



Newsletter November 2026

By Dina Sodjadan - Digital learning for high-quality education
By Yao Sodjadan - Strengthening Entrepreneurship in Education Center
An assignment from Comundo

Now we really feel at home…



Dear all,

We hope you are all doing well! We have now truly settled into everyday life in Kisumu, quite literally getting swept up in the daily routine, with a few breaks along the way, such as our trip around Kenya in November 2025 and our visit back home in April 2026. But alongside the routine, there has also been plenty happening, and we would love to share some of it with you.

The photo shows us in Nairobi with our lovely colleagues from Comundo Kenya. In March 2026, we spent some time together, discussing and reflecting on our respective work and activities.

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Comundo sends co-workers to Kenya, Namibia, Zambia, Nicaragua, Colombia, Bolivia and Peru.
Your donation makes these missions possible. You can find information on how to donate on the last page.





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From the Classroom to Practical Experience (by Dina)

It is 6:30 a.m., the alarm goes off and the sun slowly begins to climb into the sky. We love the endless summer and the pleasantly cool mornings. Before the boys wake up, breakfast needs to be prepared – ideally before Emmanuel rolls out of bed. **Just before eight**, it's time to head out: off to school and off to Ujima. It's very convenient having the school right next door, so we can even exchange a quick hello over the wall during the day. **At Ujima,** I greet Joseph, the security guard, with a cheerful "Good morning". Bahati and Eric, the waitress and chef at Ujima Food Garden, are already there too. Doris, who is doing her internship at the restaurant, greets me with "Guten Morgen", as she is diligently learning German alongside her vocational training. Before starting her internship, she completed the three-month theoretical training programme at Ujima.



Bahati - die gute Seele im Ujima Food Garden

Together with my colleague Clara, I visit trainees at their workplaces. On foot, by motorbike or by matatu (minibus), we make our way around 12, visiting 24 trainees working in the kitchen, service or housekeeping departments. The best part? Most of them are offered permanent positions at the end of their internships, giving them a steady income.



Zu Besuch in vier Partnerhotels in Kisumu

Digital Skills: Coaching, a Reality Check and a Learning Lab (by Dina)

Digital learning is at the heart of my work at Ujima, and there have been three key developments.

One new initiative is my open coaching sessions. Every Tuesday, colleagues can drop by without an appointment, whether they need help solving a tricky problem in Word or want to explore the question: "How can I actually make good use of this?"

Alongside this, I conducted interviews to assess the team's digital skills.




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What I found particularly interesting was the gap between self-perception and how others may perceive us. This seems to be influenced by different interpretations of what it means to be “good” or “very good”, as well as cultural factors, gender and power dynamics, and the fear of misjudging one's own abilities.

What do you think? I tend to underestimate myself and tell myself: there's always room for improvement. Some colleagues, on the other hand, see expertise where I still see plenty of room for improvement ;-)

Ultimately, what matters is which skills we actually put into practice. That's why I organised a **Digital Learning Lab** to help dispel myths and fears and explore together where digital learning elements can add value to teaching. I could only share my passion in small doses, but every little impulse is a step in the right direction.



"Digital Learning Lab" at Ujima

More about Ujima: Raised Garden Beds, Breakfast and Our First Market (by Dina)

In December, we had a garden and team day. Today, herbs and vegetables are growing in four newly built raised garden beds.



Eric (Ujima Food Garden chef) looking at the spinach.

Ujima Food Garden now offers a breakfast menu and a range of new dishes. And then we hosted our very first **Christmas market**. The event proved itself as such a success, that we already started to plan for the next edition. My role has now officially expanded to include “event management”!



This does look tasty, right? ;-)





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Developing and Integrating the Entrepreneurship Module (by Yao)

In October last year, I developed an entrepreneurship concept in collaboration with Kisumu County. This concept is now being integrated into the curricula of Comundo's partner colleges.

To kick-start its implementation, I coordinated and organised a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme on entrepreneurship for trainers, in collaboration with the counties of Kilifi and Kisumu. In total, we trained 32 trainers from various colleges across the two counties.

These trainers are now responsible for teaching entrepreneurship to their students. At the same time, they support their colleagues in integrating the entrepreneurship module into their respective colleges' everyday teaching and training activities.

Akado Vocational Training Centre in Kisumu

Akado is a vocational training centre, one of two “Centres of Vocational Expertise” (CoVEx) in Kisumu and a Comundo partner organisation. It offers young people practical training in fields such as technical trades, hospitality and IT, preparing them for the job market.

Together, we are strengthening practical, hands-on training and entrepreneurial thinking. As part of this work, Yao mentors trainers and supports the “Enterprise Clubs”, where students work with a coach to develop and test business ideas in practice, using their skills to generate income.



Yao attending an event at Akado VTC

Contributing to the Beyond Tomorrow Project (by Yao)

As part of the **Beyond Tomorrow** project, initiated by the **Ujima Foundation** to introduce the entrepreneurship module into its curriculum, I co-organised and co-facilitated several workshops for trainers from Ujima and other colleges in Kisumu, together with Dina.

During these workshops, I had the opportunity to deliver two sessions focusing on the benefits of digital entrepreneurship and how this topic can be integrated into teaching. The aim was to equip students with additional skills that complement their technical training and give them a better understanding of how they can become digital entrepreneurs themselves.

The workshops generated considerable interest among participants. In particular, the trainers highlighted the relevance of digital entrepreneurship for their students and actively discussed ways to incorporate these approaches into their teaching.

The discussions also helped identify practical questions and some of the challenges involved in implementation, laying the groundwork for further exchange and more in-depth support.





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Yao in conversation with his Comundo colleague Susanne.

Open Days and Collaboration with Local Businesses (by Yao)

To raise awareness in the community about our activities and the training opportunities offered by Comundo's partner institutions, a week of open days and cultural activities was organised at one of the partner schools, **Akado**. Local businesses were also invited to take part.

I attended the event, representing Comundo. The main objective was to establish new partnerships with local businesses that could offer students internship placements and, where possible, future employment opportunities.

Strengthening Comundo's Role within CoVEx (by Yao)

Alongside my work in the CoVEx programme, I also serve as the CoVEx Coordinator for Kisumu County.

In this role, I took part in the County Coordinators' meetings in June.

Together, we aligned activities at county level, clarified roles and key decisions, and began planning the first projects for 2027/2028. For Comundo, this was an important opportunity to define and communicate its own contribution to the programme more clearly.

Another related initiative was the Career Guidance Working Group, which I coordinated. Together with the Programme Officers from Kilifi, Kisumu and Laikipia, we exchanged experiences and assessed the needs of the colleges. We also reviewed how the colleges are implementing the career guidance curriculum. This allowed us to identify good practices, challenges and concrete approaches for improvement.

Both processes demonstrate what Comundo brings to the CoVEx programme. We connect county-level structures, colleges and local stakeholders while contributing our expertise in key areas: career guidance, entrepreneurship and skills development for learners. This helps strengthen Comundo's visibility as a partner with a clear profile and distinct contribution.

We will share more about the next steps in entrepreneurship in our next newsletter.



We received our items from Germany in Nov 2025





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Traveling through 8 counties in Kenya.

In November 2025, our parents came to visit, and we travelled around Kenya together, exploring the coast, Kisumu, national parks and Nairobi. It was wonderful to show them what our life here looks like.

Things felt much quieter afterwards: Christmas was rather lonely, as it was the first time we spent it just the four of us.

On the bright side, after visiting eight counties, we can probably rightfully call ourselves Kenyan tour guides. Who wants to visit us next? ;-)

As 2026 is already drawing to a close, we are looking forward to another trip to the coast and a relaxing Christmas holiday.

With that, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year 2027!

P.S. You will hear from us again, but no longer in the form of a newsletter like this one. Instead, we will be sharing updates through blog posts on the new Comundo website. We will get in touch by email with the link and further updates.

Warm wishes from the Sodjadans



Krismasi Njema (Merry Christmas)





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Together for a fairer world

Comundo is the leading Swiss organization for development cooperation through the exchange of people. We currently have about 70 active co-workers working in seven countries in the Global South. Every day, they collaborate closely with colleagues from local partner organizations to find innovative and sustainable solutions to combat injustice and inequality. We use three main tools to create lasting change: the exchange of co-workers, the funding of projects, and the promotion of networking.

At Comundo, we believe that each of us has a responsibility to act against injustice and inequality. Choosing to engage with us is a concrete way to contribute. Together, we can foster long-term change toward a fairer world. We are convinced that change is possible through an exchange between North and South based on mutual respect and trust.

Our mission is to promote networking, exchange, and cooperation among people and organizations from different continents, cultures, and religions. Our vision is guided by the belief that a world in which all people live together in equality, dignity, and peace is possible. In this way, we contribute to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

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