The new year continued pace towards our ambitious scale targets. We brought 100,000+ new moms onto PROMPTS, upskilled 3,500+ providers through MENTORS (trained by a growing cohort of nurse mentors), and worked round-the-clock to harness - and supersede - rapid global developments in AI (p3).

But it also turned a fresh page for some deeper strategic thinking around how we deepen our impact, like further personalizing the PROMPTS experience for mums, expanding our training package for nurses (p2), and understanding the behavioral dynamics of how governments use and act on data (p4). We hope you enjoy reading.
Jacaranda and Kenya’s Ministry of Health deploy a newborn training package for frontline maternity nurses

As a county, we’ve identified capacity gaps as one of the biggest barriers to positive neonatal outcomes in facilities. This training is very timely as it offers a formal approach to upskill and mentor our NBU staff, which we’ve not had previously.”

Dr. Steve Wandei, County Director of Health, Kakamega County

In-facility mentors simulate management of neonatal sepsis as part of a training of trainers day on the 19th March, which brought together frontline nurses and a multidisciplinary team of Kakamega County stakeholders, including pediatricians and other partners (eg. Nest360), to empower nurse ‘champions’ to cascade critical skills down to their peers in facilities. Photo by Eugene Namusende.

Many Kenyan hospitals have specialized newborn units, yet lack the full suite of skills to maximize their use.

In March, Jacaranda and the Ministry of Health (MoH) piloted a newborn training package for frontline maternity nurses in Kakamega, aimed at high volume referral facilities. The content - which includes simulations on neonatal resuscitation, emergency management and infection prevention - was informed by MoH newborn care protocols and gaps identified in interviews conducted with frontline nurses.

The combination of national endorsement and strong county buy-in for the package is a strong indication of its early adoption and long-term sustainability within a wider national mentorship package over the coming months.

→ Read more
Localizing GenAI for multiple new languages and sectors

AI has become ubiquitous, but commercially-available models lack customizations to effectively work in low-resourced settings. Our tech team spent the early part of this year figuring out how to bridge this gap.

Our team is currently testing how to deliver our Swahili-speaking Large Language Model, UlizaLlama, in multiple low-resourced languages, like Twi, Amharic, and Hausa. Our hope is that other African innovators will be able to use UlizaLlama to expand AI-driven support in different languages and sectors, like education, finance, and agriculture.

→ Check out our toolkit for implementers
Evidence-based decision-making is a cornerstone for quality in public health systems. Yet, despite masses of available data, organizations globally are wrestling with the same question: how can we capture and share data in a way that governments can interpret and act on?

Early this year, Jacaranda and Ideas42 interviewed 50 government stakeholders to understand how they perceive, review, and act on data. Discussions confirmed our assumption that our dashboards were valuable, but identified concrete opportunities – aesthetic and content-related – to better meet their needs.

The willingness of our government partners to engage in this process is encouraging, and we are excited to roll-out an improved version of our dashboards in the coming months.

→ Our approach to data co-design
60% of Nairobi’s population live in informal settlements, where the maternal mortality rate is twice the national average. Last year, we set up a USAID-supported pre-post study to understand if PROMPTS could help mothers in these areas better navigate their fragile health systems.

Context-sensitive messages were crafted via human-centered design to meet women’s preferences on timing, terminology and content. The results were encouraging. We saw high overall engagement (87%) with the platform, and notable shifts in care seeking and knowledge of complications.

→ Read more in BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

PROMPTS mothers in the two informal settlements were found to be...

- 2.28x more likely to attend ANC care
- 2.20x more likely to recognize any pregnancy danger signs
- 2.21x more likely to recognize any newborn danger signs
- 4.20x more likely to report their babies and 1.52x more likely to be checked by a nurse post-delivery

Disclaimer: These figures do not imply causation by PROMPTS enrolment, only association.
**DATA SNAPSHOT**

**What can PROMPTS tell us about how mothers experience extreme heat?**

How does changing climate affect our health? We were curious to answer this question for millions of mums on PROMPTS.

Each day, PROMPTS receives ~5,000 questions from mums in geographically diverse parts of Kenya. We realized that by looking at user conversations we could begin to detect trends in health concerns based on temperature: concerningly, in hotter areas we saw an increase in reported danger signs.

We have work to do to validate these insights, but they do indicate practical ideas for support, like proactively reaching out to mums during heatwaves, or advising facilities on how to support clients during extreme heat (eg. rethinking clinic hours around cooler parts of the day).

→ What we’re learning
Heard and seen at...

**ICT4D:** Jacaranda's Rachael Alldian and Cephas Avoka spoke to the potential of localized GenAI and digital risk screening across two panels at this year's ICT4D in Ghana.  
→ Read

**Lanfrica:** Jacaranda’s Director of Technology Jay Patel unpacks the how and why of developing the world’s first Swahili-speaking LLM, and its potential application in other sectors.  
→ Watch

**Meta:** Meta’s President of Global Affairs Nick Clegg spotlights Jacaranda's journey with AI, and its potential for transformative impact in low-resourced settings.  
→ Read

**BBC:** The BBC spotlight our partnered work around AI-assisted ultrasound, and how it could revolutionize prenatal care for underserved women across Kenya.  
→ Listen  → Watch
PROMPTS user Monica Nzembi stands outside her home in Machakos County. She enrolled in the platform at her local hospital at the start of her pregnancy five months ago. Photo by Allan Gichigi.