

July-September 2025

Kyeema Newsletter



Words from our CEO

A new financial year always feels a little like the breaking of dawn, full of promise, possibility, and the energy of a fresh start. At Kyeema, we've stepped into this year with a spring in our step and a basket full of good news and opportunities.

In Papua New Guinea, we've hatched a new partnership with the PNG Sustainable Development Program, piloting our village chicken initiative. Soon we'll be in Balimo to establish a Master Farm and train community members in backyard chicken farming because we know that from small flocks, great opportunities grow.

Then there's Susan, who reminds us why we do this work. Susan began as a coral gardener on Yule Island (PNG), but seeing the impact of the work, she went on to establish a thriving mangrove nursery and a chicken farm. Her dedication and vision have earned her recognition as a Pacific Change Makers in an upcoming ABC program, set to air this December. Susan is proof that when you invest in people, the ripple effects are extraordinary.

In Mozambique we concluded one of our ANCP funded programs, and we are stoked with the impact and results. We've seen women who began raising chickens for family nutrition in 2022 grow into confident business owners, trading through local markets, and mentoring one another through our out-grower model. What began as an egg for the household has become a livelihood for the community.

This year, as we plant seeds, both literal and figurative, we are reminded that growth often comes quietly, sometimes imperceptibly, until one day, the change is undeniable. From backyard chickens and mangroves to women-led enterprises, these small beginnings are quietly shaping resilient communities. And while the work can be challenging, the resilience, passion, and dedication we see every day fills us with joy, pride and inspiration.

To our donors, volunteers, partners, and team thank you for believing in the power of community-led change. Together, we will continue to nurture these seeds, proving that from humble beginnings, whether an egg, a seedling, or the first light of dawn, transformations are possible.

Warm regards,

Marijke Frantzen
CEO, Kyeema Foundation



Papua New Guinea Update

We're thrilled to be bringing our village chicken model to Western Province for the first time! With support from Sustainable Development Program (SDP), our team is laying the groundwork for a pilot project in Balimo.

Following a July scoping trip to Balimo village, we've identified our first Master Farmer, who will soon be equipped to run a local breeding and training hub. This hub will provide strong breeding stock, hands-on learning opportunities, and vital access to protein and income for surrounding communities. For the first time, two master farmers will be engaged in supporting this program with farm set and training.

Meanwhile on Yule Island, Leo and Agnes continue to make us proud. The Master Farmer duo just hosted their second village chicken training, this time entirely on their own. Held in Pinupaka, the session welcomed 20 participants from nearby villages. They've truly embraced their role as mentors and teachers sharing their knowledge and skills to grow the program and improve household access to poultry across their community.



Pacific Regional

Monitoring visits are underway across the Pacific as part of our Nature-Based Solutions program, supported through the WWF and DFAT Climate Resilient by Nature initiative. The team began in Fiji with visits to Moturiki and Naidiri, where coral and village chicken activities are continuing strongly. Focus group sessions with community members are helping us capture final reflections and survey data as the program prepares to wrap up at the end of the year.

In East New Britain, coral nurseries established by the community are showing incredible promise. Despite severe bleaching conditions in the region, PNG has been under bleaching watch or alert levels since late 2023. One nursery in the Corey's Coral site is showing 100 percent survival among heat-tolerant corals collected in April. These corals have not only survived five months of stress but are now growing well, attracting more fish species and larger populations around the nursery.

To increase coral biomass and protect rare species, the team has also started fragmenting healthy corals onto ropes, including extremely rare acropora types. The goal is to grow and eventually outplant these by late 2026, building long-term reef resilience. With another predicted bleaching event ahead, the nursery will soon be expanded, and the community is ready to act.

Mozambique Update

In September, our team joined partners and community members for a vibrant field day in Murrupula District, Nampula Province, as part of the Accelerated Innovation Delivery Initiative (AID-I).

Delivered in partnership with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), the initiative is focused on scaling practical, locally appropriate innovations that improve rural livelihoods.

The event gave participants the chance to see innovations firsthand, with a visit to the local incubation centre and open discussions between farmers, local associations, and representatives from district and provincial government.

Among the highlights was the success of the Boschveld chicken breed, which is thriving even in areas without artificial incubators showing real promise for sustainable poultry farming. An improved goat pen design was also on display, demonstrating how the project is supporting better care for small livestock.



Malawi Update

The Rural Poultry Centre's work continues to expand with activities now reaching three additional EPAs in Dowa West District. Government frontline staff have been briefed, and implementation is well underway.

So far, RPC has identified 37 new Community Based Vaccinators (22 women and 15 men) who are ready for training next month. The team is also engaging with five women's groups already participating in the program.

A key feature of the rollout is the establishment of chick care demonstration farms, where experienced poultry farmers showcase practical, low-cost methods for improving poultry health and productivity.

These sites are proving to be a powerful tool for peer learning. By seeing the results firsthand, such as better housing, disease prevention and local feed recipes, farmers in the community gain the confidence and knowledge to adopt similar practices in their own homes. It is a model that encourages collaboration, learning by doing and local innovation.



Ethiopia Update

Our Program Impact Coordinator, Lauren, recently joined Wondosen, our Ethiopia Program Coordinator, for a field trip to Aleta Wendo district in the Sidama region to check in on one of our ongoing Newcastle disease vaccination campaigns.

Spending time in the field with some of the incredible community vaccinators, the visit was a valuable opportunity to both learn and share. Lauren and Wondosen saw the vaccination work in action, met with local farmers, and exchanged ideas with the dedicated individuals helping protect household flocks and strengthen food security.

