



NEWSLETTER



What's Inside

Introduction

Thank you for journeying with us through the first quarter of 2026. This newsletter highlights the impact and milestones made possible through your continued support. Together, we are creating hope and opportunities for children in underserved communities. **DONATE** to continue supporting our mission.

- The Journey Continues: Africa ELI in 2026
- Scholars Highlight: A proud milestone for our Senior Four candidates
- Literacy Engagement Session at Kuc Ki Gen High School
- Water Reservoirs for School Sanitation.
- Navigating Adolescence with Purpose
- Literacy highlight at the Islands of Buwama
- The power of self affirmation
- Happy teachers, Change the world
- Parenting with Love: Nurturing Families in Buwama Island
- The Wellbeing training
- Scholar Spotlight: Sergio's Journey from Rhino Camp to a Professional Chef
- Special Appreciation

The Journey Continues: Africa ELI in 2026



The year has begun, and Africa ELI's mission continues to move forward with great momentum. First, let us say a heartfelt **HELLO** as we extend our warmest wishes to the entire Africa ELI family, our partners, donors, stakeholders, and all our valued supporters. Happy first quarter of 2026!

We have been actively engaged in the community, working hand in hand with teachers, scholars, learners, and parents to bring energy and joy to our efforts.

We invite you to stay connected and inspired as Africa ELI shares exciting stories of transformation and progress.

Scholars Highlight: A proud milestone for our Senior Four candidates



There are moments in our scholarship journey that fill us with deep pride and gratitude, and this year marks one of those special moments. Our scholars who joined us in senior one have now begun their final year in O'level as senior four candidates. Watching them grow into confident and focused young leaders has been an inspiring journey for all of us.

Over the years, our scholars have not only grown academically but have also developed resilience, character and a strong sense of community. They have participated in our literacy programs as mentors for their fellows, taken up leadership roles at school, and have consistently worked hard amidst the transforming education curriculum in Uganda.

As they begin this important year, we continue to provide tailored support to enhance their learning and preparation prior to UNEB. The continuous support and words of encouragement from friends, family, donors and partners can be a strong motivation pillar for scholars to soar high. Therefore, we encourage you to share them with us.

Literacy Engagement Session at Kuc Ki Gen High School



As part of our quarterly literacy activities, Africa ELI conducted an engaging literacy session with scholars at Kuc Ki Gen High School aimed at strengthening reading culture and improving comprehension skills among learners. The session featured interactive reading exercises, storytelling, guided discussions, and teamwork activities that encouraged scholars to express themselves confidently and learn collaboratively. Learners actively participated in analyzing stories, sharing ideas, and practicing communication skills in a supportive environment. The engagement not only enhanced literacy abilities but also promoted critical thinking, confidence, and togetherness among the scholars, making learning both meaningful and enjoyable. "The session reminded us that literacy is the cause for learning," said one of the scholars.

Water Reservoirs for School Sanitation.



Africa Eli through partnership with Kampala International Church Bugolobi (KIC-B) donated two 10,000 Litre tanks to two schools that had water scarcity. Children would trek long distances to collect water from the streams or wells which was very unsafe especially for girls. Access to water in school is not only for drinking, cooking, and washing hands but is a key resource for young girls during their menstruation period while at school. Learners and staff by facilitating handwashing, Access to reliable water sources is expected to reduce hygiene-related challenges within schools while promoting the health, dignity, and well-being of learners. Through this initiative, Africa ELI continues to support schools in creating safer, healthier, and more learner-friendly environments that encourage consistent attendance, happy and effective learning.

Navigating Adolescence with Purpose

TEEN VISION
Sunday, February 12, 2023 | N119

TEENS REACT

Amabelle Moller, St. Charles Lwanga SSS, Rubereere.
"A crush is a temporary romantic feeling that comes with butterflies and a foggy brain. It's normal and happens to everyone. The best way to handle it is by talking to someone who won't judge you. Sometimes, simply ignoring the feelings works because they eventually fade."

Humphrey Bilal, Wesley International School.
"A crush is when your heart quietly longs for someone. I had one last year, and it was tough because I admired her but never told her. Rumors spread that we were dating, which wasn't true. As head prefect, I chose self-control and focused on my education instead."

Divine Musingu Molaro, Merryland High School.
"Crushes are part of adolescence and can happen to anyone. I don't show my feelings openly and instead stay friendly. With time, I learn to control my emotions. Teenagers should be careful because early pregnancy and HIV are real risks in real life."

Julia Mubanga, Peace Horizons High School.
"I had my first crush in Primary Seven when I was 12. I admired his caring nature but knew I was too young for relationships. I chose to avoid him and focus on myself. With time, the feelings disappeared."

Sarah Shadia Mubonyogo, Peace Horizons High School.
"A crush is having strong feelings for someone who doesn't even know it. It happened to me in my first year. I used to talk to a boy, and before I knew it, I had developed feelings. I started avoiding him because our senior woman warned us against acting on crushes. I honestly have no time for boys."

David Mubiru, St. Charles Lwanga SSS, Rubereere.
"While in Primary Seven, a boy I thought was my friend told me he loved me. I told him it was impossible, but he insisted that he wanted more than friendship. I refused. He got annoyed and later changed schools. Crushes can be harmful, which is why self-control is very important."

Janice Mubiru, Peace Horizons High School.
"Teenagers often merge their identity with their crushes, which can lead to losing themselves. Grades may drop because the brain struggles to focus when thoughts are all mixed up. You might even mix history with maths. Crushes can also lead to regret and depression. In the end, you may fail to achieve your goals because all your energy is taken up by one person."

Winnie Ndibalehema, Peace Horizons High School.
"A crush is a strong feeling for the opposite sex I have never experienced one, but I see students go through it at school. Some girls throw themselves at boys. Crushes are risky because they can lead to early pregnancies and school dropouts. I believe in abstaining until I finish school."

Forliah Mubonyogo, Peace Horizons High School.
"A crush is when you suddenly feel attached to someone. I once had a funny crush on a movie character after watching Home Alone. At school, many girls crush on footballers, but crushes can lead to heartbreak, distraction, and poor academic performance."

Rich Akori
"I survived a terrible crush last year. I went to a boutique with my aunt, and the owner invited my siblings and me to a concert where he was performing as a dancer. My aunt agreed. At the concert, he told me he loved me, and I realized I had feelings too. My friend pushed me to accept, but I said no. I told him we could only be friends because I didn't want to spoil my future or disappoint my family and sponsors. Thankfully, he respected my decision."

This quarter, our hearts swelled with pride as several of our scholars were featured in New Vision papers courageously sharing their perspectives on a topic many youth shy away from. The topic was about high school crushes. Seeing our scholars confidently share their views on such a public platform is a testament to their growth and openness to life. They are not just navigating adolescence but learning from it. They spoke honestly about the excitement and confusion that often comes with forming romantic feelings at a young age in the name of CRUSHES. They reflected on how they are learning to navigate these experiences with self-awareness, discipline and purpose. At the heart of these stories lies the role our organisation plays. We don't just educate scholars but we also guide and create safe spaces where they can share without fear of judgment. And as Africa ELI, we stand proud, knowing that we are shaping a generation that chooses purpose over peer pressure and vision over distraction.

Literacy highlight at the Islands of Buwama



This quarter, Africa ELI extended the reach of quality literacy programming to children living in the island communities of Lake Victoria, where geographic isolation and limited educational resources continue to hinder learning outcomes. Working across 10 schools in Buwama, Bunjako, Kiregga, Katebo, and Buwejja, the program

provided children with meaningful opportunities to develop foundational literacy skills in supportive and engaging learning environments. Through interactive reading sessions, storytelling, and learner-centered activities, children strengthened their reading abilities, improved comprehension, and gained confidence in expressing themselves. Beyond academic achievement, the program nurtured curiosity, critical thinking, and a lifelong love of learning. For many children, these sessions represented more than literacy support—they offered encouragement, inspiration, and the belief that their circumstances do not define their future. By investing in literacy today, Africa ELI is helping to unlock opportunities, strengthen resilience, and empower the next generation to reach their full potential.

Learners actively engaged in interpreting pictures, tracing words, sharing ideas, and confidently reading aloud before their peers in supportive circles. The sessions not only enhanced literacy abilities but also promoted confidence, creativity, teamwork, and self-expression among learners. For many children, the activities became moments of comfort, joy, and hope, allowing them to experience the power of learning beyond the challenges of everyday life.

The power of self affirmation



“I AM THE MOUNTAIN, I AM THE BOSS OF ME.”

This sounds like a simple phrase but it is a bold affirmation that has become a cornerstone of engagement especially in communities where children often face uncertainty. As we gather learners to read, we also invite them to stand tall, speak loudly and recognize their own worth. Through this practice, children begin to understand that they have control over their feelings, thoughts, choices and responses to life.

Children recognize their presence and responsibility. With each affirmation, learners have gained confidence to express themselves, ask questions, and participate without fear. We have taught them awareness of their rights, helped them realize that their voices matter and their feelings are valid.

The impact of this self-affirmation is both immediate and lasting. Children who once held back can now speak up. Those who doubted themselves have begun to try. “I AM THE MOUNTAIN, I AM THE BOSS OF ME” has become more than a cheer, it has become a mindset to thrive beyond daily challenges.

Happy teachers, Change the world



This quarter, Africa ELI’s **Teaching with Love** program reached educators across Buwama Mukono, Kampala, and Masaka, reinforcing the belief that supported and valued teachers create thriving learning environments. Through reflective training sessions, role-plays, peer learning, mindfulness practices, and the **Why Emmanuel Can’t Read** manual, teachers strengthened both their instructional skills and personal wellbeing. The program helped educators reconnect with their purpose, manage stress, and build deeper, more empathetic relationships with learners. As a result, classrooms became more supportive and engaging spaces where children felt seen, heard, and valued.

A total of **86 teachers** reported renewed motivation, stronger connections with learners, and a greater sense of purpose demonstrating that investing in teacher wellbeing and learning creates lasting positive change throughout the entire education ecosystem.

Parenting with Love: Nurturing Families in Buwama Island



This quarter, Africa ELI extended its Parenting with Love program to the fishing communities of Buwama, where families face significant social and economic challenges. Long hours spent on the lake often limit parental presence and support, leaving many children vulnerable to exploitation, early marriage, and the effects of HIV/AIDS. Through compassionate parenting sessions, caregivers gained practical skills to strengthen family relationships, protect children, and nurture healthier, more resilient communities.

Guided by the Positive Parenting with Love book, parents explored practical strategies for positive discipline, effective communication, and strengthening relationships with their children. Through engaging, participatory activities, caregivers reflected on everyday parenting challenges, learned from one another, and gained skills to foster nurturing home environments that support children's wellbeing and development.

The growing sense of community fostered through these sessions has strengthened accountability and encouraged lasting behavior change among parents. Across the Buwama communities, caregivers are becoming more present, intentional, and confident in their

parenting. More than just learning opportunities, these sessions are laying the foundation for healthier families, safer childhoods, and stronger, more resilient communities where children can thrive.

The Wellbeing training



In our continued collaboration with the University of California San Diego, we extended a one week wellbeing training to PEAS Horizon High School. This is one of our valued partner schools where many of our scholars study from. We created safe spaces where students could explore their emotions, build self-confidence, and develop essential life skills. Through interactive sessions, guided reflections, and group discussions, participants were encouraged to better understand themselves, recognize their strengths, and navigate challenges with greater resilience.

Beyond personal growth, the program fostered meaningful peer connections and a stronger sense of belonging. Young people gained practical tools to manage stress, communicate effectively, and make positive decisions, empowering them to approach their futures with confidence, purpose, and hope.

Special Appreciation

We extend our sincere gratitude to all our donors, partners, supporters, beneficiaries, educators, friends, and stakeholders for your continued love, guidance, generosity, and commitment toward advancing the mission and initiatives of Africa ELI.

Scholar Spotlight: Sergio's Journey from Rhino Camp to a Professional Chef



We celebrate a remarkable milestone of Sergio's journey into becoming a professional chef. His story is one of resilience, growth and the power of believing that dreams are valid, no matter where they begin.

Sergio's story starts in the Rhino camp refugee settlement, where opportunities are often limited and the future can feel uncertain for many young people. Yet even in this setting, Sergio stood out as a wellbeing club president in the camp, he became a source of encouragement to his peers and leadership came naturally to him.

His potential did not go unnoticed as he won a scholarship award through our Achievers Academic Scholarship program. This chapter of his life was marked by hard work, discipline and a deep commitment to personal growth. He carried with him not only his dreams, but also the hopes of his community.

At Bugema University, Sergio pursued his passion for culinary arts. What began as a simple interest grew into a professional calling. Through long hours of practice and learning, today Sergio graduates as a professional chef.

As we celebrate Sergio, we also look ahead. There are many more young people with dreams just as powerful as Sergio's, waiting for a chance to rise. You can be part of that journey through supporting the next generation of young changemakers who will transform their communities, one step at a time.

We look forward to continuing this journey with you and striving for even greater impact.

DONATE

Contact us at:

zaharah@africaeli.org

Africa ELI Headquarters:

Nyanja, Bukerere, Mukono Block

No. 89 Plot 1242



<http://africaeli.org/>



<https://bit.ly/3fESmM2>



<https://bit.ly/3yhK7Mo>



<https://bit.ly/3CzkRnt>

Mission:

Africa ELI collaborates with local communities and global partners to provide access to education, well-being resources, and leadership development opportunities for East African youth, especially girls.

Goal:

By 2027, we aspire to educate 3500 students, considering 70% females, train 2,000 teachers in Wellbeing pedagogy, leadership and practical instructional skills, and continuously enhance student well-being and literacy in 50 schools.