THE
GENDER LENS
Bringing a gendered focus on Economic and Political Governance

NEWSLETTER
August
2016
THE EFFECTS OF PROVISION OF MODERN SANITARY PRODUCTS ON YOUNG GIRLS’ SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN KENYA

In the past years, menstruation and lack of sanitary products has been purported to be the main reason for school absenteeism of pubescent girls. Since November 2014, CCGD has been working with New York University Abu Dhabi on a study to test the hypothesis that menstruation does have a significant negative impact on young pubescent poor girls’ school attendance in Kenya because they cannot afford modern sanitary products. The groundwork was concluded in December 2015 and the research findings have been concluded and are under documentation.

The study aimed to investigate: what are the links between adolescent girls’ school attendance and the provision of sanitary products by looking at: (a) how frequently pubescent girls actually miss school during their menses; and (b) the causal effect of the provision of modern sanitary products i.e. pads on school attendance.

The project engaged students from Raila Education Centre and Kawangware Primary School as the treatment and control groups respectively. There were 63 girls in the control group and 58 girls in the treatment group who were followed over one year beginning term 1 through to term 3 in 2015. Data was collected from the school registers, student diaries, academic reports, questionnaires and monthly discussions with the students.
The Jamii Thabitii program seeks to improve the strength and capacity of security authorities in Kenya. Stronger and better equipped security organisations are able to respond to criminal violence, inter-communal violence and violence against women and girls in a more effective and efficient manner.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is a human rights issue, and in the various counties is still of critical concern and therefore has to be dealt with at the county level in both legislation and programmatic areas to enhance a state of security for everyone in the community.

CCGD conducted a Rapid Assessment on the Status of County Laws on VAWG in the counties of Baringo, Kwale and Wajir as a follow up to the National Gender and Equality Commission’s (NGEC) “Keeping the Promise to End GBV” campaign launches in Baringo, Kwale, Wajir and Bungoma Counties held between June and August 2016 as part of the Jamii Thabitii Program.

The Rapid Assessment was done in form of Key informant interviews which were conducted with selected representatives from the County Assembly and County Executive Committees (gender division). The personnel interviewed included the gender and youth officers (CECs), gender directors, deputy gender directors as well as legal officers. The three counties were randomly selected from eight counties that NGEC was launching the campaign in.

The findings from this Baseline Survey (Rapid Assessment) will be used to come up with a Prototype/Model Law for County Governments to facilitate coherent GBV response and prevention.
PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERSHIP WITH EACSOF-KENYA

Following a partnership in 2014, CCGD has been hosting EACSOF-Kenya and assisting the organization in the implementing programs. The East African Civil Society Organizations’ Forum (EACSOF) Kenya Chapter is partnering with Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA) Kenya Country Program to improve the capacity of EACSOF Kenya to engage in policy formulation on EAC issues, to coordinate the interventions of the Mombasa Port CSO Stakeholder Group, among others and ultimately improve the participation of citizens in the regional integration. The project will be implemented over a period of twenty four (24) months and is expected to: a) Facilitate Port Community to lobby Port Management to incorporate their priority issues in port plans; b) Improve capacity of EACSOF Kenya Chapter to deliver on its mission; and c) to enable EACSOF Kenya lobby for its key priorities to be incorporated by RDC/SG’s Forum as policy recommendations.

The project has supported several interventions, among them, the establishment of the National Dialogue Committee and the launch of the National Dialogue Forum to enable effective engagement of CSOs, PSO and other interest groups in influencing policy at both national and regional dialogue processes.

The project has also support the establishment of the engagement framework between Mombasa Port Community, Port Management and County Government to facilitate effective engagement in the port reform dialogue.