



MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND  
NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION  
State Department for Correctional  
Services



**PACS**  
OFFENDERS CAN CHANGE

# PROBATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 35 | JANUARY-MARCH 2026



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## Our Vision, Mission and Values

### VISION

A just, secure, safe and crime-free society.

### MISSION

To promote and enhance the administration of justice, community safety and public protection through provision of social inquiry reports, supervision, rehabilitation and reintegration of non custodial offenders, victim support and social crime prevention.

### VALUES

Faireness | Reliability | Respect for human dignity |  
Confidentiality | Integrity | Professionalism

### STANDARDS

We are committed to the administration of justice, national security and public safety.

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# Editorial Team & Message

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Design and layout:  
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Photographs: PACS Gallery

Cover Page: Principal Secretary, State Department for Correctional Services Dr Salome Beacco, CBS and Acting Secretary, Mr Shadrack Kavutai during the international conference on advancing community corrections in Africa.

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#OffendersCanChange  
#ReformingLives  
#BuildingSaferCommunities

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## EDITORIAL MESSAGE

We Welcome you to read the 35th Issue of the Probation Newsletter.

Probation and Aftercare Service is a Government Department that generates information for dispensation of justice and supervises offenders serving various community-based sentences by resettling, reintegrating, reforming and rehabilitating them to law abiding citizens for safer communities.

We regularly want to keep you updated and informed with news and developments in relation to the services we provide as per the PACS mandate.

We look forward to your feedback and comments on this Issue and other Issues.

# PACS PARTICIPATES IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS IN AFRICA

By Stanley Kimuge & Edwin Kigen



Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Interior and National Administration addresses delegates during Pan-African conference held in Nairobi.

The Probation and Aftercare Service (PACS) took part in the two-day Pan-African Round Table International Conference on advancing community corrections as an alternative to incarceration, which was held in Nairobi.

The conference was of-

ficially opened by Hon Kipchumba Murkomen, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Interior and National Administration, who urged delegates to leverage the forum to exchange ideas and build sustainable probation systems across Africa and beyond.

In his speech, Hon Jake

Richards, UK Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Sentencing, Youth Justice and International, called on participating countries to share best practices to strengthen community corrections frameworks.

The international event brought together 12 African countries: Kenya, Algeria, Burundi, Gambia, Ghana, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia.

“One of the importance of having such a level of expertise is that you have an opportunity to exchange ideas,” said the Cabinet Secretary.

One of the key outcomes of the conference was the participating states’ agreement to establish a Pan-African Network for Community Corrections to sustain momentum and deepen the adoption of alternatives to incarceration across the continent

Dr. Salome M Beacco, CBS, Principal Secretary, State Department for Correctional Services, affirmed that Kenya’s community corrections approach has demonstrated measurable impact and assured continued government reforms to enhance probation practice.

Kenya has made significant progress by adopting

humane. Notable proportion of offenders are managed through community-based supervision and rehabilitation,” said the Principal Secretary.

Mr. Shadrack Kavutai, Acting Secretary, PACS, noted that a growing number of offenders are successfully serving community-based sentences, reflecting increasing confidence in structured non-custodial sanctions as credible alternatives to imprisonment.

“Non-custodial measures allow low-risk offenders to remain pro-

ductive members of society under structured supervision, enabling custodial facilities to focus resources on high-risk offenders. This enhances efficiency, reduces costs, and improves overall correctional outcomes,” stated Mr. Kavutai.

Among the dignitaries present were Ali Elbeirir, Regional Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; Olivia Rope, the Executive Director of Penal Reform International; Patrick Aranduh, Commissioner General of the Kenya Prison Service; Patience Baffoe-Bonnie of Ghana Prisons Service; representatives from JICA Kenya; PACS directors; and other local and international partners.



Dignitaries led by PS State Department for Correctional Services Dr. Salome Beacco (Centre)

# PS OFFICIATES PACS MANAGERS MEETING AT RUIRU

By Edwin Kigen



Correctional Services Principal Secretary Dr Salome Beacco, CBS (seated in the middle) and Acting Secretary PACS Shadrack Kavutai and Secretary, Administration, SDCS Mr Sammy Kioko.

The Principal Secretary for the State Department for Correctional Services, Dr. Salome M. Beacco, CBS, officiated a performance management meeting on 11th February 2026 for senior and middle-level managers of the Probation and Aftercare Service (PACS) at the Ruiru Prison Staff Training College, Nairobi.

In her keynote address, Dr. Beacco commended probation officers for their steadfast commit-

ment and dedication to strengthening community-based corrections, urging them to sustain the gains achieved over the past two years.

“Kenya’s probation system is the best, and I want to encourage you to continue with dedication to achieve global standards,” stated the Principal Secretary.

She noted that PACS ranked among the top performers in the public service in the last finan-

cial year, a distinction that contributed to the State Department winning key awards during the 2025 Public Service Awards.

You manage the delicate balance between public protection and offender rehabilitation. You hold the keys to building safer communities and second chances,” she stated.

The Principal Secretary further challenged PACS managers to champion

the departmental vision in every decision, foster strong teamwork for seamless service delivery, and ensure prudent utilization of resources. She also called on them to serve as role models, mentors, and coaches to younger officers in order to cultivate professionalism and pride in service

“What makes a great leader is having great ethical standards, you build trust with staff, clients, and with the community. You have strong communication skills and

manage emotions effectively in all situations,” stated Dr Beacco.

The Acting Secretary, PACS, Mr. Shadrack Kavutai, who was in attendance, expressed appreciation for the Principal Secretary’s steadfast leadership in advancing the transformation of community corrections, affirming that the Service remains committed to upholding professionalism and reforming the lives of offenders serving non-custodial sentences. Participants included

Directors from the State Department for Correctional Services and Probation Headquarters, all eight Regional Directors, County Directors, Station Managers, and the PSTC Commandant alongside other government officers.

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## PS MEETS PACS DIRECTORS

By Stanley Kimuge



State Department for Correctional Services PS Dr Salome M Beacco, CBS chairs meeting with the Probation and Aftercare directors at Probation Headquarters to review progress in implementation of programs on 9th March 2026.

The Principal Secretary, State Department for Correctional Services, Dr. Salome M. Beacco, CBS, held a meeting with directors of the Probation and Aftercare Service (PACS) at the Probation Headquarters on 9th March 2026.

The meeting reviewed Departmental progress and strategic interventions aimed at strengthening community-based corrections. She was received by Shadrack Kavutai, Acting Secretary, PACS.

In her remarks, the

Principal Secretary commended Probation Officers for their critical role within the criminal justice system, particularly in supervising and rehabilitating offenders serving non-custodial sentences. She encouraged officers to continue making meaningful and lasting impacts within communities.

Dr. Beacco further noted that the State Department will continue spearheading reforms and strengthening stakeholder engagement and collab-

oration to advance community-based corrections, transform the lives of offenders, and contribute to safer communities.

On his part, Mr. Kavutai appreciated the Principal Secretary's steadfast leadership and reaffirmed the Department's commitment to driving meaningful transformation in community-based corrections.

Among those present were PACS directors: Michael Matekwa (Community Service Orders Directorate), Hellen Ajwalah

(Aftercare Directorate), and Rahab Kyengo (Social Inquiries and Offender Assessment Directorate). The Deputy Directors in attendance included Agnes Kamindu (Probation Services Directorate) and Benta Ochieng (Human Resource Management and Development) & other senior probation managers.



The Correctional Services PS Dr Salome Beacco with the PACS directors during the meeting.

# PACS HOSTS NATIONAL CSO CHAIR TO ENHANCE IMPLEMENTATION OF CSO PROGRAM

By: Stella Nteere

The Community Service Orders (CSO) programme continues to play a critical role in Kenya's criminal justice system, offering a practical alternative to custodial sentences while promoting rehabilitation, restitution and community development.

The National Chairperson for the Community

Service Orders Committee, Lady Justice Margaret Muigai on 18th March 2026 held a meeting with the Community Service Orders Secretariat to strengthen the implementation of the CSO programs across the country.

Prior to the meeting, she paid a courtesy call to the Acting Secretary of PACS,

Mr. Shadrack Kavutai. The two shared insights on PACS' organizational structure and functions, as well as casework and caseload being managed by the department.

They also discussed the need to streamline decongestion exercises and reaffirmed the importance of continued strengthening of the close working relationship between PACS and the Judiciary.

Lady Justice Margaret Muigai commended the role of Probation Officers in supervising and rehabilitating offenders serving community-based corrections.

Mr. Michael Matekwa, Director in charge of the CSO Directorate, appreciated the continued collaboration between PACS and the Judiciary, noting that the department is committed to revamping CSO activities across the country

"We currently have 26,898 offenders on CSO supervision across the country. The nature of work being done includes brick making, digging,



National chairperson for Community Service Orders Committee, Lady Justice Hon Margaret Muigai during the meeting at Probation Headquarters.

tree planting, landscaping, among others,” stated the Director.

He further mentioned that the department is engaging partners who provide seedlings, noting that a tree planting exercise had been carried out at City Park in partnership with the Nairobi City County and involved CSO supervisees. These are ongoing efforts aligned with the presidential directive on environmental conservation. Additionally, the programme has incorporated skills transfer initiatives aimed at equipping offenders with

alternative livelihood skills to reduce recidivism.

The meeting resolved to enhance the utilization of CSO supervisees in various programmes such as clean-ups of county facilities and health facilities

and to enhance partnerships for resource mobilization.



Hon Muigai (Second right) with Mr Michael Matekwa, Director in charge of CSO directorate (third right) and other senior Officers from the Directorate.

## NCPWD SENSITIZES PROBATION MANAGERS ON DISABILITY INCLUSION

By Veronica Irungu & Stanley Kimuge



### DISABILITY INCLUSION

Mr Michael Matekwa, Director, CSO Directorate chairs blended sensitization meeting on enhancing disability inclusion at PACS

Probation and Aftercare Service organized an on-line sensitization on disability inclusion, held on 30th March 2026, for all probation managers.

The session was held virtually, and the sensitization aimed to enhance awareness and understanding of disability inclusion among staff within PACS.

The session was officially opened by Mr. Michael Matekwa, Director in charge of Community Service Orders (CSO) Directorate, who represented the Acting Secretary of Probation and Aftercare Service. In his remarks, he emphasized the importance of disability inclusion in public service and encouraged participants.

The sensitization was coordinated by the Disability Mainstreaming Committee from the State Department for Correctional Services and Probation Headquarters. The session was facilitated by a representative from the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD).

The sensitization was highly interactive, with active participation from attendees through discussions and Q&A sessions.

Issues raised by participants were adequately addressed, and there was a notable increase in awareness on disability inclusion among staff.

Participants were encouraged to familiarize themselves with key legal and policy frameworks, including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), Constitution of Kenya (2010), Persons with Disabilities Act (2025), National Policy on Disability (2024), HOPS Circulars, and NCPWD Regulations

The managers were also urged to ensure alignment of institutional policies, practices, budgets, and reporting mechanisms with the above frameworks.

The Disability Mainstreaming Committee plans to roll out further sensitizations targeting all staff at PACS.

In her closing remarks, Ms Hellen Ajwalah, Director in charge of the Aftercare Directorate, appreciated the session, noting that the Department is committed to entrenching disability inclusion.



Director Michael Matekwa with Members of State Department steering Committee on Disability

# PACS ROLLS OUT BOOK CAMPAIGN TO EQUIP PROBATION INSTITUTIONS' LIBRARIES



Mr Michael Matekwa, Director, CSO directorate (right) receives donation from Mr Richard Rono, (left), the Deputy Director in charge of book preservation at KNLS

By Stanley Kimuge

The Probation and After-care Service, in collaboration with stakeholders, on 24th, January 2026, commemorated the UNESCO World Day for Education at Nairobi Boys Probation Hostel in Nairobi.

The department also used the forum to officially launch a one-month book drive campaign to mobilize

learning materials to equip the libraries in all the Probation Institutions.

The book drive campaign seeks to enhance rehabilitation outcomes, literacy, and to inculcate a reading culture among the probationers at the institutions.

Mr. Michael Matekwa, the Director in charge of the Community Service Orders (CSO) Directorate, presided over the activity

on behalf of Mr. Shadrack Kavutai, the Acting Secretary, PACS.

In his remarks, Mr Matekwa noted that evidence-based rehabilitation demonstrates that education and vocational training are the most effective interventions in addressing the key criminogenic factors associated with offending and re-offending.

“Evidence-based rehabilitation models consistently demonstrate that education and vocational training are among the most effective interventions in addressing the key criminogenic factors ..associated with offending and reoffending.”

He further stated, “Education restores confidence, builds discipline, expands opportunity, and equips individuals with the tools necessary for lawful and productive livelihoods.”

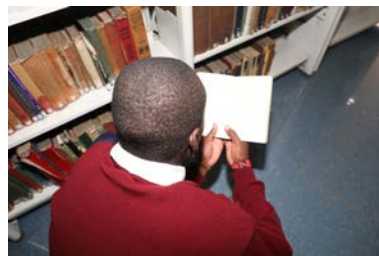
The Director also noted that since the library at the Nairobi Hostel was established last year, in August, significant milestones have been achieved, including a remarkable shift in reading culture, learning engagement, and personal development among the probationers.

“The library has become more than a room with books; it is a space of reflection, growth, and aspiration. I commend the Probation Officers and partners who have consistently supported the

learners in accessing both reading and digital learning resources, ensuring that the library remains a living, active centre of learning rather than a symbolic gesture.” He explained.

The event also brought together strategic partners that included the Kenya National Library Services (KNLS), Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM), JICA Kenya, and RODI Kenya, among others.

PACS received a book donation of over 200 books from KNLS, which was delivered by Mr Richard Rono, Deputy Director in charge of preservation, on behalf of Director Philomena Mwirigi, Head of Book Distribution at KNLS.



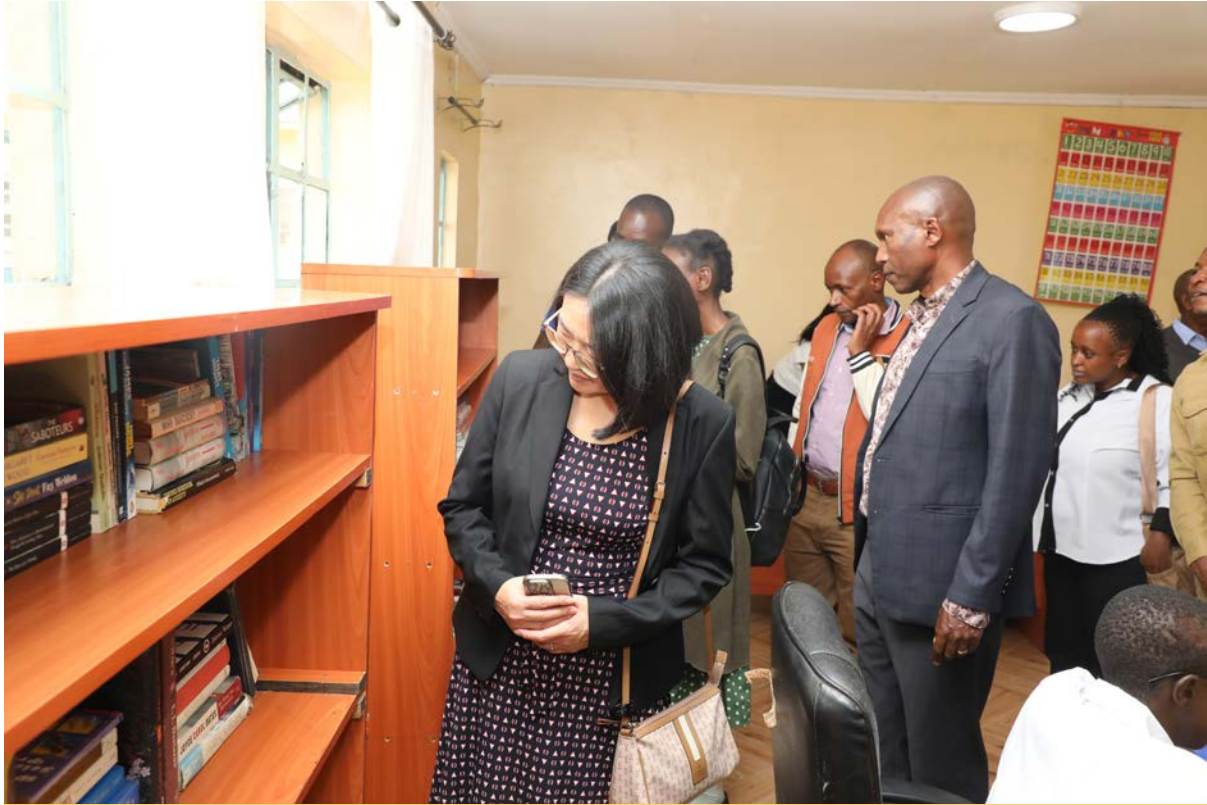
A youthful offender serving non-custodial sentence reads a book at KNLS library during a visit.

Mr Matekwa also appreciated the positive engagement with partners, noting that the department will continue to engage various stakeholders to transform the lives of community-based offenders, restore their dignity, and build safer communities.

“We deeply value the relationships we have built with government agencies, development partners, civil society organizations, and the private sector. Your investment in education within probation institutions is an investment in safer communities, restored dignity, and second chances,” he added.

In attendance were: Deputy Directors Ms Agnes Kamindu, also in charge of Probation Service Directorate, and Ms Pamela Alambo (Probation Institutions), among other probation officers.

Similar activities also took place in all nine Probation Institutions across the country.



Esteemed dignitaries from JICA Kenya, KNLS, Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM), JICA Kenya, and RODI Kenya check books at Nairobi Boys Probation Hostel Library.

THE BOOK DRIVE Campaign mobilizes learning resources for all the nine probation institutions namely:  
 Nairobi Boys Probation Hostel  
 Shanzu Boys Probation Hostel  
 Nakuru Girls Probation Hostel  
 Siaya Female Probation Hostel  
 Kimumu Senior and Kimumu Junior hostels  
 Shanzu Probation Training Centre

Webuye Probation Community Training Resource Centre (PCTRC)  
 Likoni Probation Com-



Mr. Dominic Mugo (Right), Manager Kimumu Boys Junior Hostel with an officer inside the Institution's Library.

## UK MINISTER VISITS KIBERA PROBATION STATION



UK Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Sentencing Hon. Jake Richards interacts with probation officers and a probationer at Kibera Probation Station. He was received by Ms Hellen Ajwalah, Director, Aftercare Directorate.

By Stanley Kimuge

The UK Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Sentencing, Youth Justice, and International Hon. Jake Richards made a visit to Kibera Probation Station, Nairobi on 23rd February, 2026.

Ms. Hellen Ajwala, the Director in charge of the Aftercare Directorate, on

behalf of the Acting Secretary, Probation and Aftercare Service, appreciated the visit by the high-ranking UK delegation.

Ms. Ajwalah noted that the visit was a strong affirmation of the growing spirit of partnership and shared commitment to strengthening justice systems through effective, humane, and community-centred correctional

approaches.

“We deeply value this opportunity to exchange experiences and best practices, and we appreciate your keen interest in our work and your interaction with our officers,” she stated.

The Director also noted that ‘Such engagements strengthen professional ties, inspire institutional

growth, and reaffirm our collective responsibility to advance justice systems that uphold dignity, accountability, and social restoration.”

During the visit, the UK official also learnt about the community corrections spearheaded by PACS.

She noted that over the years, PACS has continued to strengthen non-custodial interventions, expand supervision programmes, and enhance offender em-

powerment initiatives.

“These efforts, undertaken in collaboration with government agencies, civil society partners, and international stakeholders, have significantly contributed to decongesting custodial facilities and promoting safer communities across Kenya,” said Director Ajwalah.

Hon. Richards lauded the Probation Officers for their

commitment to advancing community corrections. Hon Richards also interacted with probation Officers at the station and later presided over the handing over of empowerment tools to a Female probationer.

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## PACS UNDERTAKES TRAINING TO ENHANCE PROPER RECORDS MANAGEMENT AMONG CRITICAL STAFF

By Stanley Kimuge



Acting Secretary, PACS Shadrack Kavutai (right) addresses members of support staff from Probation Headquarters at Nakuru Girls Probation Hostel

The Probation and Aftercare Service (PACS), in collaboration with the State Department for Correctional Services, conducted a five-day training programme for staff providing support services aimed at strengthening their competencies in records management to enhance departmental service delivery.

The programme was officially opened by Mr. Shadrack Kavutai, the Acting Secretary, Probation and Aftercare Service, at the Nakuru Girls Probation Hostel in Nakuru County.

The sessions were facilitated by Ms Susan Wan-

gari, Director, Human Resource, SDCS and the Senior Records Management managers led by Ms. Agnes Ngaira, Assistant Director, Records Management from the State Department for Correctional Services.

The training explored emerging trends in records management, the safety and proper handling of records, as well as other contemporary issues relevant to effective information management within the public service. In his remarks, Mr. Kavutai noted that the training sought to enhance competencies in records management to ensure

that all staff cadres remain aligned with the Department's goals and priorities for advancing community-based corrections.

He urged the officers to apply the knowledge and skills acquired during the training to support efficient, responsive service delivery within the service.

"While probation officers are often at the forefront of these activities, the success of the Service also greatly depends on the efficiency, dedication, and professionalism of the support staff who ensure that institutional systems function effectively," stated the Acting Secretary.

Also in attendance were Dr. Florence Mueni, Rift Valley Regional Director, and Ms. Benta Ochieng, Deputy Director, Human Resource Management and Development (HRMD) at PACS, alongside other senior probation officers



Acting Secretary PACS Shadrack Kavutai (centre), Ms Benta Ochieng, head of PACS HRMD division (right), facilitators from State Department for Correctional Services and staff from probation headquarters.

# PROMOTING REHABILITATION THROUGH SELF-CARE:

## Insights from the Athi River Probation Open Day

By Mugambi Nyachae & Peris Simaloi, Probation Headquarters



Participants during interactive session at the Athi River Probation Open Day on 13th March 2026. The event was attended by 75 probationers and other stakeholders.

On 13th March 2026, Athi River Probation Station hosted a transformative Open Day bringing together probationers, probation officers, judicial representatives, and volunteer counsellors from CITAM Church.

Anchored on the theme “Self-Care for Effective Rehabilitation,” the event

underscored the critical role of mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being in supporting offender rehabilitation and sustainable behaviour change.

The Open Day attracted 104 participants, including 75 probationers/ offenders serving probation sentences currently under supervision. It provided a unique

platform for individuals in conflict with the law to reflect on their rehabilitation journeys, share personal challenges, and receive professional psychosocial support. The initiative aligns with the mandate of the Probation and After-care Service to promote behavioural reform, reduce reoffending, and facilitate successful reintegration

into society through community-based interventions.

In his opening remarks, the Officer-in-Charge, Mr. Richard Munguti emphasized that self-care is a fundamental component of personal transformation and behavioural change.

A key highlight of the event was a motivational session by renowned media personality Daniel Githinji popularly known as “Mbusii,” who resonated strongly with participants, particularly the youth. He reinforced the message that transformation begins with the individual, urging participants to move beyond their past and focus on building positive values and contributing meaningfully to society.

Various stakeholders also delivered impactful messages. A representative from the judiciary emphasized the importance of accountability and cooperation within the justice system, particularly for those benefiting from non-custodial sentences such as probation.

Faith leaders also highlighted the value of spiritual growth, while counsellors assured participants of continued psychosocial support in safe and confidential environments.

The event’s core component involved structured group therapy sessions facilitated by trained counsellors and probation officers. Participants were grouped based on their specific rehabilitative needs, allowing for targeted discussions and interventions on issues such as emotional healing, trauma, stress management, stigma, and goal setting. These sessions fostered openness, peer learning, and a sense of shared purpose, all of which are vital for long-term behavioural transformation.

During the feedback session, participants expressed appreciation and satisfaction for the opportunity to engage in counselling and interact with professionals and stakeholders.

Many described the event as eye-opening and

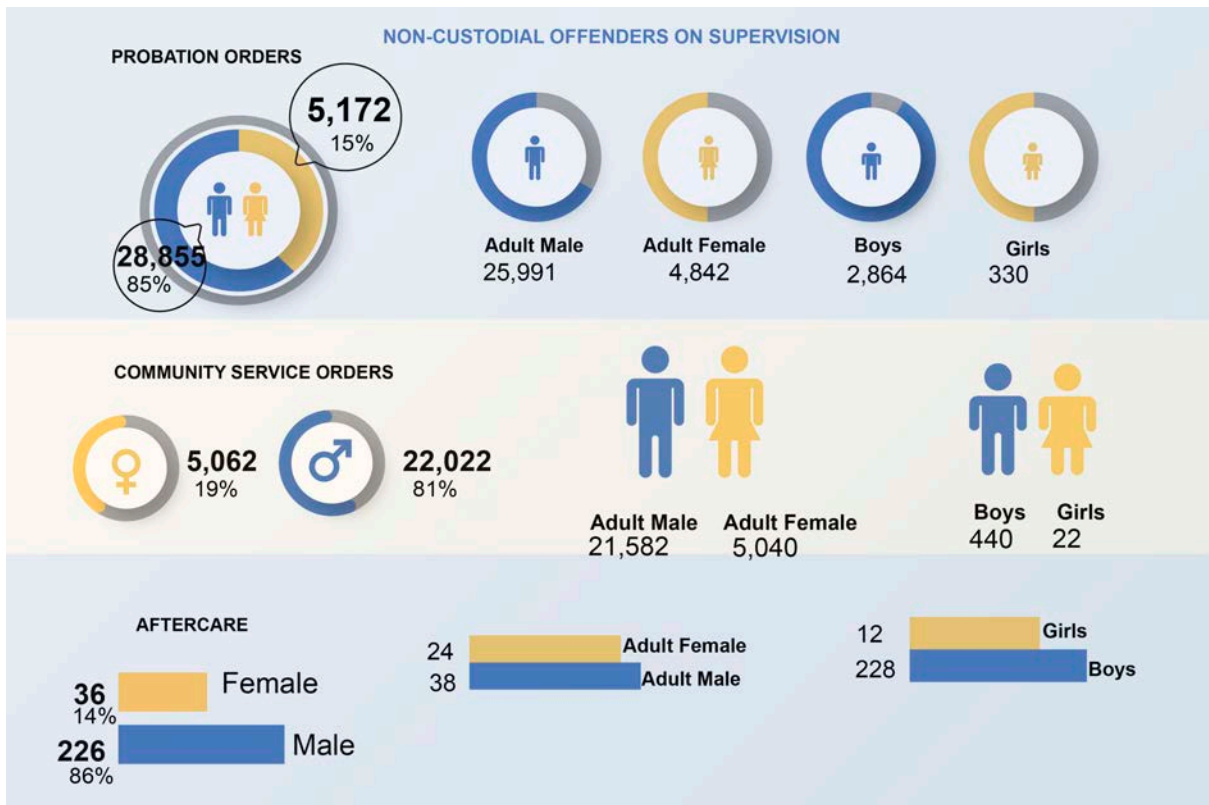
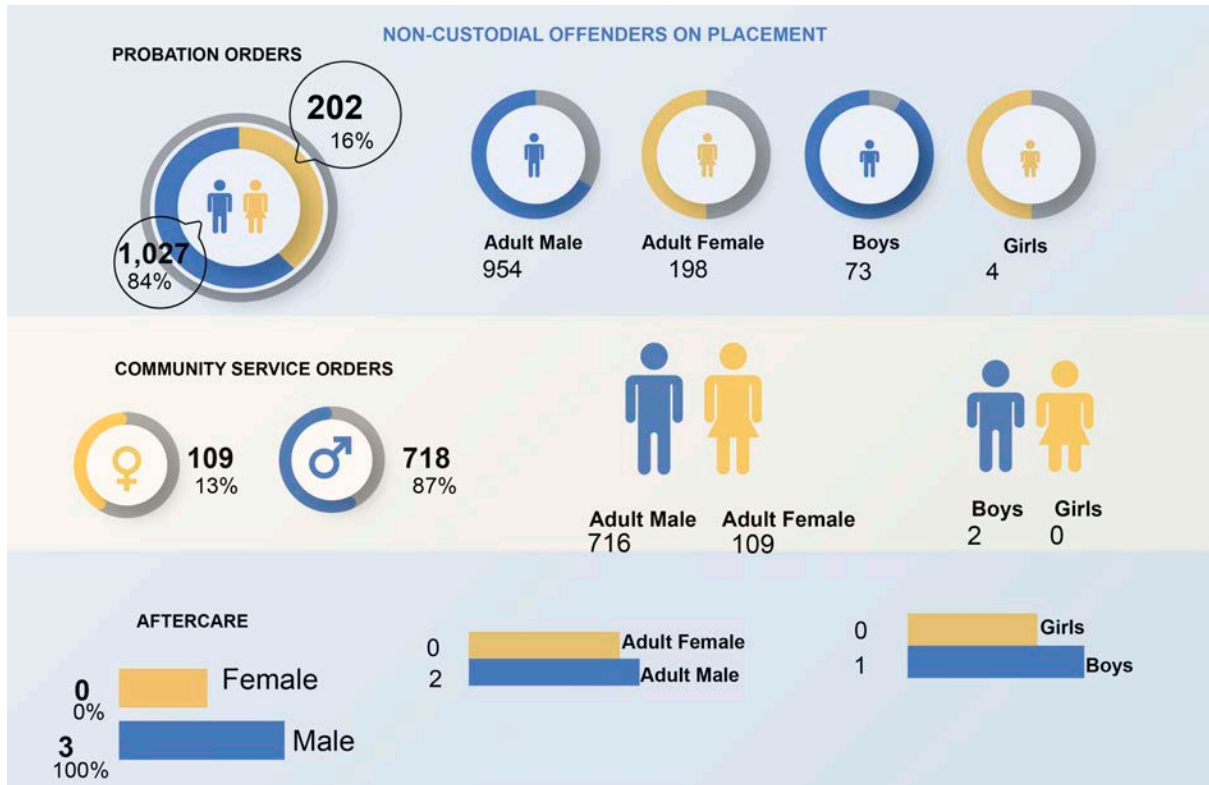
motivating, with some indicating it was their first time accessing such support, by integrating positive religious values for positive behavioral change.

There was a strong call for similar initiatives to be conducted regularly and to include family members to strengthen support systems, as participants believed that this could enhance the overall impact and effectiveness of the support provided.

The Athi River Open Day demonstrates the power of collaborative, community-based approaches in offender rehabilitation.

By integrating self-care, counselling, and stakeholder engagement, such initiatives not only address the root causes of offending behaviour but also empower individuals to rebuild their lives with dignity and purpose. These components are not only critical to support rehabilitation programs within PACS but also promote positive behavioural change, reduce recidivism, and contribute to community safety.

# PACS OFFENDER DATA - JANUARY-MARCH, 2026



Source: PACS Data.

# PROBATION NEWSLETTER

A Publication of Probation and Aftercare Service  
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