

Dear All,

These updates highlight WIDU Kenya's activities in the months of April to June 2026. In addition to the programme's core implementation activities, the second quarter saw WIDU contribute to regional and global discussions on diaspora engagement, remittances, and entrepreneurship through policy dialogues, stakeholder forums, and ecosystem events, while sharing implementation experiences and strengthening partnerships.

Recent updates and programme developments are available at: <https://widu.africa/news>

HIGHLIGHTS

WIDU Kenya Results: Cumulative to Q2 2026

2.2M EUR
Cumulative Grants
Disbursed

2.0 EUR
Private
Co-Investment

1519
Total Projects
Approved

3518
Jobs Created &
Sustained

From Eye Clinic to Level 4 Hospital

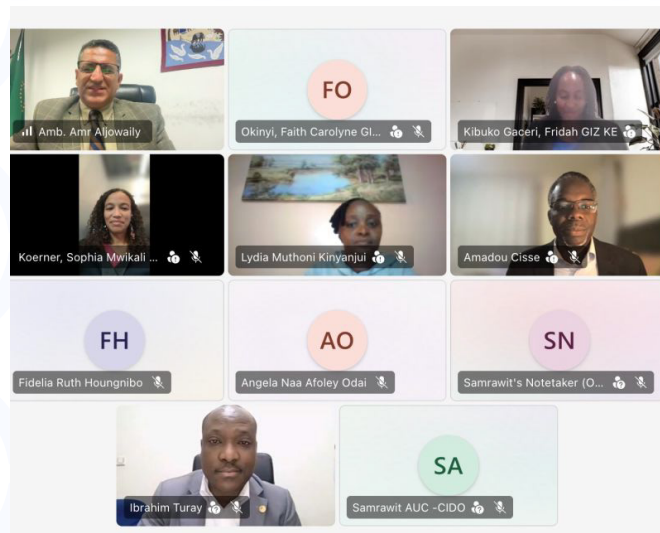


In 2024, through its partnership model, WIDU supported young ophthalmologist Dr. Amos in establishing Siloam Eye Clinic in Eldoret. Building on this strong foundation, and with continued support through coaching and a WIDU Growth Grant, the enterprise has since expanded into Siloam Level 4 Hospital.

In April 2026, the Governor of Uasin Gishu County, H.E. Jonathan Bii Chelilim, together with WIDU Head of Programme, Ms. Sophia Koerner, officially inaugurated the hospital. The milestone demonstrates how diaspora investment, complemented by WIDU grants and coaching, can help high-potential enterprises grow, create jobs, and expand access to quality healthcare.

Congratulations, Dr. Amos, on this remarkable achievement.

Inaugural AU- CIDO and AIR Meeting



In April, WIDU held an introductory meeting with the African Union Commission- Citizens and Diaspora Organizations Directorate (AUC-CIDO) and the Africa Institute for Remittances the African Union's respective institutions for diaspora engagement and remittance policy.

The session, led by WIDU Head of Programme Ms Sophia Koerner and AUC-CIDO Director Amb. Amr Aljowailly, considered how diaspora investment and remittance flows can better support African entrepreneurs while contributing to the objectives of Agenda 2063. The discussions also explored how WIDU's partnership model can complement broader African Union efforts to harness the development potential of the African diaspora.

African Diaspora Stakeholders Forum



From 30 April to 1 May 2026, Addis Ababa hosted the African Diaspora Stakeholders' Forum, convened by the Ethiopian Diaspora Service (EDS) and the Ethiopian Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) in collaboration with the GIZ programmes Shaping Development-Oriented Migration (MEG), Better Migration Management (BMM) and WIDU.africa.

The meeting convened policymakers, diaspora organizations, regional institutions and development partners to examine emerging approaches to diaspora engagement and strengthen coordination at the continental level.

Kenya was represented by the Kenya Diaspora Alliance, led by Dr. Shem Ochuodho, and the State Department for Diaspora Affairs, represented by Director Boniface Munzala of the Diaspora Investment and Savings Division. The delegation shared Kenya's experience in broadening diaspora engagement and highlighted the contribution of diaspora communities to national development through investment, remittances, and the transfer of knowledge and skills.

The exchanges pointed to the need for stronger institutional links between governments, diaspora organizations, regional institutions, the private sector and development partners to advance diaspora engagement at the continental level

WIDU Kenya at the Nairobi Entrepreneurship & Investment Workshop



On 5 May 2026, WIDU Kenya contributed to a panel discussion at the Nairobi Entrepreneurship & Investment Workshop, hosted by the University of Nairobi and attended by founders, SMEs, investors and entrepreneurship support organizations.

Speaking during the session Bridging Capital, Scaling Beyond Borders: Africa-Diaspora-Global Markets, WIDU shared lessons from its implementation in Kenya, highlighting how diaspora investment, complemented by business coaching and matching grants, can strengthen enterprise growth and resilience. The discussion also examined the contribution of diaspora engagement to expanding access to finance and supporting sustainable entrepreneurship.

Participants included venture capitalists, diaspora investors, fund managers and entrepreneurship support organizations, reflecting the breadth of actors shaping Kenya's entrepreneurship ecosystem. Conversations centered on business growth, investment readiness and cross-border financing, while also pointing to growing interest in diaspora partnerships as a means of expanding access to finance and supporting sustainable enterprise development.

WIDU at the Sector Network for Sustainable Economic Development in Africa (NEDA) Conference



From 26- 28 May 2026, WIDU participated in the Sector Network for Sustainable Economic Development in Africa (NEDA) Conference in Maputo, Mozambique. Held under the theme Shaping the Future of Economic Development in Africa together with the Private Sector, the conference brought together more than 100 GIZ projects and programmes from across the continent to exchange experience, develop practical solutions and strengthen collaboration on private sector development in Africa.

WIDU led an interactive session titled From Remittances to Enterprises: Operationalizing Diaspora Investment, demonstrating how diaspora remittances can be channeled into productive enterprise investment through blended finance, business coaching and digital solutions. The session also introduced WIDU's Follow-on Financing initiative and explored the role of diaspora communities as investors, mentors and market connectors for African enterprises.

WIDU also showcased its work in the conference's Innovation Gallery, where participants engaged with the programme's digital platform and Follow-on Financing prototype. The exchanges explored practical approaches to mobilizing diaspora investment and improving access to finance for micro and small enterprises.

WIDU.africa marks International Day of Family Remittances

Metric	Value	
Since the launch of WIDU.africa in 2019, the project has had a strong impact on the African entrepreneurial ecosystem		
7,857	46%	12.5 Mio. €
18,911	52%	13.1 Mio. €
17,983	96% SATISFACTION RATE	

WIDU.africa joined global celebrations of the International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) through both international engagement and a regional communications campaign highlighting the role of diaspora investment in sustainable development.

On 16 June, WIDU Head of Programme, Ms. Sophia Mwikali Koerner, represented the programme at the global IDFR event organized by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in partnership with the G7 France. The event convened representatives from governments, financial institutions, fintech companies, development organizations and diaspora communities to examine how family remittances can contribute more effectively to sustainable development. WIDU presented its experience in transforming diaspora remittances into productive investment through a blended finance model that combines diaspora investment, entrepreneur contributions, matching grants and business coaching.

Complementing the global event, WIDU implemented a week-long communications campaign showcasing the programme's contribution to enterprise development in rural communities. The campaign highlighted how remittances, when combined with business coaching and matching grants, can strengthen local businesses, create jobs and improve household incomes.

Watch the recording of the event here: <https://lnkd.in/eZHycvRi>

To date, WIDU.africa has supported:

Rural businesses

2,372

5,750

Jobs created and
maintained in
rural areas

Private funds
mobilised

EUR
3 Million

5,508

Individualized
business coaching
sessions

WIDU Kenya Training of Coaches



From 16-18 June 2026, WIDU Kenya held a Training of Coaches in Machakos, bringing together business coaches, the WIDU Kenya team and the Coaching Coordination Team to reflect on programme implementation and strengthen coaching practice.

The ToC reviewed progress against programme priorities, coaching performance, platform developments, and risk management, while providing space for coaches to exchange experiences from the field. Discussions centered on enterprise sustainability, business formalization, scaling pathways and approaches to supporting entrepreneurs at different stages of business growth.

The ToC also featured specialist sessions on strategic business coaching, led by Chris (Wylde International), and gender-responsive coaching, facilitated by Gifty, a Gender Specialist Consultant from Ghana, who shared practical experiences on how coaches can infuse gender transformative approaches in their coaching sessions. The training concluded with a review of the WIDU Code of Conduct for Coaches and discussions on safety and security during field engagements.

UPCOMING APICULTURE WEBINAR EVENTS

WEBINAR SERIES: SUSTAINABLE APICULTURE ENTERPRISES: WIDU KENYA

*Community of Practice on lessons learnt in growing Sustainable & Stronger
Apiculture Enterprises in Kenya.*

Virtual Session:
<https://tinyurl.com/48j6yr2m>



All sessions will take place from 7:30–8:30 PM (EAT)

DATES:

- 1st Webinar: 30th July 2026
- 2nd Webinar: 13th August 2026
- 3rd Webinar: 26th August 2026
- 4th Webinar: 9th September 2026



Implemented by



As part of its commitment to strengthening enterprise development beyond financial support, WIDU Kenya will launch a four-part virtual Community of Practice on Sustainable Apiculture Enterprises from 30 July to 9 September 2026.

The initiative aims to bring together entrepreneurs, practitioners and technical experts to exchange practical experience, share innovations, and strengthen business networks within the apiculture sector. By fostering peer learning and collective problem-solving, the Community of Practice seeks to support enterprise growth, promote sustainable production, improve market linkages and encourage the adoption of climate-resilient and commercially viable business practices.

The webinar series will cover the following themes:

DATE:
30 July 2026

THEME:
Experiences in Building Apiculture Enterprises

DATE:
13th August 2026

THEME:
Practical Approaches in Hive Management

DATE:
26th August 2026

THEME:
Adapting Apiculture to Environment and Climate

DATE:
9th September 2026

THEME:
Experiences in Value Addition & Market Access

All sessions will take place from 7:30–8:30 PM (EAT) via Microsoft Teams: <https://tinyurl.com/48j6yr2m>.

OUR PARTNERS



STAY CONNECTED



Website : www.WIDU.africa

WIDU.africa is a project co-financed by the [European Union](#) and the [Gates Foundation](#) and implemented by the [Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\) GmbH](#) on behalf of the [German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development \(BMZ\)](#). In collaboration with the African diaspora in Europe, WIDU applies an innovative approach that combines financial support and coaching to strengthen new and existing micro and small businesses in Africa, leading to the creation of new jobs and economic development in Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, Togo, and Tunisia. Participating Europe countries include all the EU member states, Norway and Switzerland.

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