

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



SHINNERS C.B.O

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# ACRONYMS

- ART:** Antiretroviral Therapy  
**APHRC:** African Population and Health Research Center  
**AYAM:** Access to Youth and Adolescent Mental Health  
**C.B.O.** Community-Based Organization  
**CPSE:** Community Perceptions of Social Exclusion  
**GBMSM:** Gay, Bisexual, and other Men who have Sex with Men  
**GBV:** Gender-Based Violence  
**HRDs:** Human Rights Defenders  
**HIV:** Human Immunodeficiency Virus  
**IEC:** Information, Education, and Communication  
**LGBTQIA+:** Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and others  
**M&E:** Monitoring and Evaluation  
**MoU:** Memorandum of Understanding  
**MSM:** Men who have Sex with Men  
**MSW:** Male Sex Worker  
**PEP:** Post-Exposure Prophylaxis  
**PrEP:** Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis  
**PWDs:** Persons with Disabilities  
**SGBV:** Sexual and Gender-Based Violence  
**SUSP:** Substance Use Support Programme  
**ToT:** Training of Trainers  
**VSLA:** Village Savings and Loan Association

# GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

## **Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)**

A medical treatment for people living with HIV that reduces viral load, strengthens immunity, and helps prevent transmission.

## **Community-Based Organization (C.B.O.)**

A non-profit, grassroots entity that operates within and is led by members of a specific community to address their unique social, health, and rights-related needs.

## **Community Perceptions of Social Exclusion (CPSE)**

A study led by SHINNERS and APHRC examining how GBMSM and MSWs experience exclusion in healthcare, justice, and public life.

## **Gay, Bisexual, and other Men who have Sex with Men (GBMSM)**

An inclusive term acknowledging sexual identity, behavior, and social belonging among men who engage in same-sex intimacy.

## **Male Sex Worker (MSW)**

A man who engages in sex work, often for financial survival, and may face compounded stigma, legal risks, and violence.

## **Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)**

A short-term course of HIV medication taken after potential exposure to prevent infection.

## **Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)**

A daily medication taken by HIV-negative individuals to significantly reduce the risk of contracting HIV.

## **Human Rights Defenders (HRDs)**

Individuals who act to promote or protect human rights, often at personal risk. In SHINNERS's context, HRDs are often peer-led advocates within the GBMSM/MSW community.

## **Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Materials**

Resources designed to inform and educate community members about health, rights, and services in accessible formats.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)**

A process used to track, assess, and improve program performance and impact through data collection, analysis, and feedback.

## **Substance Use Support Programme (SUSP)**

A harm-reduction and recovery initiative by SHINNERS offering counseling, peer support, and livelihood pathways for community members affected by substance use.

## **Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA)**

A community-based financial model enabling members to save collectively, access small loans, and improve economic resilience.

## **Training of Trainers (ToT)**

A method of building sustainable capacity by training selected individuals to, in turn, train others within their community or network.

# FORWARD FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

On behalf of the Board of SHINNERS C.B.O., I am honored to present our 2024 Annual Report — a testament to resilience, innovation, and the unwavering spirit of the GBMSM and Male Sex Worker communities we serve.

This year, our work unfolded against a backdrop of intensified legislative threats, cultural conservatism, and socio-economic challenges. Yet, through strategic partnerships, community leadership, and the steadfast dedication of our team, SHINNERS C.B.O. remained a beacon of hope and empowerment.

Building upon the strong foundations laid in 2023, we expanded healthcare access, deepened legal empowerment, mainstreamed mental health support, and cultivated a new generation of advocates. Our achievements are not simply numbers; they represent lives touched, dignity restored, and communities mobilized towards a future where rights and health are non-negotiable realities.

As Chairperson, I reaffirm the Board's commitment to guiding SHINNERS C.B.O. with integrity, vision, and accountability. Together with our partners, donors, and community members, we will continue forging pathways towards justice, inclusion, and sustainable wellbeing.

Thank you for standing with us.

**Caled Otieno Owino**  
**Board Chairperson, SHINNERS C.B.O.**





# FORWARD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Dear Partners, Friends, and Community Members,**

I am proud to share the 2024 Annual Report of SHINNERS C.B.O., which captures a journey of resilience, growth, and transformation amidst a challenging environment for GBMSM and Male Sex Workers in Western Kenya.

2024 tested our community's fortitude like never before. With the resurgence of anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation and deepening socio-economic hardship, our mission faced formidable obstacles. Yet, leveraging the foundational investments made in 2023, we moved from resilience to strategic resistance — expanding our mobile healthcare programs, reinforcing legal literacy, normalizing mental health care, and cultivating empowered grassroots leaders.

Every PrEP enrollment, every successful case of legal redress, every mental health breakthrough, and every act of advocacy documented herein reflects a defiant assertion of dignity and rights.

Looking ahead to 2025, our roadmap is clear: consolidate our resilience strategies, deepen rights-based programming, and scale community empowerment initiatives. We are poised not just to survive but to thrive — building a future defined by health, justice, and pride.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our donors, partners, staff, and most importantly, the brave individuals and communities who inspire us daily. Your belief in our mission fuels our momentum.

In solidarity and hope,

**Polycarp Okeyo**  
**Executive Director, SHINNERS C.B.O.**



# 1. INTRODUCTION

The lived realities of Gay, Bisexual, and other Men who have Sex with Men (GBMSM) and Male Sex Workers (MSWs) in Western Kenya have historically been shaped by entrenched cultural conservatism, legal exclusion, and economic marginalization. The persistence of colonial-era penal codes criminalizing same-sex relations, compounded by societal stigma and institutional neglect, has created a socio-political environment where visibility, safety, and access to services are persistently undermined.

Throughout the late 20th and early 21st centuries, GBMSM and MSWs in Kenya — particularly in rural and peri-urban settings — remained largely invisible within public policy, healthcare systems, and human rights frameworks. Targeted programs addressing their specific vulnerabilities were rare, often overshadowed by mainstream public health narratives that failed to recognize the diversity of Kenya's key populations.

In this context, the emergence of community-based organizations such as SHINNERS C.B.O. marked a critical turning point. From its inception, SHINNERS C.B.O. was founded on the recognition that sustainable change for GBMSM and MSWs must be rooted in community leadership, rights-based programming, and an unwavering commitment to dignity and health equity. The 2023 program year represented a significant strategic shift for SHINNERS C.B.O., with investments in structural resilience

— including paralegal training, healthcare sensitization, mental health integration, leadership development, and stakeholder coordination — laying critical groundwork for navigating an increasingly hostile political and cultural environment in 2024 and beyond.

As 2024 unfolds, the socio-political landscape facing GBMSM and MSWs in Western Kenya has become markedly more volatile.

Legislative threats such as the Kaluma Family Protection Bill, heightened surveillance of civil society organizations, and worsening socio-economic conditions pose urgent new challenges. Yet, it is precisely the resilience architectures seeded by SHINNERS C.B.O.'s 2023 initiatives that now enable GBMSM and MSWs to resist, survive, and continue advancing their demands for justice and inclusion.

This report critically situates the current realities of GBMSM and MSWs within the broader historical, cultural, political, and socio-economic forces shaping their lives, while showcasing how SHINNERS C.B.O.'s strategic interventions have transformed risks into opportunities for empowerment. It underscores the urgent need for sustained, strategic investments in rights protection, service delivery, leadership cultivation, and systemic advocacy to consolidate gains and safeguard human dignity in the years ahead.

## 2. ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Established in 2010, SHINNERS Community-Based Organization (C.B.O.) is a grassroots-driven institution dedicated to advancing the health, rights, and dignity of Male Sex Workers (MSWs) in Kisumu County and its environs.

Initially founded as an HIV prevention initiative, SHINNERS C.B.O. has since evolved into a leading comprehensive service and advocacy hub — influencing public health, legal reforms, and social justice landscapes across the region.

### OUR MISSION

To empower male sex workers through the delivery of inclusive health services, robust legal advocacy, holistic mental health support, peer-led initiatives, and accessible educational resources.

### OUR VISION

A society where male sex workers live healthy, empowered, and dignified lives — free from stigma, discrimination, and social exclusion.

### CORE VALUES

#### Compassion

We uphold the dignity of every individual with empathy and care.

#### Integrity

We operate with transparency, honesty, and full accountability to our communities and partners.

#### Collaboration

We believe in the power of partnerships and collective action to drive sustainable change.

#### Innovation

We embrace creativity and adaptability to respond effectively to emerging needs.

#### Respect

We honor diversity, promote fairness, and champion equity in every sphere of our work.

Through strategic leadership, community-centered programming, and unwavering commitment to human rights, SHINNERS C.B.O. continues to be a catalyst for transformative change — ensuring male sex workers are not merely seen, but celebrated as agents of resilience, empowerment, and societal progress.

### 3. BACKGROUND HISTORY OF GBMSM AND MSW IN WESTERN KENYA

The trajectory of Gay, Bisexual, and other Men who have Sex with Men (GBMSM) and Male Sex Workers (MSWs) in Western Kenya is deeply intertwined with systemic historical marginalization, cultural conservatism, and legal exclusion.

For decades, colonial-era laws criminalizing same-sex relations entrenched GBMSM and MSWs into invisibility and survival on the margins of society. Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, public health responses to HIV/AIDS largely ignored the realities of male-to-male sexual transmission, allowing the epidemic to disproportionately affect GBMSM and MSW populations without tailored interventions.

Grassroots organizing emerged slowly, challenged by cultural stigma, political hostility, and economic vulnerability. It was within this hostile environment that community-based organizations like SHINNERS C.B.O. arose — not simply as service providers, but as lifelines for survival, dignity, and human rights assertion.

By 2023, SHINNERS C.B.O. had become a trusted community anchor, pioneering safe spaces, legal empowerment initiatives, healthcare linkages, mental health programs, and leadership development platforms specifically tailored to GBMSM and MSWs.

The work undertaken during 2023 — detailed in SHINNERS C.B.O.'s Annual Report — laid critical groundwork for navigating the even more turbulent socio-political landscape emerging in 2024–2025.

#### **CULTURAL, POLITICAL, AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DYNAMICS**

Building on 2023's achievements, SHINNERS C.B.O. entered 2024 facing a polarized and hostile external environment:

##### **CULTURAL FACTORS:**

While cultural conservatism remains dominant across most counties, SHINNERS's 2023 cultural sensitization efforts, creative healing spaces, and community storytelling initiatives helped foster counter-narratives around dignity and resilience.

##### **POLITICAL FACTORS:**

The re-introduction of anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation in 2024 threatens to reverse gains. However, SHINNERS's investments in paralegal training, legal literacy, and healthcare worker sensitization during 2023 provided critical protective buffers.

##### **SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS:**

Despite economic hardships, SHINNERS's 2023 programs in PrEP uptake campaigns, mental health, and economic empowerment have created resilience strategies now critical to community survival in 2024.



# 4. PROGRAMS AND SERVICES: INTEGRATED RESPONSES FOR HEALTH, RIGHTS, AND EMPOWERMENT

In 2024, SHINNERS C.B.O. scaled its programming in response to growing threats against GBMSM and Male Sex Worker (MSW) communities in Western Kenya. With a focus on resilience, dignity, and systemic transformation, SHINNERS delivered a dynamic portfolio of interlinked services across health, legal empowerment, mental wellness, economic resilience, and advocacy — all rooted in community leadership.

## 1. HEALTHCARE ACCESS AND HIV PREVENTION

SHINNERS expanded community-centered healthcare through mobile outreach, peer navigation, and clinic partnerships:

- Delivered **18** mobile outreach clinics providing **PrEP, PEP, STI** screening, and **ART** adherence support.
- Formalized **8** MoUs with healthcare facilities to provide nonjudgmental, rights-based services to GBMSM and MSWs.
- Trained **25** healthcare workers through sensitization workshops to improve client dignity and confidentiality.
- Facilitated community health education forums and World AIDS Day commemorations that promoted uptake of HIV prevention tools.

## 2. MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

SHINNERS deepened mental health integration through lay-provider models and trauma-informed interventions:

- Conducted wellness workshops, created peer-led support groups, and launched a mental health leadership academy.

- Trained **15** Lay Providers in substance use counseling, peer support, and mental health first aid.
- Implemented the **Substance Use Support Programme (SUSP)**, helping over **300** individual's access counseling, life skills training, and reintegration support.
- Mainstreamed mental health into outreach clinics and storytelling forums to reduce stigma and normalize healing.

## 3. LEGAL EMPOWERMENT AND RIGHTS LITERACY

In an increasingly repressive legal environment, SHINNERS strengthened community protection systems:

- Trained **30** new paralegals and **Human Rights Defenders (HRDs)** to document violations and provide legal navigation.
- Conducted rights awareness forums, enabling over **500** GBMSM/MSWs to understand and assert their rights.
- Developed and distributed rights violation documentation tools and legal literacy materials.
- Built community-led advocacy hubs and launched strategic partnerships for access to pro bono legal aid.

# 4. PROGRAMS AND SERVICES: INTEGRATED RESPONSES FOR HEALTH, RIGHTS, AND EMPOWERMENT

## 4. COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION AND ADVOCACY

SHINNERS elevated grassroots voices and collective action to influence public attitudes and policies:

- Hosted ***Gatekeeper Sensitization Workshops*** with religious and cultural leaders, resulting in inclusive public pledges.
- Organized ***Human Rights and Storytelling Forums*** to reclaim community narratives and build advocacy capacity.
- Facilitated regional dialogues using CPSE research findings to position lived experience as evidence for reform.
- Launched youth leadership academies and strategic campaigns during global observances (e.g., ***16 Days of Activism***).

## 5. ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND LIVELIHOODS

SHINNERS linked economic resilience to health outcomes, trauma recovery, and reduced risk exposure:

- Trained **200** women and youth in vocational and entrepreneurial skills; **100** received seed capital grants.
- Developed the Recovery-to-Entrepreneurship Model for individuals recovering from substance use.
- Created community savings groups and microenterprise mentorship networks.
- Improved household incomes and reduced dependency on exploitative survival strategies.

## 6. INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In 2024, SHINNERS expanded services to reflect the intersectional realities of GBMSM/MSWs and other marginalized groups:

- Rolled out Disability Inclusion and Empowerment Programs, training 80 PWDs in leadership and advocacy.
- Conducted climate action campaigns, planting **10,000+** trees and holding environmental education forums.
- Delivered community health screening clinics across remote areas, reaching over **5,000** people with lifesaving services.

## INTEGRATED IMPACT IN 2024

- **380+** enrolled in PrEP, improving HIV prevention among high-risk groups.
- **45** individuals received psychosocial counseling and mental health referrals.
- **30** community paralegals trained; 15 rights violation cases pursued successfully.
- **100+** microenterprises launched, boosting economic security.
- **1,000+** people reached during GBV prevention campaigns and awareness drives.

## A RIGHTS-BASED, COMMUNITY-LED MODEL

SHINNERS C.B.O. remains distinct in its model — not as a service provider alone, but as a movement-building organization. Each program is:

## 5. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2024, SHINNERS C.B.O. operated in an increasingly complex socio-political landscape shaped by heightened legislative hostility, economic hardship, and cultural conservatism targeting Gay, Bisexual, and other Men who have Sex with Men (GBMSM) and Male Sex Workers (MSWs) in Western Kenya.

Building on the foundations laid in 2023, SHINNERS C.B.O. intensified community-driven responses to safeguard health, rights, dignity, and resilience among these marginalized groups. This Executive Summary presents a comprehensive overview of the key activities, outputs, outcomes, strategic recommendations, and the forward-looking roadmap to 2025.

### 2024 KEY ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

#### **Rights Literacy and Legal Empowerment:**

Conducted 12 community rights sensitization forums targeting GBMSM and MSWs, focusing on navigating Kenya's evolving legal environment, particularly around anti-LGBTQIA+ legislative threats.

#### **Leadership Development and Advocacy**

Organized 2 regional leadership boot camps, training 30 new community leaders and paralegals on strategic advocacy, civic engagement, and organizational governance.

#### **Mental Health Support Services**

Launched 6 wellness workshops addressing trauma, stigma, and substance use, culminating in the formation of 3 peer-led mental health support groups.

#### **Healthcare Integration and Expansion**

Implemented 18 mobile outreach clinics delivering PrEP, PEP, STI screening, and ART adherence support in newly identified high-risk hotspots in Kisumu, Kakamega, Busia, and Siaya counties.

#### **Stakeholder Engagement and Policy Advocacy**

Held 4 multi-sectoral policy dialogue forums engaging county health departments, civil society partners, and law enforcement agencies to protect MSM/MSW-friendly health services.

## 6. OUTCOMES REALIZED IN 2024

### Improved Health Access and Outcomes

Increased uptake of PrEP and early HIV diagnosis among GBMSM/MSWs contributed to improved community viral suppression targets.

### Heightened Legal Agency

Empowered community members reported higher confidence in reporting violations and navigating the justice system despite legislative hostility.

### Enhanced Mental Resilience

A process used to track, assess, and improve program performance and impact through data collection, analysis, and feedback.

### Strengthened Advocacy Infrastructure

Newly trained leaders initiated local campaigns against stigma, police harassment, and healthcare discrimination, expanding SHINNERS C.B.O.'s grassroots footprint.

### Broadened Policy Engagement

Active participation in county-level forums positioned SHINNERS C.B.O. as a recognized advocate for inclusive health and human rights policies.

### OUTPUTS ACHIEVED

500+

GBMSM and MSWs reached directly through rights, health, and leadership programs.

380+

Individuals newly enrolled in PrEP programs through mobile outreach.

45

Community members formally linked to psychosocial counseling and mental health services.

30

Peer leaders and community Paralegals graduated from leadership development programs.

15

Documented cases of legal redress pursued successfully via partner legal aid organizations.

8

New MoUs signed with strategic stakeholders to integrate MSM/MSW-sensitive service delivery.



# 7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRATEGIC ADVANCEMENT (2025)

## **Deepen Mental Health Programming**

Scale up psychosocial support through mobile clinics and peer-counseling training.

## **Strengthen Digital Advocacy Platforms**

Leverage mobile technology and social media to sustain rights education and community mobilization under restrictive legislative conditions.

## **Enhance Research and Data Systems**

Invest in evidence-generation initiatives to document GBMSM/MSW experiences, guide program adaptation, and bolster advocacy credibility.

## **Institutionalize Emergency Response Mechanisms**

Establish rapid legal aid, psychosocial, and medical support systems for victims of rights violations.

## **Expand Economic Empowerment Initiatives**

Integrate vocational training and livelihood support schemes into health and rights programs to reduce economic vulnerability among MSWs and GBMSM.

## **ROADMAP TO 2025: LINKING 2023 FOUNDATIONS TO 2024–2025 STRATEGIC GROWTH**

The 2023 programmatic interventions, detailed in SHINNERS C.B.O.'s Annual Report, created the structural foundations that 2024 activities strategically expanded:

### **From Awareness to Agency**

Scale up psychosocial support through mobile clinics and peer-counseling training.

### **From Service Access to Systems Integration**

Leverage mobile technology and social media to sustain rights education and community mobilization under restrictive legislative conditions.

### **From Mental Health Outreach to Community-Led Resilience**

Invest in evidence-generation initiatives to document GBMSM/MSW experiences, guide program adaptation, and bolster advocacy credibility.

### **From Leadership Identification to Strategic Advocacy**

Leadership initiatives that trained community mobilizers in 2023 have now developed into organized advocacy campaigns influencing county-level health policies.



## 8. KEY ACTIVITIES

### Activity 1: Commemoration of the International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers (December 17, 2024)

On December 17, 2024, SHINNERS C.B.O. organized a landmark community-led event to commemorate the International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers, a significant global observance aimed at recognizing the plight and resilience of sex workers worldwide.

The commemoration specifically targeted Male Sex Workers (MSWs) and GBMSM individuals within Kisumu County and surrounding areas, who experience compounded vulnerabilities due to stigma associated with both their occupation and their sexual orientation.

Recognizing that systemic violence against sex workers remains one of the most underreported and normalized forms of human rights abuse, SHINNERS C.B.O. designed the event as a safe, inclusive platform where survivors could share their experiences without fear, shame, or retaliation.

The forum facilitated a series of participatory activities, including survivor testimonies, trauma-sharing circles, and structured discussions around institutional violence — particularly the role of law enforcement, healthcare discrimination, and family rejection. Importantly, the 2024 commemoration was informed by lessons from 2023 trauma-informed programming, incorporating psychological first aid practices and rights-based facilitation to avoid traumatization while encouraging empowerment through storytelling.

Participants jointly reflected on barriers to justice, service access, and community healing, culminating in the drafting of a collective declaration of action points to guide SHINNERS C.B.O.'s advocacy strategy moving into 2025.



# Activity 1: Commemoration of the International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers (December 17, 2024)

## OUTPUT

- Successfully mobilized 20 GBMSM/MSW community members from Kisumu and neighboring regions to participate actively in the event.
- Enabled 4 survivors of systemic violence to openly share personal testimonies, catalyzing collective discussions on structural violence.
- Generated 3 clear, community-driven advocacy priorities focused on legal aid access, police accountability, and establishment of safe shelters.
- Produced 1 comprehensive commemorative event report documenting key insights, survivor narratives, and recommended interventions.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Successfully localized an international advocacy platform (International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers) to contextual realities faced by MSWs in Western Kenya.
- Broadened the community's understanding of structural drivers of violence, moving conversations beyond interpersonal violence to systemic change.
- Created a replicable model for survivor-led commemorations, positioning SHINNERS C.B.O. as a best-practice reference point for rights-based community mobilization.

## OUTCOME

- Participants reported increased confidence and reduced stigma in discussing their experiences of violence, a critical step towards collective healing and rights mobilization.
- Survivors who shared their stories emerged as informal community advocates, signaling a shift from victimhood to agency within advocacy spaces.
- Institutional stakeholders who received the commemorative report expressed commitment to integrating some of the recommendations into upcoming community safety planning sessions.
- SHINNERS C.B.O. strengthened its position as a trauma-informed organization, recognized for centering the lived experiences of MSWs in its programming.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Institutionalize quarterly healing forums that offer ongoing psychosocial support for GBMSM and MSWs survivors of violence.
- Develop a rapid-response legal aid and emergency shelter referral network accessible to MSWs at immediate risk.
- Establish regular sensitization workshops for police, healthcare workers, and judiciary actors to systematically address institutional violence.
- Create peer support networks led by survivor advocates to foster continuous community healing and rights defense.



## Activity 1: Commemoration of the International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers (December 17, 2024)

### ROADMAP TO 2025

Building on the trauma-informed community mobilization strategies developed in 2023 and reinforced through this 2024 commemoration, SHINNERS C.B.O. plans to:

- Launch a Survivor Support Desk within its programmatic infrastructure, offering psychosocial services, legal aid navigation, and advocacy mentorship.
- Formalize partnerships with two local human rights organizations to strengthen GBMSM/MSW violence documentation and litigation support.
- Develop an Annual Survivors Summit to sustain visibility and strategic advocacy linked to county-level policy reform efforts.
- Train 10 new GBMSM/MSW peer advocates equipped to facilitate healing sessions, violence documentation, and community safety audits by the end of 2025

## Activity 2: World AIDS Day Commemoration (December 1, 2024)

On December 1, 2024, SHINNERS C.B.O. joined the global community in commemorating World AIDS Day under the theme "Let Communities Lead," reaffirming the critical role of key populations in combating the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Recognizing the heightened vulnerability of Male Sex Workers (MSWs) and GBMSM individuals to HIV acquisition, SHINNERS designed the event not merely as a health service outreach but as an empowerment platform centered on rights, dignity, and agency.

The commemoration took place at Anza Mapema Drop-In Centre, a strategic venue known for providing nonjudgmental healthcare services to key populations.

A holistic program was delivered, combining HIV testing services, PrEP sensitization,





## Activity 2: World AIDS Day Commemoration (December 1, 2024)



ART adherence counseling, psychosocial support education, and health rights dialogues tailored specifically to the lived realities of MSWs and GBMSM clients. Through the participatory model, SHINNERS C.B.O. elevated community voices in health service discussions, highlighting structural barriers such as stigma within health facilities, fear of disclosure, and the intersectionality of HIV risk with criminalization and social exclusion.

Building on the outreach methodologies piloted in 2023, this event showcased SHINNERS's ability to translate service delivery into advocacy platforms, centering GBMSM and MSWs not just as recipients of services but as leaders in shaping health responses.

### OUTPUT

- Mobilized 20 GBMSM and MSW community members to participate actively in the World AIDS Day activities.
- Successfully referred 5 high-risk individuals to Anza Mapema's clinical services for comprehensive HIV care, including PrEP enrollment and ART initiation.

- Delivered 1 structured community dialogue session addressing HIV stigma, service navigation, and community-led health models.
- Produced 1 event report integrating participant feedback, service uptake data, and advocacy recommendations.

### OUTCOME

- Increased awareness and uptake of HIV prevention tools, specifically Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) among MSWs who previously lacked information or access.
- Improved trust between GBMSM/MSW clients and healthcare providers, contributing to better health-seeking behaviors beyond the event.
- Strengthened participant confidence to demand non-discriminatory services, positioning them as informed health rights advocates.
- Enhanced visibility of SHINNERS C.B.O. as a critical bridge between marginalized communities and inclusive healthcare systems.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Institutionalize routine community health education forums led by GBMSM/MSW peer educators.
- Expand partnerships with additional health facilities to ensure broader geographic coverage of friendly, nonjudgmental services.
- Integrate mental health screenings into HIV service delivery models to address trauma and depression commonly linked to HIV vulnerability.
- Advocate for policy-level integration of community-led health interventions into county and national HIV strategic plans.

## Activity 2: World AIDS Day Commemoration (December 1, 2024)

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- Successfully linked marginalized GBMSM/MSW individuals to life-saving HIV services through community trust-building strategies.
- Localized the World AIDS Day theme into a tangible, community-owned experience of empowerment and rights education.
- Advanced SHINNERS's model of combining service access with rights literacy, reinforcing the organization's holistic health advocacy approach.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Institutionalize routine community health education forums led by GBMSM/MSW peer educators.
- Expand partnerships with additional health facilities to ensure broader geographic coverage of friendly, nonjudgmental services.
- Integrate mental health screenings into HIV service delivery models to address trauma and depression commonly linked to HIV vulnerability.
- Advocate for policy-level integration of community-led health interventions into county and national HIV strategic plans.

### ROADMAP TO 2025

Leveraging lessons from the 2023 outreach strategies and the success of the 2024 World AIDS Day commemoration, SHINNERS C.B.O. will:

- Establish a quarterly Community Health Leadership Forum for GBMSM/MSWs to co-design and evaluate HIV programming.
- Formalize MOUs with three additional county health facilities committed to providing GBMSM/MSW-friendly services by 2025.
- Develop a Community Health Navigators Program, training peer educators as certified navigators assisting clients from testing through linkage and retention in care.
- Launch an annual "Communities Leading Health" symposium to amplify GBMSM/MSW voices in regional HIV response strategies.





## Activity 3: Human Rights Defenders and Advocacy Training (March 2024)

In March 2024, SHINNERS C.B.O. organized a strategic capacity-building training for Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) drawn from GBMSM and Male Sex Worker (MSW) communities across Kisumu County.

This initiative recognized that systemic change requires empowered grassroots leadership capable of documenting abuses, engaging policymakers, and advocating for structural reforms.

Historically, GBMSM and MSWs have been excluded from mainstream human rights spaces due to compounded stigma and criminalization — leaving a critical gap in community-led advocacy.

Building on the advocacy groundwork laid during 2023, the 2024 training was deliberately crafted to move beyond basic rights awareness.

Participants engaged in in-depth modules covering Kenya's constitutional and human rights frameworks, strategic litigation pathways, evidence-based documentation of human rights violations, security and risk management for defenders, and community mobilization strategies under hostile political conditions.

Importantly, the training integrated practical exercises where participants conducted mock documentation of rights violations, developed advocacy plans targeting county government institutions, and simulated engagements with media and policymakers.

By centering lived experiences and tailoring methodologies to the realities faced by GBMSM/MSWs, SHINNERS C.B.O. ensured that participants left not only more knowledgeable but practically equipped to defend their rights and those of their peers.

### OUTPUT

- Successfully trained 15 Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) selected from GBMSM and MSW communities.
- Developed 5 draft community-led advocacy action plans targeting healthcare discrimination, police brutality, and legal reform.
- Facilitated the production of 15 personal security plans by HRDs to ensure safe activism amidst hostile socio-political contexts.
- Generated 1 comprehensive training manual adapted to the unique needs of GBMSM/MSW defenders.



# Activity 3: Human Rights Defenders and Advocacy Training (March 2024)

## OUTCOME

- Empowered GBMSM and MSWs to become frontline defenders, capable of documenting abuses and advancing evidence-based advocacy.
- Improved local movement-building capacity, with HRDs initiating community meetings, safety audits, and rights documentation processes post-training.
- Strengthened community resilience against external political and societal threats by embedding defense capacities within the community itself.
- Positioned SHINNERS C.B.O. as a recognized training hub for marginalized HRDs in Western Kenya.

## ROADMAP TO 2025

Building upon the community mobilization momentum created in 2023 and expanded through the 2024 HRD training, SHINNERS C.B.O. will:

- Establish a permanent Community Advocacy Hub offering technical support, legal linkages, and resource materials for trained HRDs.
- Train an additional 30 HRDs across five counties by 2025 to build regional networks of GBMSM/MSW defenders.
- Integrate human rights advocacy components into all major SHINNERS C.B.O. health, legal, and empowerment programs.
- Launch a national GBMSM/MSW Rights Defenders Coalition to consolidate advocacy efforts, amplify voices, and influence national policy reform by the end of 2025.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Transitioned GBMSM and MSWs from being seen solely as vulnerable beneficiaries to proactive agents of systemic change.
- Created a sustainable pipeline of grassroots advocates equipped to engage duty bearers and influence local governance structures.
- Provided a replicable model for rights-based empowerment training tailored specifically to sexual minority sex workers.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Institutionalize an annual Human Rights Defenders Academy specifically for GBMSM/MSWs to build advanced advocacy and litigation capacities.
- Develop a mobile-based Human Rights Violation Reporting App to improve real-time documentation and emergency responses.
- Formalize partnerships with national and county human rights institutions to ensure referral pathways for documented cases.
- Create emergency fund mechanisms to provide rapid support for HRDs facing threats, arrest, or violence.



## Activity 4: Dissemination of CPSE Research Findings and Community Dialogue (April 2024)

In April 2024, SHINNERS C.B.O. hosted a pivotal research dissemination forum in collaboration with the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), focusing on the outcomes of the “Community Perceptions of Social Exclusion (CPSE)” study.

The study explored the layered experiences of stigma, discrimination, and social exclusion faced by GBMSM and Male Sex Workers (MSWs) within Western Kenya’s cultural, legal, and socio-economic landscapes.

Recognizing that community-driven research is a critical foundation for evidence-based advocacy and programming, SHINNERS C.B.O. strategically convened a diverse audience — including GBMSM/MSW community members, healthcare workers, policymakers, civil society allies, and media practitioners.

The goal was to transform abstract data points into lived realities, ensuring the study findings were not only disseminated but contextualized through powerful community narratives.

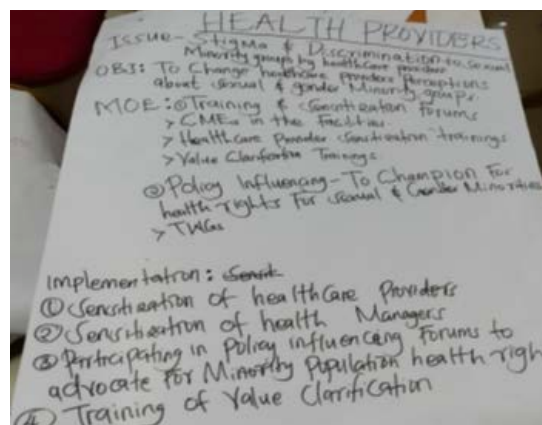
The forum included an official research presentation, facilitated dialogues where community members shared personal experiences aligning with study themes, breakout group discussions focusing on solutions, and collective strategy mapping for advocacy, policy influence, and service delivery redesign.

This engagement reflected SHINNERS C.B.O.’s commitment to bridging academic research with grassroots realities — ensuring that data collection processes translate into empowerment, ownership, and tangible change for marginalized communities.



### OUTPUT

- Convened 30 stakeholders, including 18 GBMSM/MSWs and 12 multi-sectoral partners (health sector, academia, media, civil society, policymakers).
- Disseminated key CPSE research findings through 1 detailed presentation and 2 community-centered dialogue sessions.
- Generated 4 thematic community action plans addressing stigma reduction, healthcare access, legal advocacy, and economic empowerment.
- Produced 1 comprehensive dissemination and engagement report integrating research findings with community-driven priorities.



## Activity 4: Dissemination of CPSE Research Findings and Community Dialogue (April 2024)

### OUTCOME

- Increased community ownership of research findings, shifting narratives from being research subjects to research partners.
- Strengthened multi-stakeholder alliances committed to integrating study recommendations into programming and policy agendas.
- Enhanced capacity of GBMSM/MSW participants to articulate lived experiences in policy and research language, empowering their advocacy capabilities.
- Laid groundwork for evidence-based, community-led programming to be prioritized within SHINNERS C.B.O.'s 2025 strategic plan.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- Successfully bridged the gap between academia and grassroots realities, setting a precedent for future community-engaged research dissemination models.
- Elevated the visibility of GBMSM and MSWs as experts of their own experiences, shifting traditional power dynamics in research spaces.
- Positioned SHINNERS C.B.O. as a knowledge translation leader in the intersection of research, policy advocacy, and community empowerment for sexual minorities.

### RECOMMENDATION

- Institutionalize quarterly community feedback sessions where research, service delivery, and advocacy priorities are openly evaluated and adapted.
- Develop advocacy briefs based on CPSE findings tailored for policymakers, healthcare administrators, and law enforcement agencies.
- Initiate a Community Research Fellows Program training GBMSM/MSWs in participatory research methodologies.
- Advocate for the inclusion of GBMSM/MSW-specific indicators in county and national public health surveillance systems.

### ROADMAP TO 2025

Building upon the participatory research strategies initiated in 2023 and strengthened through the 2024 CPSE dissemination forum, SHINNERS C.B.O. will:

- Launch a GBMSM/MSW Community Research Advocacy Taskforce to champion rights-based, evidence-driven programming and policies.
- Integrate participatory research findings into the organization's strategic planning, M&E frameworks, and donor reporting structures.
- Co-develop research and advocacy campaigns with academic partners to sustain momentum for inclusive, community-led health and rights reforms.
- Train 20 Community Research Fellows by 2025 to foster self-representation and leadership in shaping the research and policy agendas that impact their lives.



## Activity 5: Positive Storytelling Forum for GBMSM and Male Sex Workers (May 2024)

In May 2024, SHINNERS C.B.O. facilitated a transformative Positive Storytelling Forum, bringing together GBMSM and Male Sex Workers (MSWs) to reclaim narrative agency and reshape public perceptions about their lives, resilience, and contributions to society.

Historically, public narratives surrounding sex workers and sexual minorities have been dominated by stigma, victimization, and invisibility. Recognizing the immense power of self-representation, SHINNERS C.B.O.

intentionally created a safe, affirming space where participants could share empowering, dignified, and humanizing stories. The forum was meticulously designed to move beyond trauma narratives; participants were guided through structured storytelling workshops emphasizing strengths, achievements, community solidarity, and aspirations for the future.

Sessions also incorporated mental health support components, acknowledging that storytelling can surface unresolved traumas and require holding spaces of collective care. A professional storytelling facilitator trained in trauma-sensitive methodologies led participants through exercises in memory work, narrative framing, voice empowerment, and public speaking.

Participants produced a tapestry of lived experiences that highlighted resilience against systemic oppression, celebrated milestones of survival, and affirmed the humanity and aspirations of GBMSM/MSW communities.

Building on mental health integration models piloted by SHINNERS in 2023, the Positive Storytelling Forum strategically merged psychosocial support with rights-based advocacy through narrative reclamation.

### OUTPUT

- Mobilized 30 GBMSM/MSW participants from Kisumu and neighboring counties to actively engage in the forum.
- Facilitated the co-creation of 20 positive personal narratives highlighting resilience, empowerment, and dignity.
- Developed 1 multimedia digital anthology capturing key stories, which will be used for advocacy, sensitization, and community education purposes.
- Produced 1 facilitation manual on positive storytelling methodologies tailored for marginalized sexual minorities.



# Activity 5: Positive Storytelling Forum for GBMSM and Male Sex Workers (May 2024)

## OUTCOME

- Fostered increased self-esteem, confidence, and narrative control among participants, crucial for individual and collective empowerment.
- Expanded community resilience capacities, as participants recognized shared struggles and celebrated collective victories.
- Generated new community leaders who are now leveraging storytelling as an advocacy and empowerment tool in their own peer networks.
- Strengthened SHINNERS C.B.O.'s trauma-informed and asset-based approach to community engagement and advocacy.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Successfully shifted the narrative from deficit-based portrayals to asset-based representations of GBMSM/MSW lives and realities.
- Equipped participants with storytelling skills that can be applied to public speaking engagements, advocacy campaigns, and peer support initiatives.
- Positioned SHINNERS C.B.O. as an innovator in merging mental health promotion with rights advocacy through narrative-based programming.

## RECOMMENDATION

- Institutionalize positive storytelling workshops as regular components of SHINNERS C.B.O.'s mental health and leadership development programs.
- Develop a traveling storytelling exhibition showcasing GBMSM/MSW narratives to diverse community, policy, and donor audiences.
- Train peer educators and community advocates in storytelling techniques to strengthen community mobilization, sensitization, and advocacy work.
- Document and publish annual anthologies capturing evolving narratives of GBMSM/MSW empowerment, resilience, and leadership.

## ROADMAP TO 2025

Building upon the trauma-sensitive storytelling pilots of 2023 and the successes of the 2024 Positive Storytelling Forum, SHINNERS C.B.O. will:

- Launch a "Voices of Resilience" Multimedia Campaign amplifying GBMSM/MSW narratives across radio, social media, and policy platforms.
- Integrate storytelling modules into leadership academies, human rights trainings, and mental health programs.
- Formalize partnerships with local media houses to humanize GBMSM/MSW communities through authentic, positive storytelling.
- Train 50 Community Storytelling Ambassadors by 2025 who will serve as change agents and cultural advocates across Western Kenya.



## Activity 6: Gatekeepers Sensitization Workshop (June 2024)

In June 2024, SHINNERS C.B.O. convened a targeted Gatekeepers Sensitization Workshop, recognizing the critical influence that traditional, religious, and community leaders wield over public attitudes, policy, and service access for marginalized groups.

Gatekeepers — including religious leaders, cultural elders, and community opinion shapers — often act as either facilitators or barriers to the health, rights, and dignity of Gay, Bisexual, and other Men who have Sex with Men (GBMSM) and Male Sex Workers (MSWs).

Historically, entrenched cultural conservatism and religious moralism have fueled stigma, exclusion, and violence against sexual minorities in Western Kenya.

Thus, SHINNERS C.B.O. prioritized engaging these powerful actors through a structured dialogue and sensitization model aimed at transforming prejudices, challenging myths, and fostering allies within influential social institutions.

The workshop curriculum integrated sessions on human rights frameworks, public health imperatives, stigma and discrimination impacts, biblical and cultural reinterpretations promoting dignity, and case studies showcasing positive leadership shifts.

Importantly, it allowed for safe spaces where gatekeepers could express fears, misunderstandings, and biases — with facilitators guiding the conversation towards empathy, fact-based knowledge, and values of compassion and justice.

By intentionally applying lessons from earlier pilot engagements conducted in 2023, the 2024 workshop refined its approach to move beyond simple information provision into deeper values reflection and long-term relationship-building strategies.



### OUTPUT

- Convened 10 influential gatekeepers, including religious leaders, cultural elders, and civic influencers from Kisumu and surrounding counties.
- Facilitated 8 structured dialogue sessions covering health, legal, cultural, and human rights dimensions of GBMSM/MSW experiences.
- Developed 5 individualized action plans from gatekeepers committing to promote inclusion within their respective spheres of influence.
- Produced 1 sensitization toolkit for future replication and scaling of gatekeeper engagement programs.

# Activity 6: Gatekeepers Sensitization Workshop (June 2024)

## OUTCOME

- Participants demonstrated measurable attitude shifts toward more compassionate, rights-respecting views of GBMSM/MSW communities.
- 3 gatekeepers pledged to integrate inclusive messaging within their religious or cultural platforms, directly reaching over 500 community members.
- Initiated preliminary discussions for future partnerships between SHINNERS C.B.O. and faith-based/cultural institutions in Kisumu County.
- Strengthened the broader enabling environment for GBMSM/MSW rights by strategically engaging social power brokers at the grassroots level.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Successfully engaged a traditionally resistant sector, breaking silos between community leaders and sexual minority advocates.
- Positioned SHINNERS C.B.O. as a diplomatic and strategic convener capable of fostering difficult yet necessary conversations on human rights.
- Created a scalable model for gatekeeper engagement that can be replicated across counties in Western Kenya.



## RECOMMENDATION

- Formalize a Community Gatekeeper Engagement Strategy incorporating annual sensitization workshops, faith dialogues, and cultural forums.
- Establish a Faith and Cultural Leaders Advisory Group to provide ongoing counsel and champion GBMSM/MSW rights initiatives.
- Develop multimedia advocacy tools (e.g., short films, sermon guides, and cultural dialogue booklets) tailored for religious and cultural audiences.
- Secure endorsements from influential leaders for public campaigns against stigma, discrimination, and violence toward sexual minorities.

## ROADMAP TO 2025

Building upon exploratory gatekeeper dialogues initiated in 2023 and deepened through the 2024 sensitization workshop, SHINNERS C.B.O. will:

- Train 50 additional gatekeepers by the end of 2025 across five counties using the developed sensitization toolkit.
- Launch an Interfaith and Cultural Leaders Coalition promoting dignity, inclusion, and rights for all marginalized groups, including GBMSM/MSWs.
- Integrate gatekeeper advocacy into county-level HIV, mental health, and human rights strategic plans.
- Host an annual Interfaith Dialogue Forum on Sexual Diversity and Human Rights beginning in 2025 to sustain momentum and normalize inclusion.

## Activity 7: Lay Provider Substance Use and Mental Health Training (July 2024)

In July 2024, SHINNERS C.B.O. conducted an intensive training for Lay Providers focused on Substance Use and Mental Health interventions for GBMSM and Male Sex Worker (MSW) communities.

Recognizing the compounded vulnerabilities faced by sexual minorities — where systemic stigma, economic exclusion, violence, and trauma heighten risks of substance use and mental health disorders — SHINNERS prioritized building grassroots capacities for community-based psychosocial support. This initiative directly responded to gaps identified during 2023's mental health pilot projects, where limited access to affirming, stigma-free psychosocial services emerged as a critical barrier to holistic wellbeing among GBMSM/MSWs.

Traditional healthcare systems often fail to address the intersectionality of sexuality, sex work, trauma, and mental health, necessitating the development of peer-led, community-anchored intervention models. The training, conducted in partnership with the AYAM (Access to Youth and Adolescent Mental Health) model, covered key topics including substance use dynamics among marginalized populations, mental health first aid, trauma-informed peer counseling, referral pathways to professional care, and self-care for peer supporters.

Through participatory methodologies such as role plays, case studies, group discussions, and scenario analyses, lay providers built practical skills in identifying, supporting, and referring individuals struggling with mental health and substance use challenges within their communities.



### OUTPUT

- Successfully trained 15 Lay Providers drawn from GBMSM/MSW peer networks across Kisumu and neighboring counties.
- Developed 10 tailored Community Support Action Plans to implement grassroots mental health and substance use interventions.
- Distributed 15 Mental Health First Aid Kits equipped with basic psychosocial support tools and referral directories.
- Produced 1 culturally adapted Substance Use and Mental Health Training Manual for ongoing reference and replication.



# Activity 7: Lay Provider Substance Use and Mental Health Training (July 2024)



## OUTCOME

- Increased availability of culturally competent, community-based mental health and substance use support systems.
- Improved early identification and referral of GBMSM/MSW individuals experiencing mental health distress or substance use challenges.
- Strengthened peer-led resilience strategies, reducing stigma and isolation associated with mental health issues within marginalized communities.
- Enhanced SHINNERS C.B.O.'s reputation as a pioneer in integrating mental health into community empowerment and rights advocacy programs.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Successfully transitioned mental health support from clinical spaces into community-led, peer-facilitated environments.
- Built sustainable grassroots mental health intervention capacities that can operate independently and complement formal health systems.
- Pioneered a replicable model for Lay Provider-led mental health support tailored specifically to the realities of GBMSM/MSWs.

## RECOMMENDATION

- Institutionalize quarterly Lay Provider refresher trainings to ensure skills retention, updates on best practices, and peer learning.
- Establish a Community Mental Health Helpline staffed by trained Lay Providers to provide immediate psychosocial assistance and referral services.
- Advocate for the inclusion of Lay Provider models in county-level mental health strategies and funding mechanisms.
- Develop mobile mental health clinics to reach rural and peri-urban areas where stigma and service gaps are even more pronounced.

## ROADMAP TO 2025

Building upon the mental health integration models piloted in 2023 and scaled through the 2024 Lay Provider training, SHINNERS C.B.O. will:

- Train an additional 40 Lay Providers by 2025 to ensure widespread community coverage across Western Kenya.
- Launch a Peer Support and Mental Health Leadership Academy equipping GBMSM/MSWs with advanced psychosocial support skills.
- Formalize partnerships with public mental health facilities to create referral pathways and integrate peer support into formal service structures.
- Develop a regional "Mental Health Champions" program recognizing and supporting outstanding Lay Providers in sustaining mental health ecosystems within marginalized communities.



## Activity 8: Healthcare Workers' Sensitization Workshop on GBMSM/MSW-Friendly Service Delivery (August 2024)

In August 2024, SHINNERS C.B.O. conducted a critical sensitization workshop targeting healthcare workers from public and private health facilities across Kisumu County.

Recognizing that healthcare settings are often sites of systemic discrimination, stigma, and even outright denial of care for GBMSM and Male Sex Workers (MSWs), this intervention aimed to transform provider attitudes, enhance competency, and create safer, more affirming healthcare environments.

Building upon findings from 2023 baseline assessments — which revealed significant knowledge gaps and entrenched biases among healthcare providers — the 2024 training prioritized experiential learning, empathy-building, and rights-based service delivery frameworks.

The workshop integrated real-world testimonies from GBMSM/MSW clients, interactive case study analyses, myth-busting sessions, legal rights education, and modules on confidentiality, non-judgmental care, and client-centered communication.

Participants were challenged to reflect critically on their personal biases, institutional barriers, and the systemic impacts of stigma on health outcomes.

They also engaged in solution-driven exercises, co-creating strategies for integrating GBMSM/MSW-inclusive practices into facility protocols, service charters, and client feedback systems.

By centering both clinical excellence and human dignity, SHINNERS C.B.O. sought to catalyze a paradigm shift in how health services for key populations are conceptualized, delivered, and evaluated.

### OUTPUT

- Trained 25 healthcare providers, including nurses, clinical officers, counselors, and facility administrators, from six different health facilities.
- Facilitated 10 interactive learning modules addressing stigma, rights-based approaches, confidentiality, mental health integration, and clinical competency.
- Supported the drafting of 6 Facility Action Plans committing to GBMSM/MSW-inclusive service improvements.
- Produced 1 comprehensive GBMSM/MSW Healthcare Sensitization Toolkit for future replication and ongoing in-service training.



# Activity 8: Healthcare Workers' Sensitization Workshop on GBMSM/MSW-Friendly Service Delivery (August 2024)

## OUTCOME

- Enhanced healthcare workers' knowledge, attitudes, and practices, fostering safer, nonjudgmental spaces for GBMSM/MSW clients.
- Initiated policy shifts within participating facilities, with 3 facilities pledging to revise their patient charters to explicitly address sexual orientation non-discrimination.
- Strengthened trust between GBMSM/MSW communities and healthcare providers, improving service uptake and health outcomes.
- Solidified SHINNERS C.B.O.'s leadership in driving systemic health sector reforms for sexual minority communities.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Successfully shifted healthcare workers' understanding from seeing GBMSM/MSW identities as "risks" to seeing them as "rights holders" deserving of equitable, dignified care.
- Laid the groundwork for institutional changes within health facilities, moving beyond individual behavior change to systemic service delivery transformation.
- Established a replicable best practice model for healthcare worker sensitization grounded in lived realities and human rights frameworks.

## RECOMMENDATION

- Institutionalize mandatory GBMSM/MSW sensitization training for all new hires within participating facilities.
- Develop and roll out facility-based monitoring tools to assess and improve the quality of care for key populations.
- Formalize peer navigation models where trained GBMSM/MSWs assist clients in navigating health systems safely and confidently.
- Advocate for the integration of GBMSM/MSW-specific health competencies into county and national healthcare worker training curricula.

## ROADMAP TO 2025

Building on healthcare provider engagement strategies piloted in 2023 and scaled through the 2024 workshop, SHINNERS C.B.O. will:

- Train an additional 100 healthcare providers across Kisumu and neighboring counties by 2025 using the GBMSM/MSW Healthcare Sensitization Toolkit.
- Establish formal GBMSM/MSW Client Advisory Committees within partner facilities to monitor service quality and drive accountability.
- Launch an annual Health Equity Awards recognizing healthcare facilities demonstrating excellence in GBMSM/MSW-inclusive service delivery.
- Influence county and national health policy reforms to institutionalize non-discrimination and dignity as central pillars of public healthcare.



# Activity 9: Alcohol and Substance Use Support Programme (SUSP)

In 2024, Shinnars CBO launched the Alcohol and Substance Use Support Programme (SUSP) as a response to the growing crisis of substance abuse among young people and vulnerable adults in the community.

Recognizing the deep interconnection between substance dependency, poverty, mental health, and social exclusion, the organization designed an integrated intervention that combined therapeutic support, life skills training, entrepreneurship development, and community reintegration strategies.

Through structured group therapy sessions, individual counseling, peer mentorship, and technical skills workshops, the program sought not only to help participants overcome addiction but to rebuild their sense of purpose and resilience.

The program was deeply participatory, allowing individuals with lived experiences of substance use to lead aspects of the intervention, thereby enhancing trust, relatability, and long-term impact.



## OUTPUT

### 1. Formation of Peer Support Groups:

The programme successfully established eight peer-led support groups across different community zones. Each group held weekly meetings focusing on sobriety maintenance, self-care, emotional regulation, and personal accountability. This structure provided recovering individuals with a safe, non-judgmental environment where they could share experiences and build supportive networks.

### 2. Delivery of Life Skills and Technical Trainings:

A total of 150 participants attended life skills workshops covering areas such as financial literacy, conflict resolution, business management, and vocational skills. The goal was to empower recovering individuals with tools to secure sustainable livelihoods, thus reducing the risk of relapse due to economic hardship.

### 3. Individual Counseling Sessions:

Over 300 individual counseling sessions were delivered by trained addiction counselors and mental health professionals, focusing on trauma recovery, self-esteem building, and relapse prevention planning.



# Activity 9: Alcohol and Substance Use Support Programme (SUSP)

## OUTCOME

### 1. Reduction in Substance Abuse Rates:

Participants exhibited a significant decrease in substance use over a six-month tracking period, with 72% maintaining sobriety throughout the follow-up phase. Those who did experience relapse were quickly re-engaged through non-punitive support strategies.

### 2. Improved Social Reintegration:

Many participants reconnected with estranged families, re-entered formal education systems, or secured employment opportunities. The program contributed to reducing stigma around recovered individuals, fostering a more inclusive community environment.

### 3. Strengthened Community Capacity:

Community members trained as peer facilitators and addiction advocates gained skills in leadership, counseling, and advocacy, further reinforcing community resilience to substance use challenges.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### 1. Creation of Role Models among Recovered Individuals:

Several former participants, having successfully maintained sobriety and economic independence, took on mentorship roles within their support groups. Their personal success stories served as a source of inspiration and proof of possibility for new participants.

### 2. Development of a Recovery-to-Entrepreneurship Model:

Many participants reconnected with estranged families, re-entered formal education systems, or secured employment opportunities. The program contributed to reducing stigma around recovered individuals, fostering a more inclusive community environment.

### 3. Increased Public Awareness:

Through community forums, social media campaigns, and outreach events, public understanding of substance abuse shifted from viewing it purely as a moral failing to recognize it as a health and socio-economic challenge requiring compassionate interventions.



# Activity 9: Alcohol and Substance Use Support Programme (SUSP)

## RECOMMENDATION

### 1. Expand the Alcohol and Substance Use Support Programme:

Given the high success rates and community acceptance, it is strongly recommended that SUSP be scaled up to neighboring counties and informal settlements that exhibit similar challenges with substance dependency.

### 2. Institutionalize Peer Leadership Structures:

Formal recognition, capacity building, and support should be provided to peer mentors to institutionalize their roles within the recovery ecosystem, ensuring sustainability beyond project funding cycles.

### 3. Integrate Aftercare and Family Reunification Services:

Programs supporting long-term aftercare and facilitating structured family mediation should be developed to strengthen recovery outcomes and prevent recidivism.



# Activity 9: Alcohol and Substance Use Support Programme (SUSP)

## RESOURCES NEEDED

### 1. Financial Resources:

Funding is required to cover training materials, facilitation costs, and stipends for peer mentors, workshop logistics, transportation, and seed grants for entrepreneurship support.

### 2. Human Resources:

Additional counselors, social workers, community mobilizers, and vocational trainers must be recruited or contracted to serve the growing participant base.

### 3. Physical Resources:

Safe meeting spaces for group sessions, office supplies, IT equipment for data collection, and transport vehicles for outreach teams are needed.

### 4. Technical Resources:

Development of monitoring and evaluation tools to track participant progress, as well as psychoeducational materials tailored for community education campaigns.

### 5. Partnership Resources

Collaboration agreements with local governments, NGOs, microfinance institutions, and healthcare providers to expand service accessibility and cross-referral systems.

## ROADMAP TO 2025

### 1. Conduct Comprehensive Needs Assessments:

Identify new communities heavily impacted by substance use through baseline surveys, focus group discussions, and collaboration with local health and social services agencies.

### 2. Recruit and Train Peer Leaders:

Select experienced, recovered individuals to undergo formal training in basic counseling, community mobilization, and case management, equipping them to facilitate new support groups.

### 3. Establish Strategic Partnerships:

Forge collaborations with vocational training centers, microfinance institutions, health clinics, and local government bodies to broaden service offerings and enhance credibility.

### 4. Develop Family-Based Intervention Models:

Design family therapy modules and reconciliation frameworks to be incorporated into the recovery journey, addressing the systemic impact of substance use.

### 5. Mobilize Resources Through Fundraising and Grants:

Develop grant proposals and engage in local fundraising drives to secure the financial resources necessary for program expansion and sustainability.



## Activity 10: 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Campaign

During the internationally recognized 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Shinnars CBO rolled out a comprehensive, multi-sectoral campaign aimed at preventing violence, supporting survivors, and challenging cultural norms that perpetuate gender inequality.

The campaign was characterized by vibrant community outreach activities including marches, public dialogues, school-based sensitizations, media engagement, and survivor-centered workshops.

Recognizing the intersectionality of GBV with poverty, disability, and minority status, the initiative deliberately included marginalized voices. A key strength of the campaign was its grassroots approach, mobilizing traditional leaders, religious institutions, youth groups, and women's organizations to champion the cause from within their own spaces.

In total, the campaign reached more than 1,000 individuals directly through physical events and an estimated 5,000 through social media and radio programs.

### OUTPUT

#### Community Dialogues and Sensitization Forums:

Shinnars CBO organized 20 community forums in various villages and peri-urban areas where discussions on types of GBV, survivor rights, and referral pathways were held. These forums enabled participants to voice concerns, ask questions, and commit to action against GBV.

#### Media and Awareness Campaigns:

Partnership with local radio stations allowed for educational talk shows and survivor testimonials to be broadcast, increasing awareness across a much larger audience than physical gatherings alone could reach.

#### Survivor Support Workshops:

Specialized workshops were conducted for survivors, focusing on psychological first aid, self-care, legal literacy, and empowerment strategies to rebuild their confidence and agency.

#### IEC Material Development and Distribution:

Posters, leaflets, banners, and social media infographics were created and widely distributed, ensuring consistent messaging around prevention and response mechanisms.

### OUTCOME

#### Increased Reporting and Help-Seeking Behavior:

Shinnars CBO organized 20 community forums in various villages and peri-urban areas where discussions on types of GBV, survivor rights, and referral pathways were held. These forums enabled participants to voice concerns, ask questions, and commit to action against GBV.

# Activity 10: 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Campaign

## OUTCOME

### Formation of Community GBV Watch Groups:

In five localities, informal GBV watch committees spontaneously formed, consisting of trained community members committed to identifying risks early and supporting victims.

### Media and Awareness Campaigns:

Partnership with local radio stations allowed for educational talk shows and survivor testimonials to be broadcast, increasing awareness across a much larger audience than physical gatherings alone could reach.

### Improved Community Understanding of GBV:

Pre- and post-campaign surveys indicated a 65% improvement in knowledge of GBV forms and reporting pathways among participants.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Shift in Social Norms:

The campaign succeeded in sparking critical reflection on harmful traditional practices, gender roles, and silence culture around abuse, leading to pledges from community leaders to advocate for women and girls' rights.

### Sustainability Through Volunteerism:

Dozens of community volunteers, inspired by the campaign, pledged to continue GBV prevention work,

expanding Shinners CBO's reach without significant additional resource demands.

### Strengthened Referral Networks:

Linkages between survivors, police units, medical centers, and legal aid providers were enhanced, creating a more streamlined and survivor-centered response system.

## RECOMMENDATION:

### Establish Permanent GBV Prevention and Response Structures:

Shinners CBO should formalize the GBV watch groups and create ongoing community-based GBV Prevention Committees equipped with basic training, referral tools, and small operational funds.

### Institutionalize School-Based Prevention Programs:

Integrate GBV prevention education into local schools to promote early understanding of consent, respect, and rights among young people.

### Enhance Survivor Support Services:

Strengthen access to mental health counseling, legal aid, and emergency shelter services to meet growing demand from survivors coming forward.

# Activity 10: 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Campaign

## ROADMAP TO 2025

### Capacity Building for GBV Watch Groups:

Provide ongoing training to community volunteers in GBV case management, confidentiality, trauma-informed support, and safe referrals.

### Partnership Development with Local Institutions:

Engage schools, churches, and healthcare centers in co-owning GBV prevention work, building sustainability into community fabric.

### Resource Mobilization for Survivor Support:

Secure funds to establish temporary safe shelters and mobile legal and counseling clinics that can quickly respond to cases in underserved areas.

### Monitoring and Evaluation:

Develop and deploy simple tracking tools to assess the impact of GBV interventions over time and identify emerging trends and gaps.

## RESOURCES NEEDED

### Training Materials and Stipends for Volunteers:

Funds are needed to regularly train and support GBV Watch Group members.

### Communication Equipment:

Mobile phones and radios for quick communication among GBV prevention actors in cases of emergency.

### Safe Shelter Facilities:

Investments in short-term accommodation options for survivors at high risk.

### Legal Aid and Psychosocial Services:

Contracts with paralegals, counselors, and social workers to provide professional survivor support.

### Advocacy Materials:

Creation of continuous awareness-raising materials to keep GBV prevention high on the public agenda.



# Activity 11: Livelihood and Economic Empowerment Initiative for Women and Youth



Recognizing that economic vulnerability is a key driver of social inequalities and risky behaviors, Shinnars CBO launched a comprehensive Livelihood and Economic Empowerment Initiative in 2024 targeting women and youth in marginalized communities.

The initiative aimed to equip participants with entrepreneurial skills, access to micro-credit, business development mentorship, and market linkage support.

Special attention was given to survivors of GBV, young single mothers, and youth recovering from substance abuse, ensuring that economic empowerment served as a protective factor against future vulnerabilities.

The project methodology combined classroom-based business training, on-the-job apprenticeships, start-up capital grants, and ongoing mentorship to maximize impact and ensure sustainability.

## OUTPUT

### Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training:

A total of 200 women and youth completed intensive training programs covering business planning, bookkeeping, customer service, marketing, and basic financial management. These training sessions blended theoretical learning with practical, real-world simulations.

### Provision of Seed Capital Grants:

100 participants were awarded small start-up grants after successfully pitching viable business ideas during a competitive selection process monitored by external evaluators to ensure fairness and transparency.

### Survivor Support Workshops:

Specialized workshops were conducted for survivors, focusing on psychological first aid, self-care, legal literacy, and empowerment strategies to rebuild their confidence and agency.

### Establishment of a Business Mentorship Network:

A mentorship system pairing each beneficiary with a local successful entrepreneur was established to provide ongoing guidance, troubleshoot business challenges, and help participants scale up operations.

### Market Linkages:

Partnerships were developed with local markets and online platforms, allowing new entrepreneurs to showcase and sell their products and services.



# Activity 11: Livelihood and Economic Empowerment Initiative for Women and Youth



## OUTCOME

### Business Creation and Expansion:

**85%** of grant recipients established functional microenterprises within the first three months post-training. Some examples include tailoring shops, small agribusiness ventures, mobile money services, and food kiosks.

### Increased Household Income:

Beneficiaries reported a significant improvement in household income levels, with an average increase of **35%** within the first six months.

### Social Empowerment and Community Leadership:

Empowered women and youth began taking up leadership roles in community organizations, local committees, and even local political spaces, signaling a broader impact beyond just financial growth.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Reduction in Economic Dependency:

Many women reported no longer having to rely on abusive relationships for financial survival, contributing to reduced rates of domestic violence among participants.

### Role Modeling and Community Inspiration:

Successful entrepreneurs became visible role models, inspiring others in the community, especially young girls and at-risk youth, to pursue economic independence.

### Strengthened Economic Ecosystem:

The growth of small businesses contributed to local economic dynamism, increasing demand for goods, services, and local employment opportunities.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Scale Up Economic Empowerment Initiatives:

Expand the reach of the livelihood program to include more vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities and youth in hard-to-reach rural areas.

### Formalize Microfinance Mechanisms:

Establish community savings and loan groups to provide low-interest loans and encourage financial discipline among entrepreneurs.

### Introduce Advanced Business Development Services:

Offer continuing business development services such as digital marketing, advanced bookkeeping, product innovation, and franchising models for successful businesses.

# Activity 11: Livelihood and Economic Empowerment Initiative for Women and Youth



## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Scale Up Economic Empowerment Initiatives:

Expand the reach of the livelihood program to include more vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities and youth in hard-to-reach rural areas.

### Formalize Microfinance Mechanisms:

Establish community savings and loan groups to provide low-interest loans and encourage financial discipline among entrepreneurs.

### Introduce Advanced Business Development Services:

Offer continuing business development services such as digital marketing, advanced bookkeeping, product innovation, and franchising models for successful businesses.

## ROADMAP TO ACHIEVING RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Conduct Market Assessments:

Identify the most promising and underserved economic sectors where new entrepreneurs can thrive sustainably.

### Develop a Microfinance Framework:

Design and implement Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) or revolving loan funds to support small business growth and resilience.

### Strengthen Alumni Networks:

Establish strong alumni groups for graduates of the program to foster knowledge-sharing, peer learning, and business partnerships.

### Build Capacity in Digital Skills:

Integrate ICT and e-commerce skills training into future entrepreneurship programs to prepare businesses for the digital economy.

### Mobilize Multi-Sector Partnerships:

Engage banks, government agencies, training institutions, and private companies to co-invest in and support the program expansion.

## RESOURCES NEEDED

### Financial Resources for Seed Grants:

Continued investment into small business grants or zero-interest loan facilities to allow scaling of microenterprises.

### Training Facilities and Materials:

Access to quality training venues, training kits (stationery, ICT equipment), and certified facilitators to ensure high-quality learning.

### Mentorship Stipends and Recognition Packages:

Modest stipends or recognition incentives for business mentors to sustain their commitment.





# Activity 11: Livelihood and Economic Empowerment Initiative for Women and Youth

## RESOURCES NEEDED

### Market Development Resources:

Funds to assist beneficiaries in accessing trade fairs, exhibitions, and online marketplaces to widen their reach.

### Monitoring and Evaluation Tools:

Systems to track business growth, profitability, and social impact over time, ensuring accountability and continuous learning.



## Activity 12: Disability Inclusion and Empowerment Program

Shinners CBO in 2024 undertook a deliberate effort to strengthen the social inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities (PWDs) through a focused Disability Inclusion and Empowerment Program.

The initiative aimed to address systemic barriers to participation for people living with physical, intellectual, sensory, and mental disabilities by promoting their rights, building their capacities, and fostering community acceptance.

The program featured a blend of disability rights education campaigns, leadership training for PWDs, accessibility audits of community spaces, and policy advocacy engagements with local authorities.

This participatory approach was driven by the slogan, "Nothing About Us Without Us," ensuring that PWDs led all stages of project design and implementation, creating ownership and authenticity.

## Activity 12: Disability Inclusion and Empowerment Program

### OUTPUT

#### Disability Rights Awareness

##### Forums:

**15** large-scale forums were held in different sub-counties, attended by over **1,000** community members, to sensitize them about the rights, potentials, and needs of persons with disabilities.

#### Leadership Training for Persons with Disabilities:

**80** PWDs underwent intensive training on leadership, advocacy, public speaking, and organizational management, preparing them to take up roles in community governance structures.

#### Accessibility Audits and Reports:

Public spaces such as schools, health centers, and markets were audited for accessibility gaps. Findings were compiled into detailed reports shared with policymakers to advocate for infrastructural improvements.

#### Formation of Disability Support Networks:

**12** peer networks of persons with disabilities were established to provide mutual support, mobilize for advocacy, and lead community initiatives independently.

### OUTCOME

#### Increased Representation:

Several trained PWDs successfully lobbied for seats on community committees, development boards, and school management councils, ensuring disability voices were included in local decision-making.

#### Policy Influence:

Local governments committed to adopting disability-friendly building codes and earmarked budgets for accessibility improvements following evidence presented by Shinnars CBO.

#### Enhanced Public Sensitivity:

Community surveys showed a significant decrease in discriminatory attitudes, with many more community members expressing positive perceptions toward the inclusion of PWDs in mainstream activities.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Creation of a Disability Movement:

The emergence of organized, confident, and articulate networks of persons with disabilities marked a critical step towards systemic change at community and county levels.

#### Advancement of Inclusive Practices:

Some businesses improved accessibility after joining Shinnars' campaigns.

# Activity 12: Disability Inclusion and Empowerment Program

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Deepen Institutional Capacity on Inclusion:

Expand the reach of the livelihood program to include more vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities and youth in hard-to-reach rural areas.

### Support Economic Empowerment of PWDs:

Introduce tailored livelihood programs for persons with disabilities, addressing barriers unique to them.

### Expand Accessibility Advocacy:

Scale up advocacy efforts to higher levels of government, pushing for national policy reforms and budgetary allocations for disability inclusion.

## ROADMAP TO ACHIEVING RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Internal Training on Inclusion Standards:

Conduct mandatory disability mainstreaming training for all Shinners CBO staff, volunteers, and partners.

### Launch Inclusive Economic Empowerment Programs:

Develop entrepreneurship and employment readiness programs adapted for different types of disabilities.

### Strategic Advocacy Campaigns:

Build coalitions with other disability organizations to lobby for stronger national legislation on accessibility and non-discrimination.

### Monitoring and Accountability Mechanisms:

Integrate ICT and e-commerce skills training into future entrepreneurship programs to prepare businesses for the digital economy.

## RESOURCES NEEDED

### Training and Sensitization Materials:

Accessible training manuals, braille materials, sign language interpreters, and disability-friendly venues for inclusive programming.

### Assistive Technologies:

Provision of mobility aids, communication devices, and adapted ICT tools for participants with varying needs.

### Seed Funding for PWD Enterprises:

Dedicated funds to provide start-up capital and business support for entrepreneurs living with disabilities.

### Advocacy and Legal Support Resources:

Resources for producing policy briefs, holding public forums, and engaging media in disability rights advocacy.



# Activity 13: Community Health Outreach and Screening Campaigns



## OUTPUT

### Mobile Health Clinics:

Shinners CBO, in partnership with local health departments, conducted **30** mobile health clinics reaching over 5,000 people across **12** remote villages.

### Health Education Sessions:

**70** interactive sessions on key health topics were delivered, often using culturally appropriate materials and methods such as songs, dramas, and storytelling.

### Referral Systems Established:

Formal linkages were made with nearby hospitals and clinics, ensuring that individuals requiring specialized care could transition seamlessly.

### Distribution of Health Commodities:

Distributed **10,000** condoms, **5,000** mosquito nets, 3,000 packs of sanitary pads, and hundreds of educational leaflets.



In 2024, Shinners CBO expanded its public health footprint through intensive Community Health Outreach and Screening Campaigns, particularly targeting remote and underserved areas. These mobile campaigns offered free health services including HIV testing, cervical cancer screening, mental health assessments, deworming for children, blood pressure checks, and health education sessions.

The strategy was to demystify healthcare, promote early detection of diseases, and link vulnerable individuals to care pathways while embedding preventive health knowledge within communities. Healthcare services were complemented with community health talks on nutrition, hygiene, mental wellness, and chronic disease management, ensuring a holistic approach to public health promotion.

# Activity 13: Community Health Outreach and Screening Campaigns

## OUTCOME

### Improved Health-Seeking Behavior:

Data showed a **60%** increase in voluntary testing for HIV and other conditions compared to previous years, indicating greater trust in health services.

### Early Detection of Diseases:

Hundreds of cases of hypertension, diabetes, and cervical pre-cancerous lesions were detected early, allowing for timely interventions.

### Reduction in Preventable Infections:

Follow-up surveys showed declines in malaria cases, especially among households that received mosquito nets and health education.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Strengthened Primary Healthcare Systems:

Shinners CBO's mobile clinics complemented government health services, reducing pressure on overburdened public facilities.

### Community Ownership of Health Outcomes:

Develop entrepreneurship and employment readiness programs adapted for different types of disabilities.

### Demonstrated Public-Private Partnership Models:

The campaign exemplified effective collaboration between NGOs, government, and private sector players in delivering essential health services.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Institutionalize Community Health Worker Programs

Train and deploy more community health volunteers to sustain education and basic care at grassroots level.

### Expand Mobile Clinics Reach:

Broaden the scope and geographic coverage of mobile clinics to reach even more isolated communities.

### Integrate Mental Health Services Fully:

Scale up mental health screening, counseling, and referrals as standard practice within outreach services.

# Activity 13: Community Health Outreach and Screening Campaigns

## ROADMAP TO ACHIEVING RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Establish Structured Training Programs:

Develop certified training modules for community health workers.

### Strengthen Mobile Health Infrastructure:

Invest in additional mobile clinic vehicles, diagnostic tools, and digital record systems.

### Formalize Partnerships:

Establish formal MOUs with county health departments and private medical institutions to sustain service delivery.

### Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation:

Build robust health data systems to track health outcomes and refine interventions in real-time.



## RESOURCES NEEDED

### Mobile Health Equipment:

Portable diagnostic machines, mobile clinic vans, and health commodities like rapid test kits and essential medications.

### Human Resource Support:

Trained medical staff, community health workers, and mental health professionals to staff outreach teams.

### Funding for Logistics:

Cover transport costs, outreach allowances, fuel, maintenance, and mobile technology needs.

### Health Education Materials:

Production of culturally relevant IEC materials in local languages for sustained behavior change.





# Activity 14: Climate Action and Environmental Stewardship Program

Shinners CBO responded to the pressing challenge of environmental degradation by launching its Climate Action and Environmental Stewardship Program. This impactful initiative focused on strengthening grassroots resilience to climate change, promoting sustainable environmental practices, and empowering local communities to take an active role in conservation and ecological restoration.

The approach combined environmental education, tree planting drives, community clean-up activities, and advocacy for green policies at local government levels.

The program was rooted in the philosophy that environmental health is deeply interconnected with human health, livelihoods, and social equity, especially in vulnerable rural settings already feeling the impacts of climate change.

## OUTPUT

### Tree Planting Campaigns:

Over **10,000** indigenous tree seedlings were distributed and planted across schools, churches, marketplaces, and homesteads with the help of **500** community volunteers.

### Community Clean-Up Drives:

Monthly clean-up days were institutionalized in three major towns, involving local leaders, youth groups, and women's associations.

### Environmental Awareness Sessions:

**50** environmental education sessions were held in schools and community centers, reaching over **8,000** people, focusing on climate change impacts and local solutions.

### Policy Dialogue Forums:

Hosted four forums where citizens engaged county officials on issues like waste management, forest protection, and water conservation.

## OUTCOME

### Improved Community

#### Environmental Consciousness:

There was a marked increase in responsible waste disposal practices and participation in conservation activities across the target areas.

### Enhanced Ecosystem Restoration:

Tree survival surveys showed a promising **70%** survival rate, contributing significantly to reforestation and improved local microclimates.

### Policy Commitments:

Several local leaders publicly committed to integrating environmental sustainability into county development plans and budgets.

# Activity 14: Climate Action and Environmental Stewardship Program

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Cultivation of Environmental Champions:

A vibrant network of "Green Ambassadors" was established, comprising motivated youth, teachers, and faith leaders who continue to champion eco-friendly behaviors.

### Demonstrable Climate Adaptation Practices:

Some communities initiated rainwater harvesting projects and kitchen gardens using permaculture principles inspired by the awareness sessions.

### Strengthened Public-Private Partnerships:

Private sector actors, such as local agribusinesses, joined tree-planting efforts, providing financial and logistical support.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Institutionalize Climate Education:

Advocate for integration of climate change and environmental conservation modules in school curricula at the county level.

### Expand Tree Growing Initiatives:

Shift focus from just tree planting to comprehensive tree growing, ensuring long-term survival and ecosystem restoration.

## ROADMAP TO ACHIEVING RECOMMENDATIONS

### Collaborate with Education Authorities:

Develop climate education materials and teacher training programs to mainstream environmental education.

### Launch Tree Stewardship Programs:

Mobilize schools, churches, and markets to adopt and nurture tree nurseries and maintain planted trees.

### Develop Green Business Incubators:

Create business development programs specifically for green and circular economy ventures.

## RESOURCES NEEDED

### Tree Seedlings and Maintenance Kits:

Procurement of high-quality seedlings, watering tools, fertilizers, and fencing materials.

### Training Materials and Workshops:

Resources for developing training manuals, holding training-of-trainers (ToT) sessions, and continuous capacity building.

## Activity 14: Climate Action and Environmental Stewardship Program

### ROADMAP TO ACHIEVING RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Seed Funding for Green Startups:

Micro-grants and low-interest loans for young entrepreneurs venturing into sustainable businesses.

#### Environmental Monitoring Tools:

Equipment for air, water, and soil quality monitoring, alongside mobile apps for community reporting.

## Activity 15: Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response Campaign

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) remained a major concern within Shinnars CBO's catchment area, prompting a robust GBV Prevention and Response Campaign throughout 2024. The campaign aimed to change harmful gender norms, support survivors, and strengthen local response systems through a multi-pronged approach that included public sensitization, male engagement strategies, survivor-centered services, and policy advocacy.

Special emphasis was placed on involving men and boys as positive agents of change while centering survivors' voices in all program activities to ensure that interventions were trauma-informed and respectful of survivors' dignity and agency.





# Activity 15: Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response Campaign

## OUTPUT

### Community Dialogues on GBV:

**40** structured community dialogues were held with mixed-gender audiences, addressing myths and facts about GBV, power dynamics, and consent.

### Training of GBV Champions:

100 community members, including religious leaders, teachers, and boda-boda operators, were trained as GBV champions tasked with ongoing community mobilization.

### Survivor Support Services:

Provided psychosocial counseling, legal aid referrals, emergency safe shelter services, and emergency health services to **250** survivors.

### Media Campaigns:

Engaged local radio stations to air weekly GBV prevention shows, reaching an estimated **200,000** listeners.

## OUTCOME

### Shift in Gender Norms:

Baseline and end-line surveys demonstrated a significant decline in the acceptance of GBV as a private, acceptable issue within participating communities.

### Strengthened Referral Systems:

Survivors reported faster and more dignified access to health, legal, and psychosocial services due to the establishment of clear referral pathways.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Reduction in Reported GBV Incidences:

Some areas recorded a decline in GBV cases, attributed to heightened awareness, preventive education, and survivor support systems.

### Empowerment of Survivors:

Survivors who accessed comprehensive services reported improved mental health outcomes and greater confidence in asserting their rights.

### National Recognition:

Shinners CBO was recognized by a national anti-GBV network as a leading grassroots actor in the fight against gender-based violence.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Institutionalize GBV Prevention in Local Governance:

Some areas recorded a decline in GBV cases, attributed to heightened awareness, preventive education, and survivor support systems.

### Empowerment of Survivors:

Survivors who accessed comprehensive services reported improved mental health outcomes and greater confidence in asserting their rights.

# Activity 15: Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response Campaign

## ROADMAP TO ACHIEVING RECOMMENDATIONS

### Policy Engagement Strategy:

Develop position papers and engage with county leaders to mainstream GBV prevention in governance frameworks.

### Economic Rehabilitation Programs:

Establish business incubation and vocational training specifically targeting survivors of GBV.

### Peer-to-Peer Advocacy:

Expand the network of male GBV champions and establish peer mentorship programs targeting young men.

### Robust Monitoring and Reporting Systems:

Set up community-based systems for GBV case tracking, survivor feedback, and continuous improvement of services.

## RESOURCES NEEDED

### Training Curricula on GBV:

Customized curricula for training local champions, health workers, and police officers on GBV response.

### Survivor Fund:

Emergency funds for survivors to access shelter, medical treatment, legal services, and basic needs.

### Media Campaign Budgets:

Sustained investment in radio shows, billboards, and social media campaigns for GBV prevention.

### Monitoring Systems and Case Management Tools:

Secure, survivor-centered data management tools for tracking cases while maintaining confidentiality.

# Activity 16: Youth Civic Engagement and Leadership Development

Shinners CBO closed 2024 with a bold focus on building the next generation of civic leaders through its Youth Civic Engagement and Leadership Development Program.

The program aimed to cultivate a cadre of socially conscious, skilled, and visionary young leaders equipped to influence positive change in their communities and beyond.

Activities under this initiative combined leadership boot camps, mentorship pairings, civic education drives, and active participation of youth in governance structures, ensuring that the youth voice was heard, valued, and acted upon at all levels of society.

## OUTPUT

### Leadership Boot Camps:

Three intensive leadership academies were conducted, training 250 young leaders on topics such as ethical leadership, public policy, advocacy, negotiation, and project management.

### Mentorship Networks:

Youth were paired with local and national leaders across various sectors, receiving one-on-one mentorship for six months.

### Youth-Led Civic Projects:

30 youth-led projects focusing on social justice, health, environment, and education were initiated and implemented.



## OUTCOME

### Increased Youth Participation:

Young people reported feeling more empowered to engage with political processes, with some aspiring for elective office.

### Enhanced Civic Awareness:

Participants demonstrated a better understanding of civic rights, responsibilities, and governance structures.

### Community Transformation Initiatives:

Youth-led projects brought tangible improvements such as school feeding programs, street lighting campaigns, and community sports tournaments promoting peace.



# Activity 16: Youth Civic Engagement and Leadership Development

## OUTPUT

### Community Dialogues on GBV:

**40** structured community dialogues were held with mixed-gender audiences, addressing myths and facts about GBV, power dynamics, and consent.

### Training of GBV Champions:

**100** community members, including religious leaders, teachers, and boda-boda operators, were trained as GBV champions tasked with ongoing community mobilization.

### Survivor Support Services:

Provided psychosocial counseling, legal aid referrals, emergency safe shelter services, and emergency health services to **250** survivors.

### Media Campaigns:

Engaged local radio stations to air weekly GBV prevention shows, reaching an estimated **200,000** listeners.

## OUTCOME

### Shift in Gender Norms:

Baseline and end-line surveys demonstrated a significant decline in the acceptance of GBV as a private, acceptable issue within participating communities.

### Strengthened Referral Systems:

Survivors reported faster and more dignified access to health, legal, and psychosocial services due to the establishment of clear referral pathways.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Youth Policy Influence:

Young leaders advocated successfully for the inclusion of youth development funds in county budgets.

### Sustainable Leadership Pipelines:

Several alumni of the program formed civic action groups and registered CBOs to sustain youth engagement beyond the training period.

### Broadened Networks:

Shinners CBO's youth leadership alumni became part of regional and national leadership forums, extending the impact beyond local communities.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Institutionalize Youth Civic Training:

Integrate continuous civic education programs for out-of-school youth at community centers.

### Support Youth Entrepreneurship:

Link youth leadership programs with entrepreneurship training to equip young leaders economically.

### Enhance Youth-Led Advocacy:

Integrate continuous civic education programs for out-of-school youth at community centers.

# Activity 16: Youth Civic Engagement and Leadership Development

## ROADMAP TO ACHIEVING RECOMMENDATIONS

### Expand Leadership Training Models:

Scale up boot camps to cover more counties and include virtual components for greater reach.

### Strengthen Alumni Networks:

Establish formal alumni networks with structures for ongoing collaboration, mentorship, and project incubation.

### Launch Youth Policy Forums:

Regular youth-government dialogues to ensure young people's voices shape local development priorities.

### Invest in Digital Civic Engagement Tools:

Develop apps and online platforms for youth to monitor governance and mobilize around key civic issues.

## RESOURCES NEEDED

### Training Curriculum and Trainers:

Development of a modular, up-to-date civic education curriculum and recruitment of experienced facilitators.

### Seed Funding for Youth Projects:

Small grants to fund innovative community projects initiated by youth leaders.

### Digital Infrastructure:

Tools such as websites, mobile apps, and social media platforms to support digital advocacy.

### Mentorship Program Support:

Coordination resources, stipends, and recognition awards for mentors and mentees.

# 9. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: RECLAIMING POWER THROUGH PARTICIPATION AND PARTNERSHIP

In 2024, SHINNERS C.B.O. deepened its commitment to meaningful community engagement as a cornerstone of its mission to uphold the health, rights, and dignity of GBMSM and Male Sex Workers (MSWs) in Western Kenya. In an environment marked by legislative hostility, systemic marginalization, and pervasive cultural stigma, community engagement became not only a strategic tool but a form of resistance, solidarity, and collective healing.

## CENTERING LIVED EXPERIENCES

SHINNERS C.B.O.'s community engagement model in 2024 was grounded in participatory approaches that elevated GBMSM/MSWs as co-creators of change, not just beneficiaries. Through storytelling forums, trauma-informed healing circles, and participatory research dissemination events,

the organization centered lived realities as both a diagnostic lens and a strategic compass. This ensured that programs remained responsive, culturally resonant, and rooted in the actual needs and aspirations of the community.

## BUILDING GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP

Empowering community members to lead their own advocacy and service delivery efforts was a critical engagement strategy. Initiatives such as the Human Rights Defenders Training, Peer Lay Provider Mental Health Program, and Community Research Fellows Network equipped GBMSM/MSWs with the tools to speak, act, and organize confidently. Many participants evolved into peer educators, policy advocates, and public storytellers — catalyzing local-level change and inspiring broader collective action.



## 9. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: RECLAIMING POWER THROUGH PARTICIPATION AND PARTNERSHIP

### STRATEGIC DIALOGUE AND MULTI-SECTORAL INCLUSION

Recognizing that transformation requires shifting broader social attitudes and institutional practices, SHINNERS invested in community dialogues with traditional gatekeepers, healthcare providers, and civic actors.

These engagements fostered unexpected allies, challenged prevailing prejudices, and opened new avenues for collaboration — from inclusive religious messaging to GBMSM/MSW-friendly facility reforms. The Gatekeeper Sensitization Workshop, for instance, led to new partnerships with cultural and faith leaders committed to fostering dignity-based discourses.

### INTERSECTIONAL ENGAGEMENT ACROSS POPULATIONS

While SHINNERS's core mandate remained focused on GBMSM and MSWs, the 2024 community engagement strategy embraced intersectionality — building bridges with women, youth, persons with disabilities, and people recovering from substance use.

Programs such as the 16 Days of Activism Campaign, Livelihood Initiative for Youth and Women, and Disability Inclusion Program fostered shared struggles, collective agency, and solidarity-based movements across diverse identities.

### TANGIBLE OUTPUTS AND IMPACT

**1,500+**

community members directly engaged through participatory events, workshops, forums, and outreach campaigns.

**60+**

Peer advocates, mental health providers, and lay educators trained to sustain community-driven programming.

**20+**

Personal stories shared to humanize GBMSM/MSWs and reduce stigma.

**8**

New cross-sector partnerships formed via community forums with health, justice, and religious sectors.

# 9. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: RECLAIMING POWER THROUGH PARTICIPATION AND PARTNERSHIP

## TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES

### Increased Visibility and Voice:

GBMSM/MSW community members took center stage in policy, research, and media platforms — shifting public discourse from invisibility to voice and agency.

### Strengthened Community Cohesion:

Forums fostered a sense of belonging and mutual support, essential in resisting isolation and fear.

### Policy Influence:

Community-led insights informed strategic advocacy documents, several of which were adopted into county planning dialogues.

### Model Replication:

SHINNERS's community engagement practices were documented as best practices by allied organizations seeking to replicate trauma-informed, dignity-centered engagement strategies.

- Launching a Community Engagement Hub to incubate innovations in participatory programming.
- Formalizing annual Community Accountability Dialogues to ensure transparency and mutual feedback loops.
- Scaling storytelling, community advocacy, and healing programs to five new counties through strategic partnerships.

Through community engagement that is bold, authentic, and intersectional, SHINNERS C.B.O. continues to affirm that the power to resist, heal, and transform lies within the community itself — and it is this power that will shape the future of justice and dignity for GBMSM and MSWs in Kenya.

## LOOKING AHEAD: SUSTAINING POWER FROM THE GROUND UP

As SHINNERS C.B.O. charts its path to 2025, community engagement will remain the bedrock of its work — not as a checkbox, but as a transformative ethos. Plans include:

# 10. ADVOCACY EFFORTS: ADVANCING RIGHTS IN HOSTILE TERRAIN



In 2024, SHINNERS C.B.O. significantly amplified its advocacy efforts in response to growing threats from anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation, a shrinking civic space, and increasing public hostility toward GBMSM and Male Sex Worker (MSW) communities in Western Kenya.

Rooted in the belief that lasting change must be both community-led and system-focused, SHINNERS implemented a comprehensive advocacy strategy—combining legal empowerment, policy engagement, public awareness, and strategic alliance-building.

## LEGAL LITERACY AND PARALEGAL EMPOWERMENT

Recognizing the urgent need for community self-defense mechanisms in the face of criminalization and abuse, SHINNERS expanded its paralegal training programs initiated in 2023.

In 2024, over 30 community paralegals were trained and deployed to document rights violations, support victims, and facilitate access to legal redress through strategic partnerships with legal aid providers.

These paralegals formed the frontlines of SHINNERS's advocacy response to rights abuses, particularly as state and non-state actors intensified surveillance and harassment under the guise of public morality enforcement.

Their work led to 15 documented legal redress cases and the development of community-led legal awareness campaigns targeting both duty bearers and vulnerable populations.



## 10. ADVOCACY EFFORTS: ADVANCING RIGHTS IN HOSTILE TERRAIN

### STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT WITH POLICYMAKERS AND INSTITUTIONS

In a rapidly shifting political environment, SHINNERS proactively engaged with county officials, healthcare regulators, police departments, and human rights bodies through structured policy dialogues. These engagements were not only reactive but preemptive — aiming to protect GBMSM/MSW access to essential services amid legislative threats such as the Kaluma Family Protection Bill.

### Key Achievements

- Securing 8 new Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with healthcare providers committing to non-discriminatory service delivery.
- Influencing 3 public health facilities to revise their service charters to explicitly include protections for GBMSM/MSW clients.
- Facilitating 4 multi-stakeholder forums that resulted in draft local policies on inclusive service provision and community safety.

### NARRATIVE CHANGE AS ADVOCACY

SHINNERS C.B.O. recognized that changing laws and policies requires shifting hearts and minds. Through initiatives like the Positive Storytelling Forum and the Gatekeeper Sensitization Workshop, advocacy took on a narrative dimension — humanizing GBMSM/MSWs, dismantling myths, and building unlikely alliances within faith, cultural, and civic spaces.

The creation of a Digital Multimedia Anthology featuring empowered voices from the community became a core tool in SHINNERS's rights advocacy, widely disseminated through social media, community dialogues, and policymaker briefings.

## 10. ADVOCACY EFFORTS: ADVANCING RIGHTS IN HOSTILE TERRAIN

### EVIDENCE-BASED ADVOCACY

The April 2024 dissemination of the Community Perceptions of Social Exclusion (CPSE) research in partnership with APHRC marked a new chapter in SHINNERS's data-driven advocacy. Findings from the study were translated into accessible briefs and advocacy action plans, enabling community members to leverage evidence in demanding systemic change. This approach strengthened SHINNERS's credibility with policymakers and partners while reaffirming the agency of GBMSM/MSWs as researchers, not merely research subjects.

### COALITION BUILDING AND MOVEMENT SUPPORT

In the face of increasing fragmentation across civil society, SHINNERS invested in coalition-building strategies to amplify advocacy impact:

- Supported the formation of a GBMSM/MSW Rights Defenders Coalition, linking grassroots leaders across counties.

- Initiated partnerships with women's rights groups, disability advocates, and environmental networks to integrate LGBTQIA+ rights into broader social justice agendas.
- Engaged with national human rights institutions to document rights violations and escalate urgent advocacy concerns.

### Outcomes and Impact

- Expanded Legal Protection: Community members reported increased confidence in seeking justice and navigating hostile legal systems.
- Policy Shifts: Concrete institutional changes emerged at the facility level, while draft policy positions gained traction at county assemblies.
- Narrative Shifts: Community-led storytelling initiatives changed perceptions and opened dialogue in previously inaccessible cultural and religious spaces.
- Alliance Strengthening: Multi-sector coalitions fortified community resilience and provided platforms for sustained advocacy.



## 10. ADVOCACY EFFORTS: ADVANCING RIGHTS IN HOSTILE TERRAIN

### LOOKING AHEAD: STRATEGIC ADVOCACY FOR 2025

In 2025, SHINNERS will consolidate and scale its advocacy architecture through:

- Establishing a **Community Advocacy Hub** to provide legal support, policy training, and campaign incubation for GBMSM/MSW defenders.
- Launching a **Rights Tracking and Alert System** for real-time documentation and response to rights violations.
- Deepening engagement with county assemblies to advocate for localized non-discrimination laws and inclusive budgeting.
- Institutionalizing the Annual Voices of Resistance Forum, bringing together community advocates, allies, and policymakers for collective agenda-setting.

By coupling lived experience with legal strategy, and community voice with institutional engagement, SHINNERS C.B.O.'s advocacy efforts in 2024 laid the groundwork for a rights revolution — one rooted not in fear, but in collective power, pride, and possibility.

# 11. MONITORING AND EVALUATION: EVIDENCE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY, LEARNING, AND STRATEGIC GROWTH

In 2024, SHINNERS C.B.O. significantly strengthened its Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems to ensure that all programs were not only effectively implemented, but also rigorously assessed for impact, scalability, and sustainability. As the external environment grew more hostile and resources remained constrained, robust M&E became indispensable for driving evidence-based decision-making, demonstrating value to partners, and ensuring community accountability.

## ADAPTIVE M&E FRAMEWORK

Building upon its 2023 foundation, SHINNERS implemented an adaptive M&E framework tailored to the complexities of working with marginalized GBMSM and Male Sex Worker (MSW) populations.

This framework emphasized participatory methods, disaggregated data collection, and real-time learning. Tools and processes were designed with sensitivity to confidentiality,

security, and the nuanced indicators required to measure empowerment, resilience, and rights awareness.

Core pillars of the M&E framework included:

- **Outcome-Oriented Indicators:** Tracking beyond outputs to measure transformation in health access, legal agency, mental wellness, and social inclusion.
- **Community-Led Data Collection:** Training peer educators and lay providers as data collectors fostered ownership and enriched qualitative insights.
- **Real-Time Dashboards:** Digital tools were deployed to track service uptake, incident reporting, and outreach coverage across counties.



# 11. MONITORING AND EVALUATION: EVIDENCE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY, LEARNING, AND STRATEGIC GROWTH

## Key Achievements in 2024 M&E

### Development and Deployment of M&E Tools

- Created **10** tailored M&E tools covering service access, legal literacy, mental health, and community engagement indicators.
- Rolled out mobile data collection platforms that enhanced timeliness, accuracy, and analysis efficiency.

### Capacity Building

- Trained 25 staff, peer educators, and community paralegals in basic and intermediate M&E skills, including ethical data handling and qualitative research techniques.

### Evidence Generation

- Produced 6 program evaluation reports, 2 community impact briefs, and 1 longitudinal analysis of PrEP and mental health service uptake from 2023–2024.

- Integrated findings from the CPSE (Community Perceptions of Social Exclusion) study into strategic program adaptations and advocacy initiatives

### Participatory Feedback Loops

- Conducted quarterly community feedback forums and after-action reviews, enabling programs to adapt in real-time based on client input.
- Piloted beneficiary satisfaction surveys at drop-in centers and mobile clinics, with 87% of respondents reporting positive service experiences.

### Learning and Adaptation

- M&E data led to course corrections such as expanding lay provider outreach zones, integrating mental health screening into HIV services, and tailoring advocacy strategies by region.

# 11. MONITORING AND EVALUATION: EVIDENCE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY, LEARNING, AND STRATEGIC GROWTH

## Impact of Enhanced M&E

- **Improved Program Effectiveness:** Data-driven insights helped refine service delivery models, resulting in increased PrEP uptake, legal aid referrals, and mental health group formation.
- **Increased Accountability:** Clear documentation of progress, gaps, and outcomes enabled transparent reporting to donors, partners, and community members.
- **Strengthened Advocacy:** Quantitative and qualitative evidence elevated SHINNERS's influence in policy spaces, reinforcing the legitimacy of its community demands.
- **Scalable Models:** Well-documented success stories and program metrics informed replication strategies and future proposals for scale-up.

## Challenges and Mitigation Measures

- **Data Security Risks:** Operating in a hostile political climate required encrypted data storage and stringent confidentiality protocols to protect respondents and staff.
- **Underreporting Due to Fear:** SHINNERS mitigated this through trust-building strategies, including using peer data collectors and trauma-informed interviewing techniques.
- **Limited Resources for Longitudinal Studies:** Strategic partnerships with academic institutions were initiated to co-lead extended impact assessments

# 11. MONITORING AND EVALUATION: EVIDENCE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY, LEARNING, AND STRATEGIC GROWTH

## Strategic Priorities for M&E in 2025

- **Establish a Centralized M&E Unit:** Formalize an internal unit responsible for overseeing quality assurance, impact tracking, and adaptive learning across all programs.
- **Develop a Digital Rights Violation Tracker:** Build a secure mobile platform for real-time reporting of legal and health-related violations by GBMSM/MSWs.
- **Integrate Mental Health Metrics:** Strategic partnerships with academic institutions were initiated to co-lead extended impact assessments
- **Strengthen Evidence-to-Advocacy Pathways:** Translate M&E data into advocacy briefs, policy submissions, and donor reports to inform systemic change agendas.

## Conclusion

In 2024, SHINNERS C.B.O. moved beyond traditional M&E practices — treating data not just as a compliance requirement, but as a strategic resource for transformation.

By embedding evidence generation into every layer of programming, SHINNERS positioned itself as a learning organization capable of adapting in real time, advocating with credibility, and delivering impact where it matters most: in the lives of GBMSM and MSWs demanding dignity, equity, and justice.

## Expand Participatory Evaluation

**Models:** Launch a Community Accountability Scorecard initiative where beneficiaries directly assess program relevance, quality, and inclusivity.

# 12. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW: STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

In 2024, SHINNERS C.B.O. implemented an ambitious programmatic agenda amidst a politically repressive and economically strained environment. Guided by principles of transparency, efficiency, and community ownership, SHINNERS stewarded its financial resources with discipline and innovation — ensuring maximum impact across its core focus areas: health access, legal empowerment, mental health, economic resilience, and advocacy for GBMSM and Male Sex Workers (MSWs).

The organization's financial strategy in 2024 prioritized three critical objectives:

1. **Sustaining Core Programming** amidst growing service demand and donor volatility.
2. **Diversifying Funding Streams** to reduce dependency and build long-term stability.
3. **Institutionalizing Financial Systems** to enhance accountability and donor confidence.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **Full Budget Utilization:** SHINNERS achieved a 100% budget execution rate, reflecting strong internal controls, efficient resource deployment, and proactive financial planning.
- **Donor Retention and Confidence:** All major funding partners renewed or expanded their support for 2025, citing SHINNERS's transparency, impact, and strategic clarity.
- **Growth in Local Giving:** A 25% increase in local philanthropic contributions over 2023 reflected growing community trust and buy-in.
- **Leveraging Program Partnerships:** Strategic alliances with healthcare providers, legal aid organizations, and mental health professionals allowed SHINNERS to amplify its reach while containing costs.



## 12. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW: STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

### INVESTMENTS IN INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

In 2024, SHINNERS invested in critical financial infrastructure and capacity building:

- **Financial Software Upgrade:** Adopted an integrated accounting and grant management system to enhance real-time reporting, donor compliance, and audit readiness.
- **Internal Audit Strengthening:** Quarterly internal audits were institutionalized, enabling early risk detection and continuous improvement.
- **Capacity Building:** Financial literacy and compliance trainings were conducted for program and admin teams, promoting a culture of fiscal accountability.

### Challenges and Mitigation Strategies

- **Delayed Grant Disbursements:** Global funding fluctuations led to delays in grant tranches. SHINNERS responded by creating a flexible cash flow plan and establishing a modest emergency reserve.

- **Currency Volatility:** Depreciation of donor currencies against the Kenyan shilling was mitigated through early conversion and local sourcing of program supplies.
- **High Demand vs. Funding Limits:** The rising demand for emergency legal, health, and psychosocial support outpaced available funding. SHINNERS piloted cost-sharing models and peer support networks to maintain service continuity.

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### Strategic Financial Outlook for 2025

To enhance financial sustainability and deepen impact, SHINNERS will pursue the following financial strategies:

#### Diversify Revenue Streams:

- Launch a local social enterprise supporting peer educators and community mobilizers.
- Scale community fundraising campaigns leveraging storytelling, digital platforms, and diaspora partnerships.

#### Institutionalize a Sustainability Fund:

- Create a reserve for emergencies, staff wellbeing, and innovation during funding gaps.

#### Expand Results-Based Financing:

- Align M&E systems with impact investment frameworks to attract performance-linked funding.

#### Strengthen Donor and Government Engagement:

Build tailored financial reporting tools to enhance transparency and alignment with donor and county reporting systems.

### Conclusion

SHINNERS C.B.O. ends 2024 financially strong, having delivered high-impact programs through smart management, adaptive planning, and increased local ownership. In 2025, it remains committed to using every shilling to advance justice, health, and empowerment for GBMSM and MSW communities in Western Kenya.

## 13. IMPACT STORIES: VOICES OF RESILIENCE, AGENTS OF CHANGE

Behind every statistic in this report lies a human story — of courage, resistance, healing, and transformation. In 2024, SHINNERS C.B.O.'s community-centered programming created profound ripples in the lives of GBMSM and Male Sex Workers (MSWs) across Western Kenya. The following stories reflect the enduring impact of our work and the unyielding spirit of those we serve.

### From Fear to Leadership: Brian's Journey into Advocacy

Brian, a 26-year-old male sex worker from Busia, lived in constant fear after being arrested and assaulted during a police crackdown in early 2023. Isolated and traumatized, he came into contact with SHINNERS during a mobile legal literacy outreach.

Through SHINNERS's Human Rights Defenders Training in March 2024, Brian not only learned about his rights — he found his voice.

He joined a local paralegal network, began documenting community abuses, and helped secure redress in two local cases of unlawful detention. Today, Brian leads a team of peer advocates conducting community safety audits and is part of a county-level policy dialogue taskforce.

***"I used to run and hide. Now, I walk into county offices to speak for my people. SHINNERS helped me become a defender, not just a survivor."***

## 13. IMPACT STORIES: VOICES OF RESILIENCE, AGENTS OF CHANGE

### Healing through Storytelling: Kevin's Breakthrough

Kevin, a 31-year-old GBMSM living in Kisumu, had silently battled depression and substance use for years due to rejection by his family and community. In May 2024, he attended the Positive Storytelling Forum facilitated by SHINNERS. Through memory work, peer support, and guided narration, Kevin was able to confront his trauma — not to relive it, but to reclaim power over it.

Kevin's story became one of 20 featured in the Voices of Resilience anthology. He now facilitates storytelling circles and trains others in public speaking and self-advocacy. "Telling my story saved my life. For the first time, people saw me not as a risk, but as a human being."

***"Telling my story saved my life. For the first time, people saw me not as a risk, but as a human being."***

### Dignity in Care: Angela's Breakthrough in Healthcare Access

Angela, a 24-year-old gender non-conforming MSW from Siaya, had avoided health facilities for years due to repeated humiliation by healthcare staff. In 2024, she was referred to SHINNERS's mobile PrEP clinic and later participated in a peer-led feedback session at a local hospital sensitization workshop.

As a result of her testimony, the facility revised its service charter to include gender diversity protections and adopted a peer navigation model. Angela now serves as a trained peer navigator, guiding other GBMSM/MSWs through friendly health systems.

***"I thought I didn't belong in hospitals. SHINNERS not only brought services to us — they helped make those places ours too."***



## 13. IMPACT STORIES: VOICES OF RESILIENCE, AGENTS OF CHANGE

### Recovery and Reinvention: Musa's Path from Addiction to Entrepreneurship

Musa, a 33-year-old male sex worker from Kakamega, entered SHINNERS's Alcohol and Substance Use Support Programme (SUSP) after nearly losing his life to an overdose. Through group therapy, vocational training, and business mentorship, he completed recovery and launched a successful mobile food kiosk.

Today, Musa employs two other recovering peers and leads weekly sobriety meetings. He is a living example of SHINNERS's "Recovery-to-Entrepreneurship" model in action.

*"I never imagined that I could feed others after struggling to feed myself. SHINNERS gave me more than recovery — they gave me purpose."*

### Changing Minds, Changing Systems: Pastor Dan's Commitment

At the June 2024 Gatekeeper Sensitization Workshop, Pastor Dan, a respected religious leader from Kisumu, came in skeptical and conflicted. After hours of dialogue, listening to testimonies, and confronting biblical reinterpretations, he left transformed.

By August, he had delivered three sermons promoting compassion and dignity for all — including GBMSM and MSWs — and hosted his own interfaith dialogue.

*"I realized my role is not to condemn, but to lead with love. I now use my pulpit to protect, not persecute."*

### Reflections and Forward Vision

These stories illustrate what data alone cannot: the humanity, complexity, and beauty of GBMSM and MSW lives when they are supported, affirmed, and empowered. SHINNERS C.B.O. believes that every program is a platform for someone's transformation — and that with the right investments, these individuals become change makers in their own right.

As we move into 2025, we remain committed to surfacing, supporting, and celebrating stories like these — not only to showcase impact, but to rewrite the narrative of what is possible when dignity and justice lead the way.

# 14. PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION: DRIVING IMPACT THROUGH COLLECTIVE POWER

In 2024, SHINNERS C.B.O. deepened its belief that sustainable change for GBMSM and Male Sex Workers (MSWs) is impossible in isolation. In a landscape marked by legislative repression, cultural conservatism, and service exclusion, partnerships became both a protective strategy and a catalyst for innovation. Collaboration was not merely a mechanism for scaling interventions — it was an intentional political and operational stance rooted in solidarity, shared learning, and mutual accountability. By aligning with actors across health, legal, psychosocial, economic, religious, academic, and governmental sectors, SHINNERS advanced its mission with greater reach, depth, and resilience.

## Strategic Health Collaborations

To safeguard healthcare access amid growing discrimination in clinical settings, SHINNERS:

- Formalized **8** new Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with friendly healthcare providers across Kisumu, Siaya, Busia, and Kakamega counties.

- Co-designed mobile outreach clinics with county health departments, delivering PrEP, ART adherence, STI screening, and psychosocial support to over 500 GBMSM/MSW individuals.
- Partnered with Anza Mapema Drop-In Centre to anchor rights-based, community-led service delivery during World AIDS Day and beyond.

***“Our health partnerships transformed healthcare from a place of fear to one of affirmation — enabling GBMSM/MSWs to access services with dignity.”***

## Legal and Human Rights Synergies

In 2024, SHINNERS worked closely with legal aid organizations and national human rights institutions to

- Train 30 new paralegals from within the community.
- Pursue and resolve 15 rights violation cases through partner litigation channels.
- Develop a collaborative Human Rights Defenders training manual tailored to GBMSM/MSW realities.

## 14. PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION: DRIVING IMPACT THROUGH COLLECTIVE POWER

### Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Network

SHINNERS collaborated with the Access to Youth and **Adolescent Mental Health (AYAM)** initiative and independent trauma therapists to:

- Train **15** lay providers in peer counseling, substance use support, and mental health first aid.
- Launch 3 peer-led support groups and community wellness hubs.
- Integrate mental health screenings into all mobile health services.

These collaborations helped normalize mental health care within community organizing and improved treatment-seeking behaviors.

### Academic and Research Institutions

Through its partnership with the **African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC)**, SHINNERS:

- Co-hosted the dissemination of the ***Community Perceptions of Social Exclusion (CPSE)*** study.
- Bridged research with action through participatory dialogue forums and community-generated action plans.
- Piloted the Community Research Fellows model, equipping GBMSM/MSWs to lead future data initiatives.

This approach shifted power in research spaces and positioned SHINNERS as a champion of community-informed evidence.

### Faith, Cultural, and Community Leadership Engagement

In one of the most strategic shifts of 2024, SHINNERS initiated structured dialogues with faith and cultural leaders, resulting in:

- A Gatekeeper Sensitization Workshop with 10 high-level religious and traditional influencers.
- 3 public commitments from religious leaders to integrate inclusive messaging in their platforms.
- The development of a faith-centered advocacy toolkit to be used in 2025 interfaith forums.

# 14. PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION: DRIVING IMPACT THROUGH COLLECTIVE POWER

## Cross-Movement Solidarity

Recognizing the interconnectedness of struggles, SHINNERS:

- Co-organized campaigns with women's rights, disability inclusion, and youth empowerment groups.
- Supported intersectional activism during the 16 Days of Activism and Youth Leadership Forums.
- Initiated the groundwork for a GBMSM/MSW Rights Defenders Coalition with other grassroots partners.

This cross-sectoral approach not only strengthened resilience but elevated GBMSM/MSW issues within broader social justice dialogues.

## Donor and Institutional Partnerships

SHINNERS maintained strong, transparent relationships with international donors and programmatic funders, ensuring:

- 100% grant compliance and reporting accuracy.
- Multi-year renewals due to demonstrated impact and financial accountability.
- Technical support for organizational development, digital advocacy, and M&E system strengthening.



# 15. LOOKING AHEAD: STRATEGIC COLLABORATION FOR 2025

As part of its roadmap to 2025, SHINNERS C.B.O. will:

- Launch a Partnership Engagement Framework to formalize co-implementation protocols and mutual accountability with key stakeholders.
- Establish a Community Advisory Council composed of healthcare, legal, religious, youth, and academic partners.
- Host the inaugural GBMSM/MSW Partnership Summit to foster alignment, innovation, and joint advocacy among allies.
- Deepen bilateral partnerships with public institutions to integrate GBMSM/MSW needs into county strategic plans and budgets.

## Conclusion

In 2024, SHINNERS C.B.O. redefined what partnership means — not just a means of funding or implementation, but a vehicle of resistance, innovation, and shared power. By weaving diverse actors into a common cause, SHINNERS created a durable ecosystem of support around some of the most marginalized communities in Kenya. As we look toward 2025, this collective fabric remains our greatest asset in the fight for dignity, rights, and justice.

# 16. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED: NAVIGATING COMPLEXITY WITH RESILIENCE AND REFLECTION

Operating in a volatile socio-political context, 2024 presented SHINNERS C.B.O. with both predictable and emergent challenges. From legislative threats to resource limitations and service delivery constraints, the year tested the organization's adaptability, innovation, and grounding in community realities.

Yet within each challenge lay critical lessons — about the resilience of our community, the limitations of conventional models, and the power of localized, rights-based responses. These insights have not only informed our 2025 roadmap but have deepened our commitment to flexible, evidence-driven programming.

## 1. SHRINKING CIVIC SPACE AND LEGISLATIVE THREATS

### Challenges:

The re-introduction of anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation — particularly the Kaluma Family Protection Bill — created an atmosphere of fear, surveillance, and repression.

Civil society actors, including SHINNERS, were subjected to increased scrutiny, threatening community trust and operational continuity.

### Lessons Learned:

*Community safety and resilience must be embedded across all programming.*

Investing in community paralegals, digital security training, and survivor-centered legal documentation enabled SHINNERS to maintain service delivery and advocacy while protecting staff and clients.

## 2. INSTITUTIONAL STIGMA IN HEALTH AND JUSTICE SECTORS

### Challenges:

Despite healthcare reforms, stigma and discrimination persisted within public clinics and law enforcement systems. GBMSM and MSW clients continued to report denial of care, verbal abuse, and secondary victimization.

# 16. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED: NAVIGATING COMPLEXITY WITH RESILIENCE AND REFLECTION

## Lessons Learned:

*Engagement must go beyond sensitization — systems must be transformed.*

SHINNERS revised its approach from ad hoc trainings to formal MoUs with facilities, development of service charters, and integration of peer navigators into clinics — resulting in measurable attitude and practice shifts.

## 3. LIMITED MENTAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

### Challenges:

The demand for trauma-informed mental health support outpaced available professionals, safe spaces, and referral systems. Stigma around mental illness within the community also hindered early uptake.

### Lessons Learned:

Decentralized, peer-led mental health models are essential in underserved contexts.

The Lay Provider Mental Health Program proved effective, demonstrating that community members — when trained and supported — can safely deliver psychosocial first aid and sustained peer counseling.

## 4. ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS

### Challenges:

Ongoing poverty, unemployment, and income instability heightened vulnerability among GBMSM and MSWs, increasing their exposure to unsafe work environments, violence, and substance use.

### Lessons Learned:

*Health and rights programming must be integrated with economic empowerment.* The Recovery-to-Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Initiatives validated that economic stability boosts program retention, mental health outcomes, and leadership development.

# 16. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED: NAVIGATING COMPLEXITY WITH RESILIENCE AND REFLECTION

## 5. UNDERREPORTING OF RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

### Challenges:

Fear of reprisal, lack of trust in justice systems, and internalized stigma led to underreporting of violence and discrimination, undermining both legal redress and evidence-based advocacy.

### Lessons Learned:

*Safe, anonymous, and peer-supported reporting channels are critical.*

SHINNERS began piloting a mobile-based Rights Violation Tracker and expanded its survivor-led documentation and referral efforts to improve trust and case follow-up.

## 6. SUSTAINING MOMENTUM ACROSS DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS

### Challenges:

While multi-sectoral collaboration improved impact, sustaining the engagement of religious leaders, healthcare providers, and county officials required significant time, trust-building, and ongoing facilitation.

### Lessons Learned:

*Strategic patience and values-based framing are vital in shifting deep-rooted norms.*

SHINNERS's success with gatekeeper engagement proved that consistent dialogue — anchored in dignity, compassion, and shared community wellbeing — can turn resistance into reluctant support, and eventually into allyship.

## 7. DONOR DEPENDENCY AND FUNDING GAPS

### Challenges:

Delayed donor disbursements and limited unrestricted funds restricted SHINNERS's ability to rapidly scale interventions or respond to emerging needs.

### Lessons Learned:

*Financial sustainability requires local ownership and diversified revenue streams.*

2024 saw the successful piloting of community fundraising, social enterprise models, and local philanthropy — all of which will be scaled in 2025 to build resilience against external funding shocks.



# 16. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED: NAVIGATING COMPLEXITY WITH RESILIENCE AND REFLECTION

## MOVING FORWARD

The lessons from 2024 have reaffirmed that SHINNERS C.B.O. is not just a service provider, but a learning organization. In 2025, we will:

- Institutionalize Quarterly Learning Labs to track implementation gaps and adaptive solutions.
- Expand community co-design processes to ensure programs remain contextually relevant.
- Develop a Lessons Learned Repository to inform peer organizations, partners, and donors on effective community-based strategies for key populations under threat.

By embracing challenge as a source of growth, SHINNERS continues to evolve — not despite adversity, but because of it. This resilience is not institutional; it is communal. It belongs to every voice, every story, and every act of defiance that defines our shared movement for health, dignity, and justice.

# 17. LOOKING AHEAD: FROM RESILIENCE TO STRATEGIC RESISTANCE

As SHINNERS C.B.O. concludes a year of remarkable transformation amidst adversity, our gaze is firmly set on the future — a future where GBMSM and Male Sex Workers (MSWs) in Western Kenya are not only surviving but thriving with dignity, agency, and structural support.

2024 underscored the urgency of systems change. It demanded that we do more than respond — it called us to organize, innovate, and build protective and empowering architectures grounded in lived experience and collective wisdom. Now, as we prepare for 2025, SHINNERS enters a new chapter of strategic resistance and structural consolidation.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2025

### 1. Scale Community-Led Health Access

- Expand mobile clinic services and peer navigation models across five counties.

- Formalize partnerships with 10 additional GBMSM/MSW-friendly health facilities.
- Integrate mental health screening and referral into all health programs.

### 2. Deepen Rights Protection Mechanisms

- Launch a digital Rights Violation Tracking and Response Platform.
- Train 30 more paralegals and human rights defenders from within the community.
- Advocate for county-level non-discrimination ordinances protecting sexual minorities.

### 3. Institutionalize Mental Health Ecosystems

- Roll out the Peer Support and Mental Health Leadership Academy.
- Establish a 24/7 mental health helpline and mobile outreach counseling units.
- Scale trauma-informed programming in schools, shelters, and drop-in centers.

# 17. LOOKING AHEAD: FROM RESILIENCE TO STRATEGIC RESISTANCE

## 4. Advance Economic Justice

- Scale the ***Recovery-to-Entrepreneurship*** and youth livelihood models to reach an additional 500 participants.
- Establish ***Community Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)*** tailored to GBMSM/MSWs.
- Link beneficiaries to government affirmative action funds and digital marketplaces.

## 5. Strengthen Community Advocacy Infrastructure

- Launch a ***GBMSM/MSW Community Advocacy Hub*** offering campaign support, research tools, and legal resources.
- Host the first ***Voices of Resistance Regional Forum*** to unify community narratives, strategy, and political voice.
- Amplify digital and grassroots advocacy under restrictive legislative conditions.

## 6. Consolidate Partnerships for Systems Change

- Expand interfaith and cultural engagement through a Gatekeeper Coalition for Inclusion.
- Partner with academic institutions to produce policy-relevant evidence on exclusion and resilience.
- Influence county strategic plans and budgets to institutionalize inclusive service delivery.

# 18. OUR VISION BEYOND 2025

- SHINNERS C.B.O. envisions a horizon where:
- Community members are no longer recipients but decision-makers.
- Public institutions serve with equity, not discrimination.
- Safe spaces become systems, not exceptions.
- Health, justice, and opportunity are not negotiated — they are guaranteed.
- To realize this vision, we will continue to disrupt exclusion, document lived realities, and demand justice — fiercely and unapologetically. The road ahead is uncertain, but our direction is clear. Grounded in community. Guided by rights. Fueled by hope.

## A CALL TO PARTNERS, DONORS, AND ALLIES

- As we move forward, we invite partners, funders, allies, and institutions to walk with us — not as saviors, but as co-builders. Together, we must invest in the leadership of those most affected, create enabling environments for inclusion, and challenge the systems that seek to erase our people.
- 2025 will be a year of scaling impact, defending dignity, and advancing freedom. SHINNERS C.B.O. is ready — and we move ahead with the strength of our community behind us.

***“Our liberation will not come from silence or survival alone. It will come from collective action, strategic resistance, and the audacity to imagine better.”***





# 19. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The achievements captured in this 2024 Annual Report would not have been possible without the unwavering support, courage, and solidarity of a broad community of individuals and institutions who walk beside SHINNERS C.B.O. in our pursuit of dignity, health, and justice for GBMSM and Male Sex Workers (MSWs) across Western Kenya.

## **To Our Community Members**

We begin by honoring the strength, wisdom, and leadership of GBMSM and MSW individuals who continue to resist marginalization with courage and hope. Your stories, your truths, and your dreams remain at the heart of every program, campaign, and advocacy effort we undertake. Thank you for trusting SHINNERS with your lives, your voices, and your visions for change.

## **To Our Staff and Volunteers**

To the tireless staff, peer educators, paralegals, lay providers, and community mobilizers — thank you for your passion, persistence, and daily commitment to transforming lives under challenging conditions. Your dedication is the engine behind our progress.

## **To Our Donors and Funding Partners**

We are deeply grateful to the international donors, foundations, and philanthropic allies who have not only provided critical financial support, but also stood in principled solidarity with our mission. Your belief in our community-centered, rights-based approach fuels impact far beyond the numbers.



# 19. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## **To Our Strategic Partners and Collaborators**

To the healthcare facilities, legal aid organizations, academic institutions, government departments, media allies, and civil society peers — thank you for choosing partnership over pity, and action over silence. Together, we have shown what is possible when trust, mutual respect, and shared vision guide our work.

## **To Faith and Cultural Leaders**

To the gatekeepers who chose empathy over exclusion, and began the long, necessary work of changing hearts and minds in their communities — we commend your bravery and moral clarity.

## **To the SHINNERS Board of Directors**

Your guidance, accountability, and strategic oversight ensured our resilience in a year defined by external pressure and internal growth. Thank you for stewarding this organization with integrity and vision. As we move into 2025, we do so knowing that our greatest strength lies in the community that surrounds and uplifts us. We are humbled by your continued partnership and remain committed to honoring your trust through impactful, inclusive, and rights-affirming work.

***“It takes a village to resist injustice. It takes a movement to imagine liberation. Thank you for being part of both.”***

In solidarity and gratitude,  
**The SHINNERS C.B.O. Team**

# GET IN TOUCH

At Shinnars, we welcome all enquiries. Please feel free to contact us using the details provided below. We are committed to responding to your request as promptly as possible.



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