

KI DIGEST

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Quarter 1 | NEWSLETTER

2026



KWAKHA INDVODZA

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The **first quarter** of **2026** highlighted Kwakha Indvodza's continued commitment to empowering emajaha, families, and communities across Eswatini through a diverse portfolio of projects. From mentorship and psychosocial support to entrepreneurship, skills development, HIV prevention, and advocacy, each initiative contributed to building safer, healthier, and more inclusive spaces.

Across programs, young men were recruited into structured trainings, parents engaged in positive parenting sessions, schools benefited from violence prevention clubs and repaired infrastructure, and communities were mobilized through dialogues on gender equality, mental health, and sexual health. Partnerships with government, NGOs, and traditional leaders amplified visibility and strengthened collective impact, while national commemorations such as the Day of the Boy Child and Men's Mental Health Month showcased KI's leadership in shaping conversations around masculinity and wellbeing please add this as the introduction.



Litfuba Ngelakho KNH project

The Male Mentoring Organization successfully recruited 134 emajaha this quarter, with all registration forms submitted and captured. Out of these, 35 young men enrolled in structured sessions and completed them in June. They also received psychosocial support focused on mental health and depression, ensuring that the program addressed both personal growth and emotional wellbeing.

Violence Prevention in Schools and Communities

Violence prevention remained a central focus, with four sessions conducted in schools including Kwaluseni Infant, Matsapha Government, Siphumelele, and Kwaluseni Central. A violence prevention club was established with 30 members who now meet weekly to sustain dialogue and action. Beyond schools, emajaha engaged in two community service activities at Kwaluseni and Vulamasango/Moya Centre on 23 June, reinforcing the spirit of giving back.



Picture 1. Students from Siphumelele primary during their session on violence prevention.
picture 2. Students from Vulamasango during their community service work at Moya center turning a garden.

Commemorations and Visibility



Emajaha bass band leading the group on the walk from Mahhala to Swazi National High

The Day of the Boy Child was commemorated in partnership with World Vision and local chapters on 13 and 16 June. Activities included a march from Mahhala to Swazi National High School and fun games such as tug of war, which drew wide participation and strengthened visibility for the cause of positive masculinity.

Parenting and Family Support



Lijaha being assisted by his parents on his presentation during positive parenting session.

Parents and caregivers were also reached through positive parenting initiatives. Sixty parents were recruited, with 30 completing their sessions. These efforts strengthened family support systems and created safer environments for children.

Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement

The project engaged traditional leaders through dialogue at Logoba Umphakatsi and conducted assessments with MERL on 12 June. Teachers were also supported, with 20 receiving refresher training facilitated by HMCS, Kwaluseni Indvuna, Epilepsy, and DPMO on 5 June. Collaboration ,Bhoboka delivering psychosocial sessions, and M&E and SEIG projects strengthening dialogues and career guidance training.

Challenges and Solutions

The team faced challenges such as delays in food vendor selection and time-consuming manual data entry. To address these, interim vendors were engaged to ensure continuity, and the team recommended dedicating one day solely for pre-testing emajaha to save time.

Lisango Letemphilo Catalytic Project

Quarterly Review: January – March 2026

The Lisango Letemphilo Catalytic Project began its first quarter with strong community engagement and foundational activities aimed at expanding HIV prevention, testing, and mentorship among men, boys, and adolescent girls and young women (AGYW). Despite being in its startup phase, the project made measurable progress in mobilizing communities, establishing condom distribution outlets, and initiating dialogues that promote health and positive masculinity.



Men and Boys Outreach

A total of 134 emajaha were recruited and engaged through one-on-one and small group sessions. The project reached 418 men and boys individually and 119 through group sessions, achieving a 20.5% and 2% reach respectively. HIV testing services (HTS) were initiated, with 25 individuals tested and none found positive during the period. Condom



Lobamba community cadre handing out HIV self-tests during a mens session

distribution was a major success, with 41,300 condoms distributed through 20 operational outlets, meeting 33% of the target. Although referrals for VMMC and PrEP were low due to service unavailability, the groundwork for mobilization was firmly established.

AGYW Engagement

Among adolescent girls and young women, 35 were tested for HIV, and none tested positive. The project reached 105 AGYW through one-on-one sessions and 16 through small group sessions, marking early progress in awareness and prevention. Condom distribution among AGYW totalled 400 units, with 20 outlets operational. While uptake of male condoms remained low, the team noted growing interest as awareness sessions continued.

Training and Community Entry

The quarter featured several key capacity-building activities. The team attended orientation sessions with PM, MERL, and Ops on 18 May, followed by NERCHA RRM training from 27–29 May. Community entry meetings were conducted across targeted Tinkhundla, and cadres were recruited and trained on 16–17 June. A radio show with NERCHA on 2 June helped raise public awareness about HIV prevention and project goals.

Community Dialogues and Outreach

Community dialogues were central to the quarter's success. On 20 June, a major dialogue in Lobamba engaged 76 men, distributed 6,000 condoms, and facilitated 25 HIV tests and blood donations. Additional outreach sessions included a GBV and HIV prevention dialogue at Motjane on 29 May, reaching 25 people and distributing 600 condoms and 3 self-test kits, and a community sensitization event at Nkomiyahlaba on 13 June, where 15,000 condoms, 1,000 lubricants, and 25 self-test kits were distributed.



Mr Myeni having a one-on-one session during an outreach session at Nkomiyahlaba

Collaborations and Partnerships

The project worked closely with NERCHA for community entry and facilitation, AHF and VOOV for commodities and mobile clinic support, and SEIG for youth day activities and condom distribution. The communications team documented the Lobamba dialogue, while PM and MERL supported quarterly reporting. These collaborations strengthened coordination and visibility across regions.

Challenges and Recommendations

Limited community awareness of newer HIV prevention interventions such as PrEP and VMMC affected initial uptake. The team recommends intensifying demand creation through targeted communication and leader engagement. Referral completion was also hindered by transport challenges and service gaps at local clinics; stronger follow-up through cadres and collaboration with health facilities will help improve outcomes.

Litfuba Ngelakho UNFPA Project

The Litfuba Ngelakho UNFPA-supported initiative began its first quarter with strong community engagement and foundational activities aimed at promoting positive masculinity, entrepreneurship, and health access among men and boys in Lobamba and Kwaluseni. Despite being in its startup phase, the project made measurable progress in recruitment, training, and outreach, setting the stage for accelerated implementation in the coming months.



Empowering Emajaha Through Mentorship and Training

A total of 37 emajaha were recruited, with 30 currently enrolled in behavioral change sessions under Kwakha Indvodza's curriculum. The project recorded 15 emajaha completing entrepreneurship training at Kwaluseni, led by the SEIG Coordinator, achieving 50% of the quarterly target. These sessions equipped young men with practical business skills and confidence to pursue income-generating opportunities.



Promoting Gender Equality and Health Access

Gender norms dialogues reached 76 men, fostering open discussions on masculinity, respect, and equality. Health outreach was also prioritized—25 older men accessed health services, supported by mobile clinics and partner organizations. Through referral pathways, 25 HIV tests and 16 STI screenings were completed, strengthening the link between mentorship and health-seeking behavior.

Expanding Prevention and Awareness

Condom distribution remained a key prevention strategy, with 12,000 condoms distributed across Kwaluseni and Lobamba. These efforts were complemented by behavior change messaging and community dialogues that emphasized responsibility and safe practices. The project also supported Ok Foods health talk sessions, reaching 100 people across Kwaluseni, Logoba, and Mhlaleni.

Building Foundations for Scale-Up

While some activities such as skills training and community campaigns are scheduled for later quarters, the groundwork has been firmly laid. The team's collaboration with SEIG, UNFPA, and local partners ensured alignment with broader goals of youth empowerment and gender transformation.

Visual Highlights

Emajaha participated actively in entrepreneurship training sessions at Kwaluseni, and community members accessed health commodities during the Lobamba outreach on 20 June. These visuals reflect the growing momentum and community ownership of the Litfuba Ngelakho initiative.



Emajaha during a session on challenging gender social norms at the Mbikwakhe chapter

The first quarter demonstrated Litfuba Ngelakho's commitment to transforming lives through mentorship, health access, and empowerment. With 37 emajaha recruited, 15 trained in entrepreneurship, 25 men accessing health services, and 12,000 condoms distributed, the project is steadily advancing toward its vision of nurturing responsible, empowered men and boys across Eswatini.

Psychosocial Support

Kwakha Indvodza's Psychosocial Support (PSS) program continues to strengthen mental health awareness, counselling, and community resilience across Eswatini. This quarter, the team provided direct support to 46 clients, including 45 mental health cases and 1 GBV-related case, reflecting the growing demand for psychosocial services among men and boys.

Expanding Awareness and Advocacy

Public awareness was amplified through three media appearances on Eswatini TV, EBIS 2 Radio, and the Kusile Breakfast Show, where discussions focused on mental health, GBV prevention, stigma reduction, and encouraging help-seeking behavior. These engagements reinforced the importance of addressing harmful social norms and promoting positive masculinity.



PSS officer Mayanda Dube during an interview on Kusile Breakfast show to address contributing factors to the rise of suicide cases in the country

Community Outreach and Engagement



Participants during a session with men on SHR and mental health in collaboration with World Vision in Kwaluseni

Over 300 people were reached through community dialogues and outreach sessions that addressed mental health, GBV, sexual and reproductive health (SRH), and self-care. Highlights included Mental Health Awareness Month in May and Men's Health Month in June, which featured workplace sessions,

community dialogues, and collaborations with stakeholders to promote men's mental health and gender equality.

Training and Capacity Building

The team delivered training sessions for diverse groups including AHF Eswatini peer educators, NERCHA cadres, workplace employees at Nandos, and tunnel farming trainees. Topics covered GBV, mental health, ethical data management, confidentiality, workplace sexual harassment, and psychosocial support. These sessions strengthened the skills of community cadres and professionals to respond effectively to psychosocial needs.

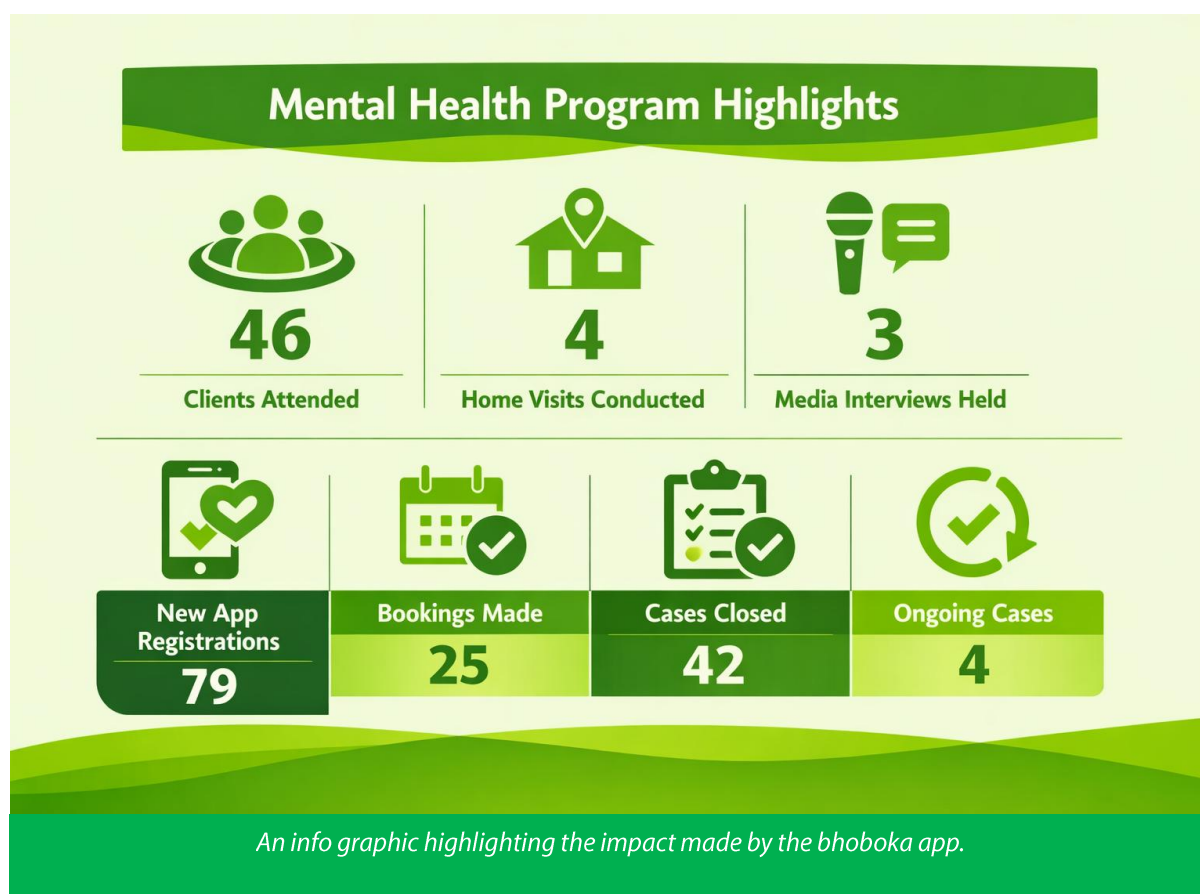
Partnerships and Safe Spaces

KI deepened collaborations with partners such as SEIG, World Vision Eswatini, AHF Eswatini, SANU, Woman Farmer Foundation, MTN, and NERCHA, expanding the reach of psychosocial services. The Mbikwakhe Safe Space continued to provide a platform for mentorship, counselling, and access to essential services, reinforcing community resilience.



PSS officer facilitating a session on mental health during a SEIG learn 2 earn session

Indicators and Achievements



Case Summary

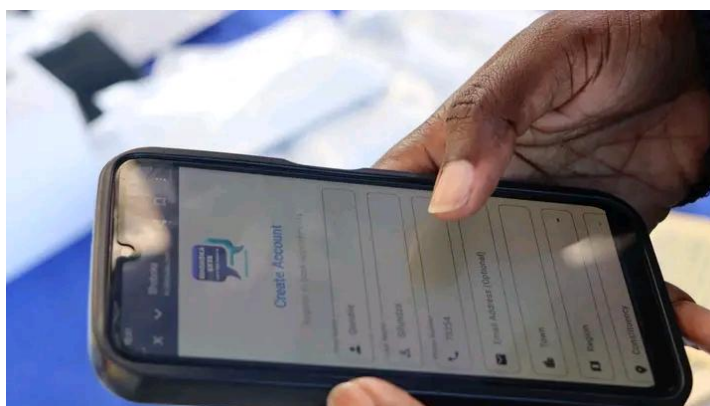
Most cases involved mental health concerns such as anxiety, depression, trauma, and family challenges. One GBV case was attended to with counselling, safety planning, and referral to relevant services.

Visibility and Stakeholder Engagement

The quarter included participation in major events such as the World Vision Lisango dialogues, SEIG L2E sessions, Women Farmers' Tunnel Farming Training, the UNFPA Hlonipheka Technical Working Group, and the MTN Yellow Care Launch. The Deputy Prime Minister's site visit to Mbikwakhe Safe Space on 26 June, accompanied by EU and UNFPA representatives, further highlighted the importance of psychosocial support. The DPM pledged and delivered 50 bags of rice to support vulnerable clients.



The April–June 2026 quarter demonstrated KI’s commitment to mental health advocacy, community resilience, and GBV prevention. With 46 clients supported, 300+ people reached through outreach, and strengthened partnerships across sectors, the PSS program continues to provide vital services and safe spaces for men, boys, and families in Eswatini.



An interface of the Bhuboka app during the registration process

Social Entrepreneurship & Income Generating (SEIG) Project

The SEIG Project continued to empower emajaha and communities through entrepreneurship, skills development, and mentoring during the second quarter of 2026. With strong participation in training programs and practical apprenticeships, the initiative is building pathways for young men to earn, innovate, and contribute to their communities.

Learn to Earn Training

A total of 57 participants completed Learn to Earn training sessions, achieving 95% of the quarterly target. Graduations were held at Ludzeludze Inkundla in April and Nkwalini under Mbabane West Inkundla in May, with stakeholders including YERF, ENYC, and Eswatini TV present. Six participants were sponsored by the Municipality to register for motor mechanic grade testing at ECOT, while two business partners received stock worth over E300 to boost their pie-selling enterprise.



Participants posing for a group picture with stakeholders during a learn to earn graduation at Ludzeludze Inkundla.

Skills Development and Apprenticeships

12 emajaha graduated from carpentry skills training at Ludzeludze Inkundla, producing study desks and repairing benches. Apprenticeship programs also thrived, with 11 apprentices repairing 57 desks for three primary schools and installing 16 soft boards at Forbes Reef Primary School. These activities not only provided practical skills but also improved learning environments for local schools.



Business Mentoring and Market Linkages

The project reached six participants through business mentoring sessions, covering topics such as loan applications, tendering, and business ideation. Notably, Phiwayinkhosi Sgudla marketed his pie business at the YERF Business Seminar in Piggs Peak, establishing valuable connections despite limited sales opportunities.

Cohort Tracking and Progress Monitoring

25 past participants were tracked to assess their economic progress since joining SEIG activities, ensuring accountability and long-term impact.

Community Engagements and Presentations

The SEIG team contributed to broader community dialogues and educational sessions, including a World Vision men's dialogue on positive fatherhood and SRH, a financial literacy workshop for teachers under the KNH project, and school outreach at Malkerns Valley Primary addressing substance abuse, SODV, pornography, and positive behavior.



Partnerships and Collaborations

Collaboration remained central, with SEIG working alongside KNH, PSS, and chapter coordinators to deliver SRH and mental health presentations, mobilize schools for desk repairs, and support graduations. The project also engaged in national platforms such as the Youth Connekt Eswatini launch, the State of the Youth Report launch, and UNFPA's Psychological First Aid training.

Challenges

The quarter faced challenges including inconsistent attendance at L2E sessions, delays in signing MOUs with Ezulwini Town Council, and logistical issues such as delayed desk collection by schools. Market linkage efforts also highlighted the need for stronger partnerships to support product sales.

The SEIG Project's second quarter demonstrated resilience and innovation, combining training, mentoring, and community engagement to empower emajaha with practical skills and entrepreneurial opportunities. With strong partnerships and continued focus on sustainability, SEIG is shaping a generation of young men ready to lead in business and community development.



Advocacy, Communication & Trainings (ACT) Department

The ACT Department has continued to amplify visibility, strengthen partnerships, and drive impactful conversations around mental health, gender equality, and GBV prevention. Through national media, community outreach, and collaborative events, the quarter showcased the power of advocacy in shaping healthier communities.

Raising Awareness Through Media and Outreach

In April, ACT amplified visibility through Eswatini TV and other national platforms, sparking conversations on mental health and GBV prevention. By May, during Mental Health Awareness Month, the team conducted five community information stalls, reaching over 100 people, while partnering with COSPE and Health Promotions to deliver health services and knowledge. Every activity reinforced the message that mental health is just as vital as physical health.

Celebrating Men's Mental Health Month

June was dedicated to men's mental health, focusing on physical health, emotional well-being, and gender equality. ACT partnered with government offices, NGOs, and businesses to create safe spaces for men and boys, tackling harmful stereotypes and encouraging open dialogue. Events included the MTN Yellow Care Launch in Hosea, which reached over 500 people, and the Father's Day Celebration in Lobamba, where 76 men engaged in health checks and family leadership discussions.



Successes Across Communities

The second quarter was marked by vibrant community engagements that brought advocacy, health, and empowerment directly to the people.

During Mental Health Awareness Month in May, ACT partnered with HealthPlus 4 Men, AHF Eswatini, and CANGO to host the Ngwane Park Gathering, where best practices in HIV prevention and sexual health were shared with dozens of stakeholders. On May 13, the Day of the Boy Child drew over 400 boys into sessions of unity, reflection, and empowerment, supported by World Vision and the Deputy Prime Minister's Office. Just days later, 75 boys participated in the Boy Child Celebration on May 16, engaging in teamwork and collaboration activities that reinforced respect and positive masculinity.



Emajaha from the Kwaluseni chapter playing a game during the commemoration of the day of the boy child.

Youth empowerment was further strengthened through the SEIG Learn to Earn Training (May 11–15), equipping young men with business and employability skills. At SANU Wellness Day (May 20), 80 students were reached, with 15 registering for the Bhuboka App, linking them to ongoing

psychosocial support. A film screening on May 21 brought together 40 youth to reflect on toxic masculinity and gender equality, sparking dialogue on shifting harmful norms. The month closed with Psychological First Aid Training (May 28–29), which strengthened frontline workers' skills in empathy, listening, and resilience.



Eswatini Royal Police officers posing for a picture during an outreach session on GBV and mental health

June's Men's Mental Health Month expanded the reach even further. At the MTN Yellow Care Launch in Hosea (June 3), more than 500 people were engaged, with 30 one-on-one conversations highlighting the importance of male participation in health services. The MTN 21 Days of Y'ello Care event in Kwaluseni (June 10) facilitated 35 one-on-one engagements on HIV, GBV prevention, and life skills. On the

same day, 15 Nando's employees in Mbabane received training on GBV, harassment, and mental health, reinforcing workplace wellness.

Community fitness and health came together at the Shukuma Event in Nkomiyahlaba (June 13), where 61 people were reached during a fitness day that combined physical activity with health education. The National GBV Symposium in Sidvokodvo (June 17) convened national stakeholders to address alarming GBV statistics, while the Father's Day Celebration in Lobamba (June 20) engaged 76 men in health checks and family leadership discussions. Finally, the Joint River Basin Authorities Training (June 27) trained 10 male staff on mental health stigma, GBV, workplace harassment, financial wellness, and substance abuse, ensuring that advocacy reached professional spaces as well.

Media and Digital Engagement

ACT achieved eight media appearances across radio, TV, and print, with three KI-generated promotions and two external features. Social media campaigns on mental health and men's wellness gained traction, with reels and posts driving engagement and reducing stigma.

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