



2025

**MID-YEAR
REPORT**

JANUARY-JULY

ELABORATED BY

AINA ETS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

01	Children	
	New admissions	01
	Health	03
	General updates	05
	Education updates	06
02	Tracing & Reintegrations	
	Family tracing	10
	Reintegration planning	12
03	Activities	
	Educational and co-curricula activities	13
04	Farm Projects	
	Goatshed and nursery	16
	Chicken Academy	17
05	National Reforms	
	School Reform	18
	Care Reform	19
06	Population	
	Staff updates	20
	Population	21



CHILDREN

NEW ADMISSIONS

2

NEW ADMISSIONS

Elosy Mwendwa

Elosy, an 18-month-old girl, was referred to Aina in February by the local dispensary where she was registered for HIV treatment. The referral was prompted by repeated missed clinic visits. In coordination with the dispensary doctor, community health volunteers, the area chief, and Aina, Elosy was traced and found in a highly vulnerable condition. She was wearing only a worn-out diaper and a dirty shirt, attempting to drink from a muddy puddle. Signs of severe malnutrition and neglect were evident. Her sole caregiver, an elderly and partially disabled grandfather, was unable to provide adequate care.





Medications and supplements previously prescribed by the doctor were found unused in the home.

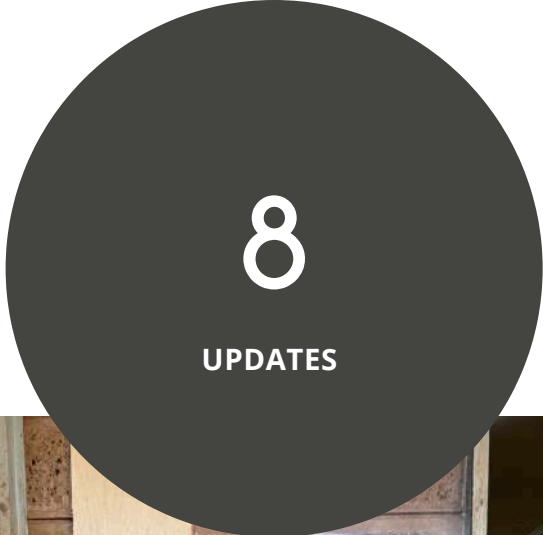
Elosy was immediately admitted into a nutritional recovery program and is currently showing significant improvement. She is now walking, gaining weight, and beginning to express herself.

Faiza Nkatha

Faiza, approximately 7 years old, is Elosy's elder sister. While she was in good health at the time of rescue and tested HIV-negative, she had never been enrolled in school and spoke only a local dialect. Although she did not meet all admission criteria, a decision was made—together with local authorities—not to separate the siblings. Faiza was enrolled at Aina Paolo Academy and, after five months, is making excellent academic progress. She is now starting to be fluent in Swahili and adjusting well to the school environment.



HEALTH



Ephantus Murithi

Ephantus had been scheduled for reintegration in December 2024; however, he developed medical complications related to a papillomavirus infection. Surgery was required and successfully performed in April. Although he has fully recovered, his reintegration has been postponed indefinitely, and he remains under close medical supervision.



Trevor Mawira

Following observation of delayed motor development and difficulties supporting his head, Trevor was enrolled in Aina's physiotherapy program. Since beginning treatment, he has made notable progress: he can now sit unaided, hold up his head, and even stand for short periods with support. His improved appetite and weight gain further indicate positive recovery trends.

Shantel Kendi

Shantel was admitted to Aina in October 2024 with signs of malnutrition and lack of access to essential medication. Since her admission, she has made a full recovery and has been enrolled in the Playgroup class at Aina Paolo Academy, where she is now the youngest student.



Lewis Munene

Lewis experienced a scabies outbreak, alongside peers Apua, Koome, and Evans. All affected children received treatment and have recovered well; however, Munene is taking longer to heal because his condition was more severe.

GENERAL UPDATES

Angel Kinya

Angel was recently enrolled at Aina Paolo Academy and is in the process of adjusting to the school and residential environment. Her case remains active in court, and she continues to experience stress due to past trauma and ongoing legal proceedings. Aina's counselor is providing consistent psychosocial support, and the organization is working with its partners to ensure a trauma-informed legal process, prioritizing the prevention of re-victimization.



Joy Kathure

Joy was scheduled for reintegration in December 2024. However her guardian failed to follow Aina's instructions for a safe exit of the girl, prompting immediate re-admission to avoid any risk to the wellbeing and safety of Joy.



Kezline Kanja

Kezline faced safety and stability challenges at her previous place of work. In consultation with her family, a decision was made to support her transition to independent living. Her shop and residence were relocated to Kariene Market along the Meru-Nairobi highway. Aina assisted with initial setup costs, including shop renovation and rent support. Kezline is now settling into her new environment and working toward full financial independence.

Teresia Wambui

After Teresia was taken home to the aunt with the help of the local chief, she stayed for a brief period before running away again. Her whereabouts are currently unknown.

EDUCATION UPDATES

SECONDARY SCHOOL AND VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS

At the end of 2024, Aina conducted comprehensive academic performance evaluations for all secondary school students. Meetings were held with both the children and their guardians to review academic outcomes and collaboratively determine the most suitable educational pathways for 2025. Based on the results and holistic assessments, several key decisions were implemented to align each student's learning environment with their individual needs and capabilities.



Transfers to Vocational Training Programs

Following the assessments, four students were transitioned from secondary school to vocational training, where they are now enrolled in skill-based programs more suited to their learning profiles and long-term goals:

- **Yvonne Mwenda**
- **Jackline Gatabi**
- **Fridah Nkirote**
- **Nelly Gaitugi**

This shift aims to enhance their future employability and provide them with practical, market-relevant skills.



Glory Gacheri – Academic Advancement

Due to her strong academic performance, Glory Gacheri was transferred from a local day secondary school, Kunene Mixed Day School, to an extra-county boarding school, Muthambi Girls, at the beginning of 2025. While she is still adjusting to the new academic and social environment, Aina is providing close support to help her thrive in the more competitive setting. We remain confident in her potential for academic success.

Silvia Kanario – Improved Placement

Silvia was transferred from Rwanjue to Kunene Day School following her commendable academic progress in 2024. The transfer was made to provide her with access to higher-quality education and to allow her to attend the same school as several other Aina students, promoting a stronger support system and improved academic consistency.



Special Case: Joshua Kiruku

Joshua was reintegrated with his family at the end of 2023 and subsequently enrolled in a day school selected by his father. However, throughout 2024, he exhibited persistently poor academic performance. Following an internal review and consultation with the school, it was revealed that Joshua's learning was being significantly hindered by long daily commutes, food insecurity, and lack of a conducive home environment. Furthermore, reports of emotional mistreatment from his father were of concern.

In response, Aina proposed an alternative arrangement: Joshua would return to live at Aina, where he could benefit from a stable learning environment, regular meals, and psychosocial support, while the father would assume responsibility for all school-related expenses. This role-reversal agreement has been respected thus far, with the father fulfilling his financial obligations.

However, due to extended absenteeism in 2024, Joshua technically qualifies to repeat Form 1. Unfortunately, the recent curriculum reform has eliminated this level, necessitating his enrollment in Form 2 instead. Joshua is currently struggling to keep pace academically, and his progress will be closely monitored and re-evaluated at the end of the year.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND ATTACHMENT

Students currently enrolled in vocational training and in partial exit from Aina have been encouraged to engage in informal holiday attachments within local businesses to gain real-world experience:

- Cynthia Nkirote
- Eric Mutethia
- Nelly Gaitugi



Additionally:

Stephen Apua has completed his electrician training and is now undertaking a formal attachment with a professional mentor at Aina.

Bonface Munene, Yvette Makena, and Doreen Kathure are currently enrolled in tertiary-level polytechnic programs and participating in three-month formal attachments.



UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS


We are pleased to report that two students have completed their secondary education and qualified for university entry:

- **Eric Mwirigi** has been admitted to the **University of Nairobi** to pursue a degree in **Agricultural Business**.
- **Brian Murithi** has been accepted into **Moi University**, Eldoret, where he will study **Hospitality Management and IT**.

Both students are scheduled to commence their studies in September 2025. Aina is proud of their achievements and remains committed to supporting them through this next academic milestone.

Eunice Serianai

Eunice successfully completed her tertiary education earlier this year. With the continued support of her sponsor, she enrolled in a specialization program in **Orthopedic Upgraded Diploma** in March 2025. This opportunity marks a significant step forward in her professional growth, and we are proud of her commitment to furthering her qualifications.



TRACING AND REINTEGRATION

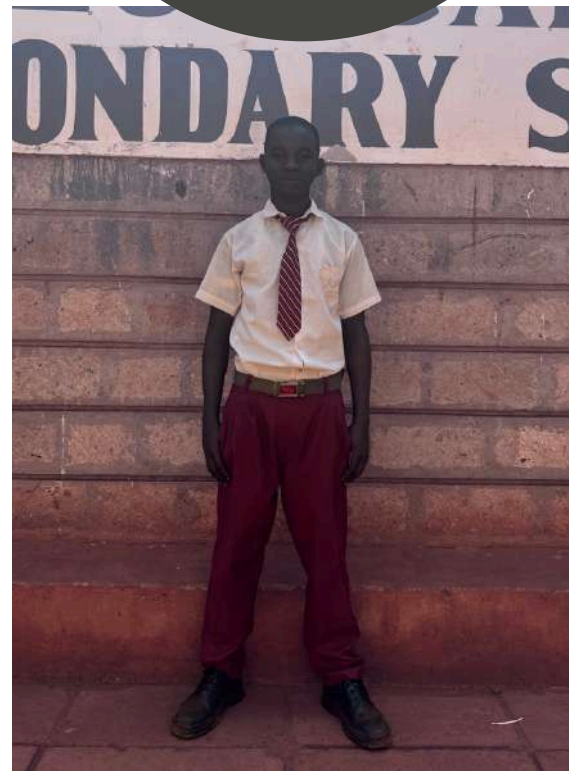
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TRACINGS

FAMILY TRACING

David Mawira & Weddy Kinya

After an extended period without visits from their mother, David and Weddy experienced emotional distress due to their lack of contact with family and inability to leave the institution for holidays. Aina's social work team, in collaboration with the local chief and former guardians, initiated a family tracing process. This led to locating the mother and arranging a mediated meeting. Additionally, an older sister living in a different area was traced the same day.



TRACING

She expressed a willingness to host the children during the holidays. As a result, David and Weddy spent the entire April break with their sister, returning to Aina visibly improved in emotional well-being.



Nick Mawira

Nick had no family contact for several years following a tragic house fire. However, during the April holidays, both his sister and brother visited him at Aina. A follow-up home visit revealed that his sister had been struggling financially and had avoided contact out of shame. While she is not yet able to host Nick for a full holiday, she has agreed to shorter visits to allow him to reconnect with his siblings and extended family.



Fridah Nkirote

Her maternal aunt raised Fridah since the loss of her mother. During the April holiday, Fridah returned to Aina accompanied by a man claiming to be her biological father. After thorough verification, his identity and the family's capacity to care for her were confirmed. The family welcomed the reconnection, and Aina is now working to facilitate communication between the father's side and the aunt to ensure Fridah's best interests and emotional stability are prioritized.

REINTEGRATION PLANNING

Preparations are underway for the reintegration of children completing Junior School at Aina Paolo Academy by the end of 2025. The following students are currently in the reintegration pipeline:

- Benjamin Mungai
- Martin Mucheke
- Clifford Mutethia
- Peace Katharimi
- Felister Mumbi
- Millicent Gatwiri
- Faith Njeri
- Zena Kiende

To ensure a smooth transition, Aina’s social worker is actively counseling both the children and their families. Early engagement allows for identification and resolution of potential challenges ahead of their exit.



ACTIVITIES

EDUCATIONAL AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

7

ACTIVITIES

Sports Achievements

In Term 1, Aina Paolo Academy participated in the county-wide ball games and qualified for the **County Level Basketball Competition** held in Igoji, a significant achievement that brought pride to the institution.

Currently, in Term 2, the school is training intensively in **volleyball** (both primary and junior levels) and is set to participate in **Sub-County Competitions** on July 11th.



Agricultural Field Trip

Aina sponsored an educational trip to Meru Town for agriculture students under the Competency-Based Education (CBE) framework. The excursion offered students a hands-on learning experience aligned with classroom content. The visit included exposure to agricultural demonstrations and exhibitions.



Trip to Lewa Conservancy

In partnership with Sam Elimu, 46 junior school students visited Lewa Conservancy for a full-day educational experience. Activities included a seminar, a museum tour, and a game drive. Students were deeply engaged and expressed gratitude for the opportunity.

Kenya Music Festival

Aina Paolo Academy participated in the **Kenya Music Festival** with representation from nursery, primary, and junior school classes. The students qualified for **regional level competitions** in Chuka, Meru County. Although they did not advance to the national level, the experience strengthened their motivation to enhance performance and participation in 2026.



ACTIVITIES

Mashahiri Folk Song Competition

In June, a group of older girls from Aina took part in local Mashahiri cultural competitions, performing a Merian folk song accompanied by singing and dancing. The girls designed and handcrafted their costumes using maize kernels and dried weeds, showcasing both creativity and cultural knowledge. Their performance was awarded first place, marking a proud and inspiring achievement for the group and the entire community.



Counseling Sessions

With support from MECAWE, Aina facilitated group counseling sessions for beneficiaries living in the children's home. These sessions addressed challenges specific to institutional living—such as age gaps, caregiver-child dynamics, and emotional coping mechanisms—providing children with strategies for healthier interpersonal relationships.



Agricultural Workshop Program

Aina launched a new **agricultural training initiative** targeting secondary students in partial exit who return during holidays. Recognizing the importance of agricultural knowledge in rural livelihoods, the program focuses on practical farming skills.

Notably, **Linda Kendi**, while not active in land cultivation, is gaining hands-on experience managing poultry in Aina's new chicken coop—an effort tailored to her future aspirations for independent living.

FARM PROJECTS



GOATSHED AND NURSERY

Due to an imminent birth, Aina's farm team constructed a goat shed using **recycled materials** salvaged from past maintenance works. The structure was completed in one day and successfully housed the mother goat, who gave birth to a healthy kid at the end of June.



CHICKEN ACADEMY



The new **chicken coop** has commenced operations with 50 chicks (24 females, 26 males). Initial trials are progressing well. Male chickens were partially slaughtered for a celebratory meal, while females are being trained to lay eggs. Current output is approximately 50 eggs per week, expected to increase as the hens mature. Plans are in place to scale operations responsibly and separate new chicks during their introduction.



NATIONAL REFORMS

SCHOOL REFORM

2

REFORMS

This year marked the **introduction of Grade 9** as part of Kenya's education reform. In response, Aina Paolo Academy:

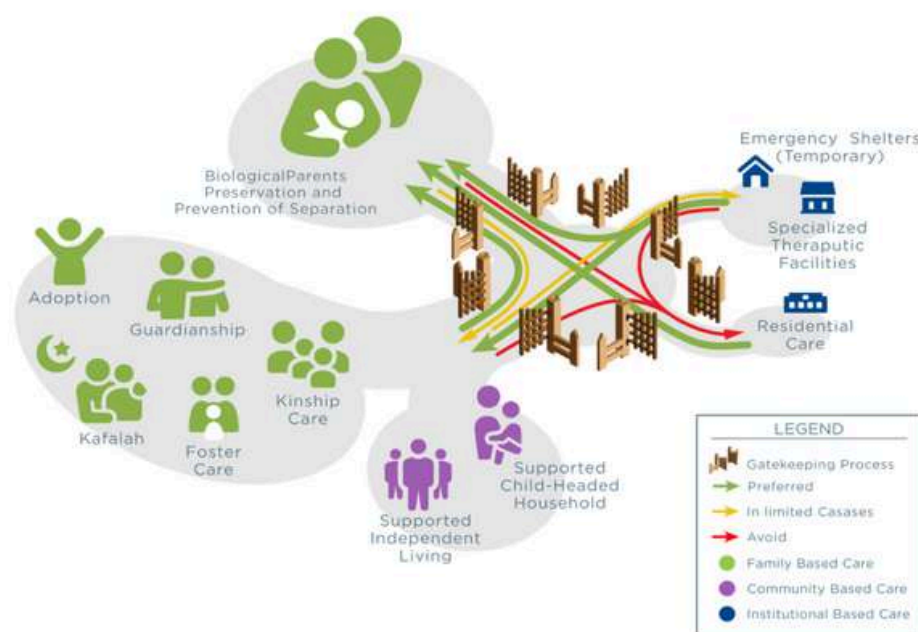
- Expanded school infrastructure with new **lockers and chairs**;
- Procured updated **textbooks**, although high costs limited purchases to a few copies per grade;
- Built a **science laboratory**, thanks to support from Friends of Kenyan Orphans.

Despite these advances, the **procurement of reagents** remains a financial challenge due to market-driven price increases. Aina is committed to providing essential supplies to ensure students are adequately prepared for national exams.

CARE REFORM AND TRANSITION STRATEGIES

Under the Children Act 2022, institutions providing residential care are required to transition toward **family- and community-based care models**, with placement options based on each child’s situation. These may include:

- Reintegration with biological parents (ideal scenario)
- Foster care or legal guardianship with relatives or vetted non-relatives
- Adoption or kafalah (Islamic guardianship)
- Independent living, in cases where no alternative family care is possible (typically for older youth)



To comply with the law, institutions must undergo a seven-level transformation process:

1. Leadership and governance
2. Legal and policy alignment
3. Strengthening of the social work workforce
4. Service delivery redesign
5. Financial restructuring

6. Shift in social norms and practices
7. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

This transition requires a comprehensive overhaul of the workforce, programs, infrastructure, and resource allocation—both financial and non-financial.

TRANSITION PROCESS

Step 1 – Decision to Transition

The institution must formally commit to transitioning, with an understanding of:

- The benefits of family- and community-based care.
- Relevant legal and strategic frameworks.
- Stakeholder perspectives and engagement.
- The importance of clear and transparent documentation and communication.

Step 2 – Transition Preparation

Develop a detailed transition plan through:

- Organizational and community needs assessments.
- Strategic and operational planning.
- Program development and structural readiness.

Step 3 – Transition Implementation

- Execution of the plan, including staff capacity-building, program piloting, full-scale implementation, and continuous monitoring and evaluation.

CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM FRAMEWORK

Aina's Child Welfare Program aims to deliver holistic, accessible, and rights-based services to ensure children's well-being within family and community environments. The objective is to phase out residential care in favor of quality family- and community-based alternatives.

Key Focus Areas:

- **Survival Rights:**
Health, nutrition, shelter, and clothing access
- **Developmental Rights:**
Education, recreation, access to information, and cultural identity
- **Protective Rights:**
Prevention of abuse, neglect, and exploitation; legal aid; tracing and reunification; positive parenting programs; online safety
- **Participation Rights:**
Child participation in decisions affecting them, talent development, peer support, and community advocacy

Programmatic Tools and Interventions:

- Creation of children's rights and talent clubs (school/community level)
- Advocacy and legal empowerment programs
- Disability-inclusive services and family support

REUSE OF FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

As part of the reform, existing infrastructure will be repurposed to serve the wider community through centers and programs such as:

- Counseling and wellness centers
- Community training and outreach hubs
- Vocational and talent development centers
- Medical and personal care facilities
- Day care and early childhood support services
- Agritourism and charitable hospitality venues





POPULATION & STAFF

STAFF UPDATES

690

PEOPLE

Departures (2025):

- Doris Nkatha – School Secretary
- Benson Kaunyangi – Headteacher

New Appointments:

- Janice Kinya (former Dispensary Cashier) promoted to School Secretary
- Tiffan Nkatha confirmed as Dispensary Cashier after completing probation
- Doris Gakenia confirmed as Nursery Housemother
- Polly Kawira Kobia appointed as the new Headteacher. She brings years of administrative experience and stepped into the role during a critical transition period—Term 2 and national exam registrations.

Houseparent Training

Recognizing the vital role of caregiving staff, Aina launched a houseparent training program in collaboration with MECWE. Monthly sessions began in June and will continue for at least four months to enhance care quality and professional skills.

CHILDREN'S HOME

RESIDENTS

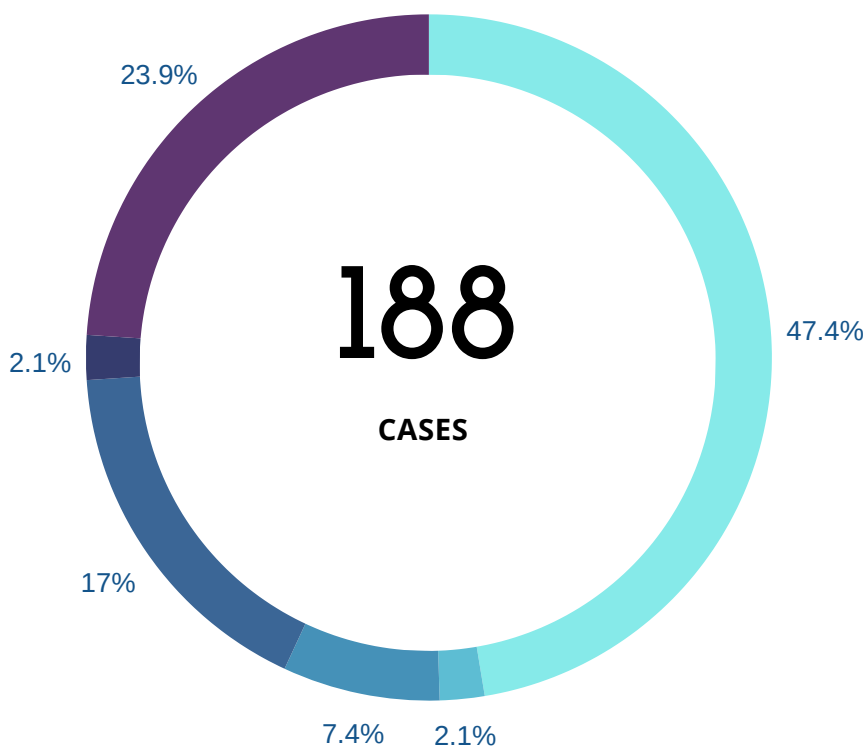
- 89 - PRIMARY & NURSERY
- 4 - SECONDARY

POST PRIMARY

- 14 - PARTIAL EXIT
- 32 - EXIT

POST EXIT

- 4 - COMPLETED BUT NOT CLOSED
- 45 - CLOSED



AINA PAOLO ACADEMY

RESIDENTS

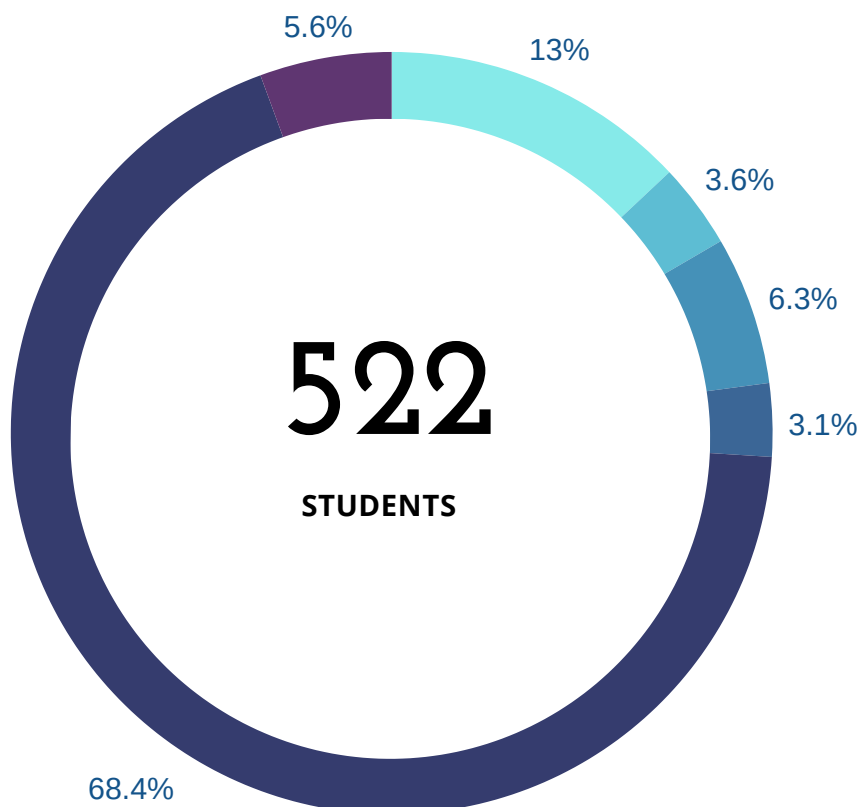
- 68 - PRIMARY
- 19 - JUNIOR SECONDARY

SPONSORED

- 33 - PRIMARY
- 16 - JUNIOR SECONDARY

COMMUNITY

- 357 - PRIMARY
- 29 - JUNIOR SECONDARY



STAFF

CHILDREN HOME

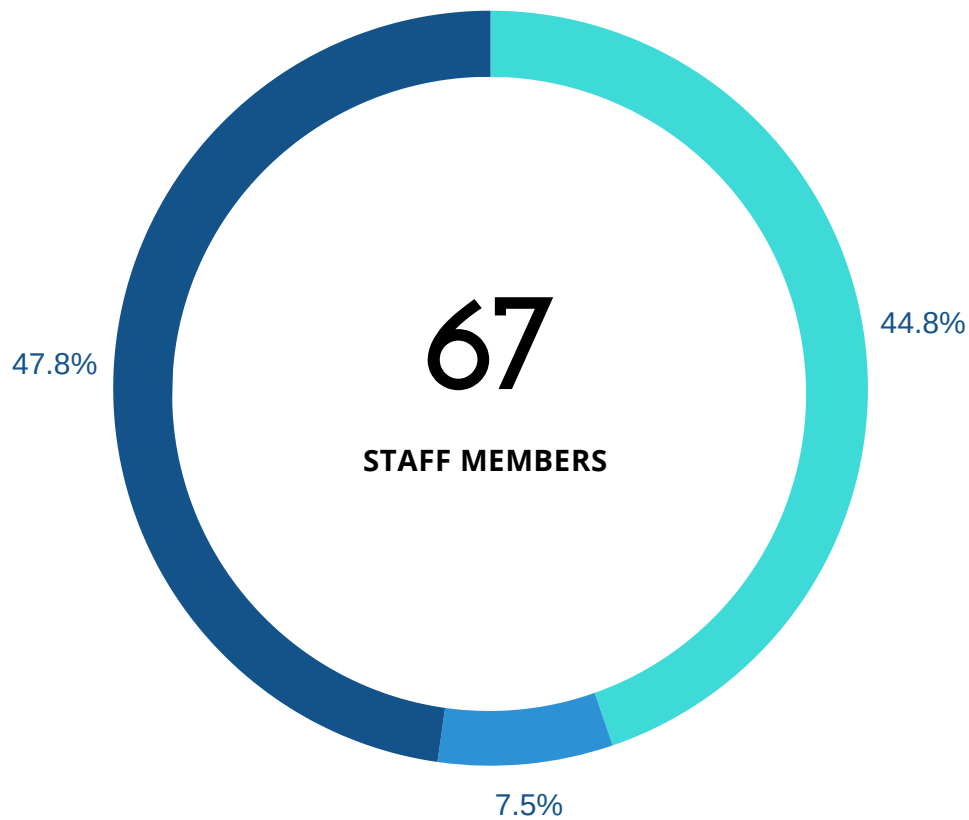
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DISPENSARY

■ 5

SCHOOL

■ 32





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