

Editorial

Since the inauguration of the Constitution of Kenya in August 2010, Collaborative Center for Gender and Development (CCGD) has been amongst many CSOs fighting for the full implementation as well as review of laws and policies to ensure conformity with the Constitution. Much of CCGD's work has been to work closely with relevant stakeholders, both state and non-state actors, to ensure Kenyans – especially women and girls reap the benefits and gains in the Constitution. Promotion of gender equality & equity, protection against gender violence has been at the core of CCGD's agenda.

CCGD has continued to use community participatory approach in all its programmes – identifying team leaders, building their capacity and facilitating them to carry out community level sensitization, awareness creation, local level advocacy and lobbying. To strengthen this approach, action networks are formed with state actors to ensure acceptance, better and quality referral & feedback mechanisms as well as integration of CCGD programs within Government's programs.

The 2014 publication focuses more on how these team leaders are able to transform the societies with the capacity strength from CCGD – thus *Sharpening the Iron*.

The Gender Lens

The mission of the CCGD 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.

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MAKING IT HAPPEN FOR YOUNG WOMEN

(Supported by IWP)

The absence or under-representation of women in key decision-making and policy formulation institutions at any level of governance results in un-equal development that continues to entrench marginalization of women and to consign them to a low status. The Constitution entrenches one-third minimum requirement for women's representation in all elective and nominative positions among other concessions.

Despite these constitutional/legal and institutional frameworks, Kenyan women continue to suffer setbacks in attempts to pursue these opportunities. However, young women (youth) from marginalized communities suffer double multiple setbacks. This is attributed to the fact they are not allowed in youth groups since the society view them as 'mothers' while on the other hand, they are also rejected from women groups as they are viewed as children by the older women. It is in the backdrop of the above that CCGD has been making efforts to bridge the gap for young women through local level sensitization, lobbying and activism.

Oloitoktok Katiba Camping – Young women discovering their gains and rights in the Constitution



ENGAGING MORANS AND YOUNG MEN IN PEACE AND PEACE BUILDING AMONG PASTORALISTS (Supported by IVP)

Insecurity and inter-community conflicts is rife in these areas due to inadequate resources and culture. In Baringo, there are constant conflicts between Pokots and ichamus, Ilchamus and Tugens, and Pokot and Tugen. In Samburu, conflict is majorly between Pokots against Samburu and Turkana while in Kuria, the conflicts are majorly between different clans. Women and girls have particularly been affected as they are raped, brutally beaten and in some cases murdered during intra-and inter-community conflicts. Most of the participants in these conflicts are young men especially the warriors who perceive cattle rustling and raids as an indication of strength and honour. It is in the light of this that CCGD through community institutions and stakeholders organized and implemented peace activities especially those incorporating the youth. Sports were used as one key strategy in Kuria and Samburu. The sports brought together different warring groups in friendly football matches with the winners taking home a rotating peace trophy which will be competed against during the next tournaments.

Ward Administrators representing the two conflicting clans in Kuria (Migori County) award the winning team's captain a peace trophy



EXPANDING ACTION NETWORKS FOR THE UNTARGETED YOUTH

(Supported by IWP)

In Kenya, and specifically in marginalized areas, most transition from childhood to being a 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 mold the school-going youth into transformed leaders. CCGD, in order to remedy the situation, has partnered with thirteen (13) schools through clubs as entry points. CCGD uses the clubs as avenues for counseling, 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 relevant stakeholders.

In 2014, CCGD set out to expand its action networks by engaging specific Government stakeholders to increase sustainability as well as to ensure that the program is integrated in the government programs. So far successful networks have been formed in Oloitoktok (Kajiado County), Maralal (Samburu County) and Laikipia North (Laikipia County).

The OCS addressing Students in Senate Secondary School in Oloitoktok



TAKING JUSTICE TO MAASAI VILLAGES

(Supported by IWP)

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. 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. 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 the institutional and legal challenges, there are also cultural barriers to access to justice. CCGD in response to this problem has trained several paralegals in five counties of Migori, Baringo, Samburu, Laikipia and Kajiado. These areas have seen several women and girls access justice or at least have hopes of getting justice.

Betty Taiko – Paralegal from Oloitoktok leads other paralegals in group presentations at a Refresher Training in Nakuru



The Case of Oloitoktok paralegals' against Female Genital Mutilation

Background

This was a case of where death of a girl was caused by female genital mutilation in Kuku ward in Kajiado County. The victim, a sixteen year old and a graduate of class eight (class of 2013), did not manage to secure a chance at secondary school and got pregnant soon after her Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE). Since according Maasai culture, an *entapai* (uncircumcised girl) was not expected to give birth, her mother with the consent of her husband took her for the cut. In the event the girl over bled and started experiencing premature labor. She was rushed to hospital where she died.

Action

The parents started to prepare for her burial when the case was reported to Elizabeth Seney (Lead Paralegal of Ewang'an Emaa CBO in Kajiado County). Elizabeth reported the case to the Officer Commanding Police Department (OCPD) who later conducted immediate investigations and ordered for a post-mortem. When the result revealed that the girl died from injury occasioned by the cut, the OCPD ordered for the parents and the chief to record statements.

On the burial day, the OCPD, the District Officer and Elizabeth seney used the opportunity to educate the community on the dangers of FGM. Later that week, the victim's parents and the chief were arrested, charged and arraigned in court. The case is still on-going and the suspects are out on cash bail of three hundred thousand shillings (Kshs. 300,000).

CHALLENGING GENDER STEREOTYPES IN HORTICULTURE

(Supported by USAID)

Women in Kenya contribute significantly to agricultural production and are increasingly recognized, in words if not in practice, for this contribution. But there is still a long way to go to match their reality to this rhetoric and to ensure that women receive adequate support so that their efforts in the field contribute in the best way possible to health and nutrition related household level outcomes. Women's agricultural work, in addition to their work around the home that is unrecognized as part of the formal work sector, have long been ignored by most developing country policy makers as well as the international donor community.

It is in the view of the above that CCGD through Kenya Horticulture Competitiveness Project (KHCP) - a USAID-funded initiative – has been involved in rigorous gender training of trainers in sixteen Counties with to mainstream gender in the project with a long term goal of influencing social norms and gender roles to improve gender equity and respond to gender needs of the targeted population. For success stories see <http://youtu.be/5NKON84RP8A>

Makueni ToTs train famer groups at Makindu Elders Society Offices



TOWARDS GENDER INCLUSIVE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN KENYA (Supported by UNDP)

CCGD was consulted by UNDP-Amkeni Wakenya to train over 103 Partner organizations on gender and democratic Governance. The aim of the project was to ensure gender is mainstreamed in all projects funded by Amkeni in order take into concerns of gender equity for women, men, boys and girls. The trainings were necessitated by the fact that institutions supporting civic educators have themselves failed to factor in gender concerns partly because they lack requisite capacity to carry out gender analysis necessary to identify and focus interventions on the gender issues, concerns and interests. The trainings that CCGD conducted contributed significantly to enhancing capacity of over 90 governance institutions to address gender issues in their programs and enhance inclusiveness of women equitably with men in governance. The trainings saw some of the organizations follow up with CCGD and requested to be assisted in capacity building in terms of gender sensitization and assist in developing institutional based gender policies.

A participant makes a presentation during gender training workshop in Nakuru for UNDP-Amkeni wakenya Partners



STRENGTHENING LOCAL GROUPS THROUGH COUNSELLING TO REDUCE VULNERABILITY TO SGBV (Supported by IDRC)

There are numerous cases of SGBV in Kenya affecting all genders although women suffer the heaviest brunt. CCGD with support from IDRC has been conducting an SGBV study together with community based organizations and other partners in Kisumu, Naivasha, Nairobi and Mombasa with the aim of strengthening linkages between national policy framework and local interventions to help prevent and mitigate SGBV affecting women. The research process started by confirming pre-identified local level organizations. The organizations formed the locus of organized data collection and outreach since the perspective was one of participatory learning prevention and mitigation of SGBV. Partnership in the research aimed at systematizing data collection, storage and dissemination, usage on a recurrent basis to inform initiatives to prevent and mitigate SGBV as well as strengthen their capacity to assist survivors fo SGBV.

Counseling as a Strategy

The counseling training was aimed at enabling CBO members to be able to handle professionally cases that they receive from the community. Counselling was an important component of such a sensitive study as it catered for the needs of the research assistants and traumatised survivors. This training was vital as its usefulness would outlive the research period due to the persistence of violence in the community. It enabled the survivors to cope with the trauma they had been exposed to. Fifty CBO members; ten from each were trained and equipped with counselling knowledge and skills. After training and practice, CBO members were able to counsel and make follow ups on survivors. The counselling psychologist from CCGD was called upon to handle cases that the CBOs found complex.

The groups played a role in counselling traumatised survivors who reported to them. Some of their successes include: Through counseling skills that they learnt they were able to handle various cases that were reported to them in a professional manner i.e. they recorded cases and made follow up sessions; They were able to successfully refer cases to relevant offices and also able to make follow ups; Kibera Women for Peace and Fairness counselors were also involved in the counseling clinics project in their area of operation.

Their role in this regard is widespread as the service is not only offered to people within their vicinity but to others beyond their areas of operation. A Pal Omega CBO member in Kisumu narrated:

“ I received a call from a couple living 30kilometers from here and when I went there they reported that they were in problems that they had not been able to solve for a long period and that they had heard that Pal Omega group is helping people to salvage their situations. I talked to them like I have done to others and left. After four months, the couple called me again and I thought that the situation had worsened. Being a person trying to mitigate violence, I decided to go there again and to my surprise, the couple were full of jubilation for receiving help from me. They said that after a long period of distress they lived in harmony and peace. They actually rewarded me by giving me a hen. To me this was not only my achievement but also the groups”.



Mediatix leading stakeholders in Mombasa in sharing experiences during the Research