



Rafiki

HELPING CHILDREN
WITH BURNS e.V.

Report

Day of the African Child 2025
Friday, 13 June 2025

Nairobi County

Theme:
“Planning and Budgeting for Children’s Rights:
Progress Since 2010”

Acknowledgement and Appreciation for Support to the Day of the African Child 2025 Event.

Dear Rafiki Leadership Team,

We deeply appreciate the generous financial contribution of KES 139,820 from Rafiki Organization, which played a vital role in the success of the Day of the African Child 2025 commemoration held on 13th June 2025 in Mathare. Your support enabled us to create a safe, inclusive, and impactful event that celebrated children's voices especially those living with burn injuries and reaffirmed our collective commitment to their rights and well-being.

The impact of your contribution went beyond logistics. It demonstrated true partnership in our shared mission to uplift vulnerable children, amplify their voices, and advocate for a future where their rights are respected and resourced.

We particularly applaud Rafiki's leadership in not only financing but also championing participation, healing, and visibility for children often overlooked in mainstream programming. The event would not have been possible without your support, and we look forward to continuing this meaningful collaboration in future initiatives.

Once again, thank you for believing in the children of Mathare and for standing with them in such a powerful and tangible way.

Augustine Waziru



Introduction

The Day of the African Child (DAC) stands as a powerful continental moment of reflection, remembrance, and renewed commitment to child rights. Inspired by the brave stand taken by South African schoolchildren during the 1976 Soweto Uprising, DAC serves as an enduring call to honor the resilience of children and to address the ongoing barriers that prevent them from accessing quality education, health care, and protection. In 2025, under the African Union's theme "Planning and Budgeting for Children's Rights: Progress Since 2010," stakeholders across the continent came together to assess how far we have come and how far we still need to go in delivering on promises made to African children.

This local event was more than a symbolic gesture; it was an inclusive and participatory platform that brought burn survivors into public discourse and celebration, shifting the narrative from pity to pride, and from vulnerability to visibility. It also allowed the community to reflect on how budgeting decisions at both the county and national levels must intentionally include children with disabilities and medical conditions, if we are to achieve genuine progress.

This year's DAC was commemorated under the African Union's theme: "Planning and Budgeting for Children's Rights: Progress Since 2010." The theme called on governments, civil society, and communities to assess whether children's rights have been meaningfully prioritized in national and local budgets, policies, and planning frameworks. It challenged all stakeholders to evaluate whether commitments made over the past 15 years have translated into real impact, particularly for vulnerable and marginalized children.

For Rafiki, this year's DAC theme was especially personal. It pushed us to examine how national and county-level planning processes have included or neglected the unique needs of children with disabilities and visible injuries. In Kenya, burn injuries often carry stigma, lead to school dropout, and limited access to health services. Too often, these children are invisible in public conversations, school budgets, and social programs.

Objectives of the Event.

The 2025 Day of the African Child (DAC) commemorated nationally at Busara Primary School, Embakasi West was a powerful platform for Rafiki Helping Children with Burns Organization to advocate for greater recognition, support, and inclusion of children recovering from burn injuries. Guided by the African Union's theme, "Planning and Budgeting for Children's Rights: Progress Since 2010," Rafiki aligned its participation with its mission of ensuring that burn survivors are not left out of national policy, planning, or celebration.





Day of the African Child

Day of the African Child

Rafiki's engagement at the national event was structured around the following key objectives:

To honor the courage and resilience of children, especially those with burn injuries, Burn survivors carry not just physical scars but emotional ones, often facing stigma in schools and communities. By supporting their attendance, participation, and leadership during DAC activities, Rafiki aimed to highlight their strength and perseverance. Several children supported by Rafiki performed poems and songs, drawing wide applause and affirmation from the audience.

To educate the public on child protection, burn prevention, and safety - At the Busara event, Rafiki team members engaged parents, teachers, and local leaders through information booths and advocacy materials that shared practical first aid tips, safety awareness, and referral services. The visibility of this content supported a broader campaign to shift mindsets from reactive care to preventive planning and informed caregiving.

To offer children a platform for participation, expression, and advocacy -This year's DAC emphasized "Participation" an especially significant theme for burn survivors, whose voices are often silenced by shame or marginalization. With support from Rafiki, several children confidently performed spoken word pieces and joined panel discussions, sharing their experiences and perspectives on access to health and education. To strengthen public awareness and inclusive budgeting for children's rights- Rafiki used this platform to advocate for more deliberate budgeting at both county and national levels to support burn rehabilitation, inclusive education, and psychosocial services.



Event Overview.

The national Day of the African Child 2025 celebration at Busara Primary School was a vibrant, collaborative, and child-centered gathering that brought together a broad cross-section of stakeholders, from children's institutions and schools to national policymakers and civil society organizations. Rafiki Helping Children with Burns Organization played an active and visible role throughout the day.





Highlights of Rafiki's Participation.

Opening Procession: Rafiki team members proudly joined the community walk led by a marching band and county officials. Their presence helped spotlight children with disabilities and medical needs as an integral part of Kenya's child rights movement.

Creative Performances: Children supported by Rafiki delivered powerful spoken word, music, and dance pieces that addressed themes of pain, survival, hope, and dignity. These performances received standing ovations



Children's Panel Participation: One Rafiki child shared their journey of school reintegration post-injury, calling for better training for teachers and more understanding peers. Their contribution sparked meaningful engagement in the plenary session.

Engagement with Policymakers and CSOs: Rafiki team members used the sidelines of the event to network with government officers and peer organizations, advocating for burn-specific interventions to be reflected in future child health and education budgets.



Key Remarks.

“Today we celebrate not just being children, but being heard. This is our day. We thank everyone who believes our voices matter.” — Child MC, Opening Ceremony.

“Planning and budgeting for children’s rights means going beyond buildings and books. It’s about ensuring that children like those living with burn injuries have access to health, school, safety, and dignity.” — Local Government Representative.

“I was touched by the bravery in the poems and songs shared. These children have gone through so much, yet they still smile, perform, and teach us about resilience.” — Local Teacher.

“Let this be a model as we review our commitments under Vision 2030 and Kenya’s National Plan of Action for Children.” — Guest from Government Child Services.

Key Lessons Learned

Participating in the national Day of the African Child commemoration offered valuable insights that will shape how Rafiki Helping Children with Burns Organisation continues to serve children living with burn injuries. These lessons cut across program design, advocacy, and collaboration:

- **Inclusion Requires Intentional Support:** Burn survivors need emotional preparation and encouragement to participate confidently in public events.
- **Visibility Reduces Stigma:** Public recognition of children with burn injuries fosters acceptance and normalizes their presence in community spaces.
- **Collaboration Enhances Impact:** Cross-sector coordination between health, education, and child protection actors is essential for holistic child support.
- **Participation Fosters Healing:** Giving children a platform to express themselves builds confidence, restores self-worth, and supports emotional recovery.







Impact Summary.

The Day of the African Child 2025 left a lasting imprint on Rafiki-supported children and the broader child protection ecosystem. The following impacts were most notable:

- Empowered Children:** Burn survivors who once avoided the spotlight were center stage—performing, speaking, and smiling. This restored their self-confidence and sense of belonging.
- Stronger Advocacy:** Rafiki used the platform to influence decision-makers and remind stakeholders that children with medical vulnerabilities must be considered in child-focused budgets and planning.
- Community Education:** Dozens of families and caregivers walked away with new knowledge on burn prevention, emergency response, and children's rights, made accessible through and one-on-one engagements.
- Shifted Perceptions:** Children with burn injuries were seen as talented, articulate, and inspiring—not just as patients or dependents. This helped reshape public perceptions of disability and healing.



Next Steps

Building on the momentum from DAC 2025, Rafiki Helping Children with Burns Organization will undertake the following actions:

- Establish a Youth Advisory Circle: Composed of Rafiki-supported children, this group will help inform programming, participate in local forums, and mentor others navigating burn recovery.
- Launch a School Reintegration Pilot: Rafiki will collaborate with select Nairobi schools to implement a reintegration model for burn survivors, including teacher training, peer education, and counseling services.
- Develop a Burn Survivor Inclusion Policy Brief: Based on DAC feedback, Rafiki will compile a policy brief with recommendations for the Ministry of Health and Department of Children Services on budgeting for burn rehabilitation and psychosocial care in national plans.
- Document and Disseminate Stories: Stories and quotes from the event will be shared through Rafiki's digital channels and advocacy campaigns to continue raising visibility for children with burn injuries.
- Strengthen County Partnerships: Rafiki will work closely with Nairobi County Government to ensure burn prevention and response are integrated into upcoming Child Health and Disability Action Plans.

Conclusion.

The 2025 Day of the African Child was far more than a single-day celebration; it was a powerful reaffirmation that every child matters, regardless of their scars, challenges, or circumstances. It reminded us that children with visible or invisible wounds deserve not just care, but voice, dignity, and inclusion in the spaces where their futures are shaped. By standing in solidarity with children recovering from burn injuries at the national DAC celebration, Rafiki Helping Children with Burns Organization did more than raise awareness, it actively contributed to the national call for inclusive planning, equitable resource allocation, and justice-driven care.

