



# THE Gender Lens

Bringing a gendered focus on Economic and Political Governance

July 2013

## CCGD SUPPORTS FORMULATION OF A POLICY ON SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)

Women and girls have continued to suffer from the effects of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) over the years despite concerted efforts by concerned actors to put a stop to it.

The horrendous suffering has continued unabated due to lack of a clear policy on SGBV which is partly attributed to lack of accurate data.

CCGD has seized this opportunity and with the support of IDRC is conducting a two year study on sexual and gender based violence in partnership with Pal Omega Women's group in Kisumu, Kibera Women for Peace and Fairness in Nairobi, Mtongwe Women Forum in Mombasa-South Coast, Coast Women in Development in Mombasa-North Coast and Naivasha Partners for Change in Naivasha to collect data on cases that are reported to their centres.



*Riziki Mwanakusirikwa from Mtongwe Women Forum making a Presentation during an SGBV workshop held in Nairobi*

Similarly, the utility of stakeholders such as the police, religious leaders, the provincial administration, other CBOs other than our partners, guidance and counselling teachers, children's officers is also put to use to ensure that data is captured from all reporting avenues to address the problem of lack of accurate data on SGBV.

In the short term, the partnership should build the capacity of the organizations at the local level in research and promote evidence based activism among them. Overall, it aims to develop a national policy framework that would help prevent and mitigate SGBV affecting women during political transitions.



*CCGD psychologist, Njenga making a presentation at an SGBV workshop in Nairobi*



**EDITORIAL**

The swearing in of the new government has re-started the legal and policy review process to conform to the constitution and usher in the overdue reforms. CCGD is among CSOs that are grappling with ensuring that the reviewed laws and policies are gender responsive. There is also the priority challenge of ensuring sustaining implementation of the spirit and letter of the constitution. Implementation of constitutional provisions on gender equity equality in particular is faced with two main challenges; a worrying lethargy on the part of the duty bearers as they buy time within un-official gradualist implementation approach and a minimalist implementation agenda where duty bearers do the least the constitution expects them to just to comply with the law. Issues that duty bearers keep on bringing up to justify their lassitude include the projected monetary cost of implementation of some of the provisions- never mind that the other provisions also have cost elements but they are presented by officialdom as being more necessary.

CCGDs projects aim to continue providing impetus to implementation of the constitution through capacity building of stakeholders to gain skills to mainstream as well as of partners to understand what to expect from duty bearers and how to lobby for their entitlements. CCGD is also continuing to conduct baseline as well as other types of research and surveys to improve the available data base as well as sharpen the policy/legal lobby and advocate tools. A special area of interest is ensuring that county governments are reached with the right kind of information and interventions to enable them mainstream gender. It is also imperative that respective women and other interest groups in equality/equity provisions be enabled to exercise their right to public participation from a position of knowledge.

**The Gender Lens**

The mission of the Collaborative Center For Gender And Development is to contribute to the gender-responsive transformation of society, and ensure the upholding of equity issues, promotion of the well being of all individuals and communities, and development of democratic and gender responsive cultures and institutions.

*The Gender Lens* is a Centre’s Publication that facilitates sharing of information experiences, training and methodologies, as well as keeping us informed on trends in the world of gender and development.

**NEWSLETTER TEAM**

Masheti Masinjila

Grace Ochieng

Ruth Nchagwa

Mediatrix Tuju

Nelima Tolemeti

John Owegi

Gladys Njenga

## CCGD HELPS DEVELOP NATIONAL INTEGRATED MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM (NIMES)

CCGD was among the non-state actors invited by Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate (MED) for a one week workshop to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation framework to be used by both state and non-state actors in the development arena. The aim of the workshop was to strengthen National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (NIMES) and highlight the role of stakeholders in the same. The working groups identified a myriad of challenges that hindered the effectiveness of M & E within organizations as well as recommendation for the way forward. More importantly, they came up with an M & E framework which MED should use alongside other frameworks to develop a national integrated framework.



STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED MONITORING AND EVALUATION (NIMES) SYSTEM WORKSHOP HELD AT HOTEL WATERBUCK NAKURU FROM 17<sup>TH</sup>-23<sup>RD</sup> FEB, 2013.

*Multi-Sectoral Working Group Members with MED Consultant Dr.Okwach Abagi-fourth from right*

## THE UNTARGETED YOUTH IN LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

In Kenya, and specifically in marginalized areas, most transition from childhood to youth takes place in secondary schools. In marginalized areas, retrogressive culture and limited access to information are some of the main challenges that hinder these youth from engaging effectively in decision making processes. Despite this knowledge, stakeholders have shown less interest in engaging in projects or programs that will mould the school-going youth into people who can make informed choices.



*Constitution ToT from Naitutum CBO conducting voter education at samburu High school*

In order to remedy the situation CCGD has partnered with 13 schools and established clubs as entry points. CCGD uses the clubs as avenues for counselling, leadership trainings, civic awareness and stakeholders' focal point for sharing ideas. For sustainability and proper monitoring of these clubs, CCGD works closely with women umbrella Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and teachers (Patrons of the clubs).

In November 2012, CCGD conducted civic and voter education in twelve schools namely; Salabani, Kiserian, Lake Bogoria and Sandai Secondary school in Baringo County; Kimanjo and Ilpolei Secondary School, St. Francis Girls and Doldol Boys High School in Laikipia County; and Samburu, Maralal, Kirisia Boys High School and Samburu Teachers Training College in Samburu County.

The main objectives of the voter education forums in the schools were to educate the youth on voting and structure of governance and devolution, and to capacitate the youth to be change-makers for civic and voter education and to be part of the outreach to peers, families and to the wider communities.

## “Village Justice”

The promotion of administration of justice is recognized as one of the priorities of the Government. This is backed with a stated commitment to equal justice for all – under the 2010 constitution - which includes ensuring access to justice for the economically and socially disadvantaged members of the community as a cardinal obligation of the Government. Having appreciated the difficulty by marginalized people, and in particular women, CCGD has trained 35 paralegals in five counties of Migori, Baringo, Samburu, Laikipia and Kajiado. These have seen several women access justice or at least have hopes of getting justice. CCGD has initiated a program that will see the paralegals absorbed in the local justice systems.

Although a basic human right, access to justice, remains a critical challenge in Kenya especially to the majority poor and marginalized population. An overwhelming majority of litigants from marginalized communities have found themselves facing legal issues without the resources to address them.

### A case of Kasoni Saikong: Laikipia paralegals’ work

#### *Background*

The above client visited Enyuata Olosho offices and reported that her husband had neglected them. Kasoni was married under the Maasai customary laws. After sometime in marriage, her husband got a job at Kenya Wildlife Service. The husband underwent the training and thereafter he visited his family. It was during this period that they got their first born child (a girl). He went back and only came back when the girl was in class 6. They got another child during that visit before he left for work.

He came back two years later when their first born girl was in class 8. Kasoni struggled to feed and maintain the two children alone without support from the husband. When the situation got worse she approached a few child rights organizations but all in vain. Kasoni got information about the paralegals from Enyuata Olosho Women Organization where she had hopes getting help.



*Laikipia paralegals, from left, Ann, Naomi, Maureen and Zainabu*

To make matters worse, judicial/legal system presumes knowledge of these rules and procedures by all Kenyans and thus, has not taken any concrete steps to dismantle barriers that prevent litigants from presenting their cases and to rethink the systems and procedures in a manner that would benefit all litigants through streamlining and simplification. Other than institutional and legal challenges, there are also cultural barriers to access to justice.

#### *Action taken*

Marian Matunge (Coordinator) and Miriam Sayana (Office Administrator) reported the matter to the local Chief who wrote two letters addressed to the District Officer – Mugogodo Location and the District Children Officer for further actions.

Sayana took both letters to the relevant offices and received another letter from the Children Officer to the Kenya Wildlife service (the employer) to find out whether they could intervene. Unfortunately, the employer did not respond to the letter. The Children Officer gave the employer a grace period of two months after which further legal action shall be taken.



## **CCGD equips UNDP Amkeni partners with skills on working towards gender inclusive democratic governance in Kenya**

In keeping with CCGD's mission to serve as a resource base for transforming society to uphold equity issues CCGD trained over 90 of UNDP Amkeni Wakenya project grantees on mainstreaming gender in governance programs. CCGD carried out a pre- gender training analysis to get the various needs of the partners. Responses showed various pressing gender needs. The trainings will enhance participants awareness, knowledge and sensitivity to gender issues in their in their organizations and governance projects as well as enable them chart a way forward on mainstreaming gender within their organizations.

## **Support to East African Community Non State Actors Forum (EACNSAF) to hold open youth forums on the EAC**

CCGD convenes the EAC Non state actors forum which aims to promote a people centred integration process. The forum plans to hold public forums on various issues like the EAC and China trade effects, EAC youth policy, monetary union, the land question and climate change. CCGD is supporting the youth forums which aim to bring organizations working on youth issues to discuss how the youth can influence the EAC youth policy with a gendered perspective and their engagement in the implementation of the constitution of Kenya.

So far CCGD has been facilitating meetings of youth organizations to draft their concept note so that their voices can be heard in the country and in the region. CCGD recognizes that youth have diverse gender needs that have to be tackled in a gender responsive manner if we are to achieve people centred EAC integration.

## **Fast tracking informal cross border trade by women in marginalised areas.**

CCGD brought together Informal cross border women traders (ICBWTs) from Isibania, the border posts of Namanga, Busia and Oloitoktok and county council, immigration and customs officials in a workshop aimed at enabling a dialogue that would open up trade bottlenecks. The workshop also saw ICBWT get first-hand information from the Ministry of East African Community (MEAC) officials.

The state and non- state actors collaboratively explored practical options for fast tracking ICBWTs benefits from the EAC customs union protocol, common market and integration process. The participants underscored the connection between security and law enforcement sector operations and informal cross border trade; which for most of the time was never understood by the ICBWTs. The workshop developed actions to be undertaken by traders and government officials at each of the borders.

## **Promoting gender mainstreaming in the EAC integration process**

CCGD was part of the national planning committee for the National Stakeholder Forum on mainstreaming Gender in the EAC integration process. The forum aimed at harmonizing the various initiatives and synergies in the process of Gender Mainstreaming. Various issues were discussed on Gender and Economic empowerment, Gender and Health, Gender and Education, Leadership and Governance, Gender, Youth and Children, and gender and the environment.

The forum brought over 70 members who later gave the mandate to the planning committee to go ahead and form a national steering committee on gender mainstreaming in the EAC.

## Promoting gender mainstreaming in the EAC integration process

The battle of women leadership can be won when men respect the dignity of women. The constitution has ushered an avenue for women to enhance their voices and skills that our society has been lacking for decades. Gender and governance program has aided women to come up to positions of leadership both at the local and national level in the program counties; Baringo, Samburu, Laikipia, Kajiado and Migori. Since the inception of the program more women locally have been appointed in the district development committees and are participating in the processes. Women have also participated in national leadership and governance forums. .



*Peace activity in Baringo county conducted by women CBOs in collaboration with CCGD*

Among others, CCGD has been able to train trainers of trainers (TOTs) in constitution and peace; paralegals to enable them to equip women with basic legal knowledge and support them to act violence against women. Through partner CBOs trained women have organized several activities that sensitize the community on women governance, transformative leadership, gains of women in the constitution, peace and zero tolerance to gender violence supported by CCGD.

## Settling the pace Women in the 11th parliament

Women's underrepresentation in political and civic realms leads to neglect of the issues that concern and affect them, and the state of women's local leadership affects us all. Despite the new constitution providing a fairer ground for women candidates, women failed to win one third of elective positions in the just concluded general elections, with no woman candidate winning governor and senator positions, meaning none of Kenya's 47 local governments will be led by a woman.

CSOs and other actors need to strategize on how women can be assisted to get to other positions in the county governments.



*A section of Maasai women queuing to vote*

Pictured on the left is Grace Kipchoim who was elected as MP for Baringo South- a constituency that has been part of CCGDs program area since 2009.



CCGD joins women and men within the constituency who set aside cultural biases and elected Grace. CCGD also commends the uniting efforts of respective partner CBOs (Waoan'gan women group and Endorois Women Group) at sensitising constituents on the value of electing women into leadership.



**Write to us**

Send your comments on this issue and any contributions we could consider for the next issue of Gender Lens.

**COUPON**

Would like to be added to your database to receive future newsletters? Are you already on our database but have a change of address? If so, please fill in the coupon and post or fax it back to us.

**Name:** .....

**Designation / NGO Name:** .....

**Postal Address:** .....

**Telephone:** ..... **Fax:** .....

**Email:** .....

Post to The Collaborative Center for Gender and Development  
P.O. Box 4869 Nairobi, Kenya.  
Or  
Fax to: 254-02-537100



**Collaborative Center for Gender and Development**

View Park Tower 3rd floor, Utalii Lane P.O. Box 4869 Nairobi, Kenya.

Tel: +254 (020) 2252058 | Cell: +254736474556

Email: info@ccentregd.org or collaborative.centre@gmail.com

Website: www.ccentregd.org

Twitter: @CollaborativeWO | Facebook: Ccgd The Centre

Linked in: Collaborative Centre for Dev. | Youtube: Centre2013