EMPOWER IMPACT KENYA CBO · NYANGWESO, HOMA BAY COUNTY

ISSUE No. 1
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ROOTS & LIGHT

News from the village that is pulling together — Riwruok e teko, unity is strength.

Empower Impact Kenya CBO



The officers of Empower Impact Kenya CBO — Edwin, Kevin, Bendetta and Sherry. Four volunteers, no salaries; every shilling is seen by three pairs of eyes.

A word from the Chairman

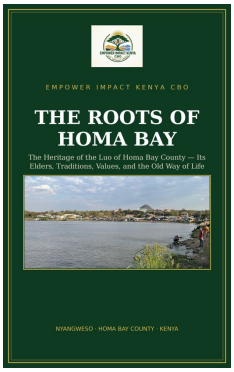
Friends, welcome to the very first issue of our newsletter. We are a small community based organization in Nyangweso, and this year something has begun to stir here: neighbors remembering the old ways of pulling together, elders teaching, youth rising to serve. This letter is how we will keep you close to it — the real news, the real numbers, the real faces. Thank you for walking with us.

— **Sr. Pastor Edwin Mokoro**, Chairman

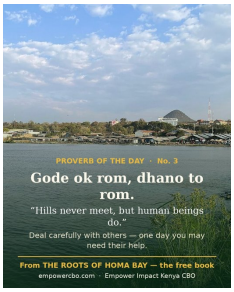
A free book for every home

The Roots of Homa Bay is published — 193 pages of our history, our clans, our lake, our faith, and the wisdom of our elders, gathered before it is lost. It is **completely free**, and it belongs to everybody. Read it or download it at **empowercbo.com/book.html** — it is also on Scribd, Wattpad and the Internet Archive, because a people's heritage should be able to travel anywhere.

Every claim in the book is honestly labeled — documented, tradition, or unverified — because truth is the whole point.



99 down, 901 to go — the race for 1,000 proverbs



Our elders carry a library in their hearts, and we are writing it down. **99 proverbs are already gathered** — our goal is 1,000, and every one will be credited to the person who carried it. The full Proverbs Library is free to read and search at **empowercbo.com/proverbs.html**, and a new Proverb Card appears every day.

Know a proverb we have not gathered? Send it by WhatsApp to **+254 701 917972** or by email to **info@empowercbo.com** — voice notes are welcome. And if you would like the **Proverb of the Day in your inbox** every morning, just email us the word subscribe.

Now the proverbs speak 🎙️

Our elders never wrote their wisdom in books first — they spoke it, by the fire, voice to ear. So we have given the proverbs their voices back. **Every one of the 120 proverbs in our Library can now be heard aloud** — open **empowercbo.com/proverbs.html**, choose a proverb, and press play. And on our home page, the **Proverb of the Day is spoken fresh every morning**, so you can start the day the old way: by listening.

Luo proverbs take their place on Wikiquote

Something happened this month that has never happened before: **the world's first page of Luo proverbs on Wikiquote** — the free library of the world's sayings, sister to Wikipedia — created by our own chairman. Twenty-five proverbs from The Roots of Homa Bay now stand there for the whole world to find, credited to the elders who carried them. A people's wisdom belongs where the world keeps its wisdom. Read them at **en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Luo_proverbs**.

Two campaigns, one village — pick your door

🏍️ Wheels for the Work — goal $1,400 (KES 182,000)



A Bajaj Boxer 150 motorbike with a welded load platform — carrying eggs, feed and supplies between the site, the market and our customers. Not a luxury: a revenue tool that carries the businesses on its back. The goal covers the whole package — bike, platform, registration, insurance, gear and first service — and our chairman will be trained and licensed before he ever rides it.

🎒 Keep Her in School — goal $1,000 (KES 130,000)



$1 buys a packet of pads. **$12** keeps one girl in school for a whole year. Our goal is a full year for about **80 girls** — because no girl in Nyangweso should lose her education for want of something so small. The girls are never named and never pictured; the gift is quiet, and the dignity is the point.

Why no girl stands in this picture

Look at the photograph above: pads, books, a uniform, a school bag — and no girl. **That is on purpose.** We do not use photographs of the girls we serve — not their faces, not their names — keeping faith with the Kenyan government's direction to charitable organizations (State Department for Children Services, November 2026) that children's pictures not be used to ask for donations. **Their dignity is not our advertisement.** What you see is the gift itself — and that is the whole picture.

THE CHRISTMAS MATCH IS ON. A friend of Empower Impact Kenya CBO is matching every gift to **Wheels**, one for one — up to $700 — for every gift given from now until **Christmas Day, 25 December**. Give once, and it counts twice. (The Well has reached its goal — thank you! 🎉) All the ways to give are at **empowercbo.com**.

The hens are well 🐓

An update everyone asks about: **the chickens are doing well.** The flock is healthy — **growing towards our goal of 225 hens**. Eggs are this CBO's first business — at full strength, the egg money becomes a regular monthly budget that helps the community full time, so we never have to depend on donations alone. In January the expansion begins: a bigger coop, a chick pen, and a hatchery.



⚡ ELECTRICITY IS COMING — JANUARY 2027!

The first of our Three Projects: **poles and power to the CBO site.** Electricity means light for evening classes, power for the hatchery's incubator, and a site that works after dark. Then, in firm order — the well, then the motorbike. One at a time, each one finished before the next begins. That is how we build.

A website for everyone ♿

This month we rebuilt our website so that **everyone** can use it — including visitors who read by listening, who see the world differently, who travel by keyboard instead of a mouse, or who reach us on an old phone over a slow connection. Every picture now carries words a screen reader can speak; colors were strengthened so words stand up in bright sun; headings stand in clear order; and our new **Accessibility page can be heard read aloud** — a warm Kenyan voice, recorded for the CBO. To guide the work we followed the world standard, **WCAG 2.1 Level AA** — the same standard that stands behind the Americans with Disabilities Act.

No law in Kenya required this of us. Dignity did. We understand how much dignity means — so the door is open to everyone, at **empowercbo.com/accessibility.html**. And if any page ever shuts you out, write to us at info@empowercbo.com: we will help you directly, and we will fix the door. (Our little announcement film about it was watched 200 times in its first day — the world is kinder than we are told.)

New doors to the world 🌍

And the village keeps opening doors. Empower Impact Kenya CBO now also lives on **Bluesky** (@empowercbo.bsky.social), **Pinterest** (@empowercbo) and **Mastodon** (@empowercbo) — and this very letter, **Roots & Light**, now has a home of its own on **Substack** (empowercbo.substack.com), where anyone in the world can subscribe free and never miss an issue. From a village with new internet, the old wisdom is traveling far.

Find us · Join us · Spread the word!

Nyangweso now has internet, and this little CBO is reaching the world from right here at home. We are everywhere — come and find us:

- **Facebook** — Empower Impact Kenya CBO (five posts a day!)
- **Instagram** — @empowercbo
- **YouTube** — @EmpowerImpactKenya — our first film, Youth Day in Nyangweso, is live
- **WhatsApp Channel** — Empower Impact Kenya
- **Scribd** — the book and the 2027 Proverb Calendar, free to read and download
- **Internet Archive** — archive.org, where the book is preserved for good

- **Wattpad** — Our Roots stories, one by one
- **Bluesky** — @empowercbo.bsky.social
- **Pinterest** — @empowercbo — proverb cards and the book
- **Mastodon** — @empowercbo
- **Substack** — Roots & Light, this letter's own home — subscribe free
- **Wikiquote** — the first Luo proverbs page in the world

And here is how you can help today, for free: forward this newsletter to ONE friend. That is how a village grows an army of friends.

Pray with Nyangweso

Please hold these before the Lord with us: for the elders who carry our wisdom, that their strength holds; for our girls, that nothing steals their school days; for clean water to flow at our site; and for our youth, that they grow up loving the old ways of pulling together. "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary." — Galatians 6:9 (NASB). Send us your own prayer requests at **info@empowercbo.com** — real people read every one.

Looking ahead

- **1 December — GivingTuesday:** the December giving push begins.
- **Christmas Eve, 24 December:** our youth teams present the community projects they have built with their own hands, and the elders honor them.
- **January 2027:** the big works begin — electricity first, then the well — and the community Center rises through the year.

"We want to thank you and bless you for helping our cause. A special blessing will be sent to you with every donation to one of our campaigns." — the elders of Nyangweso bless every friend of this work.

Empower Impact Kenya CBO · Registered CBO, Homa Bay County · Reg. No. DSD/43/247/02/204618 (Certificate Serial No. CBO 03187) · P.O. Box 506, Homabay, Kenya 40300
+254 701 917972 · info@empowercbo.com · empowercbo.com · You are receiving this because you are a friend of the CBO — reply STOP and we will take you off the list, with thanks.