

GENDER LENS

JUNE - JULY NEWSLETTER ISSUE

Issue No. 3



Baringo youth demand involvement in peace building



Baringo County youth with Mr. Naphtali Kojo, Administrative Officer at the Office of Baringo County Commissioner (sitting second right) during a forum on the use of traditional and new media (social media) techniques to promote peace building in Baringo County held on 27th July 2022 in Kabarnet town. [Maurice Goga, CCGD]

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Road map for unpaid care and domestic work policy

By Getrude Angela



Members of the technical working group on the unpaid care and domestic work policy during the formulation of multi sectoral working group for the unpaid care and domestic work policy in Maanzoni, Machakos County. (Getrude Angela, CCGD)

The National Steering Committee on the Unpaid Care and Domestic Work policy (UCDW) held a three-day stakeholder meeting at the Manzoni lodge in Machakos County with the objective to develop a road map for the development of the UCDW policy.

Speaking at the meeting CCGD Executive Director, Mr. Masheti Masinjila stated that policymakers should address issues concerning unpaid care work as it has implications on the achievement of gender equality. Weak policies, socio-gender cultural beliefs and practices and inadequate provision of care services contribute largely to the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work by women.

Action Aid Kenya Executive Director, Ms. Susan Otieno urged the government to recognize, redistribute and remunerate unpaid care work. Adding that the 3Rs can only be achieved with support from the state and non-state actors.

While the UN Women representative, Ms. Maureen Gitonga commended Kenya's ability to monitor gender-related data which has led to increased data collection and analysis resulting to filling gender data gaps across the Sustainable Development Goals

“Time use survey will inform the development of the first national care policy in 2022 and shape the creation of the country's first-ever satellite national account to measure unpaid care work as a priority in the fourth medium-term plan,” said Ms. Maureen.

Others present included representatives of Ministries and State Departments/Agencies; The University of Nairobi Women Economic Empowerment Hub (UON -WEE Hub and ICRW

The stakeholders called for quantifying the effect of unpaid care work through research.

CCGD is a member of the Steering committee on the development of a policy on unpaid care work.

Calls for elimination of harmful practices affecting children

By Getrude Angela



Girls from DAC, Mundika Special School performing a folk song during the celebration of the Day of the African Child which were held at Busia Compassion Children's Home in Matayos sub-county, Busia County. (Courtesy)

Calls for the elimination of harmful practices affecting children dominated the celebration of the Day of African Child on June 16, 2022

In Kwale, Busia and Mombasa. In Kwale County, the celebrations were held at Kinango sub-county where at least 1500 children and 500 parents were engaged on the need to eliminate harmful practices such as Female genital mutilation, child marriage and sexual violence.

In Mombasa County, the commemorations provided an opportunity for the children to deliberate on the progress of policies and practices around the prevention of harmful cultural practices against children.

Mr. Gilbert Kitili, County Directorate of Children's Services in Mombasa said children face challenges including defilement, child trafficking, child marriage and child discrimination. He urged the stakeholders to give children opportunities such as Children Assembly to make decisions on matters affecting them.

In Busia County, 700 children marked the event at Busia Compassion Children's Home in Matayos.

Currently, CCGD in partnership with the University of Nairobi Women Economic Empowerment Hub (UON-WEE HUB) implementing the program on reducing the burden of unpaid care work targeting working women among them small-scale cross-border women traders in Busia and Namanga border towns. The program enables women to access quality and affordable childcare services.

Efforts to address teenage pregnancies and sexual and reproductive health rights in Samburu County

By Getrude Angela



A pregnant girl. Image: The Star

Empower Pastoralist Organization of Kenya held a sensitization workshop for 35 teenage mothers in Maralal town, Samburu County. The event focused on understanding the root cause and challenges of teen pregnancies in the county. Further, teenagers were sensitized on sexual and reproductive health rights, GBV, referral pathways, and available opportunities for young mothers.

According to statistics obtained from Samburu County, Health Department shows that 832 teenagers became pregnant between January and March 2022 and the health officials fear that the number is will spike by end of this if nothing is done by both national, and county governments and other stakeholders.

Teen mothers cited FGM and child marriage as the main causes of teenage pregnancy in the county saying in most cases, they are usually married off after the act. Further, they mentioned a lack of funds to start a business.

Samburu County Assistant County Commissioner, Mr. George Murage said high poverty levels, SGBV and retrogressive cultural practices in the county contributed to the rise of teen pregnancy.

“Teen mothers are a vulnerable group who should be made aware of the existing government opportunities and support and shall be given priority to teen mothers during the distribution of relief food and funds, “said Mr. Murage.

Mr. David Wambua, Samburu County Police Commander urged the young mothers to report cases of GBV to the special unit at the police station where young girls and women can report GBV cases.

He noted that if reports on cases of GBV can be done promptly by the community including young mothers then the county will be free from GBV and enhance opportunities for women.

The girls promised to report SGBV cases using the HAK 1195 hotline.

Samburu youth join search for peace

By Getrude Angela



Samburu morans (male youth) during youth engagement forum on UNSCR 2250 at Suguta Marmar in Samburu County. [Getrude Angela, CCGD]

Samburu morans (male youth) met at a peace forum in Samburu County as part of their engagement in the prevention of violence and protection of women from violence. The morans said that the high school drop-out rate has led to an increase in their involvement in violent conflict in the county because those who have dropped out of school are often involved in cattle rustling.

The morans called for the formation of peace ambassadors clan groups that would enable them to be seen as agents of peace and not perpetrators of conflict and violence, especially during campaigns and communal conflicts. They said they are not involved in the decision-making process due to age-based cultural barriers

The stakeholders present reiterated that the issue of unemployment and drug abuse should be addressed.

Currently, CCGD is implementing the Women, Peace and Security Program which aims to end the double marginalization of women in peace and security processes in the counties of Mandera, Samburu, and Baringo counties. The involvement of the youth in peace-building processes and giving them a voice at decision-making tables should enhance peace and security in the counties.

Baringo youth demand involvement in peace building

By Carol Jebet & MauriceGoga



Felix Kemboi (right) Felix Chirchir (Centre) and Winnie Tuitoek speak on involvement of youth in peace building initiatives during a forum on the use of traditional and new media (social media) techniques to promote peace building in Baringo County held on 27th July 2022 in Kabarnet town. [Maurice Goga, CCGD]

Youth in Baringo County have called on government and other stakeholders to involve them in peace-building initiatives. This comes in the aftermath of reported banditry attacks which led to loss of lives and displacement of people with women and children left to pay the price of the attacks when the security operation was put in place in the aftermath.

Speaking during a forum on the use of traditional and new media (social media) techniques to promote peace-building in Baringo County held on 27th July 2022 in Kabarnet town, the youth noted that they don't have safe space and platforms where they can freely speak on issues of insecurity and conflict affecting the county.

Led by Felix Chirchir, a member of the Baringo Peace Consortium, the youth expressed their disappointment for not being actively engaged in the decision-making process in matters of peace and security in the county.

“Youth are mostly perpetrators of these attacks and involving them and giving them a platform to speak on some of the challenges we have as a county will help in addressing the challenges such as conflict,” said Chirchir. Felix Kemboi, Youth Peace Ambassador for CSI- Kenya called for mapping for mapping of youth groups and community-based organizations working on peace and security and giving safe spaces where they can table their issues.

“As young people, we only want to be listened to and given an opportunity to table our ideas,” said Kemboi.

On her part, Winnie Tuitoek, Journalist at K24 noted that the security agencies have also neglected the youth when it comes to peacebuilding initiatives even in Baringo North and Baringo South where banditry attacks are rampant.

Participants are usually leaders and security agencies and, in most scenarios, the youth are not given time or space to give their views. [\(Read more\)](#)



THE CENTRE

**Collaborative Centre for
Gender and Development**



**East African Civil Society
Organizations' Forum**

*Strengthening Civil Society in the
Integration Process*

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