

GENDER LENS

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KAJIADO
HEADQUARTERS



Kajiado County Secretary, Mr Francis Ole Sakuda (centre) CCGD Executive Director, Mr. Masheti Masijila (5th left) and County Executive Committee Member for Public and Social Services, Mr. Alais Kisota (6th right) with officials from both the County Government and CCGD during the signing of the MOU ceremony held at Governor's boardroom (Picture: Maurice Goga, CCGD)

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The beneficiaries of Jasiri Fund in Kinango sub-county, Kwale County along with CCGD Micro-finance and Entrepreneurship Officer, Maureen Wairimu (far left) Kwale County Administrator Ms. Vicky Kisilu (far right) during an entrepreneurship training in Kinango. (Picture: Maurice Goga, CCGD)

Namanga Childcare Centre Set to Open

By Maurice Goga



Ms. Rose Nyakio one of the traders at Namanga market who are looking forward to the opening of Namanga Childcare Centre which they believe will relieve them from the burden of childcare while at her business (Picture: Maurice Goga, CCGD)

The establishment of Namanga childcare centre in Namanga town is steps away after Kajiado County Government and Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development (CCGD) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) at county government offices in Kajiado town on Tuesday, December 6, 2022.

The County Government shall secure the location of the facility and provide staff

CCGD shall facilitate the quality delivery of childcare services by building the capacity of the caregivers and parents association and management committee.

CCGD shall also contribute to the cost of running of the facility as well as collecting, analyzing and disseminating data to inform policies.

Speaking during the signing of the MOU, the County Secretary, Mr Francis Ole Sakuda, welcomed the partnership saying the county government will accord CCGD and other partners all the support they may need with regard to child protection.

Adding that the county government was fully aware of the disproportionate burden of childcare duties performed by women and had provided space in the Ngong Market for the establishment of a childcare facility.

On his part, CCGD Executive Director, Mr Mashti Masinjila said ongoing discussions with Namanga women cross-border traders had resulted in the partnership to between Kajiado County and CCGD to address childcare challenges.

The signed MOU agreement seeks to increase women traders and other working women's access to childcare facilities and enable them to concentrate on their work and increase their productivity. The partnership should also inform Kajiado County on what it takes to provide childcare to enable them to make appropriate budgetary allocations.

Present at the signing of the MOU ceremony was County Executive Committee Member for Public and Social Services, Mr. Alais Kisota; County Chief Officer, Ms Rose Mumba; Director of Social Services, Ms. Irene Katete; Deputy Director Social Services Mr Philip Murre; Coordinator Social Protection, Agnes Payiaton and a team from CCGD which included, Program Officer Childcare and Child Protection, Ms. Grace Kathau; Human Rights Officer, Ms Diana Mwanzia, Communication Officer, Mr. Maurice Goga and Kajiado County Administrator, Ms. Ruth Nashipae.

Running a successful online business

By Maurice Goga



Ms. Binkhamis Mohammed a beneficiary of Jasiri Fund in Kwale County (Picture: Maurice Goga, CCGD)

When Ms. Binkhamis Mohammed divorced her husband as a result of gender-based violence all seemed to be lost as the only business she depended on to fend for two children was also affected by the breakout of the COVID-19 pandemic thus leaving her and the children devastated.

“During the breakout of COVID-19 in Kenya, there were some rumours that mitumba clothes were among those items spreading the virus. Mark you at that time I had a bale of clothes for kids and it was difficult for people to buy out of fear that the clothes were spreading coronavirus, she said.

However, Ms. Mohammed says things took a different shape when she was trained and on-boarded as a beneficiary of a low-interest loan from Jasiri Fund.

Jasiri Fund is a non-collateral loan that seeks to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Kenya during the COVID-19 pandemic. The features of the loan include a minimum and maximum borrowing of Ksh. 30,000 to 500,000, the beneficiary of the loan has a one-month grace period before they start servicing at a fixed interest rate of 8.38%

Ms. Mohammed was able to get a loan of Ksh. 30,000 which she used in reviving her business in the sale of lessos and bedsheets. The mother of two said she was given a period of nine months to service her loan, however, due

to her already existing customers, she was able to service the loan within six months. This made her qualify for another loan where she took Ksh. 39,000 which she is in the process of repaying.

Apart from venturing into a new business, she also opted to digitize her business by taking pictures of her stock and sharing them on digital platforms such as WhatsApp or Facebook.

“I do an online business where I take pictures of my products and share them on WhatsApp Groups as well Facebook where my customers are able to see them and make orders,” she said.

She says online sales help in cutting running costs: “I saw the responsibility that I have – I have two kids and if I decide to rent a shop which is Ksh. 10,000 per month and there are also licenses to be paid that would be costly. So, I told myself my business will be done online to cut the cost, said Mohammed.

The mother of two has also insured her business against disasters. A move that she says should be emulated by other businesswomen to avoid witnessing the same situation as witnessed during COVID -19 pandemic or any other disaster such as fire.

She looks forward to getting her third loan.....[Read more](#)

Launch 2022 16 Days of Activism against GBV

By Maurice Goga



Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action, Hon. Aisha Jumwa (far left), Kilifi Governor, Hon. Gideon Mung'aro and Cabinet Secretary for Labour and Social Protection, Hon. Florence Bore (2nd right) launches the A National SGBV Directory at Water Grounds in Kilifi County (Picture: Courtesy of Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action)

The National launch of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence took place on the 25th of November at Water Grounds in Kilifi County, coinciding with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women held.

The event was graced by the Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action, Hon. Aisha Jumwa among other dignitaries.

Speaking during the event, Hon Aisha Jumwa noted that there is a need for both state and non-state actors to actively participate in activities and events aimed at raising awareness on the prevention and response to GBV.

She also called for the implementation of the 12 commitments made towards the implementation of the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) both at the county and national levels.

“We should strengthen and accelerate efforts made towards the elimination of GBV in the country. Kenya has been accorded an opportunity through the new global initiative (GEF) where Kenya is a leader in the action on coalition on GBV,” said the CS.

The CS urged the residents of Kilifi not to use violence as means of resolving conflicts.

“My call to the community leaders is to engage our people to accept that times have changed and that we cannot resolve our differences or address other societal challenges by minting violence on another person,” said Hon. Aisha.

Present at the event was Kilifi Governor Hon. Gideon Mung'aro; Kilifi County Women Representative, Hon. Florence Bore; Nairobi Women Representative Hon. Esther Passaris; UN Women Country Representative Anna Mutavati; UNFPA County Representative Anders Thomssen, National GBV Gender Sector Working Group Co-chairs, MS. Alberta Wambua and Mr. Masheti Masinjila among other leaders

Similarly, various counties including Mombasa, Kwale, Baringo and Samburu among others also launched the 16 Days of Activism against GBV in their respective counties.

In Mombasa County, the event was held at Uwanja wa Cinema in Tudor where a number of stakeholders under the GBV sector working including survivors of GBV attended the event. Gracing the event was[Read More](#)

24 graduands transit from Busia Childcare Centre to pre-primary school

By Maurice Goga



24 children who transitioned from the centre to pre-primary school level during a graduation ceremony held on 2nd December 2022 at Busia Child care Centre grounds. (Picture: Sahron Ngaira, CCGD)

At least 24 children graduated from Busia Childcare Centre as they transitioned to pre-primary school during a graduation ceremony held on 2nd December 2022 at Busia Childcare Centre grounds.

Addressing the parents, Busia County Director for ECDE Dr. Barasa said the initiative has brought relief for the women traders whom he says now have a safe place to leave their children as they embark on their businesses.

He called on the parents to continue investing in their children cooperate with the management of the facility in terms of payment to help the facility continue with its operations.

The Chairperson Busia Women Cross-borders Traders Association, Ms. Florence Atieno called upon the county government to support the initiative as it has impacted the lives of both the women and their children.

She added that the facility does not cater for children of women cross-border traders alone but also takes in children from other economic sectors so as to allow women to fully participate in their income-generating activities.

Busia Childcare Centre is a collaborative initiative among the Busia Women Cross-border Association, the County Government of Busia and the Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development with support from Mastercard Foundation and the University of Nairobi Women Economic Empowerment Hub. The project seeks to redistribute the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work on women through providing 0-4 day-care. To date, 11914 children have attended the facility since its inception in August 2021.

Youth call for involvement in prevention and response to GBV

By Maurice Goga



Participants of the Youth Dialogue on the 2022 16 Days of activism against GBV (Picture: Purity Jebor, CCGD)

The youth have called for their involvement in the prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV).

Speaking during a youth dialogue in marking the 16 Days of Activism against GBV held on 6th December 2022 at American Space Nairobi, the youth noted that they are always seen as perpetrators of violence against women and girls but on the flip side, they too are survivors of GBV which sometimes emanate from domestic and or sexual violence.

Mr. Deogratus Magero, Youth Technical Advisor at Plan International Kenya called on the stakeholders in the GBV sphere to unpack the anti- GBV information to the youth saying this will enable the majority of the youth to join the campaign towards prevention and response to GBV and finally to its elimination in Kenya by 2026.

“We need to unpack information for the youth to be active audiences in speaking out on issues of GBV,” said Magero.

Ms. Magdalene Were, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Coordinator at Collaborative Center for Gender and Development (CCGD), noted that youth have been victims or perpetrators of GBV unknowingly saying that there are different forms of GBV which majority youth are not aware of, as a result, this makes them either victims or preparators of such forms of GBV.

“GBV does not go after married people only. There exist diverse types of GBV that you and I have either been a victim or a perpetrator unknowingly,” she said.

The SGBV Coordinator called upon stakeholders championing for the elimination of GBV in Kenya to sensitize the youth more to increase their participation in matters of prevention and response to GBV.

Power imbalances in the household were also cited as a major cause of GBV witnessed by domestic workers who are mostly youth. Employers often take advantage of their authority to abuse the Youth.

“The cases of GBV on domestic workers are on the rise due to power imbalance in our household,” said Ms. Winfred Akumu, Deputy Executive Director, of Africa Youth Trust.

On his part, MC Kim, the Executive Director at Street Talent Africa urged stakeholders to take advantage of the skills and talent the youth have in arts to champion prevention and response to GBV.

The dialogue forum was collaboratively organized by CCGD, Plan International, American spaces, East Africa Civil Society Forum (EACSO) and Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) -Kenya, the forum attracted 53 youth drawn from 20 organizations.

We need to unpack information for the youth to be active audience in speaking out on issues of GBV

Mr. Deogratus Magero
Youth Technical Advisor, Plan International

Nikumbuke Project bringing hope to teenage mothers in Lunga Lunga

By Maurice Goga



Nikumbuke Project Director, Mrs. Bendettah Muthina supervises the work done by young girls who are undergoing tailoring course at Nikumbuke, (Picture: Maurice Goga, CCGD)

As you make your steps to Nikumbuke in Lunga Lunga, Kwale County, the presence of young girls in uniform will not fail to attract your attention. To a certain point, you may mistake the place for a private school. But on a keen look, the girls are either in a small room busy with their sewing machines or are reading books.

Their innocent and calm faces do not betray the experiences some of them have undergone. Behind the smiles are some survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

The project launched thirteen years ago is a brainchild of a group of 120 women who had a vision of empowering young women and girls who were seen as rejects by the community. To date, a total of 4000 women and 6000 girls have been empowered through the project.

Ms. Bernadette Muthina, the project's director says that the women and girls at Nikumbuke are trained in the basic understanding of English and Mathematics as well as business skills.

"Most of these women and girls here have never been to school and others are dropouts of either primary or secondary school. So, I offer them literacy in English, basic in mathematics and business skills," she says.

"At Nikumbuke we also conduct a mentorship program for young girls in both primary and secondary schools – highlighting the importance of education as well as its completion. Further, we also have a business department that is training on entrepreneurship.

Ms. Muthina adds that the center also offers vocational training in tailoring which targets young girls. To date, at least 300 young girls have been trained in tailoring and have done their National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) exams.

"For vocational training, this year am having 32 girls but we have trained over 300 girls who have started their businesses or have secured employment in private businesses as tailors," she says.

Despite the success stories, Nikumbuke projects have their challenges— a number of women from the Maasai and Nuruma communities can only understand their own language thus teaching them in English and Kiswahili is not possible. For vocational training, the center has only 14 sewing machines vis-a-vis the 32 girls who currently are being trained thus the girls have to share the machines. Technical skill training options are also limited to tailoring for girls and women and do not expose them to more lucrative any gender -stereotype courses.

On top of the technical challenges, the centre also faces social challenges where a number of men are not friendly to the fact that the centre only offers training to women and girls.

"The men were not believing in what I am doing. Some of them used to question why am working with women and girls alone while others denied the women opportunity to undergo the training," says Ms. Muthina

Nikumbuke Project was born out of Ms. Muthina's vision of becoming a teacher, however,.....[Read More](#)

GBV led to my divorce

By Maurice Goga



Picture: Courtesy of Daily Nation

People believe that they should stay in marriage until death does them apart even if the marriage is abusive simply because “God hates divorce and marriage was instituted by God”.

Hamisi Bakari (not her real name), a survivor of gender-based violence (GBV) went against societal expectations and social norms to divorce her husband.

The mother of two says that marriage ceases to be meaningful when you are being poisoned by going through gender-based violence all in the name of saving the marriage.

Ms. Hamisi decided to file a divorce against her husband whom she says tortured her psychologically. This she says made her develop a phobia and fear of men and also lost trust in everyone.

She adds that she took the decision so to save her two children from being affected by the abusive marriage. “I saw the need to walk out of the abusive marriage so that my children are not affected by it. I did not want my children to take violence against women as normal — where my son would see abusing women as normal thing while my daughter grows up knowing that because she is a woman she should be abused.”

After filing the case, the husband sold all the properties they had to ensure that Ms. Hamisi did not benefit from any of the properties.

“We had a rental house with 12 rooms, two motorbikes, and a Mpesa shop. All these he sold,” says Ms. Hamisi.

She adds that she walked out of her marriage to act as an example to women who are having similar experiences in their marriage. She also wanted to send a message that GBV should not be encouraged and that a woman can also take care of her kids alone.

After having a successful divorce, she faced stigmatization from the community. “After the divorce, I was afraid of how people will take me because in our culture, the Mijikenda, as long as your parents were paid the bride price, you are not expected to walk out of that marriage and when you do all fingers will be pointed at you.”

The healing processes

After getting the divorce, Ms. Hamisi says she needed to go through a healing process so that she comes out of her phobia and fear of men. “When I was done with the divorce process, I needed to heal. So, I sought the services of a counselor where I would have two sessions per week.

At the onset narrating the ordeal was painful, but as time went by, I grew over it to point of counseling other women who are going through GBV in their marriage a similar case that I went through.”

She calls upon the state and non-state actors to invest in GBV prevention and response approaches such as psychosocial support services to come to the aid of many women and girls who are suffering silently in abusive marriages.

CCGD continues to work with the state and non-state actors in the prevention and response to GBV through various programs..... [Read More](#)



THE CENTRE Collaborative Centre for
Gender and Development



**East African Civil Society
Organizations' Forum**

*Strengthening Civil Society in the
Intergration Process*

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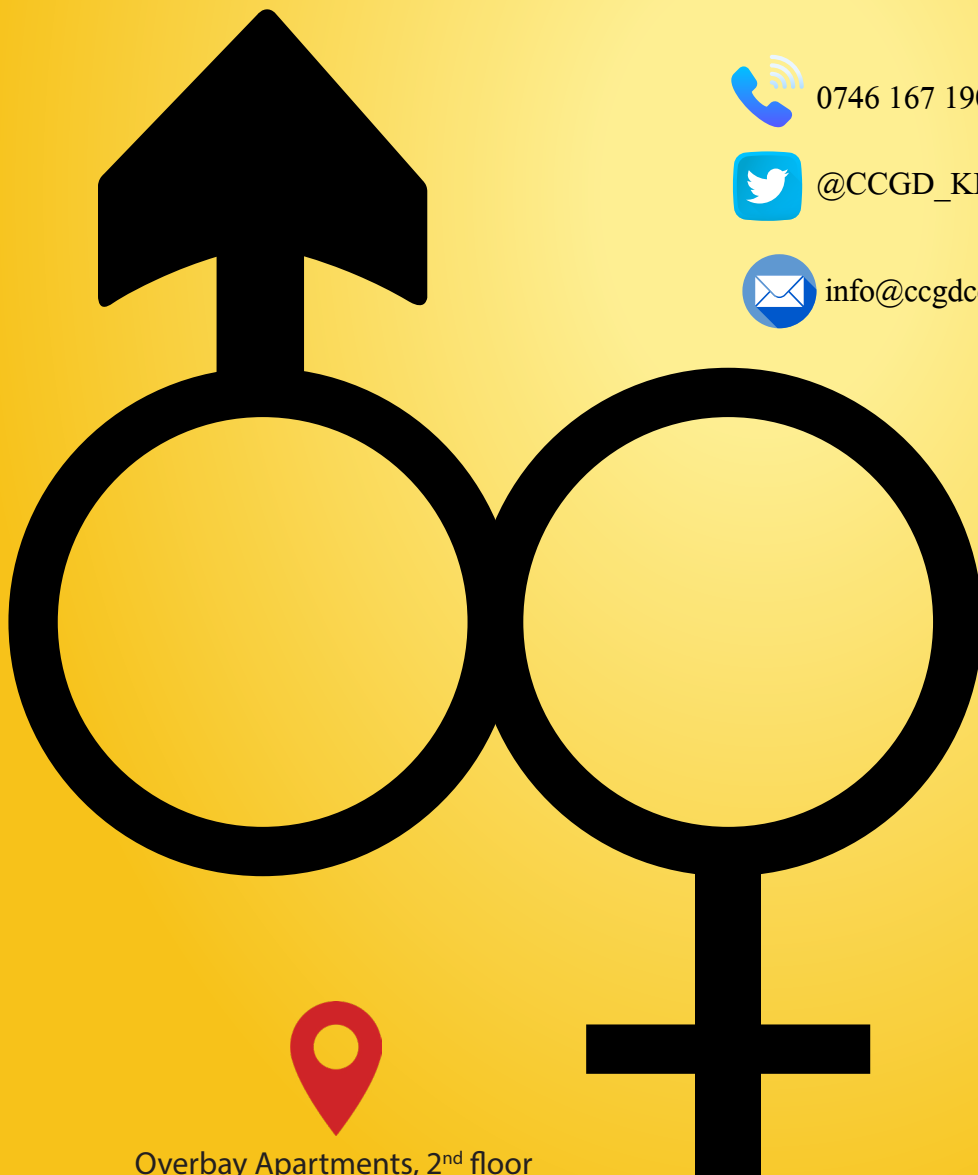
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