

THEATRE
FOR A **CHANGE**



2025/26

ANNUAL REPORT

AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Shifting Power

THEATRE FOR A CHANGE LIMITED



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REFLECTIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is my pleasure to present Theatre for a Change's (TfaC) Annual Report for 2025-2026, a year of transformation and new beginnings.

This year, we reached two significant milestones. After more than two decades with our headquarters in the United Kingdom, Theatre for a Change successfully transitioned to a fully locally-led organisation based in Malawi. We also concluded our 2022-2026 Strategic Plan and launched a new strategy that will guide our work over the next four years.

Throughout the year, we continued to demonstrate the power of participatory theatre and social and behaviour change approaches to create dialogue, challenge harmful social norms and influence systems that improve people's lives. Our work across sexual and reproductive health and rights, mental health, gender equality, youth empowerment, research and policy engagement has continued to place communities at the centre of identifying solutions and shaping meaningful change.

As we look ahead, our focus is not only on delivering impactful programmes but also on building a stronger and more financially resilient organisation. We are committed to strengthening partnerships with donors, government, civil society and communities while diversifying our resources to ensure that our work remains sustainable and responsive to emerging needs.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our Board of Trustees, staff, partners, donors and the communities we serve. Thank you for your trust, collaboration and unwavering support.

As you read this report, I hope you will see not only the progress we have made together, but also the opportunities that lie ahead. We remain committed to creating lasting social change through local leadership, innovation and meaningful community participation.

Thank you for being part of our journey.

OVER THE LAST YEAR, WE HAVE:

- Scaled our advocacy work into **10 new countries** with **14 local partners**
- Enabled **15,989 women, girls and community members** to learn **how to prevent obstetric fistula** and receive treatment in partnership with UNFPA
- Improved **the mental and physical health** of **510 prison inmates** with support from the European Union
- Conducted **Legislative Theatre in Malawi Parliament** exploring the realities of **unsafe abortion**



Emmanuel Kanike
Executive Director
Theatre for a Change

SHIFTING POWER

Our Transition to Malawi-based Leadership

Our UK office was founded in 2003.

In the UK, we trained facilitators to deliver projects internationally, both for Theatre for a Change and in partnership with other NGOs working with at-risk groups.

We also supported our Malawi and Ghana teams to deliver high quality programmes that had maximum impact to empower marginalised and vulnerable women and girls in their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

TfaC has always been driven by the principle of the rebalance of power.

It is this belief that has guided our work with individuals, communities and the systems that shape their lives.

With this principle in mind, on 31 March 2026, at the end of our five-year strategic plan, we moved our global headquarters to Malawi, and our UK office closed.

This transition marks the fulfilment of years of intentional work to ensure that our leadership is rooted where our impact is greatest.

TfaC Malawi, guided by an experienced Board of Directors and an exceptional staff team, has deep knowledge of both

the challenges faced by their communities, and the solutions needed to overcome them.

Their leadership is strong and their vision is clear to carry TfaC into its next stage of growth and global influence.

Our staff, Trustees, partners, participants and stakeholders are all incredibly excited to witness and support this next chapter in TfaC's story – one that embodies our core belief in shifting power.

We also invite you to continue this journey with us: standing alongside women and girls, amplifying silenced voices, and building a more just and equal world.

Recently, we asked some of our staff and Board members:

“WHAT DOES THIS TRANSITION TO MALAWI-BASED LEADERSHIP MEAN TO YOU?”



“As Social and Protection Manager, I see this transition as an opportunity for us to take greater ownership and accountability for TfaC’s future. It gives us space to bring our local knowledge, strengths, and experience into leadership, while strengthening safeguarding, sustainability, and responsiveness to the communities we serve.”

Thandiwe Mbene TfaC Social and Protection Manager

“To me, TfaC’s transition to Malawi-based leadership means greater local ownership and a stronger voice in shaping our work. As MEL Manager, I see this as an opportunity to ensure that evidence and learning guide our decisions, help us continuously improve our work, and strengthen our programme teams and systems.”

Regina Banda TfaC Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Manager



“TfaC’s transition to Malawi-based leadership is more than a change in who leads – it is a bold declaration of what is possible when local talent, knowledge, and lived experience are trusted to shape the future. For me, it is a responsibility and privilege to help build a stronger, proudly Malawian TfaC whose impact resonates far beyond our borders.”

Henry Kambuzuma TfaC Programmes Manager

“For me, this transition means taking greater ownership of strengthening TfaC’s financial sustainability and operations. I see it as an opportunity to strengthen our systems, accountability, resource management and supporting staff capacity while making decisions that are grounded in our local context and position TfaC for long-term sustainability.”

Yamikani Sonkhanani TfaC Finance Manager



“Theatre for a Change is walking the talk in shifting power from the Global North through localisation of its leadership structure. I couldn’t be prouder to be a Board Director of such an organisation that intentionally puts its values into practice.”

Lusungu Kalanga TfaC Board Director

“As a Programmes Manager, for me, the transition of TfaC to Malawi-based leadership is an important step toward strengthening local capacity and empowering Malawian staff to assume leadership roles and make crucial decisions that ensure the organisation’s work is relevant and responsive to local needs.”

Jemimah Zawanda-Gunde TfaC Programmes Manager



OUR ORGANISATION



The focus of this report is Theatre for a Change Limited, a Malawian charity. Our international partner, Theatre for a Change UK, closed its office on 31 March 2026 as part of the transition of our global headquarters to Malawi.

WHO WE ARE

We are a non-governmental organisation founded in 2003. We are registered in Malawi and work closely with our sister organisation in Ghana. We also collaborate with partners worldwide.

WHAT WE WANT

An equal world, where everyone has choice and control over their bodies, and can use their voices freely and without fear.

WHAT WE DO

We influence sexual and reproductive health behaviour change, social norms change and policy change through bold, fearless storytelling and community participation.

OUR APPROACH

We use a deeply experiential and participatory methodology that places participants' real-life experiences as the driving force for change in their own lives, and in the lives of their families and communities.

The TfaC methodology is based largely on Prochaska and DiClemente's Transtheoretical Model, which describes the stages of change as moving from precontemplation to contemplation to preparation to action to maintenance.

It also integrates ideas from current and past versions of Fishbein and Ajzen's Reasoned Action Approach, as well as learning from Paulo Freire, Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed and Bronfenbrenner's Socio-Ecological Model (SEM).



OUR ORGANISATION

Charity Name Theatre for a Change
Charity Registration Number C429/2009
Company Registration Number 8557
Physical Office Plot 3/559, Likuni Road, Area 3, Lilongwe

OUR TRUSTEES

Secret Kabambe (Treasurer) Senior Finance and Compliance Officer, Norwegian Dan Church Aid
Lusungu Kalanga GBV Principal Consultant, Social Development Direct
Dr. Benjamin Kaneka Senior Lecturer, University of Malawi – Chancellor College
Blazius Kwakwala Director of Human Resources and Administration, Save the Children International
Donald Makwakwa Executive Director, Family Planning Association of Malawi (FPAM)
Immaculate Maluza Legal Counsel and President, Women Lawyers Association, Malawi
Charles Mazinga Deputy Director for Nutrition, HIV and AIDS, Government of Malawi
Robert Ngaiyaye (Chair) Executive Director, Malawi Interfaith AIDS Association

OUR STAFF

Regina Banda Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Manager
Ryan Borcharding Head of Methodology and Training, based in the USA
Janet Chimbalu Project Officer
Hlupe Chirambo Operations and HR Manager
Eggrey Chizinga Finance Officer
Damiani Dinesi Office Cleaner and Gardener
Henry Kambuzuma Programmes Manager
Emmanuel Kanike Executive Director
Thandiwe Mbene Social and Protection Manager
Fiona Morrell Consultant, based in the UK
Asiyatu Mwamadi Project Officer
Mussa Mwamadi Driver / Operations Assistant
Watson Sambandere Driver / Operations Assistant
Derrick Samson Sped Finance / Office Assistant
Jo Seth-Smith Consultant
Yamikani Sonkhanani Finance Manager
Shadreck Tembo Curriculum, Training and Assessment Officer
Jemimah Zawanda-Gunde Programmes Manager

OUR AUDITOR

AMG Global Global House, Kristwick, Chipembere Highway, Blantyre

OUR BANK

Standard Bank plc

OUR SOLICITORS

Messrs Wilkinson, Attorneys & Law Consultants
Wilkinson Compounds, Plot 3/110/1, Keppel Compton Crescent, Area 3, Lilongwe

SAFEGUARDING

TfaC is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all children and adults at risk with whom we work.

We have a culture of zero tolerance of abuse, whereby it is prevented wherever possible, and if it does occur, it is reported and followed up as effectively as possible.

TfaC has developed rigorous standards outlined in our Safeguarding Policy which is available on our website.

These standards are reviewed and approved by our Board of Trustees each year, and it is mandatory for all Board members, staff, consultants, partners and volunteers to commit to adhering to our policy as well as taking part in regular safeguarding training. We prioritise training that enables us to recognise, report and respond to causes for concern through rigorous risk assessment and incident management plans.



OUR METHODOLOGY



Our methodology empowers participants to change behaviours and policies that prevent them from realising their rights. While the methodology can be used to tackle a range of challenges, our expertise lies in dismantling the individual, relational and societal barriers to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Our work is active, physical and experiential. Rather than an intellectual or abstract analysis of the problem, we encourage the discovery and change of habitual behaviours and consequences through a series of joyful and playful exercises.

As participants' confidence grows, we see the desire to share the experience of change with their wider networks – their workshop group, their families and communities. We also support the exploration of underlying power dynamics which are often rooted in structural patriarchy, colonialism, ableism, and heteronormativity.

Our methodology supports participants to use drama, both face-to-face and on the radio, to call to account those who have power, and explore with them how that power can be shared differently.

There are seven key principles that underpin our approach:

1. PARTICIPANTS ARE THE EXPERTS IN THEIR OWN LIVES

Creating the contexts for understanding this experience, and its patterns, is the starting point. What is happening in participants' lives?

"ONLY BY KNOWING REALITY CAN WE CHANGE IT." Brecht

This is the most important knowledge, and we put participants' knowledge first – their experiences, their voices. Our methodology is the embodiment of this principle.

2. AWARENESS IS THE FOUNDATION OF BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

The more aware we are of our thoughts, perceptions and behaviours, and their consequences, the more these open up to change, and the more choices we have about how we act in our lives. Our methodology places self-awareness and reflection at the centre of the learning process.

3. THE BALANCE OF POWER IS OUR AIM

Our vision is of equality – a balance of power. We know we are healthier and happier when power is shared between people and when those who hold power are accountable to those who are powerless. The more attention we pay to balance in our voices and in our public and private spaces, the more empowered we will all be.

4. ACTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES – IF WE CHANGE OUR BEHAVIOUR, THE CONSEQUENCES CHANGE

Our methodology enables both female and male participants to experience the ability to change their attitudes and behaviours, and to experience the empowerment this brings.

This three-part structure is the foundation of our behaviour change methodology:

1. What's happening?
2. What are the consequences?
3. What can we do differently?

5. BEHAVIOUR CHANGE IS INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE

This process starts with awareness of what is happening in our bodies, with our thoughts and perceptions, and in our habit behaviours. It is a conversation with ourselves, where we notice what is happening, without judgement, and is a radical act in itself.

Individual change has a symbiotic relationship with group change. The group supports the individual to change and reflects back the progress that is being made. The principle of equal participation of all group members underpins this.

6. INDIVIDUAL CHANGE NEEDS STRUCTURAL CHANGE

Our Theory of Change shows the interrelated dynamic of individual, group and structural change. In our methodology, participants use their bodies and voices to influence power holders and change the narrative, literally and figuratively: telling the truth to power, and inviting power holders to create the conditions where their rights are upheld. Participants advocate for themselves.

7. INTERACTIVE THEATRE IS A NATURAL FORM FOR BEHAVIOUR CHANGE AND ADVOCACY

Interactive Theatre (in all its forms) and our methodology, is based on participants' experience and involves showing how people behave and sharing stories – it is a perfect form for changing behaviour and advocating for rights.

It is also a perfect medium for changing gender norms – gender is about playing roles – and these roles can be changed physically using our methodology.

"THE BODY IS THE FIRST WORD OF THEATRE."

Augusto Boal

We have carried out extensive research into the impact of our methodology with research partners like KIT Royal Tropical Institute, who recently produced a 10-year, 12-country study of our work, which can be found at www.tfacafrica.com/our-approach.

As we have scaled our work into 25 countries, we have sought to maintain the participatory, grassroots nature of our methodology, which puts participants' experience and voices at the centre of everything we do.



OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

INPUTS: Funding, skilled staff & Board, TfaC methodology, contextual understanding

	ACTIVITIES		IMMEDIATE OUTCOMES	INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES	IMPACT	MISSION
GROUPS OF MARGINALISED PEOPLE	SRHR & GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE BEHAVIOUR CHANGE:	Facilitation of supportive networks		Increased health-seeking & preventative behaviours	REDUCTION IN: HIV & STI prevalence	To improve the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls who have been marginalised, using participatory learning and drama
		Provision of SRH services	Increased self-confidence & life skills ^c	Improved access to public SRH services ^{bca}		
	Participatory workshops	Psychosocial counselling	Increased voice & personal agency ^c	Increased access to support for survivors of abuse ^{bca}	Unwanted pregnancies	
		GBV prevention & case management	Increase in abuse cases managed ^{bnc}	More equal power dynamics between marginalised groups & power holders ^{ca}	Unsafe abortions	
INDIVIDUALS	Interactive Radio Drama Broadcasts	Strengthening safeguarding structures	INCREASED GENDER EQUITY & SRHR RELATED: Knowledge ^{bn} Attitudes ^{bn} Skills ^c	Improved norms towards reporting & responding to abuse ^{nca}	Child marriages	Improved mental well-being
				Gender and social norms are more supportive towards SRH rights of marginalised groups ^{nca}	Improved access to education, income & self-fulfilment	
COMMUNITIES	Listening Clubs			Improved SRH service delivery ^{ca}	Safer & more conducive environment in which to access comprehensive SRH services and support ^a	
	Community Theatre			More supportive local & national policy frameworks ^{ca}	Increased bodily autonomy	
POWER HOLDERS & SERVICE PROVIDERS	Theatre for Justice					VISION
	Legislative Theatre					
	Training partners in TfaC methodology				Improved treatment & respect for marginalised groups	An equal world, where everyone has choice and control over their bodies and can use their voices freely and without fear

ASSUMPTIONS: Conducive donor & policy environment, strong government relationships, access to participants, socio-political space to practise behaviours

SRH(R): Sexual & reproductive health (rights) GBV: Gender-based violence
 KEY: b Behavioural beliefs, n Normative beliefs, c Control beliefs, a Actual control

OUR IMPACT

We work at the intersection of gender, sex and power, taking on issues that are silenced or ignored.

BETWEEN APRIL 2025 AND MARCH 2026, WE:



Launched new Interactive Theatre for Advocacy projects with **14 PARTNERS** in Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe



Supported young leaders to set up **23 YOUTH THEATRE GROUPS** involving 564 young people in their communities



Provided health services to **2,115 WOMEN IN SEX WORK, 1,023 CLIENTS AND BAR OWNERS,** and **224 SEXUALLY EXPLOITED GIRLS** through our mobile health clinic during **25 OUTREACH VISITS** to hotspot areas within Lilongwe



Produced **26 LIVE INTERACTIVE RADIO DRAMA BROADCASTS** on reproductive health topics including fistula and unsafe abortion, receiving a total of **64,477 SMS MESSAGES FROM LISTENERS** and an average of **1.36 MILLION LISTENER IMPRESSIONS** (streaming, downloads, replays) per broadcast

Supported **40 HEALTH SURVEILLANCE ASSISTANTS** to develop positive and non-judgmental attitudes towards women in sex work when accessing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services



Hosted **42 YOUNG LEADERS** at our training facility in Lilongwe, equipping them with the skills to become Interactive Theatre producers and facilitators



Trained **20 PRISON WARDENS** on the mental and physical health needs of prison inmates

Equipped **80 WOMEN IN SEX WORK** and **20 DUTY BEARERS (POLICE AND SOCIAL WORKERS)** with the skills to identify and report children found living or working in bars, which resulted in **84 CHILDREN** being identified and removed from these conditions



Improved the self-reported well-being of prison populations in Lilongwe and Blantyre **BY 26%**

Engaged **24 PRISON INMATES** and **FIVE WOMEN IN SEX WORK** in a piece of research examining which faith-based approaches can be effective in supporting the mental health needs of inmates and women in sex work



Conducted **71 PERFORMANCES** that directly impacted **12,307 COMMUNITY MEMBERS** and **433 POLICY MAKERS** in **10 COUNTRIES**

Supported **41 INMATES** to form **24 PEER GROUPS** involving **510 PRISON INMATES** and facilitate workshops to improve their mental and physical health, including anti-retroviral therapy (ART) adherence among inmates living with HIV



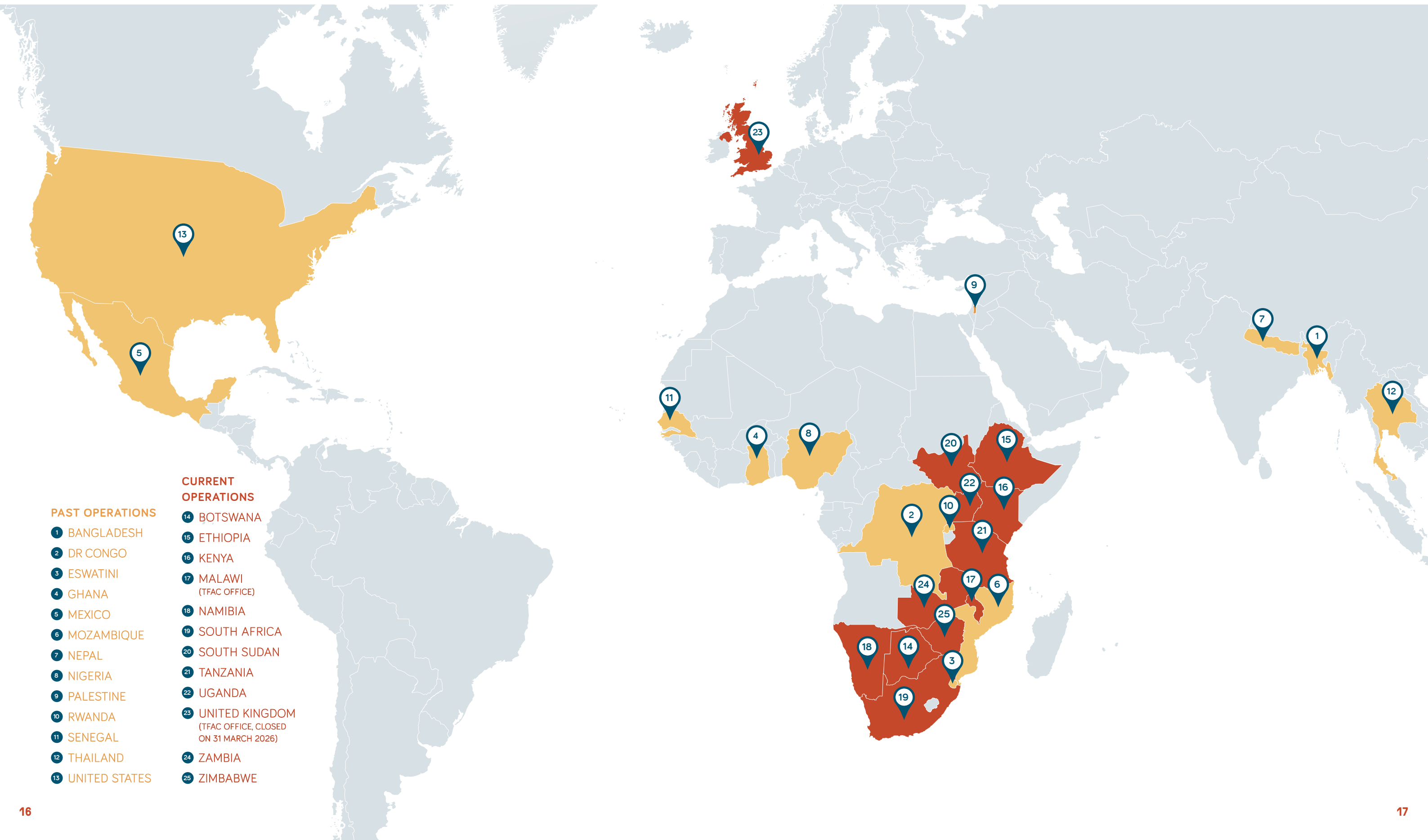
Enabled **15,989 WOMEN, GIRLS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS** to take part in Interactive Theatre focused on obstetric fistula, resulting in **91% OF AUDIENCE MEMBERS** having improved their knowledge about fistula prevention and available treatment



Trained **89 COMMUNITY MEMBERS** as radio listening club facilitators, who formed **57 LISTENING CLUBS** involving **1,710 FELLOW COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

AROUND THE WORLD

OUR GLOBAL IMPACT





Our Goal

is to improve the
sexual and reproductive
health of vulnerable and
marginalised women
and girls

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE ONE

Innovate, evidence and package our unique methodology, so that it is recognised and sought as an impactful approach for transforming unequal gender power dynamics.



LEARNING CIRCLES

The Learning Circles is a global learning group led by Theatre for a Change. The group is made up of 49 development practitioners from 26 organisations working across a range of thematic areas including health, education, governance, conservation and climate change.

The group has a specific focus on shifting power to local, grassroots organisations creating positive change in their communities. Learning topics include promoting locally-led approaches to development, climate change and environmental justice, power sharing in the donor-grantee relationship, and ways of assessing and measuring impact and trust between donors, NGOs, stakeholders and governments. The group uses tools from TfaC's methodology to explore these topics in fresh and innovative ways.

This year, we met in Puerto Ayora (the Galapagos), Ecuador, for a three-day Learning Retreat hosted by the Charles Darwin Foundation. We spent time together exploring our own experiences with power shifting over the years: what has worked, what hasn't worked, and what we think might work in the future.

We are now in the process of developing a new project to scale the Learning Circles model into some of the countries of group members, with a focus on learning topics that are of local concern in the communities where they live and work.

ARTISTIC EXCHANGE WITH OYO IN NAMIBIA

In June 2025, we hosted four artists from Ombetja Yehinga Organisation (OYO) in Malawi for a unique artistic exchange. OYO is a dance and movement-based organisation based in Namibia, and we were curious to see how their methodology could be infused with ours.

For five days, we experimented with ways to bring together Interactive Theatre, dance, movement and audience participation around themes of gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights. A new piece was showcased to audiences in Lilongwe at the end of the week.

We are grateful to the Institut Français for supporting this initiative.

PARTNER WITH US

We are always interested in developing new partnerships with like-minded organisations who share our values and goals. If you are an organisation interested in partnering with us, please reach out to us by email at info@tfacfrica.com.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TWO

Build and strengthen balanced and supportive partnerships with organisations in the Global South that improve the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls who have been marginalised.



BRIDGING HOPE: EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH OBSTETRIC FISTULA IN NKHOTAKOTA

TfaC, with support from UNFPA Malawi, implemented the Bridging Hope: Empowering Women and Girls with Obstetric Fistula in Nkhonkhotakota project to strengthen community knowledge, reduce stigma and promote support for women and girls affected by obstetric fistula. Building on earlier interventions, the project combined Interactive Radio Drama, live radio discussions and facilitated community dialogue to address fistula prevention, treatment, post-repair recovery and survivor reintegration.

At the heart of the intervention were 32 Community Listening Clubs operating across Nkhonkhotakota District. The clubs brought together 960 registered community members and were supported by 64 trained Agents of Change, including Health Surveillance Assistants and community volunteers. Through facilitated listening and dialogue, the clubs created safe spaces for communities to discuss obstetric fistula, challenge harmful beliefs and reflect on their collective role in supporting women and girls affected by the condition.

The project demonstrated measurable changes in knowledge and attitudes. Community knowledge of obstetric fistula

increased from 71% at baseline to 94% at endline, while positive attitudes towards survivors and their reintegration improved from 80% to 92%. By the end of the intervention, all participants assessed demonstrated an intention to refer women with fistula for medical care, protect women during the post-repair recovery period and challenge stigma, discrimination and social exclusion.

IMPROVING PRISONERS' HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Mental health needs within Malawi's prisons often go unnoticed and unsupported. Many prisoners experience depression, anxiety, trauma, isolation, and other mental health challenges, yet access to psychosocial and psychiatric care remains extremely limited. Those living with HIV and other vulnerabilities face even greater risks.

Through a European Union-funded partnership, Theatre for a Change is helping to improve the well-being of prisoners by establishing peer-led support groups, training prison wardens and inmates in mental health and psychological first aid, promoting HIV treatment adherence, and strengthening access to specialised care. By creating opportunities for support, connection, and rehabilitation, the project is helping to build healthier prison environments and restore hope for some of Malawi's most vulnerable populations.

FAITH AND MENTAL HEALTH: EXPLORING HOLISTIC SUPPORT FOR MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

Through a research grant from the Sir Halley Stewart Trust, TfaC explored how faith-based approaches can complement mental health curriculum design and strengthen support for marginalised groups, including inmates and women in sex work. The research examined practical ways in which faith, spirituality and mental health interventions can work together to provide more holistic and accessible support.

The study engaged religious leaders, 24 inmates and five women in sex work, generating insights into how approaches such as pastoral counselling, prayer, meditation, reflection and religious teachings can support people experiencing psychological and emotional distress. The findings showed that faith-based approaches can strengthen coping mechanisms, encourage behaviour change and reflection, promote self-disclosure and create safe, non-judgmental spaces where mental health challenges can be discussed more openly.

IMPROVING HIV TREATMENT ADHERENCE AND ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES FOR WOMEN IN SEX WORK IN LILONGWE

With support from the Mercury Phoenix Trust, TfaC implemented the Tipewe Project to address barriers to antiretroviral therapy (ART) adherence and improve access to sexual and reproductive health services for women in sex work in Lilongwe. The project delivered 25 Mobile Health Clinic outreaches in hotspot areas, bringing HIV testing and counselling, STI screening and treatment, family planning, health education, condom distribution and referral services directly to vulnerable communities.

The project reached 2,115 women in sex work and 1,023 male clients and bar owners, exceeding its targets. It also delivered 30 health education sessions, tested 250 people for HIV, and distributed over 500,000 male condoms, 4,375 female condoms and 21,000 lubricants. Recognising that stigma and discrimination remain major barriers to healthcare, TfaC worked closely with 40 Health Surveillance Assistants and 20 health workers to strengthen non-judgmental, confidential and client-centred service delivery. The project contributed to improved relationships and trust between women in sex work and healthcare providers, strengthening referrals and encouraging women to seek health services with greater confidence.

USING THEATRE TO MOBILISE COMMUNITIES TO PROTECT GIRLS FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Also with support from the Mercury Phoenix Trust, TfaC used Interactive Theatre and community dialogue to engage communities in Lilongwe on the protection of girls from sexual exploitation and abuse. For example, in Kauma, one of Lilongwe's identified hotspots, TfaC brought community members together through a theatre performance that explored the realities faced by girls exposed to bars and other high-risk environments. The performance created a safe and accessible space for community members to reflect on the causes and consequences of child sexual exploitation, the responsibilities of parents and caregivers, and the role that communities can play in protecting children.

LEGISLATIVE THEATRE FOR SAFE ABORTION ACCESS IN MALAWI

Also this year, TfaC delivered a Legislative Theatre session at the Parliament Building in Lilongwe, engaging Members of Parliament in dialogue on maternal health and public health policy. Through participatory theatre, Members of Parliament (MPs) stepped into real-life scenarios, explored the realities behind unsafe abortion, and reflected on the social, health, and legal implications affecting women and girls in Malawi.

With participation from key parliamentary committees, including Health, Gender, Legal Affairs, the Women's Caucus, and Social and Community Affairs, this session created a unique platform for open dialogue, empathy and policy reflection. We are proud to contribute to strengthening informed decision-making and advancing conversations that can improve health outcomes in Malawi at the national level.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE THREE

Create spaces for women and girls who have been marginalised to influence national and global decision makers, so that their sexual and reproductive health and rights are prioritised.



THE YALA PROJECT: OUR REGIONAL SCALE INITIATIVE

In April 2024, we launched a three-year regional scale project called YALA – the Young African Leaders Academy. The goal of YALA is to train the next generation of young sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) activists, equipping them with the skills and confidence to design and execute powerful advocacy interventions in their communities to advance the SRHR of adolescents and young people.

These interventions use TfaC’s Interactive Theatre methodology, which combines workshops and performances, to engage power holders and policymakers, influencing them to strengthen policies and laws that protect and support young people’s right to access lifesaving SRHR information and services.

This year saw 42 young people from 14 organisations travel to Malawi to receive training from the TfaC team. To be eligible for the training, participants had to be between the ages of 18 and 35, be active members of their organisation’s youth network, and demonstrate knowledge and experience of adolescent and youth SRHR issues within their communities. Previous experience in theatre or performance was not a prerequisite, reflecting YALA’s emphasis on lived experience and contextual knowledge as the most important tools for conducting impactful arts-based advocacy.

Over the course of several weeks, the young leaders developed their facilitation, leadership, story devising, performance and improvisational skills. Now the roll-out of Interactive Theatre work in all 10 countries is happening, with each organisation focusing on their own specific SRHR advocacy objectives. For example:

- In Ethiopia, the young leaders are advocating for policies that help to reduce early and unintended pregnancies, child marriage, HIV and gender-based violence.
- In South Africa, their advocacy work is pushing for policy reforms that address discrimination, hate crimes, and barriers to accessing SRHR services for LGBTIQ+ individuals.
- In Zimbabwe, they are challenging harmful gender norms in order to prevent early and unintended pregnancies and reduce gender-based violence.
- In South Sudan, their advocacy work highlights the impact of early marriage and sexual violence and coercion, and advocates for stronger legal protection and justice for survivors.



The 14 partner organisations that make up the YALA consortium are: **Afrika Tikkun** (South Africa), **Amref Health Africa** (Uganda), **Barefeet Theatre** (Zambia), **Family Welfare Association** (Botswana), **Femina Hip** (Tanzania), **My Age** (Zimbabwe), **Ombetja Yehinga Organisation** (Namibia),

Pangaea (Zimbabwe), **Plan International** (Ethiopia), **Red Cross Society** (Kenya), **Reproductive Health Association** (South Sudan), **S.A.F.E.** (Kenya), **Triangle Project** (South Africa) and **Umati** (Tanzania).



OUR FUTURE MAKING VOICES HEARD



The year ahead represents the beginning of a new chapter for Theatre for a Change as a locally-led organisation. Building on the strong foundations established during our transition, we will focus on expanding our impact, strengthening institutional resilience and deepening partnerships that enable sustainable social change.

Our priorities over the next 12 months include launching our new four-year Strategic Plan (2027-2030), strengthening governance systems, diversifying our funding base and investing in organisational sustainability. We will continue to grow our evidence generation and learning agenda while expanding programmes that promote sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, mental health, youth leadership and community participation.

We will also increase our engagement with government, civil society, academic institutions and development partners to influence policies and practices that improve the lives of women, girls and marginalised communities. Through innovation, participatory communication and locally-led solutions, we aim to amplify community voices and ensure they remain central to decision-making processes.

As we embrace this new era, we remain guided by our mission of empowering communities to create lasting social change through participatory approaches. We look forward with confidence, optimism and a renewed commitment to making a meaningful difference across Malawi and internationally.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

2025/2026

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW – YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

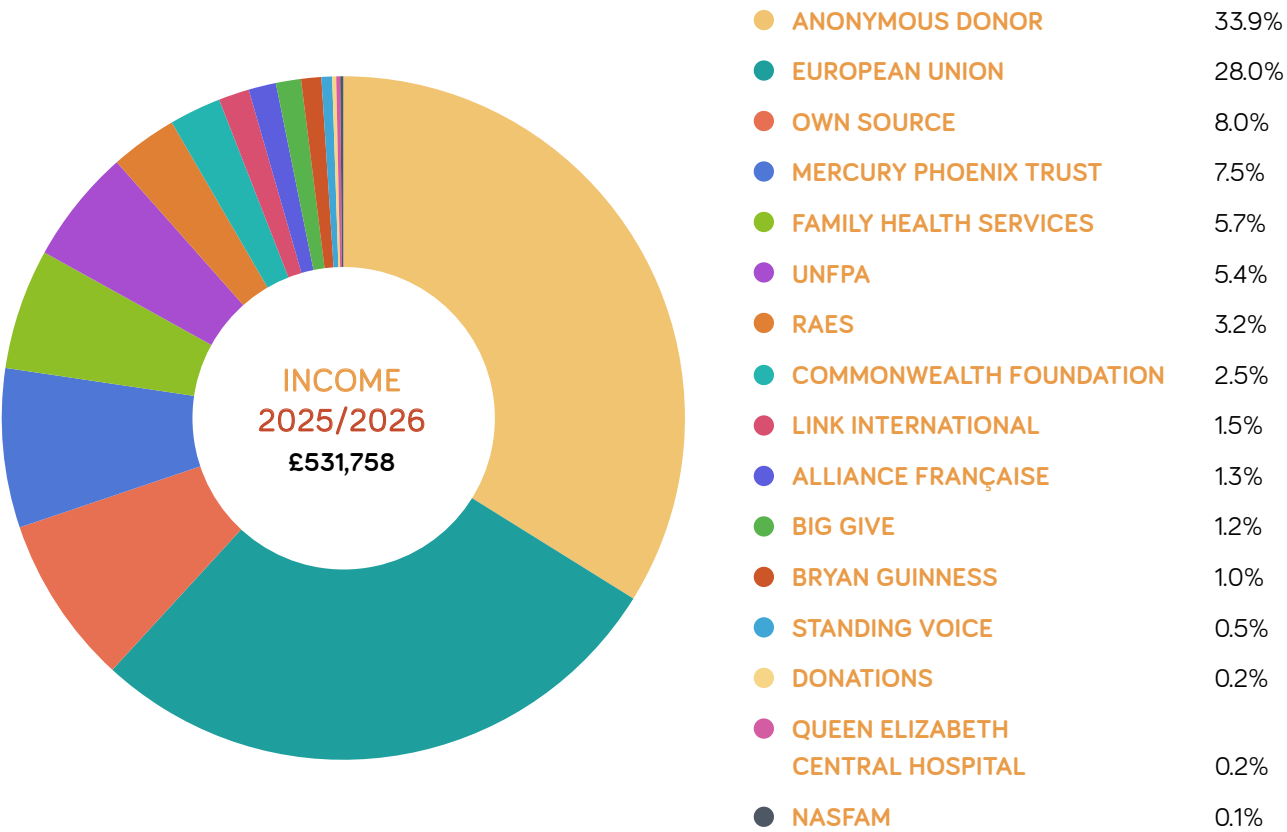
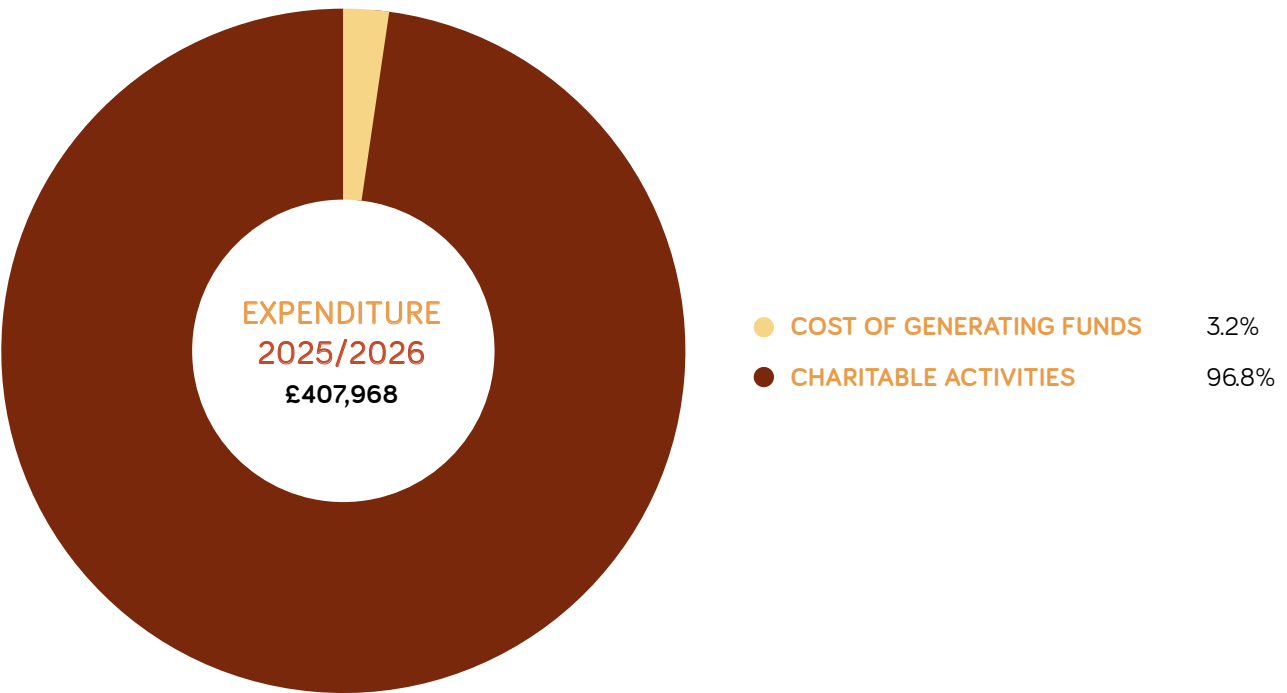
SUMMARY	GBP
Total Income	531,758
Total Expenditure	407,968
Net Movement / Surplus	123,790
Funds Brought Forward	320,075
Funds Carried Forward	443,865
Unrestricted Funds	72,042
Restricted Funds	371,824
Total Charity Funds	443,865

	Unrestricted Funds GBP	Restricted Funds GBP	Total Funds GBP
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Grants And Donations	15,786	515,972	531,758
Investment Income			-
Total Income	15,786	515,972	531,758

RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Expenditure On Charitable Activities	7,577	387,317	394,893
Cost Of Raising Funds	-	13,074	13,074
Total Expenditure	7,577	400,391	407,968

RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Net (expenditure) And Net Movement In Funds For The Year	8,210	115,581	123,790
Total Funds Brought Forward	63,832	256,243	320,075
Total Funds Carried Forward	72,042	371,824	443,865

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2026			
Current Assets	74,945	721,587	796,532
Current Liabilities	2,903	349,763	352,666
Net Current Assets	72,042	371,824	443,865
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	72,042	371,824	443,865



THANK YOU

TO OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

The achievements highlighted in this Annual Report have been made possible through the collective efforts of many individuals and organisations who share our commitment to creating positive social change.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our funding partners, whose continued investment enables us to deliver impactful programmes and strengthen our organisation. We are equally grateful to our government counterparts, civil society partners, academic institutions and community-based organisations for their collaboration, technical expertise and shared commitment to improving the lives of the communities we serve.

In particular we wish to thank:

ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH | ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE | ANONYMOUS FOUNDATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS | BIG GIVE | COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION | EUROPEAN UNION | FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES | FÓS FEMINISTA | IRISH RULE OF LAW INTERNATIONAL | LINK EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL | MERCURY PHOENIX TRUST | NASFAM | QUEEN ELIZABETH CENTRAL HOSPITAL | RAES | STANDING VOICE | UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO) | UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to the communities, participants, volunteers and local leaders who continue to engage with our programmes, share their experiences and inspire the work that we do. Their resilience, creativity and leadership remain at the heart of Theatre for a Change.

We also recognise the dedication of our Board of Trustees and staff, whose professionalism, passion and commitment have guided the organisation through a significant period of transition and growth.

Finally, we thank everyone who has walked alongside us as Theatre for a Change entered a new chapter as a locally-led organisation. Your trust, encouragement and partnership give us confidence as we continue working towards a more just, equitable and inclusive society. Together, we are creating lasting change.

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Femina Hip, Tanzania (p11, p25)

Namayingo Youth Forum, Uganda (p10)

Umati, Tanzania (p24)

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**“TfaC has taught me to stand
for what I believe in, and fight
for what I think is right”**

REFILWE LEGODI, TRIANGLE PROJECT