

# GENDER LENS

MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER ISSUE

Gender Lens 11<sup>th</sup> Edition



UNFPA Gender GBV Advisor Caroline Murgor ( front-row center) and UNFPA Humanitarian Advisor, Mr. John Wafula (front-row third right) with implementing partners during the launch of Enhancing life-saving Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and Addressing Protection Risks in Four Drought-Affected Counties in Kenya project in Garissa County. (Picture: FilmAid Kenya)



CCGD Executive Director, Mr. Masheti Masinjila displaying a copy of the agreement between CCGD and We Effect on the implementation of Actioning Gender Equality and Non-discrimination to Achieve Food Security (AGENAFS) during the launch Livelihood and Rights to Food (LRF) programme on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023. (Picture: We Effect)



We Effect Kenya partners signature board signed by partners during the launch Livelihood and Rights to Food (LRF) programme on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023. (Picture: WE Effect)

## In this edition

Mitigating Drought-induced Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) risks in Garissa, Marsabit, Turkana and Mandera [pg. 2](#)

The East African CSO Summit 2023 [pg. 3](#)

Kenya in the race to formulate National Care Policy [pg. 4](#)

The Gender Impacts of Finance Bill/Act, 2023 [pg. 5](#)

Increasing Informed Public Participation in Road Construction [pg. 6](#)

Launch of Livelihood and Right to Food Programme [pg. 7](#)

## Mitigating Drought-induced Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) risks in Garissa, Marsabit, Turkana and Mandera

By Maurice Goga



UNFPA Kenya Country Director Anders Thomas (second right) hands over dignity kit to Garissa County Deputy Governor, Mr. Abdi Muhumed Dagane and other county officials during the launch of Enhancing life-saving sexual and reproductive health rights and addressing protection risks in four drought-affected counties in Kenya project in Garissa County. (Picture: FilmAid Kenya).

As the effects of a 5-year drought in Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL) counties continue to unravel, SRH and GBV risks are on the rise hitting vulnerable populations and in particular women and girls hard. A new project intervention that aims to have an improved utilization of quality integrated Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) information and services has been launched. The intervention approach is through institutional capacity building, provision of mental health and psychosocial support services, improved SRH and GBV resilience and adaptation mechanisms and Improved integration of Sexual Reproductive Health and Gender Based Violence in community surveillance and early warning and anticipatory action systems in the four counties.

The project is focusing on the provision of mental health and psychosocial support and shall involve enhancing communities in respective counties access to development of standards and protocols for GBV helpline actors involved in the drought response, train 40 GBV helpline staff on basic psychosocial first aid (PFA), conduct awareness on the existing GBV helpline at national and county levels, train 40 community MHPSS providers in drought-affected counties and engage community members in the four counties in

MHPSS activities. All these will be done through a partnership with HAK 1195 and Dan Shieshie Foundation.

Speaking during the project launch in Garissa County, UNFPA Country Representative, Anders Thomsen noted that the project will help address some of the challenges women and girls face during emergencies or disasters. Adding that the selection of the counties of implementation was informed by the current KDHS 2022 report.

On the other hand, Garissa County, Deputy Governor, Abdi Muhumed Dagane welcomed the move saying the rollout of the project is timely and the county will continue will working with CSOs in sensitizing the community to shun GBV and harmful cultural practices.

The launch was attended by implementing partners including Peace Winds Japan (PWJ), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Film Aid Kenya (FAK), Centre Collaboration for Gender & Development (CCGD) and the Centre for Enhanced Democracy and Governance (CEDGG)

## The East African CSO Summit 2023

By Purity Jebor and Diana Mwanzia



Ms. Diana Mwanzia, Human Rights Officer at Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development makes a presentation on Countering Sextortion as a Form of Gender Specific Corruption during the East African CSO Summit 2023 held between 3rd and 5th May 2023 in Arusha Tanzania. (Picture: Purity Jebor,CCGD)

The East African Civil Society Forum held the first-ever civil society summit labelled the East Africa Civil Society Summit 2023 under the theme “Harnessing Potential in regional integration processes.”

The event which was held between the 3rd – 5th May 2023 in Arusha Tanzania attracted close to 200 delegates from the seven East Africa Community partner states. The summit was geared toward enhancing citizens’ participation in meaningful regional integration processes.

The summit’s overall objective was to strengthen the role and visibility of civil society in policy dialogue related to regional and continental development agendas. Speaking during the opening ceremony of the summit, the United Republic of Tanzania’s Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Dorothy Gwajima, congratulated the leadership of East African Civil Society Organization (EACSOF) for convening the summit urging the participants to come up with resolutions on various thematic areas that touch the lives of a common citizen such as health, governance and democracy.

The Minister acknowledged EACSOF chapters’ efforts to participate in research, convening national dialogues and holding public meetings on important issues affecting citizens within the EAC region.

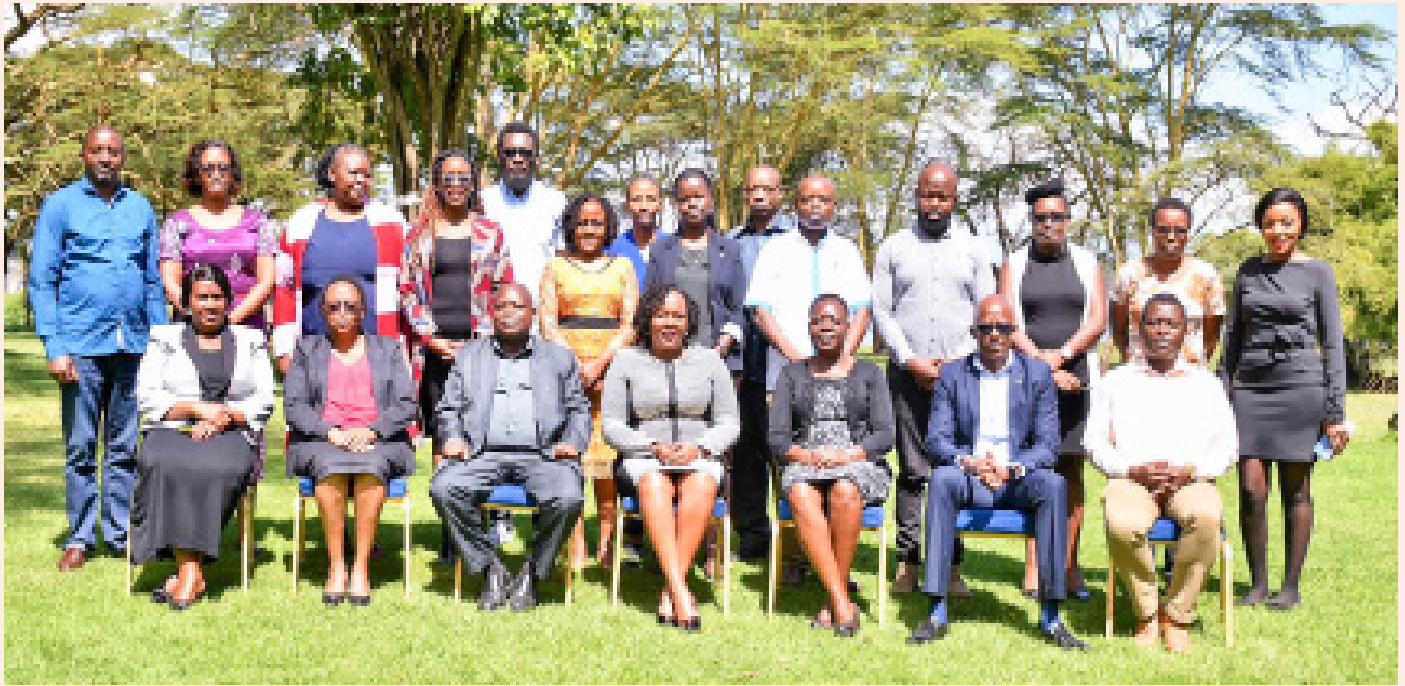
During the three-day summit, the delegates (state and non-state actors) across the seven EAC partner states agreed to continue engaging in citizen-led campaigns and sustained engagement with duty-bearers at the national, regional and continental levels, with a view to ensuring adherence to the tenets of democracy in the protection of civic space for engagement and management of public affairs.

Further, they also agreed to advocate for the empowerment of women and youth to able trade under the auspices of the (African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and push for the enactment of progressive policy and legislation to support a conducive operating environment for the realization of a thriving agricultural sector, that incorporates climate-resilient, adaptive approaches to food security and livelihoods.

EACSOF Kenya chapter with support from CCGD coordinated the participation of civil society actors from Kenya who constituted the second largest delegation after the host- Tanzania.

## Kenya in the race to formulate National Care Policy

By Maurice Goga



PS. State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action Fund, Ms. Veronica Nduva (seated centre) with Technical Working Committee drafting the National Care Policy during a five -day workshop in Naivasha. (Picture: State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action Fund)

State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action Fund is coordinating the process of developing the National Care Policy that shall provide a comprehensive framework for mitigating issues of unpaid care and domestic work as well as other care matters.

While addressing UN, CSO, academia and private sector stakeholders during a workshop held from 21st - 26th May 2023 in Naivasha, PS. for Gender and Affirmative Action, Ms. Veronica Nduva noted that the unpaid care and domestic work initiative is anchored in the SDG 5.4 which aims to recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work saying the government is dedicated to achieving SDG 5.4 before 2030.

The PS recognized that the burden of unpaid care work heavily falls disproportionately on women with data: “Women do over 76 per cent of unpaid care work compared to men, this exacerbates gender inequalities which also hinders their participation in national development,” said the PS. She called on the stakeholders to develop a policy that is innovative which will not only serve the current generation but also generations to come.

The PS also urged the stakeholders to focus on the gender-responsive infrastructural as well as cultural issues which she said contribute heavily to unpaid care and domestic work. She called for the involvement and engagement of various stakeholders to support the drafting of the policy.

CCGD has been at the forefront of advocacy for a policy that would facilitate recognition, redistribu-

tion and remuneration of unpaid care work. As part of its efforts to pilot and demonstrate policy options for redistributing childcare CCGD has established Busia Childcare Centre in partnership with the County Government of Busia, the University of Nairobi Women Economic Empowerment Hub and Busia Women Cross-Border traders to free women with 0-4 children to engage in income generating work and other activities of their choice during the day when the Centre is open. This is a subsidized model where parents pay part of the cost (KES. 50 per day) that will be up-scaled in Busia County.



Busia Childcare Centre caregivers Ms. Sophix Maria (assisting the wash their hands) and Ms. Beatrice Anyango with some of the children at the Busia Childcare Centre (Picture: Sharon Ngaira, CCGD)

# The Gender Impacts of Finance Bill/Act, 2023

By Josiah Kiarie

**Assessing the Gender Implications of the Finance Bill 2023 in Kenya**  
**Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2023**  
**Time: 10: 00 am - 12:30 pm**

Join us for an insightful discussion on the potential effects of tax policies on gender equality

Zoom Webinar  
**#FinanceBill2023**  
**#Kikaodialogues**  
**#GRB**

Scan to register

Kenya Gender Budget Network - KGBN | @KGBN\_Kenya | kgbn@ccgdcentre.org

KGBN Kenya Gender Budget Network | VSO | THE CENTRE Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development | East African Civil Society Organizations' Forum Strengthening Civil Society in the Intergration Process

A poster of Assessing the Gender Implication of the Finance Bill, 2023 in Kenya webinar (Design: Maurice Goga, CCGD)

## Highlights of Gender Implications of the Finance Act, 2023.

The Kenya Gender Budget Network (KGBN) in collaboration with National Tax Payers Association and Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development (CCGD) have been facilitating webinars to discuss the gendered implications of the Finance Act 2023 and several issues have arisen. Raising VAT on petroleum from 8 per cent to 16 per cent will have the biggest negative returns on the marginal small and micro enterprises (SMEs) – mostly informal businesses where women are the majority. Additional costs of doing business will be incurred in the transportation of goods as well as traders because of increased fares commensurate with an increase in fuel price. Most of the other consumer goods or farming, processing and business inputs whose production and running are affected by the petroleum eco-system will also increase costs that will be passed on to the SME sector leading to reduced profits. Considering that the main market for goods and services of the SMEs are lower-income workers who will concurrently be affected by rising inflation exacerbated by the new taxes – there shall be a lower demand for goods and services from the SMEs further lowering their incomes and profits.

Changing Turn over tax (TOT) from Kes. 1 million to 50 million now to Kes.500,000 to 25 million will also affect SMEs negatively as more of them will be included in that tax bracket at a time when their income

has most likely decreased. The depreciation of the Kenya shilling upwards of 35% of its value against the dollar since 2020 (when it exchanged at Kes. 99 to the dollar) to the current 140 (and still falling) means businesses require more shillings to import stock that is sold to a market that is shrinking because of high inflation and reduced disposable income by consumers had hit by additional taxes means that fewer goods will be sold and the market is most likely going to shrink progressively. Additional structural costs of a shorter time for tax remittances will also increase the cost of doing business and thus may lead to employers cutting down the costs related to staffing through retrenchments and employee benefits. Also, increasing excise duty rates on mobile transfer from 12% to 15 % is likely to create a barrier to accessing financial services by in particular women SMEs who rely heavily on mobile money services.

The 5% taxation of digital content will directly have an impact on the youth who have innovatively ventured into digital content creation. The increase of VAT on petroleum products is likely to add more burden on women since cooking is considered a gender role and most women carry the burden of unpaid care and domestic work.

## Increasing Informed Public Participation in Road Construction

By Helidah Akoth, Grace Kathau, Vicky Kisilu and Purity Jebor

# MECHANICS



CCGD team led by Child Protection and Care Programme Officer, Ms. Grace Kathau (center), Youth Coordinator, Ms. Purity Jebor (second left) and Mombasa County Administrator, Ms. Helidah Akoth (second-left) with members of Kilifi County Grievance Redress Mechanism during community sensitization on the redress mechanisms and social accountability held in Kilifi, Mombasa and Kwale counties. (Picture: Courtesy)

Road construction has long been treated as an exclusive engineering sector where the government hires contractors to execute road development and maintenance plans. Partly because of its technical nature, the public has tended to shy away from taking an interest in how it is done as well as how the projects affect them beyond their ability to use it. This attitude has resulted in a situation where government and development partners who support it are not accountable to public interests in road construction even when the national and international legal policy frameworks as well as corporate policies of development partners such as the World Bank (WB), European Union (EU) and Africa Development Bank (AfDB) prescribe public participation/interest as conditionality, as well as corporate policies of development partners such as the World Bank (WB), European Union (EU) and Africa Development Bank (AfDB),s. To change such anomalies CCGD strategy is to increase awareness and advocacy for government/ resource stakeholders to understand and consider the differential diverse needs, preferences and usage of infrastructure by women and men, boys and girls alongside other interest groups such as those with disability.

CCGD also seeks to work with the government to collaboratively increase the voice, participation, and agency of women in their individual capacities as well as women collectives at all stages (from identification, design/planning, implementation to M&E)

of infrastructure development decision-making and delivery. It also supports robust monitoring, evaluation and mitigation mechanisms to ensure gender equality and diversity inclusion objectives are met in infrastructure delivery and that key performance indicators and targets across the different stages of the infrastructure project cycle are met. CCGD is currently implementing these strategies on the East Africa Corridor Coastal Road that passes through Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale counties that is under construction. It is working with persons affected by the project (PAPs) among communities in respective counties as well as sharing monitoring findings with Kenya National Highways Authority (KENHA) and Africa Development Bank (AfDB)- which is the main development partner to the government. By the end of May 2023, CCGD had compiled a status report on how the project has affected children and the process of acting on the issues identified within the study is ongoing. CCGDs main project resource partner on Child sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and Child labor is Bank Information Centre (BIC).

## Launch of Livelihood and Right to Food Programme

By Maurice Goga



CCGD Chair, Prof. Philomena Mwaura (second left), Board Member, Mr. Milton Obote (second right), Executive Director Mr. Masheti Masinjila (far right) and SGBV Coordinator, Ms. Magdalayne Were during the launch of Livelihood and Rights to Food (LRF) by We Effect. (Picture: Kanini Kagendo, CCGD)

It was pomp and colour during the Livelihood and Rights to Food (LRF) programme launched by We Effect on 29th May 2023 in Nairobi. The five-year programme funded by Swedish International Development Corporation Agency (SIDA) seeks to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers including women through financing, capacity building and mentorships so as to realize the right to food by 2027.

Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development (CCGD) has entered into a 5-year financing partnership with We Effect to build the institutional capacity of WE Effect partners: in BAMSCOS Cooperative Union Ltd (BAMSCOS) in Baringo, Lower Eastern Women Cooperative Society Ltd (LEWOCO) in Machakos and Nakuru Wanavijiji in Nakuru on incorporating in their food security and livelihood initiatives. CCGD shall also contribute to supporting women collectives in respective counties to participate equitably in governance and development matters and enhance their collective agency.

The launch was attended by close to 40 We Effect Kenya partners including CCGD who was represented by the Chair of the Board, Prof. Philomena Mwaura, Board Member, Mr. Milton Obote, Executive Director, Mr. Masheti Masinjila, SGBV Coordinator,

Ms. Magdalayne Were and Finance Officer, Kanini Kagendo.



CCGD Chairperson Executive Director Mr. Masheti Masinjila signs WE Effect Kenya partners signature board during the launch of Livelihood and Rights to Food (LRF) by We Effect. (Picture: Kanini Kagendo, CCGD)



**THE CENTRE** Collaborative Centre for  
Gender & Development



**East African Civil Society  
Organizations' Forum**

*Strengthening Civil Society in the  
Intergration Process*

**Editor: Maurice Goga**

**Reporters: Purity Jebor, Diana Mwanzia, Josiah Kiarie, Grace Kathau,  
Helidah Akoth, Vicky Kisilu and Maurice Goga**

**Photography: Purity Jebor, Kanini Kagendo & Sharon Ngaira**

**Design and Layout: Maurice Goga**



0746 167 190



CCgdcentre



@CCGD\_KE



ccgd\_ke



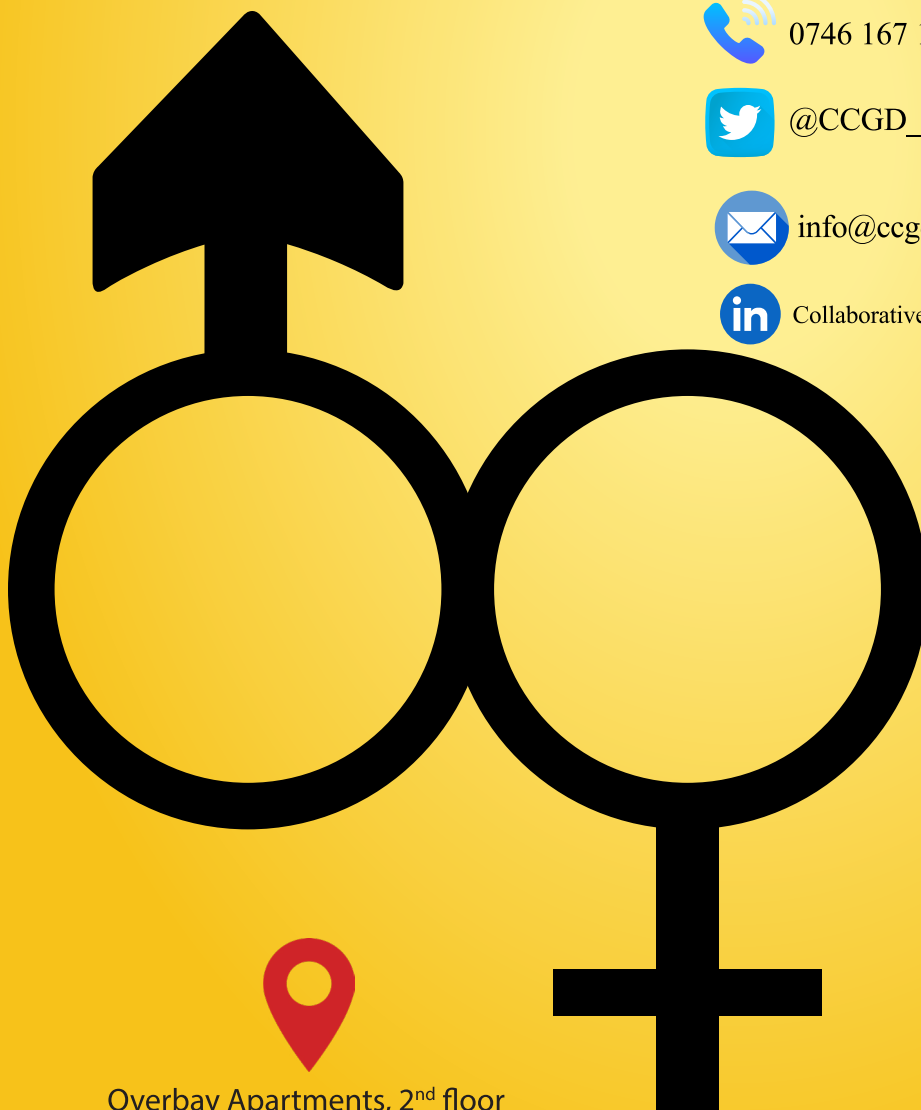
info@ccgdcentre.org



https:// www.ccgdcentre.org



Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development



Overbay Apartments, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Church Road-Rhapta Road, Crossroads