories, we are assured that these interventions yield significant positive results.

Macheo's collective preventive interventions are:

- Prevention of abuse & neglect.
- Provide de-worming.
- Youth employability.
- Provision of school desks.
- Reproductive health & life skills.
- Sports & games in schools.
- Improve school infrastructure.

The numbers reached in these interventions are in general higher, as shown in the next chapter. Costs are also low, making them very cost effective.

The importance of systems

Macheo's colleagues working directly with the children we serve or with their caregivers, can only function to their best when Macheo provides them with the right tools, environment, information, and resources.

This happens from Macheo's Admin department, comprising the following functions:

- Communication & fundraising
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Monitoring & evaluation
- Procurement

All these distinct functions have to perform to their highest possible levels, but we also see further integration between these different functions happen in the near future.





Machee
Childrens centre



2024: TESTED BY CRISES, RESPONDED WITH COURAGE, DELIVERED WITH HEART!

The year 2024 was incredibly challenging for our participants as witnessed across different programs.

Between April and June, heavy floods devastated the country, leaving thousands of vulnerable families homeless and in desperate need of assistance. Macheo witnessed first-hand the immense suffering of children and families as they struggled to access food, shelter, and medical care.

Additionally, the nationwide doctors' strikes and the transition from National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) to Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) created severe gaps in healthcare access, leaving many vulnerable children and families without the medical support they urgently needed. The Gen Z protests against the government's unpopular finance bill and heavy taxation, which tragically, led to the abduction, disappearance, and deaths of several young people, leaving families in anguish and the nation in turmoil.

Despite these adversities, Macheo achieved remarkable milestones in 2024. We were able to reach and support over 45,000 vulnerable children through our individual and group interventions. We supported 378 families with 1,238 children who were severely affected by the floods to restart their lives.

We strengthened the organization by improving the capacity of our staff through training, enabling them to handle complex cases and deliver high-quality services.

Baby Jane Medical Intervention

Unlike children living in the community, those rescued from abuse and neglect and legally committed to our temporary residential care by the government become our full legal and moral responsibility. As duty-bearers, we are required to comply with national child protection laws, which obligate us to provide adequate care, including life-saving medical treatment, regardless of cost.



While financial limitations sometimes force us to make difficult decisions that may impact the support of many deserving children to save one life, we are grateful that this was not the case for Baby Jane. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our supporters, we were able to raise the full amount needed for her treatment to save her life.

Now two years old, Jane has continued to show remarkable improvement since her discharge from Nairobi Hospital in March 2024. After facing serious health challenges—including temporary blindness and delayed development—she has made steady progress through regular medical care and therapy. She regained her eyesight in April and reached key milestones like sitting without support and, eventually, walking by October 2024 with the help of therapy and orthotic support.

While she still faces some behavioural and speech challenges, specialists are monitoring her closely, and additional assessments have been planned. Despite these ongoing needs, Jane is a joyful and resilient child who is responding well to the care and support provided at Macheo. We are deeply grateful to all who contributed to her medical bills—your kindness gave her a second chance at life and continues to make her recovery possible.

Mental Health Awareness Walkathon 2024: Walking Together Toward Healing

In October 2024, Macheo held its first-ever Mental Health Awareness Walkathon in Thika, bringing together over 600 participants—including children, caregivers, staff, locals, and community members.

The event aimed to raise awareness about the mental health challenges facing vulnerable families, reduce stigma, and link people to available support services. It also emphasized the importance of integrating mental health into all aspects of Macheo’s child-centered work.

Without mental healing, interventions in education, nutrition, and safety may not achieve their full impact. The Walkathon built on Macheo’s ongoing efforts to support children and caregivers through individual and group counseling.

As a result of the Walkathon, dozens of participants were connected to Macheo’s mental health services, funds were raised to support this program, and new collaborations were formed with local health providers and government offices. The event also sparked deeper community dialogue, leading to follow-up awareness sessions in schools and neighborhoods.



A legacy of Service and Impact: Farewell to Marnix!

After **19 years** of selfless service to children and people in need, we officially bid farewell to Marnix Huis In't Veld—**co-founder** and **first Managing Director** of Macheo.

Beyond his many accomplishments in transforming Macheo's vision into reality, Marnix has been an outstanding friend, father, mentor, teacher, compassionate leader, and a deeply valued member of the community he served.



Macheo is a legacy that inspires.

To carry on this legacy, Marnix leaves behind a **blueprint** in the form of his leadership—and a **culture of openness, professionalism, and accountability** that continues to define Macheo's operations.

He also leaves us with a favorite quote by Ann Chang:

"Fall in love with the problem, not your solution."

A reminder to continually pursue the best possible answers to the challenges we aim to solve.

As Marnix begins his next chapter in the Netherlands, we wish him the very best. We also hope he will remain connected to Macheo's work and continue his service to humanity.

Thank you, Marnix, for your incredible service. You've inspired us all.



GROWTH & IMPACT



GROWTH

In 2024, we achieved significant milestones compared to the previous year. We expanded our support from over 40,000 vulnerable children in 2023 to more than 45,000 children through our interventions. This growth was made possible by increased funding, which rose from KES 157 million in 2023 to KES 178 million in 2024, as well as enhanced networking and referrals to like-minded organizations and relevant government departments for service delivery.

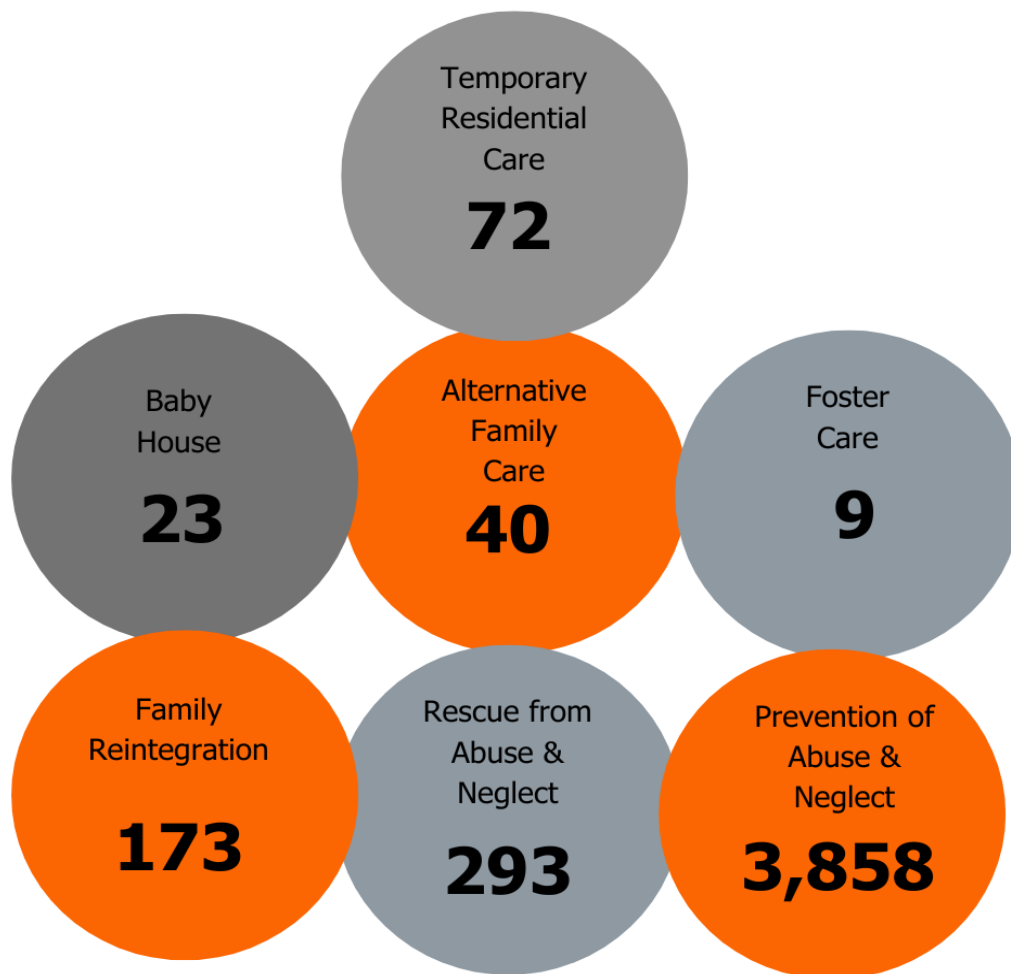
IMPACT 2024

Overall, we have had a tremendous 2024 numerically in terms of impact. Below is a representation of this impact for every intervention.

Child Care & Protection Intervention:

Macheo continued to provide safe, nurturing, and temporary care for vulnerable children through its residential, baby, and foster care programs, all aimed at securing long-term, family-based solutions. A total of 4,468 children—including babies, older children, and those at risk of neglect—were supported through individualized care, healthcare, emotional support, and education, with many successfully reunited with families or placed in foster care. In line with national care reforms that prohibit institutions from sheltering children under the age of three, Macheo closed one of its baby houses toward the end of the year.

The new guidelines emphasize family- and community-based care such as foster care, leading to a drop in baby placements and making it financially unsustainable to operate two baby facilities. Despite challenges such as rising medical costs, gaps in government health coverage, difficulties in tracing families, and low foster parent recruitment, Macheo remained committed to providing dignified, high-quality care while transitioning toward a model that aligns with national care reform priorities.



Emergency Family Support:

In 2024, Macheo’s emergency relief support through cash transfers provided critical assistance to 398 vulnerable families struggling amid Kenya’s harsh economic climate, marked by widespread job losses and rising costs due to high taxation.

These funds helped prevent hunger, eviction, and school absenteeism, and enabled access to urgent medical care and basic needs. Some families also used the support to start small income-generating activities like fruit vending and grocery sales, offering short-term economic relief.

While the intervention significantly improved family well-being, it also highlighted the need to balance immediate aid with long-term empowerment to avoid dependency. Despite this challenge, the program proved vital in stabilizing families during crisis and remains a key pillar in Macheo’s holistic support model.

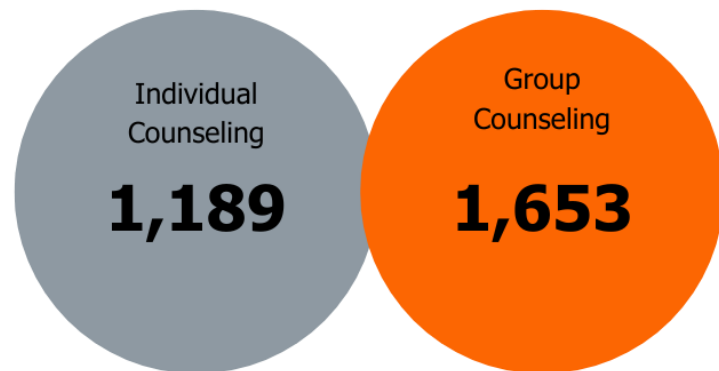


Mental Health Support:

In 2024, Macheo supported the emotional well-being of children, youth, and caregivers through counseling services that addressed trauma, anxiety, depression, grief, and substance abuse.

A total of 1,189 individuals received individual counseling, while 1,653 participated in group sessions. Strategic partnerships, such as with Ithanga Health Centre, helped us reach more diverse groups, including teen mothers and families affected by HIV.

Despite challenges such as limited resources and high transportation costs, the introduction of tele-counseling ensured continued access. With a 95% success rate, this intervention proved essential in strengthening emotional stability and resilience among vulnerable families.

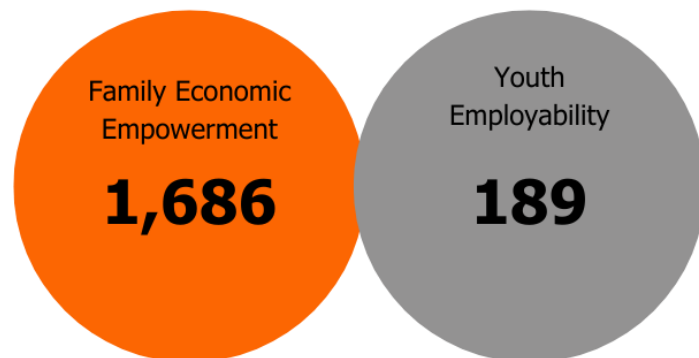


Economic Empowerment:

In 2024, Macheo's Economic Empowerment initiatives supported both youth and vulnerable families in building resilience and self-reliance amid Kenya's challenging economic climate.

Through the Youth Employability Program, 189 young people received practical training in entrepreneurial skills, job readiness, and vocational trades like baking and hairdressing, empowering them to pursue self-employment or formal work. Simultaneously, the Family Economic Empowerment intervention helped households stabilize and grow through financial literacy, seed capital, shared business support, and cost-saving skills such as home production of essential goods.

Despite challenges like market competition, health-related disruptions, and limited literacy among some participants, Macheo introduced tailored trainings, integrated support for health and nutrition, and regular follow-ups to strengthen impact. Together, these programs enabled participants to start businesses, improve financial management, and regain the confidence needed to secure a more sustainable future.



Assist
Teenage
Mothers

208

Teenage Mothers:

Macheo continued to address the complex issue of teenage pregnancy in Kenya by empowering teen mothers through a holistic support program focused on parenting education, self-awareness, healthcare, education, and economic empowerment.

Teen mothers were equipped with income-generating skills like hairdressing and tailoring, supported with medical care, and encouraged to return to school. Seminars on nutrition and self-care further enhanced their ability to care for themselves and their children.

Despite challenges such as frequent doctors' strikes, lack of childcare during school, and economic pressures, Macheo responded by partnering with private clinics, facilitating childcare options near schools, and offering flexible seed capital, financial support, and mentorship. These efforts are breaking cycles of poverty and dependency while creating pathways to long-term stability and self-reliance.

Life Skills:

Macheo empowered adolescents with vital knowledge through reproductive health and life skills training, reaching over 7,877 learners, 1,400 peer educators, and 47 teachers.

The program promoted self-worth, decision-making, and healthy relationships, while dignity kits helped restore confidence among students. Parent and teacher involvement enhanced support both at home and in schools.

Complementing this, the *Join for Joy* (a partner NGO) sports and games program taught life skills like teamwork and resilience through play, making learning engaging and impactful. Together, these efforts created safer, more informed, and supportive environments for adolescents.

Reproductive
Health & Lifeskills
Training

7,877

Games &
Sports in
Schools

12,588

Health:

Macheo supported vulnerable families through integrated health and nutrition interventions that addressed both medical access and malnutrition—two major challenges among low-income communities in Kenya. Families received assistance with medical insurance enrollment, hospital waivers, prescribed medications, and access to essential healthcare, reducing the financial burden and improving health outcomes.

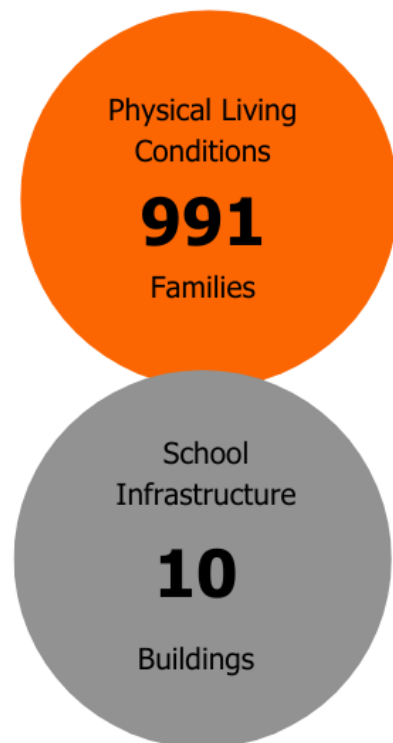
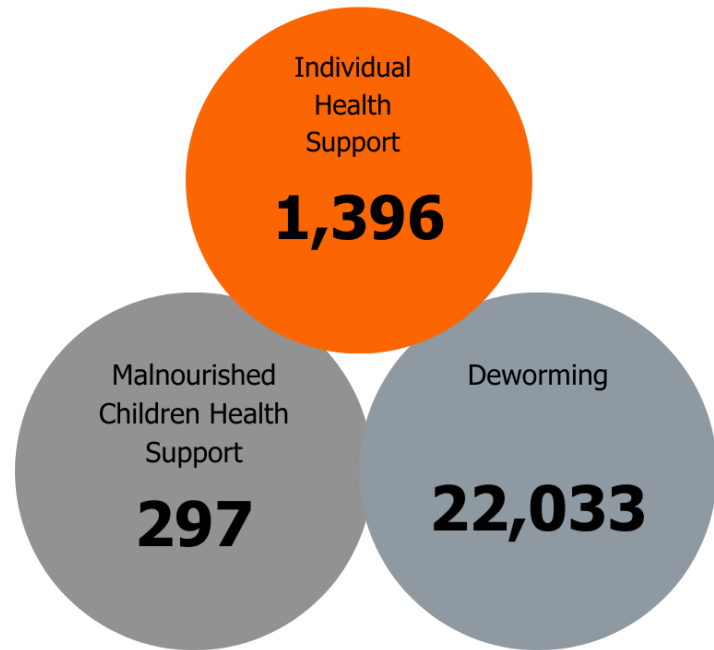
Simultaneously, malnourished children and pregnant or lactating mothers were provided with nutritional supplements, education, and support through partnerships with local health authorities. These efforts helped improve recovery, growth, and overall well-being. Despite challenges such as frequent doctors' strikes, high medication costs, flooding, and widespread food insecurity, Macheo's work ensured that more families could access timely healthcare and nutrition, ultimately strengthening their resilience and stability.

Physical Living & Learning Conditions:

Macheo's interventions to improve physical living and learning conditions aim to create safe, dignified, and supportive environments for children to thrive.

In schools, Macheo enhances the learning environment by providing desks, renovating classrooms, and improving sanitation facilities, which boosts student concentration, safety, and school attendance. At the household level, the organization supports families with better shelter, bedding, and hygiene facilities to promote health, safety, and a sense of stability.

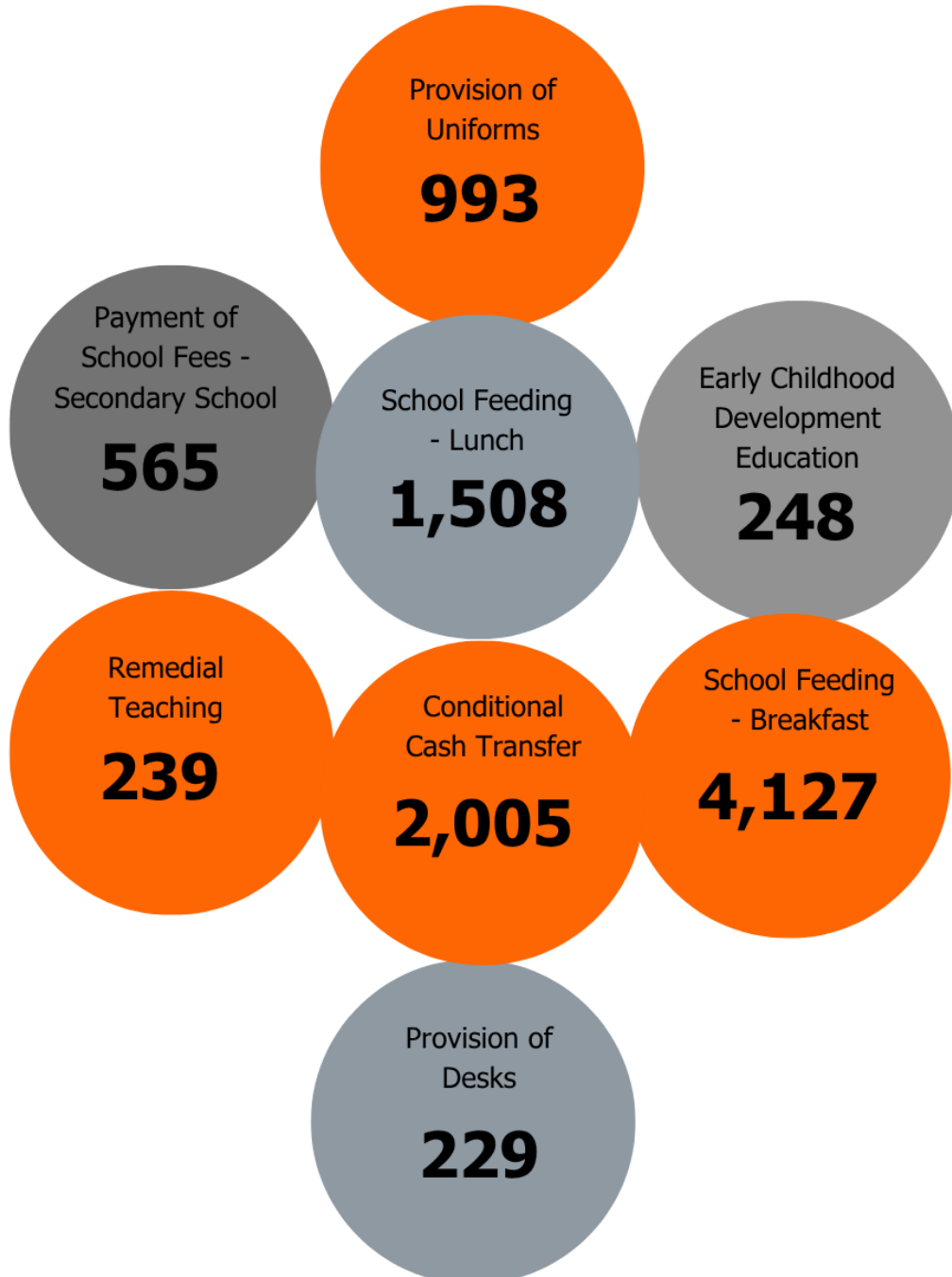
These improvements play a vital role in a child's overall well-being and academic performance, ensuring they can grow and learn in environments that support their development.



Education & Skills:

Macheo's education interventions focus on removing barriers that prevent vulnerable children—especially girls—from accessing and completing school. By providing school supplies, uniforms, and mentorship, the program supports attendance, retention, and academic success.

Special emphasis is placed on educating girls in secondary school, as they face greater risks of dropping out due to poverty, early marriage, and teenage pregnancy. Investing in girls' education not only promotes gender equality but also empowers them to break the cycle of poverty and contribute meaningfully to their families and communities.



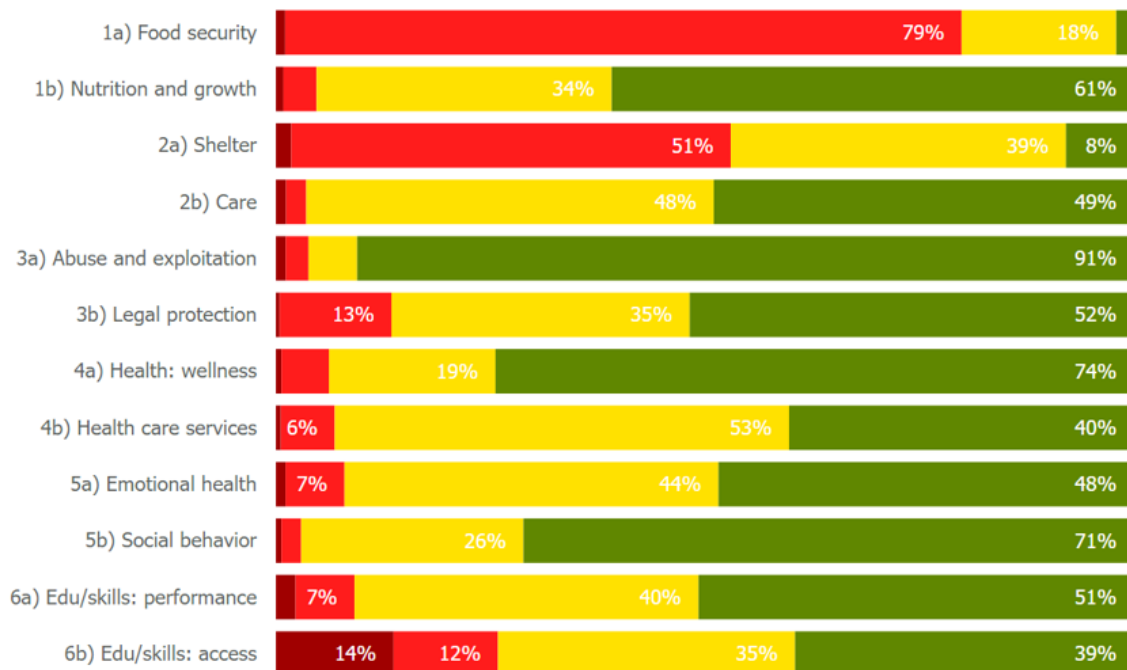
To ensure quality services to our clients, Macheo maintains a clear division of labour that upholds checks and balances. Social workers identify needs, provide recommendations, and refer clients to the service delivery team for implementation and exit. After exit, the social workers follow up with clients to evaluate the quality and impact of the services provided. For a detailed explanation, please refer to the link on page 6 outlining the Macheo way of working.

The conditions of our participants during intake and exit is demonstrated below

Intake: Child Status Index (Before Intervention)

Intake: Child Status Index

● 1 = Very bad ● 2 = Bad ● 3 = Fair ● 4 = Good



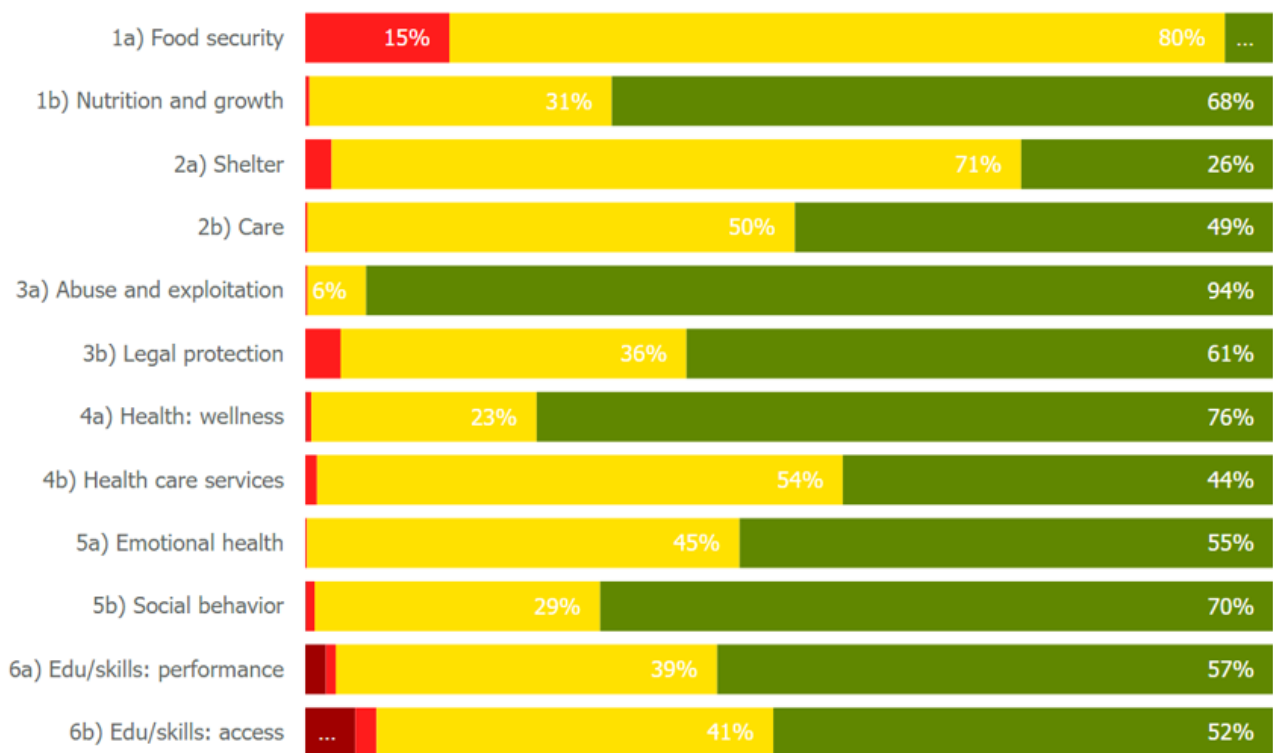
This dashboard shows the condition of children at the point of intake into Macheo’s programs. The majority faced serious challenges—especially in food security (79% very bad), shelter (51% very bad), and access to education and skills. Many also struggled with emotional health, healthcare access, and nutrition. These indicators reflect the urgent need for holistic support across all areas of a child’s well-being.

Exit: Child Status Index (After Intervention)

This dashboard shows the status of children at the point of exiting Macheo's support. It highlights significant improvement across all areas, particularly in food security (85% now good), shelter, emotional health, education access, and healthcare. The data demonstrates the positive impact of Macheo's interventions in improving the overall well-being and resilience of vulnerable children.

Exit: Child Status Index

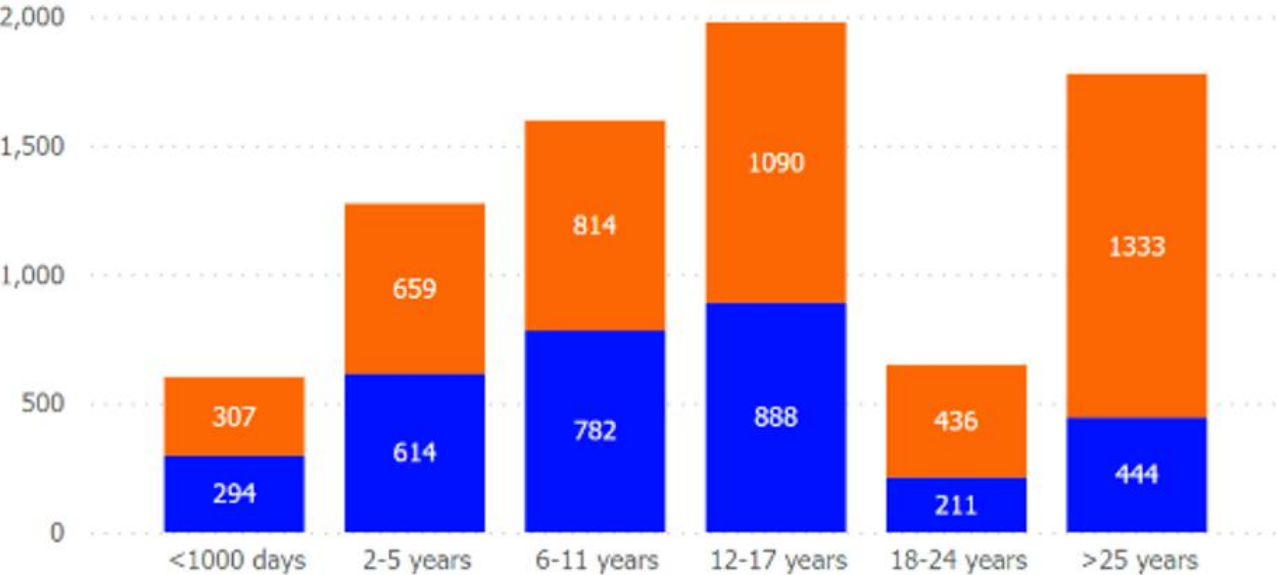
● 1 = Very bad ● 2 = Bad ● 3 = Fair ● 4 = Good



This graph demonstrates the demographics of participants supported through various programs. We support children in families through their caregivers, and very often this includes other siblings, and adolescent girls. For other interventions, interventions under childcare and protection for instance, children are supported purely based on needs. This explains the discrepancy that exists between our theoretical framework (priority on first 1,000 days and adolescent girls) and the demographics below.

Age categories

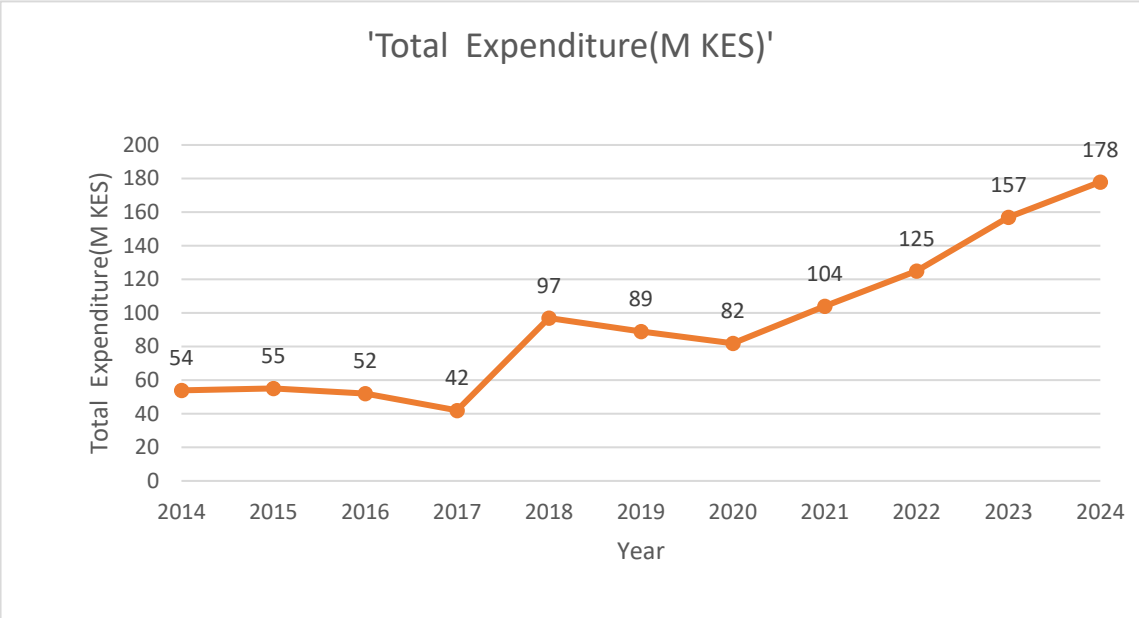
● Male ● Female





Financials

We recorded an increase in funds in 2024, reaching KES 178 million compared to KES 157 million in 2023. This growth is largely attributed to the expansion of the Kenyan fundraising team, which now includes three full-time staff and two part-time staff, significantly strengthening our resource mobilization efforts.



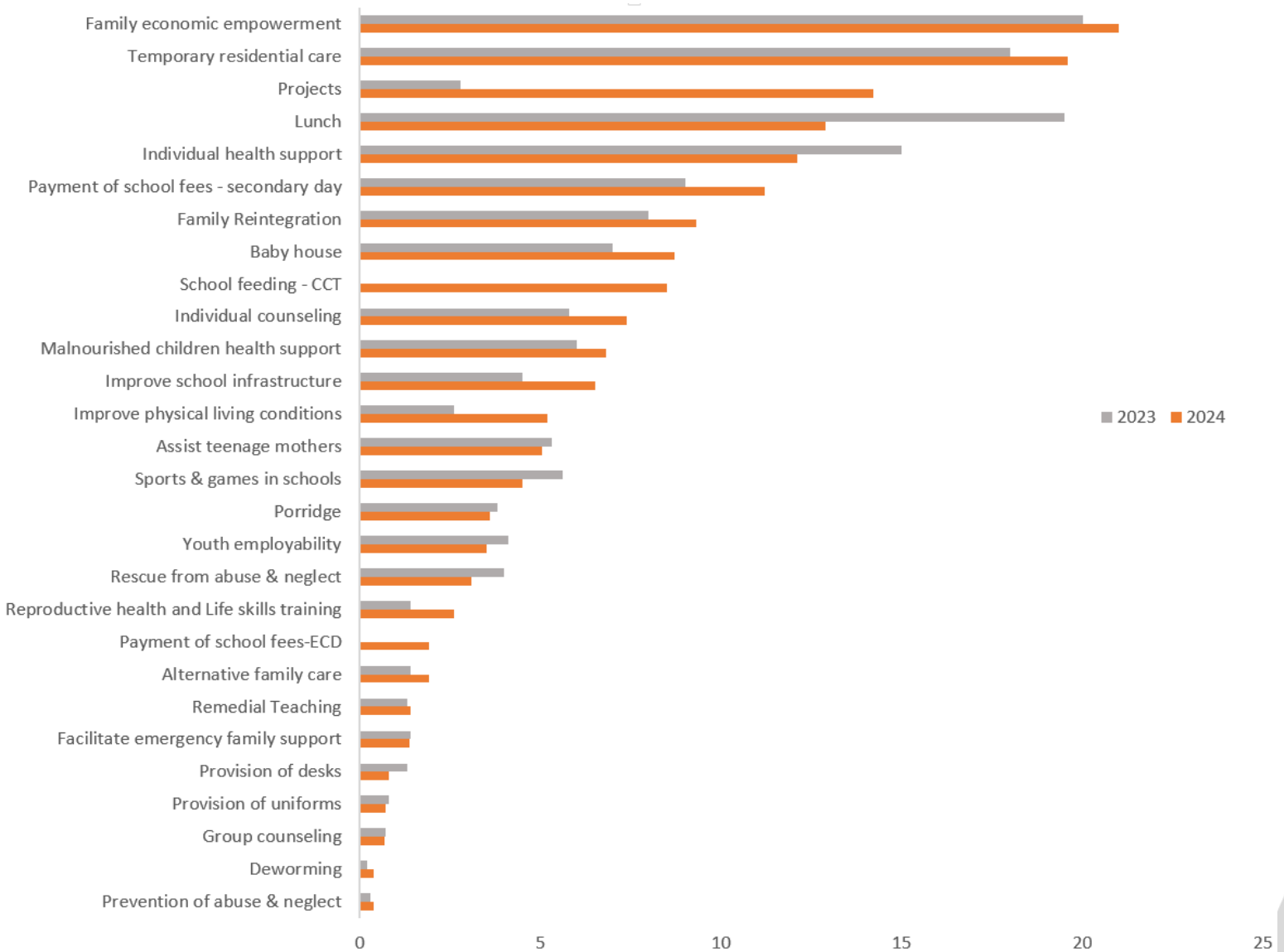
The decline of total assets and liabilities from KES 52.8 million in 2023 to KES 28.3 million in 2024 reflects our successful implementation of most planned intervention activities during the year, resulting in fewer funds being carried forward into the next financial year.

Statement of financial position	2024 (KES)	2023 (KES)
Non-current assets:		
Property, plant and equipment	32173424	33,952,801
Current assets		
Inventory	1126993	627,278
Trade and other receivables	5583031	18,915,162
Cash and cash equivalents	25287224	37,251,479
Total assets	64,170,672	90,746,720
Current liabilities:		
Trade and other payables	1,986,724	1,682,921
Funds:		
Property & equipment/capital fund	32,173,423	33,952,801
Accumulated/ general fund	1,677,677	2,245,111
Restricted funds	28,332,848	52,865,886
Total funds & liabilities	64,170,672	90,746,720

The graph above comparatively reflects on the trend of growth in interventions for the years 2023 and 2024.

Financially, these are the largest interventions for the year 2024:

- Family Economic Empowerment
- Temporary Residential Care
- Projects
- School Feeding
- Individual Health Support
- Payment of school fees—day secondary school
- Family Reintegration
- Baby House
- Individual Counseling







OUR YEAR IN STORIES: CELEBRATING THE IMPACT OF MACHEO

Collins' Story!

The loss of a beloved is life-changing. For a child, it can be the most overwhelming emotional experience. Collins¹ lost his father when he was barely 10 years old. At 12 years old, he still struggled to move past his loss. Seeing his mother struggle to raise him and his six siblings only compounded his misery.

Attempts by his mom, Lena, to help him heal and mourn bore no fruit. Seeing his son gloomy, hysterical, and always in isolation drove Lena to seek help from Macheo. "He is always sad and wishes that his dad were still alive. I have tried to be there for him, but I think he needs professional help," reports Lena to the social worker.

To say that Collins has been able to process the loss and grief completely is to understate the severity of his situation and downplay his sensitivity.

However, counselors have made tremendous progress with him through cognitive behavioral and reality therapy.

Life is a little less harsh. He spends a little less time worrying about his mother and his siblings.

His grades have gone up, and he now tops his class. The biggest milestone achieved with Collins is getting him to talk about his dad freely, and where he would sob, Collins remembers him with fondness.

Collins' journey is a testament to resilience and the power of community support. With love and dedication, he is overcoming his past and looking towards a brighter future.

A Mother's Courage: Overcoming Obstacles to Build a Thriving Business!

Zara² is a bubbly and charismatic businesswoman. A mother of four, she is the established owner of two cafes specializing in selling fresh fish and food. In total, Zara employs seven young women. She has situated her main business in the middle of a market, where she enjoys an influx of customers daily.



Zara did not wake up a soaring business lady, her story is rooted in pain and emotional difficulties. For ten years, Zara shelved her ambition and interests to stay in a marriage for the sake of her children, whom she adores more than anything. She endured manipulation, constant mental stress, and physical abuse so that she could keep her marriage intact and her children safe. But when her husband started being absent, she said, "Enough is enough. I am leaving with my children."

Zara left her matrimonial home but was oblivious to the challenges that awaited her. She knew she would have to work to provide for her children, but was not aware that work was hard to come by and she would have to take multiple casual jobs just to get by. She struggled. When her daughter fell ill, that marked the breaking point. She had no money to pay her rent, pay for her daughter's medical expenses, or even afford her medical care—she had been sick herself, too. All these events came crashing down on Zara, and her mental health took a toll.

Sick and unable to go out, Zara's situation was unbearable. For a time, she considered going back to her husband, and another time, contemplated suicide. While Zara was drowning in her sorrow and troubles, her neighbour, a beneficiary of Macheo's programs, directed her to meet with our social worker. Zara's daughter was taken to the hospital and got treatment for her chest pains. She also received support with her medical expenses.

With her request, Zara went through counselling sessions that have helped unpack the mental stress and trauma she has had for the longest time. Because of her determination and desire to get better, Zara responded remarkably to the sessions. Soon, she was out of the house searching for casual jobs. Noticing her improved mood and zeal for life return to her face again, plans were made to help Zara set up an income-generating activity.

Zara began selling chips and fish in a small café. She expanded to serve more food on the menu. Then she realizes she could do more. With enough fish supply and a large customer base, Zara saved money. She saved some more. Then, she moved to a larger place, with an even wider customer base, leaving her original café with two people in employment to run.

To say that she exceeds the expectation is to understate Zara's achievement. She harbors even more lofty ambitions—she plans to open more cafes in other locations. Zara's story inspires, but also embodies the very essence of what we do; that with little support, the human spirit has the capacity for unbelievable resilience, and forms the foundation for prosperity.

A Mother's Love, a Student's Dream: Dorian's Journey!

Dorian³ is a 16-year-old girl living with her mother, Irene⁴ (48), in the urban area of Juja. While attending Secondary School as a year 3 student, Dorian became pregnant. Despite discovering her pregnancy, Dorian and her mother decided it was best for her to continue her education until her due date. She remained in school until she gave birth to her baby boy, Trent¹.

Dorian's passion for education and desire for a better life led her to seek assistance so she could return to school. Her mother, who works odd jobs to make ends meet, faced the challenge of supporting both Dorian and her newborn. It became difficult for her to meet their needs and afford Dorian's return to school.

When Dorian got into the program, her mother agreed to take care of the baby while Dorian attended school. However, they faced a significant challenge: Dorian's mother could not stay home with the baby as she was the family's sole breadwinner, and the baby's father—an orphan boy barely 18 years old—was not in a position to provide support.

Because her body was not yet developed enough for a natural birth, Dorian delivered her baby via caesarean section. This resulted in high hospital bills, adding to her mother's already strained finances.

Dorian's dedication to her studies was evident—she attended all her classes and was preparing for school when she went into labour. Her return to school was without question. But outstanding school fees balance that her mother was unable to clear, and a uniform that no longer fit stood in her way.

Little Trent lacked essential baby items like clothing, milk, and other necessities. Through the program's help, these items were made available for Dorian and Trent's use. Dorian's mother had a small cooking business at a quarry. With support from Macheo, her business got a boost so that she could better provide for Dorian and the baby. This support also enabled them to afford daycare for the baby, allowing Irene to continue working while Dorian attended school.

With assistance from the program and a new pair of uniforms purchased by her mother, Dorian returned to school in the same class at the beginning of the term. Despite her initial anxiety about being a young mother and how her classmates would react, Dorian has gained confidence. She hasn't missed a day of school since her return, and her self-esteem has improved tremendously.

Dorian dreams of becoming a nurse. Judging from her resilience and determination, that dream is within reach if she gets enough support. She has proven to be a caring mother and an empathetic daughter. We wish her the best as she continues working hard to achieve her goals.



^{1, 2, 3, 4} These are not their actual names. This is done to protect the participants' identities.





Returning with Purpose: Anthony's Tale!

"I came to Macheo, only a children's home then, when I was nine years old. This was after the passing of my mother when I was barely seven years old. I moved in to live with my maternal uncle but that did not work due to their economic situation at the time.

Having experienced scarcity and abuse, I look back with fondness on my stay at Macheo. Macheo not only provided me with a home, security, and an environment where I could grow in mind, body, and character, but I also formed ties with people that I call brothers and sisters to this day.

My favourite caregiver during my time was Aunt Damaris. She provided a safe space for me to express myself, and it was from that comfort and her words of wisdom that I drew inspiration then, and still do now. She is like a mother to me.

I learned some of life's most crucial lessons that have helped me grow as a person. Macheo instilled in me a sense of responsibility, organization, and self-accountability. Through the agricultural projects that I personally was in charge of, I learned how to farm and care for animals, and I went on to have personal projects that have helped me supplement my income. Knowing how to organize my workload helped me course through college and finish my Social Work and Community Development diploma.

It feels a bit odd to say I left Macheo after seven years because even though I did not live there anymore, I still visited during the holidays. Moreover, I did my three-month internship here and a series of volunteering times afterward before I started working full-time. I am a social worker in the Alternative Family and Foster Care department. My work is essentially to provide alternatives to institutional care for children, by locating relatives willing to take them in. I feel a strong sense of conviction to do the work I do because my life experience puts me in a special position to help vulnerable children find the care they deserve. I have an understanding and the ability to relate to them and thus better suited to help accordingly.

Although we work tirelessly to ensure children have homes other than institutions, we still have children who end up in institutions. My message to children who end up in institutions is to have an open mind, be kind, be teachable, and learn how to be responsible. It is through these values that, I believe, will have an impact on how they fit in when they reintegrate with their families, foster or otherwise. I have good memories of my time at Macheo, and I am forever grateful for the opportunity and experiences."

Anthony Mwendwa

Social Worker, Macheo.



OUR 2025 FOCUS:

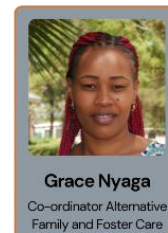
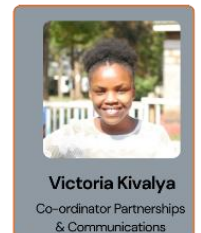
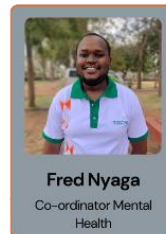
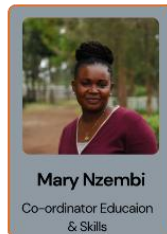
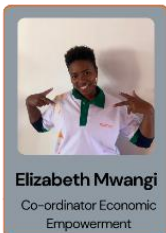
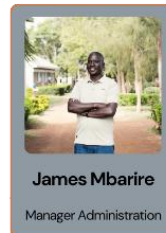
Funding, Efficiency, Impact & Stability

Management

Under the leadership of Managing Director Sarah, Macheo has continued to strengthen its impact, ensuring that vulnerable children and families receive timely and holistic support. Macheo remains focused on sustainable change and measurable results in the lives of those we serve.

Macheo employs 120 staff members, each supporting an average of five family members, positively impacting roughly 600 people. By providing stable income and livelihood to these workers, Macheo not only empowers its employees but also helps alleviate poverty within the wider community.

Below are the staff members in the leadership team.



In 2025, Macheo's strategic ambition is reflected in four key objectives:

1. Expanding and Diversifying Our Funding Base
2. Enhancing operational efficiency
3. Improving our success rate and deepening impact
4. Promoting long-term organizational stability

1. Expanding and Diversifying Our Funding Base

- Diversify funding sources to reduce overreliance on support from the Netherlands.
- Establish a financial reserve of KES 55 million through the strategic sale of assets.
- Secure KES 216 million in funding for the 2025 budget by June 2025.
- Grow the 2026 budget by 15% and commence fundraising efforts starting July 2025.
- Manage exchange rate risks through prudent budgeting and continuous monitoring of market trends.
- Mitigate the impact of inflation through effective budgeting, ongoing monitoring, and bulk purchasing when market conditions are favorable.

2. Enhancing operational efficiency

- Enhance collaborations with communities, government, and corporate social investors (CSIs) to raise KES 5 million through in-kind donations, parental contributions, fee waivers, education bursaries, and negotiated supplier discounts.
- Enhance our collaboration with other Charitable Children Institutions (CCI) within our area to increase number of children referred in our AFC and foster intervention.
- Operate within the budgeted unit costs – no intervention should have a deviation larger than 20%.
- Invest in training and upskilling staff to increase their productivity and ability to handle tasks more effectively.
- Promote cross-learning among teams to enable flexible staff deployment between interventions, ensuring staff retention and continuity amid shifting funding and demand.

3. Improving our success rate and deepening impact

- Refresher training for social workers to enhance their ability to make strategic client selections, ensuring optimal impact with limited resources.
- Conduct high-quality needs assessments with a structured referral and escalation mechanism to support junior staff in managing complex cases.
- At least 70% of the children are rated 3 (“fair”) or 4 (“good”) on all sub-domains in the Child Status Index on exit and 65% on mid-term and end-term evaluation.
- At least 80% of the interventions should meet their success targets.

4. Promoting long-term Organizational stability

- Ensure data security by protecting organizational information from human error, data breaches, and cyber threats.
- Minimize reliance on individual staff by establishing trained backup personnel for key positions in Management, Finance, Fundraising, and Monitoring & Evaluation.
- Integrate data systems across Monitoring & Evaluation, Finance (including alignment between Netherlands and Kenya), and reporting functions to enhance communication and ensure timely quarterly and annual reporting.
- Link data systems with Human Resources to improve efficiency and coordination.
- Strengthen leadership capacity through targeted development initiatives.
- Ensure full government compliance, including timely renewal of the MCH operational certificate and adherence to statutory staff deductions.
- Enhance Monitoring & Evaluation systems to achieve 100% real-time data availability and reliability.

Macheo's level of ambition in the year 2025 is reflected in the following budget:

2025 BUDGET			
Intervention	Unit cost	No of clients	Funding Needed Kes
Childcare & protection			
Temporary residential care	256,635	80	20,530,813
Family Reintegration	53,639	200	10,727,869
Alternative family care	64,737	60	3,884,248
Foster care	-		-
Baby house	440,673	16	7,050,766
Rescue from abuse & neglect	8,776	350	3,071,504
Prevention of abuse & neglect	465	2,500	1,163,263
Emergency Family Support	2,217	1,000	2,217,159
Education & Skills			
Payment of school fees- ECD	11,947	250	2,986,702
Payment of school fees - secondary day	26,612	600	15,967,236
Provision of uniforms	1,161	1,000	1,160,988
Provision of desks	2,566	600	1,539,397
Remedial Teaching	13,140	250	3,285,120
Lunch	8,280	2,000	16,559,013
Porridge	982	3,500	3,437,732
School feeding - CCT	4,634	2,000	9,268,484
Health Care			
Individual health support	9,994	1,510	15,091,251
Malnourished children's health support	25,736	348	8,956,062
Deworming	24	24,860	590,500
Mental health care			
Individual counseling	6,600	1,400	9,239,811
Group counseling	2,615	500	1,307,705
Economic empowerment			
Family economic empowerment	18,743	1,649	30,908,025
Youth employability	16,133	200	3,226,517
Life Skills			
Reproductive health and Life skills training	558	5,000	2,787,972
Sports & games in schools	1,386	6,000	8,315,235
Assist Teenage mothers	23,278	295	6,866,964
Physical living & learning conditions			
Improve physical living conditions	5,325	1,200	6,390,273
Improve school infrastructure	526,264	12	6,315,170
Projects main			
	-	-	13,305,999
Total			216,151,778



"Maak je
Mentale
gezondheid
Prioriteit"

DEPRESSIE

TALK

DENTAL CLINIC
DAKTARI WA MENO
1ST FLOOR ROOM 4

DENTAL CLINIC
DAKTARI WA MENO
1ST FLOOR
ROOM 4

CORNER MEDICAL
LABORATORY

HEALPLUS PHARMA
CHEMISTS
DUKA LA DAWA
A ONE STOP CENTRE FOR ALL MEDICINES AND MEDICAL PRODUCTS

CHEMIST
DUKA LA DAWA

HEALPLUS PHARMA

CHEMIST

Move, Breathe, Live
#mentalhealth

Moch

STICHTING MACHEO NEDERLAND:

This past year marked the first full year with Sarah Mbira at the helm of Macheo Kenya. In July, founder Marnix Huis in't Veld returned to the Netherlands after 19 years. Naturally, we did not let this milestone pass unnoticed. The transition of leadership was smooth, enabling us to once again support tens of thousands of children and their caregivers throughout the year.

I am truly grateful that we found Sarah, and equally thankful for the Kenyan team that continues to perform with such dedication and professionalism. It remains a privilege to support Macheo from the Netherlands alongside a skilled and passionate board of unpaid volunteers. Of course, all of this is only possible thanks to the loyal support of our donors, who make our work happen. Thank you!

2025 is already well underway, and I've just returned from a visit to Thika. I had the opportunity to visit a local school where, together with our partner "Join for Joy," we teach life skills to more than 500 pupils through sports and play. I was also deeply impressed by the complex and impactful work we're doing to strengthen the resilience and economic independence of teenage mothers.

One highlight was attending a meeting with managers, social workers, and service providers, where they reviewed last quarter's performance using data-driven dashboards. It was inspiring to see how they challenge each other to keep improving every day and create even greater impact with the resources available.

With great confidence and gratitude, I look forward to the rest of the year.

Barth de Klerk

Chairperson, Stichting Macheo Nederland.

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