

UZURY EMPOWERMENT HUB

ANNUAL REPORT



Table of Contents

Overview	1
Message from Executive Director	2
2025 In Numbers	3
Impact Highlights	4
Projects	5
Engagements	6
Challenges	7
Our Team	8
Looking Ahead	9
Conclusions	10

OVERVIEW

Who We Are

Established in 2022, Uzury Empowerment Hub-Kenya is a Community-based organization operating majorly in Meru, Kenya and also spreading it's wings in other Counties.

Uzury's work in the community focuses on the following areas;

 Community Economic Empowerment

 Feminist Leadership

 Gender Equality & Women Empowerment

 Climate Action

Our Mission

Supporting women, girls and vulnerable populations to achieve their overall well-being to reduce their vulnerability to social and gender injustices through advocacy, education, and economic empowerment.

Our Vision

A society where women and girls have equal rights, opportunities, and influence in all aspects of life, recognized for their diverse strengths and empowered to reach their full potential.

Message from Executive Director

As we reflect on the year behind us, I am filled with deep gratitude and resolve. This year was not only about activities delivered or numbers reached. It was about people, presence, and possibility. At Uzury Empowerment Hub, our work continues to be guided by a belief that lasting change is rooted in communities, led by women, and sustained through dignity, wellbeing, and collective action.

Throughout the year, Uzury strengthened its commitment to community-led research, advocacy, and women's leadership. By listening closely to women and youth and documenting lived realities, we translated insight into action through advocacy workshops and follow-up working groups that reached over 300 participants. These spaces reaffirmed that communities are not passive recipients of solutions, but leaders of change in their own right.

At the Uzury Women's Center, we intentionally integrated entrepreneurship and wellness, recognising that economic empowerment cannot thrive without care for the whole person. Supporting 56 women entrepreneurs directly and over 250 indirectly through chamas and peer networks reinforced our belief that when women are supported holistically, the impact extends far beyond individual livelihoods.

A key milestone this year was the launch of the Uzury Grassroots Women Leaders Fellowship, bringing together 50 women leading change across Eastern Kenya. These leaders exemplify grounded, courageous leadership, and investing in their growth is central to building resilient communities.



Uzury also remained engaged in regional and global conversations, participating in platforms such as the Global Ethical Stocktake at the Rising Hope Conference through the Women, Faith and Climate Network, the Youth Environmental Assembly at UNEA, and county-level advocacy during the 16 Days of Activism. These spaces allowed us to amplify grassroots voices while learning and contributing beyond our local context.

None of this work would be possible without the trust of our communities, the commitment of our partners, and the dedication of the Uzury team. As we look ahead, we remain focused on deepening impact, centring wellbeing and storytelling, and nurturing leadership that is accountable to the people it serves. The work continues, and it is both challenging and hopeful.

In solidarity and service,

Fariah Laikipian
Executive Director
Uzury Empowerment Hub



2025 in Numbers



500+ Total Participants Reached

20+

Community Workshops

5+

Counties Reached

25+

Engagements

5+

Projects

40+

Community Stakeholders

1

Award Nomination

3

New Team Members

2025-PROJECTS.

**1**

Stakeholders' Dialogue on Gender Justice & Economic Empowerment

The Uzury Empowerment Hub-Kenya organized a Stakeholders' Dialogue on Gender Justice & Economic Empowerment. Hosted on February 25, 2025, the event aimed to bring together key community stakeholders in Meru, either providing services or spearheading community programs and interventions to discuss and deliberate on the issues affecting marginalized women in Meru in areas of economic empowerment and livelihood development.

. Also, the event aimed at supporting the organization in improving its economic empowerment programs, to ensure that they meet the needs of the participants by understanding these needs from a stakeholder perspective.

The virtual event brought together 25 Stakeholders and created a platform to explore different areas of synergies and collaboration among them to strengthen the financial resilience of Marginalized women.

The dialogue successfully aligned stakeholders on shared goals of gender justice and economic empowerment while providing actionable insights for program development of the Uzury Women Centre Program.

2

COMMUNITY BASED RESEARCH.



Project: Impact of Women-Led Collaborations on the Reduction of household Poverty in Marginalized Communities in Meru and Tharaka Nithi Counties.

Research Work

Supported by UAF-Africa, this research assessed the effect of women-led collaborations on household poverty alleviation within marginalized communities in Kenya, focusing on North Imenti, Meru County, and Igamba Ng'ombe, Tharaka Nithi County.

The study engaged 160 women and 10 key informants across the two counties examining how collective economic initiatives, mutual support systems, and grassroots innovations can contribute to improving household income, community resilience, and women's economic empowerment.

However, results showed that while women-led informal groups are drivers of poverty reduction, food security, and social cohesion, they face systemic barriers to scaling impact. It stressed that economic policies need to become gender responsive, more investment must be directed into women's grassroots enterprises, and community-driven leadership should be strengthened.

The research provided actionable recommendations for policymakers, development partners, and community actors on how to enhance their efforts to realize women's economic rights and sets the stage for building a county level Women's Economic Network to sustain advocacy and learning, and an economic justice agenda in Meru and Tharaka Nithi counties in Kenya.



Post-Research Working Group

The Post Research Working Group serves as a Collective platform that translates research findings into coordinated feminist advocacy. Its role is to analyse evidence, develop policy recommendations and briefs, guide strategic engagement with duty bearers and ensure grassroots women voices shape policy reforms, movement building and long term accountability processes.

Participants Insights

I am sure that the future will completely change if women have an opportunity to own their own things like land. For example, if I own land, I can be able to open a school that can empower children in the community. When we are trained with different skills, we can also train other women thus ensuring that every woman in the community is empowered. In the end the whole community will be empowered'

Interviewee, Tharaka

'If you tell me I will know, if you show me, I will understand but if you engage me, I will never forget. Skills are an important element for the empowerment of these women and the community.'

Interviewee, Meru



'It is important that stakeholders are intentional in supporting us. We have been left with all responsibilities in our households and we are already struggling.'

'The saccos give us loans at very high interest and a short grace period before payment starts. Sometimes due to unplanned circumstances one is unable to sell their farm produce, so you end up not paying the loans on time. The saccos don't care, they will just show up and take away the little asset like cows and chicken you have.'

Interviewee, Tharaka Nithi

3

UZURY WOMEN CENTER.



Theme: Empower Her: Women Leading Economic Change.

June, 2025

The goal of Uzury Women Center is to empower young women in Meru by equipping them with entrepreneurial skills, financial access, and mentorship, fostering economic resilience and self-sufficiency as a pathway to reducing vulnerability to gender-based inequalities and creating sustainable opportunities for growth.

In collaboration with The Woman by Nisiri Uzury organized a transformative entrepreneurship two day program that brought together 56 young women and men from 10 informal groups, 10 mentors, county government representatives, local women leaders and community advocates. Participants were equipped with entrepreneurial skills, financial access, and mentorship, fostering economic resilience and self-sufficiency.



As a follow-up, mentors have been engaging with participants in their groups for continuous training on all wellbeing dimensions, mentorship and linkage.



4

UZURY GRASSROOT WOMEN LEADERS NETWORK

Theme: Leading from Where We Stand:
A Feminist Capacity and Care Journey for Grassroots Leaders



In partnership with GRÓ GEST, Uzury launched this project that was conceived as a platform to strengthen grassroots feminist leadership in Kenya. The goal was to bridge the gap between grassroots wisdom and professional skills, provide safe and intentional spaces for care, wellness, and reflection, while also enhancing access to knowledge, technology, and resources.

Participants engaged in 2 weeks self-paced learning with GRO.GEST online courses on Gender Equality followed by a 1-week intensive Training on Gender, Project management, Monitoring & Evaluation, Advocacy, and resource mobilisation.

This engagement saw the feminist leaders come up with project proposals that interested different stakeholders like NGAAF and KeMU Innovators Club that committed to support.

For phase 3 of the project, Participants have been linked with local mentors who are helping them perfect their proposals for pitching and community Implementation.



5

16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence 2025 Webinar.

Theme: UNITE to End Digital Violence against All Women and Girls.

Uzury Hosted this webinar that attracted 5 partners and over 30 participants to Raise awareness of digital safety, equip women and girls with practical online protection tools, strengthen survivor-centered digital support and highlight mental health as core to healing

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GBV 2025

ONLINE WEBINAR

Theme: **UNITE TO END DIGITAL VIOLENCE AGAINST ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS.**

TOPICS
DIGITAL VIOLENCE: FORMS, STORIES & EFFECTS
HOW TO BE SAFE ONLINE.
SUPPORTING SURVIVORS DIGITALLY.
MENTAL HEALTH & DIGITAL VIOLENCE.

THURSDAY, 4TH DECEMBER 2025
7PM-8:30PM
<https://meet.google.com/rux-kdmc-eqt>

JOIN US

Logos: UN Women, ONE for ALL INITIATIVE, YWCA Kenya, UN & Women's Empowerment Fund Kenya, IKOKAY CHEELI ISBONDE

Zoom Meeting Screenshot:

- Participants: Irene Kanana, Kinya Mugambi, Linus Njagi, gloria kawira, Sharon Kendi, Mercy Muthomi, 23 others, Uzury Empower...
- Chat messages:
 - Brenda Wanjira: are really enlightening us. I gather that majority of us fall victim because of ignorance and this meeting is a great eye opener.
 - Question: how do we report pseudo accounts especially huko tiktok the ones who prey on little children like comments.
 - seth natcher: Send a message
- Time: 7:57 PM | rux-kdmc-eqt
- System tray: Windows taskbar, system clock 19:57 (04/12/2025)

2025-ENGAGEMENTS.

1. Courtesy Call with Meru County First Lady

Following the research work, Uzury had the honor of meeting Her Excellency the First Lady of Meru County to discuss women's empowerment, policy support, and the future of grassroots women leadership.

On presenting the research findings the first lady made it clear that her office is ready to working hand-in-hand with community organizations to amplify women's voices and address gendered poverty.



2. TUNU Project: Anti-Corruption at the Grassroot

Uzury has been privileged to attend continuous trainings and discussions under the TUNU (Tupigane na Ufisadi) project, co-funded by the EU and implemented by KAS, TI-Kenya, and TISA.

The trainings aims at trengthening capacities of local civil societies to fight against corruption and understand social accountability.



3. Courtesy Call visit to State Department for Gender, Meru Office.

The meeting with Winfred Muuthia was focused on Policies sensitization meeting discussions, Uzury Empowerment Hub projects and areas of collaboration between the two institutions. The meeting was successful having Uzury added to a Technical working group, connection to organizations like SHOFCO (Shining Hope for Communities) and FLLoCA (Financing Locally-Led Climate Action program). Winfred also commitment to support Uzury including involvement in the Post research working Group.

4. Courtesy Call meeting with Meru County GBV Cordinator.

This meeting identified areas of collaboration, with Judy committing to offer training on GBV module in Uzury's projects.

2025-ENGAGEMENTS.



At 16 days of Activism against GBV launch Event, Meru County.



At Youth Environmental Assembly (YEA2025)



Global Ethical Stocktake at Rising Hope Conference, Italy.



At Women Of Faith Food Security/Creation Care Sharing Fair 2025

CHALLENGES.

1. Limited Funding

Uzury continued to operate in a funding environment characterized by short-term grants and limited unrestricted funding. This affected the ability to scale successful programs and plan long-term interventions.

2. Time Constraints for Participants

Many women and youth participants balance livelihoods, caregiving responsibilities, and community roles, which sometimes affected attendance and continuity in longer programs

3. Logistical Constraints in Grassroots and Remote Areas

Implementing activities in underserved and hard-to-reach communities presented challenges related to transportation, venues, and access to basic infrastructure

4. High Demand Exceeding Organizational Capacity

The demand for women and youth empowerment programs exceeded available human and financial resources, leading to difficult prioritization decisions.

Learnings and Mitigation Strategies.

- In response to the challenges experienced in 2025, Uzury strengthened adaptive and community-driven approaches to program implementation.
- The organization deepened partnerships with local leaders and grassroots groups to address logistical constraints and enhance community ownership.
- Flexible scheduling, blended learning models, and decentralized facilitation were adopted to improve participant engagement, particularly for women balancing multiple responsibilities.
- To mitigate funding and capacity limitations, the organization prioritized high-impact interventions, leveraged volunteer networks, and initiated efforts toward donor diversification and longer-term resource mobilization.

These strategies strengthened operational efficiency while laying a foundation for sustainable growth.



Together We Are...

Our Team



Fariah Lalaikipian
Executive Director



Purity Kanana
Monitoring & Evaluation



Moureen Mvaura
Communications Lead



Charity Maina
Project Manager



Mercy Mwendwa
Comms Intern



Sharon Kendi
Admin Intern



Sharon Kendi
Finance Intern



Our Donors & Partners.



FOR WOMN'S HUMAN RIGHTS



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Read. Know. Empower



KeMU
Kenya Methodist University



IREX



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES INTERNATIONAL



Mr & Miss Climate Kenya



YWCA Kenya

Empowering women and girls



ONE TO ALL INITIATIVE



CHEKI TUBONGE

2025 Faces

Thank You for being part of us in this impactful journey.



Looking Ahead

As 2026 rolls, Uzury remains rooted in the communities we serve and guided by the voices of women and young people at the grassroots.

The experiences of 2025 reminded us that meaningful change takes time, trust, and consistent presence. Moving forward, we will continue to strengthen local leadership, deepen community relationships, and grow our programs thoughtfully, while learning, adapting, and walking alongside our communities as they shape their own solutions.

For The Community By The Community!



Join our Thriving Community!

Learn more about Uzury

Find us on:

Instagram: [@Uzury Empowerment Hub](#)

LinkedIn: [@Uzury Empowerment Hub](#)

Facebook: [@Uzury Empowerment Hub](#)

Facebook: [@Uzury Empowerment Hub](#)

Please visit our website for the latest updates on Uzury and our publications

[Website](#)

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THANK YOU!

