SEP, 2026 STOWELINK QUARTELY NEWSLETTER Vol 9 Issue 36
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Stowelink News

ABOUT US

Since 2016, we've worked with 80+ partners to deliver practical, community-first programs across 10 African countries through grassroots public health campaigns, health innovation and research, and policy advocacy across Africa maximizing impact with minimal cost, ensuring lasting change.

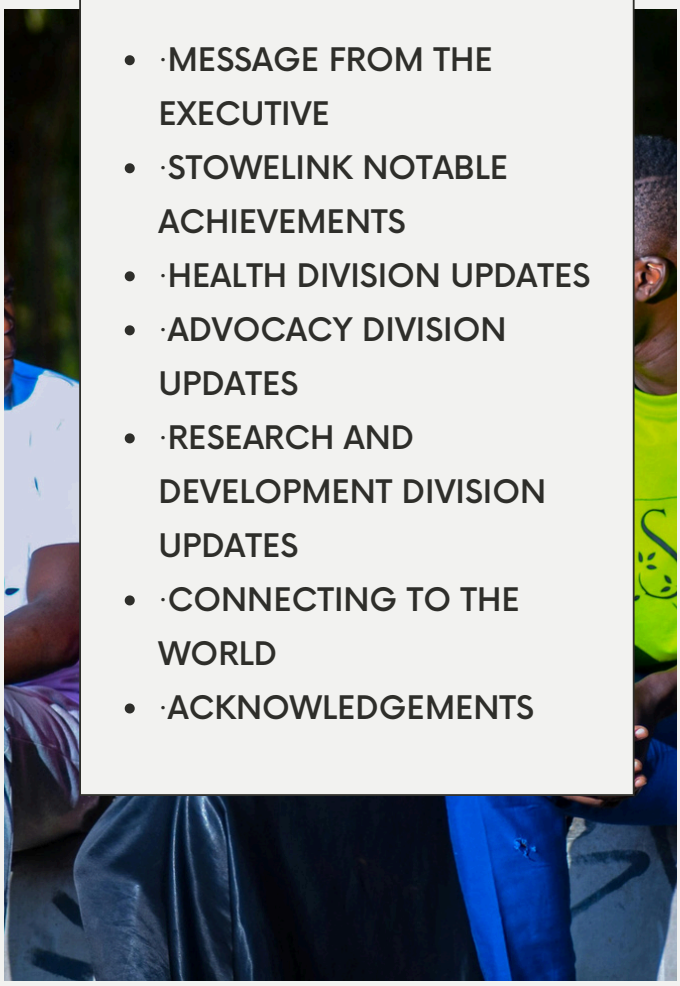
We focus on tackling the most pressing health challenges affecting youth and communities across Africa through evidence-based, youth-led interventions.

We focus on the major health priorities, including Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), sexual and reproductive health AND social behavior change. In achieving this objective we will address meaningful youth engagement in; health, and social inclusion; research learning and development; and health systems strengthening.

STOWELINK INC.
TRANSFORMING AND EMPOWERING LIVES

WHAT'S IN THIS QUARTER'S ISSUE:

- ·MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE
- ·STOWELINK NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS
- ·HEALTH DIVISION UPDATES
- ·ADVOCACY DIVISION UPDATES
- ·RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION UPDATES
- ·CONNECTING TO THE WORLD
- ·ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



OUR MISSION

To transform public health across Africa by equipping youth to lead powerful, innovative initiatives that promote health equity, prevent noncommunicable diseases and related public health challenges., and uplift entire communities.

OUR VISION

A global model for youth-led public health transformation in Africa and beyond.

Message From The Executive

I am pleased to share our latest Stowelink Quarterly Newsletter, highlighting the progress, partnerships, and youth-led action that shaped our public health work in the third quarter of 2026.

This edition reflects a quarter of strong engagement in national, regional, and global health conversations. From the Kenya Health Summit 2026 to the 81st United Nations General Assembly, our participation has continued to advance the case for stronger health systems, equitable obesity care, and greater prioritisation of non-communicable diseases.

We made important contributions to the growing conversation on obesity through our engagement at the International Congress on Obesity 2026 in Mexico, the World Obesity Federation's high-level roundtable at UNGA, and the cardiometabolic health forum.

Through these platforms, we continued to advocate for approaches that recognise obesity as a chronic disease, address weight stigma, and ensure that lived experience informs policy and healthcare delivery. Our engagement in Kenya's simplified nutrient profile model validation and the dialogue on front-of-pack warning labels also reflects our commitment to healthier food environments

Our tobacco control work remained equally active.

As we reflect on this quarter, we are reminded that meaningful public health progress requires sustained collaboration, credible evidence, strong advocacy, and the participation of communities most affected by health challenges. We remain committed to connecting these elements and ensuring that young people and lived experience have a meaningful place in shaping healthier futures.

Thank you to our partners, team, advocates, and communities for your continued support and commitment to this work.

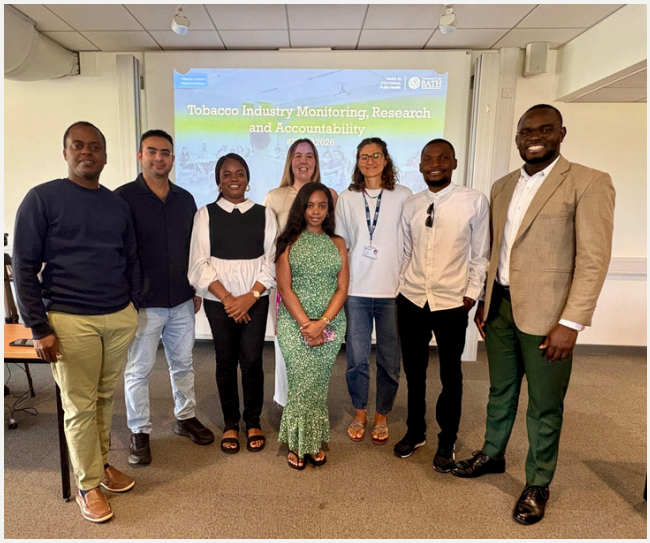


Stephen Ogweno- Founder and CEO

BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT OF THE QUARTER

OUR CHIEF PROGRAMS OFFICER REPRESENTS KENYA AT THE PRESTIGIOUS TIMRA2026 PROGRAMME AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BATH

We are therefore proud to celebrate the participation of our Chief Programs Officer, Oduor Kevin, in the Tobacco Industry Monitoring, Research and Accountability (TIMRA2026) programme hosted by the Tobacco Control Research Group (TCRG) at the University of Bath, United Kingdom.



Notable Achievements Of The Quarter



STOWELINK FOUNDATION CELEBRATES OGWENO STEPHEN'S RECOGNITION AT ICO 2026

Stowelink Foundation is proud to celebrate the recognition of its Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Ogweno Stephen, at the International Congress on Obesity 2026 in Mexico City, where he was recognised with the Emerging Leaders in Health Award and received a Presidential Recognition Award.

The recognition marks an important moment not only for Ogweno personally, but for Stowelink Foundation and the wider community of young African public health advocates working to change how obesity and non-communicable diseases are understood and addressed.

STOWELINK FOUNDATION JOINS UNGA81 CARDIOMETABOLIC HEALTH FORUM TO CHAMPION EQUITABLE OBESITY CARE AND LIVED EXPERIENCE

Stowelink Foundation participated in the Accelerating Progress in Global Cardiometabolic Health forum at Devex Impact House in New York during the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA81), contributing an African public health and lived-experience perspective to discussions on obesity, diabetes and equitable access to treatment.



Health Division Updates

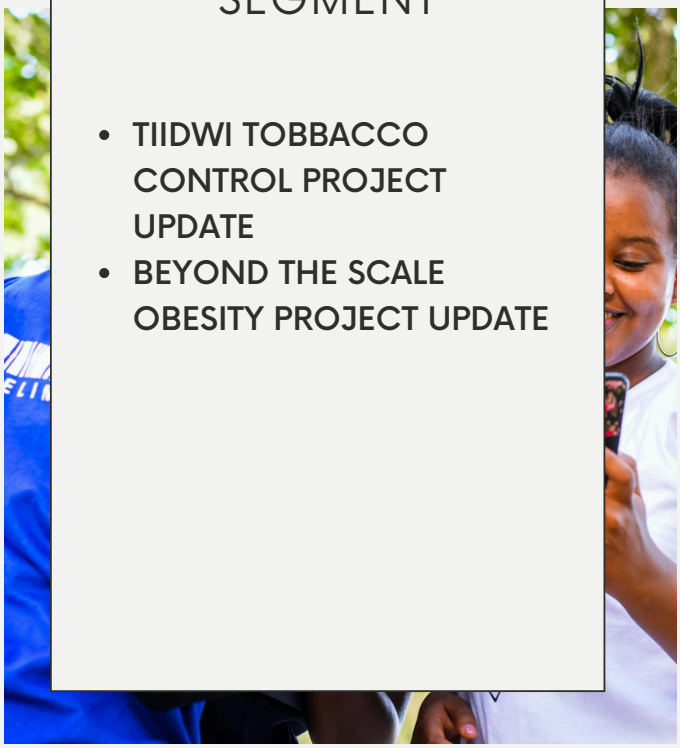
ABOUT THE DIVISION

Under this division, our primary focus is to implement relevant health programs to serve our community. We primarily aim at making information and diagnostic services on non-communicable diseases available to ALL at ALL times in RELEVANT formats but also focus on the other components in our behavior change communication that include Mental Health, Drugs and Substance Abuse and Sexual and Reproductive Health.

We mainly focus on preventive primary healthcare by providing health education and diagnostic services. Our vision in this division is to ensure that the communities we serve live a healthy and productive life.

WHAT'S IN THIS SEGMENT

- TIIDWI TOBBACCO CONTROL PROJECT UPDATE
- BEYOND THE SCALE OBESITY PROJECT UPDATE



BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT OF THE QUARTER

STOWELINK FOUNDATION REACHES OVER 10,000 LEARNERS THROUGH THE CHILDREN AS HEALTH CHAMPIONS INITIATIVE

At Stowelink Foundation, we believe that children are not only beneficiaries of health education but powerful agents of change capable of transforming the health of their families, schools, and communities. This belief is at the heart of the Children as Health Champions Project, an innovative initiative being implemented in partnership with Children for Health (CfH) United Kingdom. Since its launch, the initiative has successfully engaged 10 schools across Kenya, directly reaching more than 10,000 learners and laying the foundation for long-term improvements in children's health literacy.



TIIDWI TOBBACCO CONTROL PROJECT UPDATE

ABOUT PROJECT

The Stowelink Tobacco Industry Interference Digital Watch Initiative (TIIDWI) is a public health advocacy effort to monitor and counter tactics used by the tobacco industry in Kenya. The initiative uses digital tools to track, expose, and amplify narratives that weaken tobacco control policies.

Key activities and objectives

- Monitors industry interference: TIIDWI tracks industry messaging, such as the use of harm reduction arguments, particularly for new and emerging nicotine products like vapes and nicotine pouches. It uses digital platforms, including Google Alerts, to flag pro-tobacco industry articles and counter them.
- Exposes deceptive tactics: The initiative exposes tactics such as forming new lobby groups (e.g., the Novel Tobacco Products Association in Kenya) and co-opting proxies, including ex-smokers or youth groups, to promote industry-aligned narratives.
- Mobilizes advocates: TIIDWI works to equip a new generation of youth advocates with the tools and knowledge to push back against industry influence. In June 2025, for example, Stowelink hosted a masterclass for young professionals covering tobacco industry tactics and advocacy strategies.
- Counters misinformation: It challenges narratives used to delay or derail crucial tobacco control policies. For instance, TIIDWI flagged efforts to undermine the Tobacco Control (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which seeks to regulate new nicotine products.
- Drives policy change: By generating and publicizing evidence, the initiative supports policy-making that prioritizes public health. A key focus has been advocating for stronger measures, such as the 2025 Graphic Health Warnings for tobacco products, and resisting industry pressure to delay implementation.

STOWELINK LAUNCHES NEW TIIDWI VIDEO SERIES

YOUNG VOICES AGAINST TOBACCO INDUSTRY INTERFERENCE

Youth advocates are speaking out about tobacco industry tactics, digital marketing and the health of a new generation

Stowelink Foundation has released a new series of videos featuring young advocates speaking about tobacco use, tobacco industry interference and the impact of tobacco and nicotine products on young people's health.

The video series forms part of Stowelink's Tobacco Industry Interference Digital Watch Initiative (TIIDWI), a flagship tobacco control advocacy project focused on tracking, documenting and challenging tobacco industry interference and misleading narratives.



Through the voices of young people, the series brings the issue closer to the communities most affected by tobacco industry strategies and asks an important question: Who gets to shape the health choices of the next generation?

Giving Young People a Voice

For Stowelink, tobacco control is not only a policy issue. It is a youth health issue.
Young people are increasingly exposed to sophisticated marketing, digital content and narratives designed to influence how tobacco and nicotine products are perceived. This makes it increasingly important for young people to understand how these tactics work and to have the confidence to challenge them.
The new videos provide a platform for Stowelink's youth advocates to share their own views on tobacco use and the tobacco industry.
They speak about why they oppose tobacco use, why industry influence matters and why protecting young people's health requires stronger public health action.
Their participation reflects Stowelink's broader commitment to youth leadership in public health advocacy.





The Digital Space Is Changing Tobacco Marketing

Digital platforms have transformed the way companies and other actors can communicate with young audiences.
Social media, influencers, online communities and rapidly changing digital trends create new opportunities for tobacco and nicotine products to gain visibility.
This makes digital monitoring an increasingly important part of tobacco control.
Through TIIDWI, Stowelink is building capacity to monitor tobacco-related narratives and identify emerging forms of industry influence in digital spaces.
The initiative also supports evidence-based advocacy that can help counter misleading messages before they become normalized.

TIIDWI SHOWCASED GLOBALLY

STOWELINK AT TIMRA 2026 PROGRAMME AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BATH - UK

At Stowelink Foundation, we believe that investing in people is one of the most effective ways of advancing public health. We are therefore proud to celebrate the participation of our Chief Programs Officer, Oduor Kevin, in the Tobacco Industry Monitoring, Research and Accountability (TIMRA2026) programme hosted by the Tobacco Control Research Group (TCRG) at the University of Bath, United Kingdom.

The prestigious international programme brought together tobacco control researchers and advocates from around the world with a shared goal of strengthening global capacity to monitor, investigate, and expose tobacco industry activities that undermine public health policies. Oduor represented Kenya among a select group of participants, demonstrating the growing recognition of Kenya's contribution to global tobacco control efforts.





SHARING KENYA'S EXPERIENCE

Beyond participating in the training, our Chief Programs Officer had the opportunity to present one of Stowelink Foundation's flagship tobacco control initiatives—the Tobacco Industry Interference Digital Watch Initiative (TIIDWI).

The presentation highlighted the project's journey, including its objectives, implementation approach, key milestones, successes, and the challenges encountered while monitoring tobacco industry interference in Kenya. The session provided an opportunity to showcase how digital tools and youth-led advocacy can strengthen transparency and accountability in tobacco control.

Sharing Kenya's experience also enabled meaningful exchange with fellow participants from different countries, creating opportunities to learn from diverse contexts while contributing valuable lessons from the Kenyan tobacco control landscape.

STOWELINK FOUNDATION'S CPO PARTICIPATES IN THE ASCEND WORKSHOP IN BANGKOK

Stowelink Foundation is pleased to celebrate the participation of our Chief Programs Officer, Oduor Kevin, in the ASCEND Workshop held in Bangkok, Thailand.

The workshop is part of ASCEND: Leadership Development for the Future of Tobacco Control, a program of the Institute for Global Tobacco Control (IGTC) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. The program seeks to develop and strengthen the leadership skills of tobacco control professionals from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) with the highest burden of tobacco-related death and disease.

During the week-long workshop, participants strengthened their skills in strategic leadership, systems thinking, stakeholder engagement, tobacco industry interference, policy advocacy, storytelling, litigation, and evidence-informed decision-making. Through practical group exercises and collaboration with peers from across the globe, the workshop equipped participants with tools to drive stronger tobacco control action in their respective countries.





WHAT THESE MEAN FOR US.

For Stowelink Foundation, this investment in leadership is an investment in our mission. The knowledge, skills, and global networks gained through the ASCEND Workshop will strengthen our tobacco control programmes, enhance our advocacy efforts, and support the design and implementation of evidence-informed initiatives that protect communities from the harms of tobacco.

We congratulate Oduor Kevin on successfully completing the ASCEND Workshop and wish him every success as he continues with the broader ASCEND Leadership Program. We are confident that the experience will further strengthen his leadership and contribute to advancing Stowelink Foundation's vision of a healthier, tobacco-free future for all.

BEYOND THE SCALE OBESITY PROJECT UPDATE

INTRODUCTION

The Beyond the Scale Project represents a strategic evolution in how Stowelink Foundation approaches obesity prevention, treatment literacy, and policy advocacy in Kenya and across Africa. Moving beyond conventional awareness campaigns, the initiative is designed as a multi-phase, systems-oriented intervention that places lived experience, youth leadership, and evidence-based engagement at the center of national and regional responses to obesity.

As obesity continues to drive the burden of non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular conditions, diabetes, and metabolic disorders, the need for integrated, stigma-free, and policy-aligned interventions has become increasingly urgent. Beyond the Scale responds to this need by bridging community engagement, digital innovation, and high-level advocacy.

STRATEGIC VISION AND GOALS

The overarching goal of Beyond the Scale is to strengthen Kenya's obesity response ecosystem through coordinated, youth-led, and evidence-informed interventions. The project seeks to shift public understanding of obesity from a narrow focus on body weight to a broader recognition of its biological, social, and systemic determinants.

Key objectives include increasing public literacy on obesity prevention and treatment, reducing stigma and misinformation, and elevating lived-experience voices in national and global health conversations. A central pillar of the initiative is ensuring that individuals directly affected by obesity are not only beneficiaries of interventions but active leaders in shaping solutions and influencing policy.
The project is also designed to contribute to long-term systems change by informing national health strategies, supporting universal health coverage priorities, and aligning with global frameworks on non-communicable diseases

PROGRAM DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

Beyond the Scale is structured as a phased intervention, with each phase building on the previous to create a coherent pathway from awareness to sustained policy impact.
The first phase focuses on community education through culturally relevant tools and participatory engagement methods aimed at reducing stigma and improving foundational knowledge. This is followed by a national storytelling and media phase, which amplifies lived experiences and normalizes public dialogue around obesity.
Subsequent phases introduce structured treatment literacy initiatives, including education on lifestyle interventions and emerging medical options. This is complemented by the establishment of a Lived-Experience Advocacy Academy, which equips youth and community members with the skills to engage policymakers and participate in national health discourse.
The final phase integrates digital platforms and mobile engagement tools to sustain participation, generate real-time insights, and support adaptive programming. This design ensures that the project is not only impactful in the short term but also scalable and sustainable over time.

LIVED EXPERIENCE AND GLOBAL ALIGNMENT

A defining feature of Beyond the Scale is its emphasis on lived-experience leadership, guided by the expertise and advocacy of Ogweno Stephen. Through his role as a trustee at the World Obesity Federation and participation in technical processes linked to the World Health Organization, the project is anchored in both global best practice and local relevance.

This dual positioning enables Stowelink to translate global guidance into contextually appropriate interventions while ensuring that African perspectives and experiences are represented in international policy spaces.

QUARTER THREE MILESTONES

AFRICA NCDS CHAMPIONS PODCAST FEATURES 3 EPISODES ON OBESITY & WEIGHT

The Africa NCDs Champions Podcast provided an additional platform for advancing the objectives of Beyond the Scale through conversations on weight, body image, food and obesity stigma. The following three episodes are particularly relevant to the initiative, bringing together personal perspectives and public health advocacy to encourage more informed and compassionate conversations about obesity.

1. The Weight Craze in the Community | Veronicah Mumbi

This episode examines how weight, body image and social expectations influence conversations about health. Through a discussion with Veronicah Mumbi, the conversation considers how communities understand weight and obesity, and why more informed, compassionate approaches are needed to address weight-related stigma.

2. Healing Your Relationship With Food | Cynthia Wamboi

Cynthia Wamboi joins Ogweno Stephen for a conversation about people's relationships with food. The episode explores the emotional, social and behavioural dimensions of eating, encouraging audiences to move beyond simplistic messages about diet and weight towards a more balanced understanding of food and wellbeing.

3. Life Beyond Obesity and Weight Stigma | Mary Mwihaki

Mary Mwihaki joins the podcast to discuss life beyond obesity and weight stigma. The conversation challenges the tendency to define people by their body size and highlights the importance of dignity, empathy and person-centred approaches to obesity prevention and care.





Contribution to Beyond the Scale

Together, these three episodes complement Beyond the Scale's commitment to changing how obesity is understood and discussed. They address different but interconnected dimensions of the obesity experience: community perceptions and body image, the emotional and behavioural relationship with food, and the impact of weight stigma on individuals.

The conversations reinforce the initiative's central message that obesity advocacy must go beyond weight-focused messaging. Public education should promote evidence-based understanding, respect lived experience and encourage supportive environments in which people can pursue better health without discrimination or judgment.

Through the Africa NCDs Champions Podcast, Stowelink Foundation continues to use accessible storytelling and expert-led conversations to broaden public understanding of obesity and strengthen dialogue around healthier living.



PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON OBESITY 2026

15–17 JULY 2026 · MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

Stowelink Foundation was represented at the International Congress on Obesity (ICO) 2026 by Ogweno Stephen and Oduor Kevin. The congress brought together researchers, clinicians, policymakers, civil society organisations and people with lived experience to discuss developments in obesity prevention, treatment and policy.

Several contributions during the congress aligned closely with the objectives of Beyond the Scale:

- **Equitable access to obesity treatment:** Ogweno Stephen participated in a satellite symposium co-hosted by the Medicines Patent Pool, World Obesity Federation, International Diabetes Federation and World Heart Federation. He highlighted the importance of recognising obesity as a chronic disease, addressing stigma and ensuring that people in low- and middle-income countries can access appropriate treatment.
- **WHO Acceleration Plan to Stop Obesity:** He moderated a WHO-UNICEF side event examining progress in implementing the WHO Acceleration Plan, including health-system preparedness, person-centred care, civil society engagement and progress towards global obesity targets.
- **Lived experience in obesity policy:** Discussions reinforced the importance of including people living with obesity in research, policy development and the design of healthcare services.
- **Healthier food environments:** Observations of Mexico's front-of-pack warning labels provided an opportunity to reflect on how evidence-based food policies can support informed consumer choices and healthier food environments, with lessons relevant to Kenya.

These engagements strengthened the connection between Stowelink's community-level advocacy and international discussions on equitable obesity care. They also provided opportunities to build relationships with global organisations and advocates working to improve obesity prevention and management.





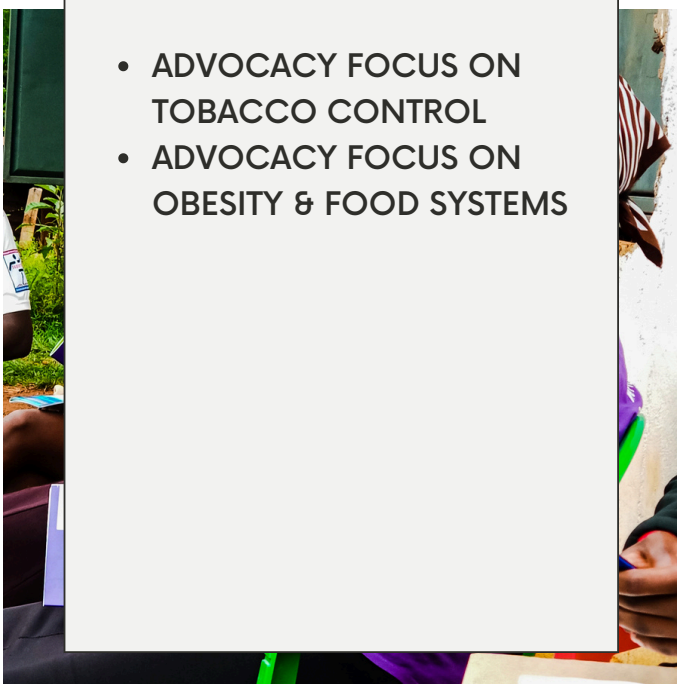
Advocacy Division Updates

ABOUT THE DIVISION

The Stowelink advocacy division focuses all issues advocacy. This division aims at addressing and contributing actively to the key advocacy asks that are in line with our organizations values and missions. More than that ,the advocacy decision is also responsible for the media and communication features of the organization ensuring that the organization is positioned correctly in the public.

WHAT'S IN THIS SEGMENT

- ADVOCACY FOCUS ON TOBACCO CONTROL
- ADVOCACY FOCUS ON OBESITY & FOOD SYSTEMS



STOWELINK FOUNDATION PARTICIPATES IN WORLD OBESITY FEDERATION UNGA HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE ON OBESITY AND HEALTH SYSTEMS IN NEW YORK

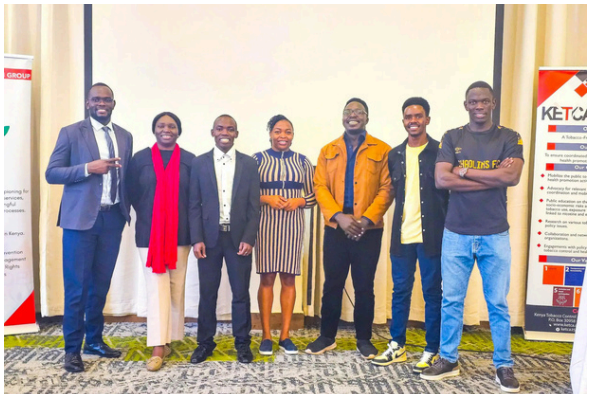
Stowelink Foundation participated in the World Obesity Federation's high-level breakfast roundtable, Obesity, Health Systems and Sustainable Development, held on 23 September 2026 during the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA81) in New York. The meeting brought together government representatives, global health leaders, civil society organisations, researchers and international partners to discuss how obesity can be better integrated into health systems and global sustainable development priorities.



ADVOCACY FOCUS ON TOBACCO CONTROL

STOWELINK FOUNDATION JOINS KETCA YOUTH TRAINING ON TOBACCO INDUSTRY MONITORING AND DIGITAL ADVOCACY IN KENYA





Stowelink Foundation participated in a two-day youth tobacco control training organised by the Kenya Tobacco Control and Health Promotion Alliance (KETCA). The training brought together young advocates from five partner organisations to strengthen their capacity in systematic monitoring of tobacco industry interference, tobacco control policy and digital advocacy.

Stowelink Foundation was represented by five young advocates, alongside its Chief Executive Officer, Ogweno Stephen and Chief Programs Officer Oduor Kevin. Their participation reflects the Foundation's continued commitment to equipping young people with the knowledge and practical skills to contribute to tobacco control and broader non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention efforts in Kenya.

The training focused on moving youth engagement beyond general awareness towards practical, evidence-based advocacy. Participants explored how tobacco industry activities can influence public health policies, how such activities can be monitored and documented, and how digital tools can support stronger public health accountability.

STOWELINK FOUNDATION SUPPORTS CAPACITY BUILDING IN TOBACCO INDUSTRY MONITORING





Stowelink Foundation continues to strengthen youth leadership in tobacco control by sharing practical skills that improve monitoring and accountability.

Our Chief Programs Officer recently facilitated a practical session during the Youth Champions Training on Systematic Monitoring of Tobacco Industry Interference organized by the Kenya Tobacco Control Alliance (KETCA).

The training drew from lessons our CPO learned during TIMRA2026, an international course hosted by the Tobacco Control Research Group at the University of Bath. Participants were introduced to practical investigative tools including Google Advanced Search, Google Alerts, Wayback Machine, LinkedIn, and PhotoVoice.

STOWELINK FOUNDATION JOINS LAUNCH OF NATIONAL YOUTH COALITION FOR TOBACCO CONTROL IN KENYA





Stowelink Foundation joined youth-led and youth-focused organisations on 26 August 2026 for the launch of the National Youth Coalition for Tobacco Control, a new platform bringing together young people and civil society organisations to strengthen tobacco control advocacy, policy engagement and legislative action in Kenya.

Representing Stowelink Foundation at the launch was its Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Ogweno Stephen, whose work has consistently focused on youth leadership, non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention and public health advocacy.

The launch marked an important step towards building a more coordinated youth movement capable of influencing tobacco control policies, raising public awareness and holding decision-makers accountable for protecting public health.

ADVOCACY FOCUS ON OBESITY & FOOD SYSTEMS

STOWELINK FOUNDATION PARTICIPATES IN KELIN DIALOGUE AND DEMONSTRATION ON FRONT-OF-PACK WARNING LABELS IN KENYA





On 18 August 2026, Stowelink Foundation participated in a national dialogue convened by the Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network on HIV and AIDS (KELIN) to discuss healthy food environment policies in Kenya and the role of front-of-pack warning labels in preventing obesity and other noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

Team Stowelink Foundation joined community representatives, civil society organisations, technical experts and other stakeholders to examine Kenya's proposed black octagonal front-of-pack warning labels. The dialogue provided an opportunity to understand the evidence informing the labelling approach and see how the proposed warnings could appear on everyday packaged food products.

The engagement highlighted the importance of translating nutrition policy discussions into practical interventions that help consumers make informed decisions and support healthier food environments.

STOWELINK FOUNDATION PARTICIPATES IN VALIDATION WORKSHOP FOR KENYA'S SIMPLIFIED NUTRIENT PROFILE MODEL

On 17 September 2026, Stowelink Foundation participated in the Validation Workshop for the Simplified Kenya Nutrient Profile Model, convened by the Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network on HIV and AIDS (KELIN). The workshop brought together policymakers, researchers, civil society organisations and other stakeholders to review the proposed model and assess its relevance to Kenya's food policy and public health priorities.



Team Stowelink Foundation, joined discussions on how nutrient profiling can strengthen evidence-informed food policies, improve consumer information and support healthier food environments. The engagement reflects Stowelink's continued work in obesity prevention, non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention and public health advocacy in Kenya.



As the Foundation continues its work in public health advocacy, it remains important to move beyond conversations about individual choices and address the systems that influence health. Building healthier communities requires building healthier food environments. Through evidence, meaningful policy engagement and collective action, Kenya has an opportunity to strengthen its response to obesity and diet-related NCDs

STOWELINK FOUNDATION JOINS UNGA81 CARDIOMETABOLIC HEALTH FORUM TO CHAMPION EQUITABLE OBESITY CARE AND LIVED EXPERIENCE

Stowelink Foundation participated in the Accelerating Progress in Global Cardiometabolic Health forum at Devex Impact House in New York during the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA81), contributing an African public health and lived-experience perspective to discussions on obesity, diabetes and equitable access to treatment.



Stowelink Foundation joined global health leaders at the Accelerating Progress in Global Cardiometabolic Health forum during the 81st United Nations General Assembly in New York. Hosted by Devex in partnership with Lilly at Devex Impact House, the session brought together representatives from government, industry, civil society and global health institutions to examine how the world can accelerate progress in preventing and managing cardiometabolic diseases.



STOWELINK FOUNDATION PARTICIPATES IN WORLD OBESITY FEDERATION UNGA HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE ON OBESITY AND HEALTH SYSTEMS IN NEW YORK





Stowelink Foundation participated in the World Obesity Federation's high-level breakfast roundtable, Obesity, Health Systems and Sustainable Development, held on 23 September 2026 during the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA81) in New York.

Representing Stowelink Foundation was its Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Ogweno Stephen, who contributed a lived-experience perspective to discussions on obesity prevention, treatment, health equity and access to dignified, evidence-based care. Drawing on his experience of growing up with obesity in Kenya, he highlighted the importance of building health systems that recognise obesity early, address stigma and ensure that people can access appropriate care regardless of where they live or what they can afford.

The roundtable was an important opportunity to connect global obesity policy discussions with the realities experienced by people living with obesity, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

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Reseach & Development Division Updates

ABOUT THE DIVISION

Stowelink Research and Innovation Segment showcase research work, innovative activities and publications that have been conducted by Stowelink or its executive that is related to the work that we do

WHAT'S IN THIS SEGMENT

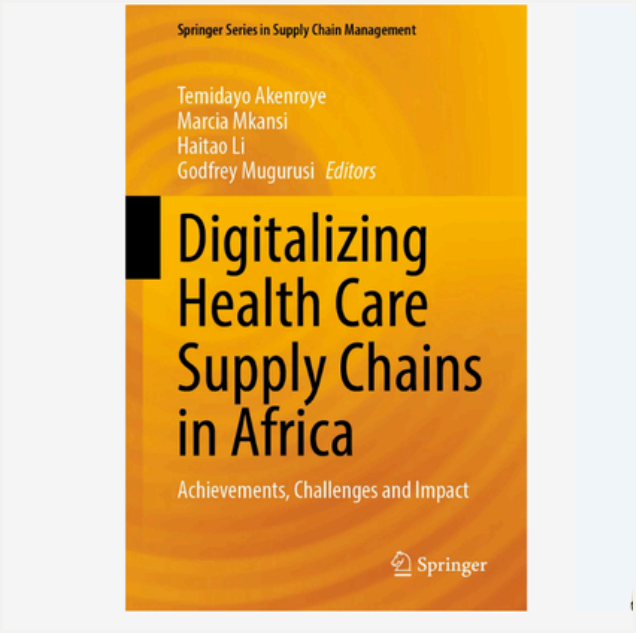
- NEW BOOK CHAPTER CONTRIBUTION TO SPRINGER.



BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT OF THE QUARTER

NEW BOOK CHAPTER CONTRIBUTION TO SPRINGER NOW AVAILABLE FOR PRE-ORDER

Stowelink has contributed a book chapter to the forthcoming publication Digitalizing Health Care Supply Chains in Africa: Achievements, Challenges and Impact, published by Springer.



NEW BOOK CHAPTER CONTRIBUTION TO SPRINGER NOW AVAILABLE FOR PRE-ORDER

This upcoming book brings together leading scholars and practitioners to explore how digital and innovative technologies are transforming health supply chains across Africa. While digital health systems have significantly improved efficiency and visibility in high-income countries, this publication critically examines what it takes to successfully adapt, implement, and scale these solutions within African health systems.

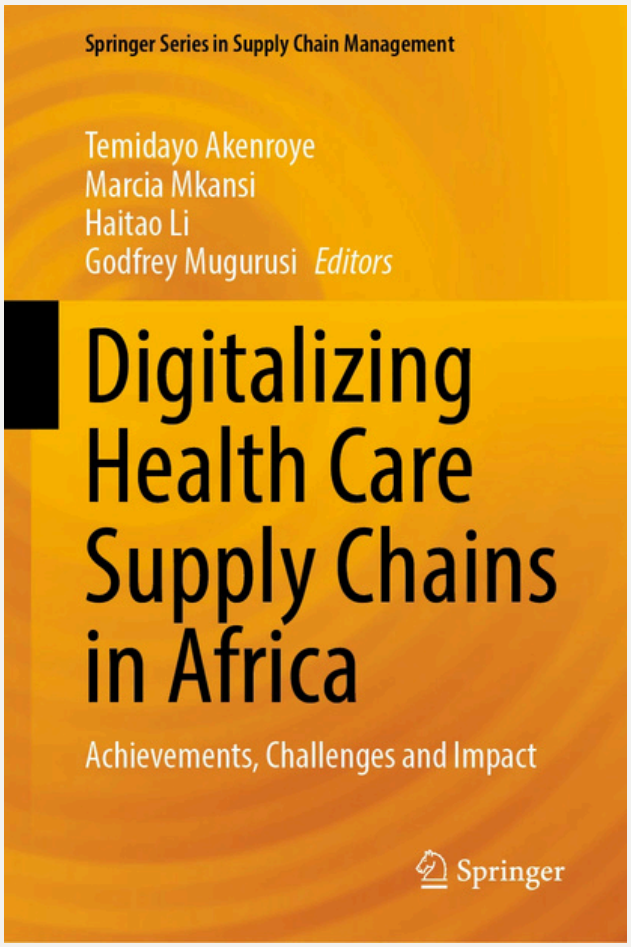
Through real-world case studies and cross-country insights, the book highlights both the successes and challenges of digital transformation, offering practical lessons on what works, what fails, and why. It provides a comprehensive resource for policymakers, researchers, NGOs, and health system leaders working to strengthen healthcare delivery across the continent.

Our contribution reflects this growing role at the intersection of health systems, innovation, and policy in Africa. Full details of his chapter will be shared upon the book's official release.

The book is scheduled for release on 24 May 2026 and is now available for pre-order:

https://link.springer.com/book/9783032205001

This marks an important milestone in advancing African-led thought leadership on digital health systems and equitable healthcare transformation.







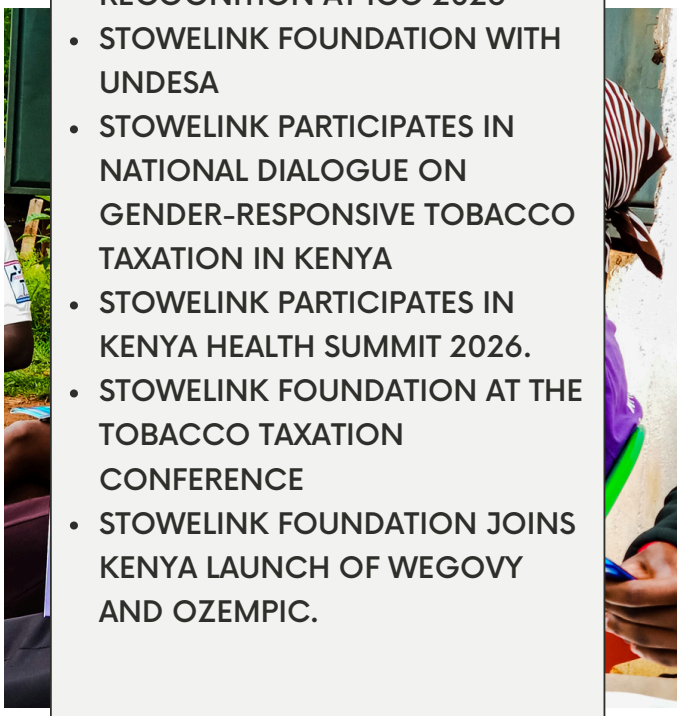
Stowelink Connecting to the world

ABOUT THE DIVISION

This segment demonstrate our passion to connect with the world while promoting NCDs Advocacy. Our team is keen on reaching the world audience with active NCDs work that aims at promoting NCDs Literacy and contributing to the NCDs knowledge gap across the globe. We leverage the strength of social media and our networks to work with world advocates and leaders to have maximum impact on the community that we endeavor to serve.

WHAT'S IN THIS SEGMENT

- STOWELINK FOUNDATION RECOGNITION AT ICO 2026
- STOWELINK FOUNDATION WITH UNDESA
- STOWELINK PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON GENDER-RESPONSIVE TOBACCO TAXATION IN KENYA
- STOWELINK PARTICIPATES IN KENYA HEALTH SUMMIT 2026.
- STOWELINK FOUNDATION AT THE TOBACCO TAXATION CONFERENCE
- STOWELINK FOUNDATION JOINS KENYA LAUNCH OF WEGOVY AND OZEMPIC.





STOWELINK FOUNDATION CELEBRATES OGWENO STEPHEN'S RECOGNITION AT ICO 2026

Stowelink Foundation is proud to celebrate the recognition of its Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Ogweno Stephen, at the International Congress on Obesity 2026 in Mexico City, where he was recognised with the Emerging Leaders in Health Award and received a Presidential Recognition Award.

The recognition marks an important moment not only for Ogweno personally, but for Stowelink Foundation and the wider community of young African public health advocates working to change how obesity and non-communicable diseases are understood and addressed.

STOWELINK FOUNDATION CELEBRATES OGWENO STEPHEN'S RECOGNITION AT ICO 2026

The Emerging Leaders in Health Award recognises outstanding youth advocacy in obesity and celebrates young leaders who have demonstrated impactful action and innovative approaches to addressing overweight and obesity. Ogweno was the 2026 recipient listed by the International Congress on Obesity.





Recognition for Youth Leadership in Obesity

The Emerging Leaders in Health Award is particularly meaningful because it recognizes the importance of youth leadership in addressing obesity.
Obesity is increasingly recognized as a complex chronic disease requiring action across prevention, treatment, health systems, food environments, policy and public understanding.
Yet young people are often discussed as a population affected by obesity without being sufficiently included as leaders in developing solutions.
Ogweno's recognition challenges that model.
It demonstrates that young Africans can contribute meaningfully to global obesity research, advocacy and policy conversations, while bringing perspectives shaped by the realities of communities that are often underrepresented in global health decision-making.





STOWELINK FOUNDATION WITH UNDESA EMPOWERS YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS WITH PRACTICAL SKILLS FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY IMPACT





Young people have the ideas and energy to transform their communities. But turning those ideas into sustainable initiatives requires more than passion. It takes practical skills, strong evidence, effective leadership and the ability to demonstrate meaningful results.

This was the central message at a two-day youth capacity-building workshop organised by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the Commonwealth Foundation. The workshop brought together youth entrepreneurs, community leaders, government representatives and development partners to strengthen youth participation in sustainable development and community leadership.

Representing Stowelink Foundation as an invited speaker, the organisation's Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Ogweno Stephen, shared practical lessons from his experience leading public health and community development initiatives across Africa.

STOWELINK PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON GENDER-RESPONSIVE TOBACCO TAXATION IN KENYA





On 12 August 2026, Stowelink Foundation participated in a national multi-stakeholder dialogue organised by the National Taxpayers Association (NTA), bringing together public health advocates, researchers and other stakeholders to examine how gender considerations can be better integrated into tobacco and health taxation policies in Kenya.

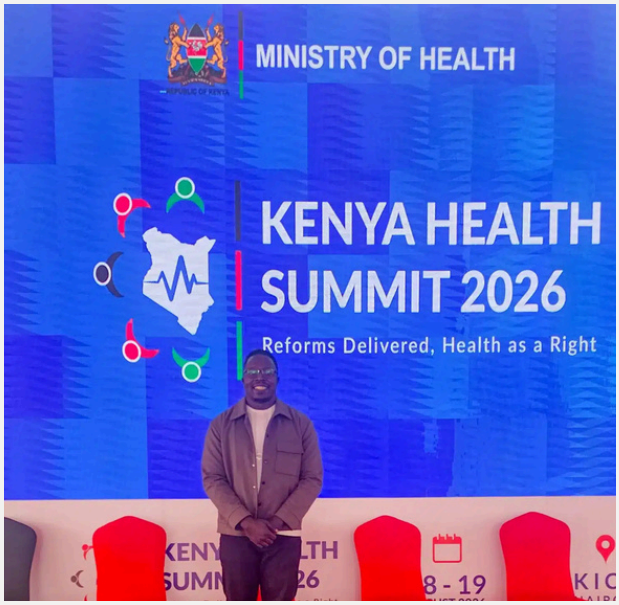
The dialogue focused on an important question: How can Kenya design tobacco taxation policies that not only reduce tobacco consumption and generate domestic revenue but also respond to the different ways tobacco use and fiscal policies affect women, men, girls and boys?

For Stowelink Foundation, participation in this discussion reflects its continued commitment to strengthening tobacco control, preventing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and advancing evidence-informed public health policies.

STOWELINK PARTICIPATES IN KENYA HEALTH SUMMIT 2026.

Stowelink Foundation participated in the Kenya Health Summit 2026, held on 18–19 August at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) in Nairobi. The summit brought together thousands of health leaders, policymakers, healthcare professionals, development partners, civil society organisations and community representatives to examine the progress and future of Kenya's health sector.

Convened under the theme "Reforms Delivered, Health as a Right," the summit provided an important platform for discussing Kenya's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) reforms, health financing, primary healthcare, community health, digital health and the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).



STOWELINK FOUNDATION PARTICIPATES IN THE 4TH TOBACCO TAXATION CONFERENCE TO ADVANCE PUBLIC HEALTH AND STRONGER TOBACCO CONTROL IN KENYA





Stowelink Foundation, participated in the 4th Tobacco Taxation Conference, organised by the National Taxpayers Association (NTA), joining policymakers, public health advocates and other stakeholders to discuss the role of tobacco taxation in reducing tobacco use and strengthening Kenya's tobacco control agenda.

The conference provided a platform to examine how fiscal policy, public health regulation and coordinated government action can contribute to reducing tobacco-related harm. Discussions also explored the challenges presented by emerging tobacco and nicotine products and the need for policies that respond to a changing market.

A key message throughout the discussions was that tobacco control cannot be treated as the responsibility of the health sector alone. Effective prevention requires collaboration across government ministries, regulatory institutions, civil society, researchers and communities.

STOWELINK FOUNDATION JOINS KENYA LAUNCH OF WEGOVY AND OZEMPIC, HIGHLIGHTING THE FUTURE OF OBESITY AND DIABETES CARE.





The introduction of new GLP-1 medicines in Kenya marks an important development in the country's response to obesity, type 2 diabetes and other cardiometabolic conditions. Stowelink Foundation, through its Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Ogweno Stephen, participated in the September 2026 launch of Wegovy and Ozempic by Novo Nordisk, bringing renewed attention to the opportunities and challenges surrounding access to evidence-based obesity treatment in Kenya.

The launch introduced two semaglutide-based medicines into the Kenyan market alongside healthcare professional training and patient-support programmes. Ozempic is indicated for the management of type 2 diabetes, while Wegovy offers a pharmacological treatment option for eligible people living with obesity or overweight accompanied by associated health risks.

STOWELINK SHOWCASES DIGITAL HEALTH INNOVATIONS AND CHILD HEALTH CHAMPION MODEL AT 7TH COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES CONFERENCE



Stowelink Foundation participated in the 7th Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Conference in New Delhi, India, following an invitation from the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation (CNMF) and the Trained Nurses Association of India (TNAI). Represented by Oduor Kevin, the Foundation joined nurses, midwives and healthcare professionals from across different countries to share experiences, innovations and ideas for strengthening health systems.



During the conference, Stowelink delivered two presentations highlighting its work in health innovation and community engagement. The first focused on digital health innovations for healthcare, while the second showcased our innovative approach to working with children as health champions, empowering them to take an active role in promoting healthier behaviours and building healthier communities.

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- Harrizon Ayallo



We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to transform and empower lives.

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