CCGD co-chaired the planning committee of the National GBV Conference held at Kenya School of Monetary Studies (KSMS) from 17th to 18th October 2019. The two-day conference central theme was *The Missing Agenda: Accountability Towards GBV*. The conference targeted participants from the national and county governments, civil society organizations, development partners, survivors of GBV, and other stakeholders. CCGD made a presentation at a panel discussion on the policy and legal framework on GBV in Kenya.

The session reviewed the status of the implementation of policies and laws on GBV at both National and County levels. This hoped to increase the knowledge on the gender policies and laws that exist and roadmap towards the implementation of gender policies and laws at both levels of government.

CCGD also exhibited its publications derived from engagement in program activities with different partners promoting gender equality.

“*It is not just a question of appropriation of resources and enactment of laws; it is about ensuring that the laws are fully operationalized. Relevant sectors need to come together to put in place mechanisms to implement it,*” Masheti Masinjila, Executive Director, CCGD.

**THE MISSING AGENDA IN GBV**

Masheti Masinjila, ED, CCGD at a panel discussion during the National Gender Based Violence conference in Nairobi.
The conference aimed to take stock of the progress made so far in efforts and measures to fight GBV in the country. It provided a first-time platform to survivors of GBV to share their experiences and the challenges they faced along the referral chain in the quest for justice. This hoped to compel state and non-state commitment and accountability to eliminating GBV.

The conference also aimed to engage and stimulate conversations on long-lasting solutions in the prevention and response to GBV through panel discussions. The themes included survivor experiences and the gaps in implementation of the legal and policy framework on GBV, interrogating the gains made in the past two years by national duty bearers, sharing good practices and innovations, coordination, policies and laws, GBV: a multifaceted and intersectionality issue, accountability for prevention and response to GBV, GBV in emergencies, and innovations and technological solutions aimed at preventing and responding to GBV.

Duty bearers were also allowed to share insights and best practices and even recognize progress made. Engagement with the government sought to achieve quantifiable commitments to address gaps in our structures and systems that have persistently been the biggest obstacles in the fight against GBV. The conference also gave GBV practitioners an opportunity to share innovative strategies, resources and tools and evidence-based work on GBV as well. Running concurrently with the main sessions was a side exhibition where organizations displayed their work.
CSOs PRESENT THEIR AGENDA TO THE 12TH COMMONWEALTH WOMEN’S AFFAIRS MINISTER MEETING

Kenyan Civil Society Organizations coordinated collation of views and issues from the African region that formed part of the CSOs position in advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment to the Commonwealth Women’s Affairs Ministers meeting held under the theme From Commitment to Action: Accelerating Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment for Sustainable Development. The meeting brought together civil society organizations, women ministers, and other stakeholders.

It was a unique platform to create synergy on all efforts and activities touching on women’s empowerment and gender equality in the commonwealth region and other parts of the world. The main anchors of the meeting were the commonwealth gender priorities which include women’s economic empowerment, ending violence against women and girls, climate change and gender.

A side event was held concurrently to come up with a 10-point plan for action in the future that included calling for resourcing and allocation of budget in all sectors to address women’s rights and gender equality, dealing with the gendered impact of climate change and strengthening institutions to be accountable for women.

UNEARTHING CHALLENGES THAT YOUNG WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS FACE

The forum sought to unearth the challenges that young women entrepreneurs go through and forge mechanisms on how to deal with them going forward. Participants highlighted the difficulties they undergo in their entrepreneurship journeys which include lack of capital, lack of market/competition from other businesses, heavy taxation, breaking even, streamlining/lack of enough information, lack of digital access, high prices, lack of legal aid, market dictates, culture, objectification of women in patriarchal industries, societal perceptions, and sexual harassment among others.

As part of solving these challenges, the participants were urged to make use of the 50 Million Women Speak project that provides a wide array of benefits to young women entrepreneurs. 50MWS is an online networking platform under EAC that offers women access to financial and non-financial services.
It is merely a one-stop information centre that is intended to reach women all over Africa without disrupting their day-to-day activities. The project aims to get the voice of women regarding the opportunities available. They are also able to learn from one another while buying and selling their products or services.

The participants were taken through what the East African Community entails and the role it plays in cross-border business. East African Community is a regional governmental body comprising six countries: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, and South Sudan. The 160-million block was born by a treaty signed in 1999 and is headquartered in Arusha, Tanzania. The pillars of integration at EAC are customs union, common market, monetary union, and political federation (political confederation).

The Pre-Summit was part of the build-up to the main annual summit that is scheduled to take place from 11th to 14th November 2019 at the MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation campus in Arusha, Tanzania. The You Lead Summit themed *Youth at the Crossroads Migration, Participation and Access to Opportunities* will bring together over 250 innovative youth leaders drawn from the whole of East Africa to articulate their hopes, needs and opportunities in the quest of realizing the region’s sustainable development goals.

**YOUTH DISPLAY CREATIVITY AT NAIROBI INNOVATIONS WEEK**

The Nairobi Innovations Week (NIW) programme held at the University of Nairobi convened different stakeholders drawn from various sectors to support and accelerate the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in the region. The NIW brings together start-ups, innovators, entrepreneurs, enablers, established companies, government agencies, and academia to showcase their innovations, products, programs and services, all contributing to the growing innovation ecosystem in the region. This year’s theme was *Innovation and Kenya’s Big Four Agenda*.

EACSOF-K held a side event on the 12th of June with the main focus on three thematic areas, namely:

1. Youth Innovations track

This provided an opportunity for youth from different academic institutions to exhibit their innovations. A total of 14 innovations were presented to a team of judges and rapporteurs, and the best three were awarded.

2. Disability track.

The disability track featured keynote speeches on the enabling role of technology to persons with disability exploring how modern design tools can be used to change the lives of persons with disability. It also delved into the power of digital information and the aspect of empathy.
THE GENDER LENS

3. Anti-corruption track
The anti-corruption track was a platform to examine the extent to which different forms of corruption have impacted the country and hindered development. It underlined the importance of a unified and well-coordinated multi-sectoral approach to eliminate corruption and achieve national development.

KENYA GENDER BUDGETING NETWORK (KGBN) REVIVED

EACSOF partnered with NairoBits, FINGO, Innovation for Change, and Linking Industry with Academia (LIWA) to facilitate the different tracks which highlighted youth innovations and plenary discussions around the thematic tracks area.

GRB initiatives are very powerful tools of achieving gender equality and women’s rights by purposing to influence budgets to achieve gender equality. This is made possible by changing the way in which budgets and policies are designed and implemented, raising awareness among the relevant stakeholders and pursuing greater accountability from government to its commitments. GRB highlights the existence of inequality in the budget making processes, allocations and the impacts it has on women as compared to men. Further GRB is useful in increasing efficiency of government budgets to allow better informed decisions. Ultimately, GRB accelerates the implementation of commitments and enhances the effectiveness of policies and programmes.

CCGD has facilitated efforts to revive the Kenya Gender Budgeting Network that has been inactive since 2009. The KGBN is a membership platform of stakeholders engaged in gender focused advocacy work to inform programming and budgeting. It provides for coordinated advocacy to promote Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) practices in Kenya. The network was first established in the year 2005/2006 by a number of stakeholders who were engaged in GRB advocacy at that time. The network is grounded and founded on the need for gender equality, equity and accountability in public finance management as well as sustainable development.

Lessons learnt in the past inform the current revival of the network to ensure that the network remains objective and professional in its mandate while engaging meaningfully with different stakeholders as well as strike a balance between politics and addressing the real issues that affect each gender. Objectivity will also help the network to navigate the push and pull factors between the different levels of government to ensure that GRB continues to gain prominence.
National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) in partnership with The Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development (CCGD), East African Civil Society Organizations Forum (EACSOF) - Kenya Chapter, and the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) - Kenya Chapter held a workshop on 24th October 2019 to validate the Maputo Protocol Scorecard.

The event held at the Nairobi Safari Club was attended by key civil society organizations, government departments and ministries as well as representatives from the private sector.

The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, better known as The Maputo Protocol, was adopted by the African Union in 2003. Kenya ratified the protocol in 2010, but years later, the implementation of the treaty has left very little to be admired.

The scorecard provides a systematic process of reviewing the progress of member states’ compliance at implementing the Protocol articles 2-27 which are obligatory. It also enables assessment and provision of recommendations on areas that require improvements and strengthening.

Every country that has signed the protocol is expected to submit reports to the African Union every two years, but this is yet to be done. NGEC hopes to work with the government of Kenya to facilitate its compliance with the critical articles in the protocol.

RE-INVENT is Coffey International Development five-year programme whose focus is on Reducing Insecurity and Violent Extremism in the Northern and Coastal regions of Kenya (RE-INVENT). It is DFID funded whose aim is to enhance Kenya’s capacity and capability in addressing inter-communal conflict, weak community-police relations, violence against women and girls (VAWG), violent extremism and election related violence. It will support the continued advancement of police reforms to improve the management, oversight and accountability of the police force. The project will build on the experience of the Jamii Thabiti Programme (2014-19) and will be implemented in 18 counties namely; Mombasa, Lamu, Kwale, Kilifi, Tana River, Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Samburu, West Pokot, Turkana, Baringo, Laikipia, Marsabit, Isiolo, Kisumu, Bungoma, and Nakuru.

REINVENT has the intention to support the strengthening of linkages between the various levels of governance, adding to a coordinated delivery of services towards VAWG prevention, redress and gender justice.
CCGD will partner with key government agencies such as State Department for Gender (SDfG), National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), National Police Service (NPS) Reforms and the Gender Directorates, Council of Governors (CoG) and Gender Sector Working Groups in the implementation of VAWG workstream initiatives including the development of guidelines to key policies and legislations to ensure proper implementation of response and prevention of violence against women, men, girls and boys.

The programme seeks to address the root causes that normalize VAWG, targeting key socialization agents and institutions such as family, schools, and community in transitional initiation processes.

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