

GENDER LENS

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Gender Lens 12th Edition



Kajiado County Referral Hospital GBVRC Clinician, Ms Hellen Tima (Picture: Maurice Goga, CCGD)



Kajiado County Referral Hospital GBVRC staff with a team from Japan Cooperation Agency (JICA) during deliberation on how to enhance social integration of GBV survivors in the County (Picture: Mitchell Katete, CCGD)

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Countering Sextortion as a Gender-specific form of Corruption in Kenya



Kenya National Human Rights Commission CEO, Dr. Bernard Mogesa (left) exchanges the copies of signed MOU with Collaborative Centre for Gender Development Executive Director, Mr. Masheti Masinjila during the signing of an MOU. Picture: Maurice Goga, CCGD)

By Diana Mwanzia

CCGD and Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) signed an MOU on Monday, 19th June 2023 to collaborate in research on the prevalence of sextortion in different sectors that include employment and education. Further, they will disseminate research findings in particular to policymakers in critical government ministries departments and agencies (MDAs) and the general public.

The initiative is supported by Ford Foundation and seeks to strengthen partnerships in recognizing and fighting sextortion as a form of corruption. It seeks to engage with CSO and private sector Consortia in Kenya and beyond in the policy advocacy campaign and implementation of relevant laws and policies to counter sextortion.

Focus on mitigating Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse as Counties mark the Day of the African Child



Handing over of Busia CSO network joint communication to the Chief Justice through Lady Justice Theresia Matheka during the celebration of Day of the African Child held on 16th June 2023 (Picture: Courtesy)

By Sharon Ngaira and Janet Ongoli

During the celebration of the 2023 Day of the African Child, the Busia County Government in collaboration with the National Council on the Administration of Justice (NCAJ) and Busia County Civil Society Organizations network launched the training manual for mitigating Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA).

Speaking at the celebration held on 16th June 2023 at Mungatsi Primary School in Nambale sub-county under the theme: The Rights of the Child in the Digital Environment, Lady Justice Theresia Matheka, underlined the importance of defending children's rights on various digital platforms, adding that the manual will tremendously assist in combatting OCSEA, which is prevalent in the country.

She noted that Kenya has embraced technology almost in every sector and that we cannot run away from it but rather we can always develop comprehensive legal frameworks and policies that will help in

mitigating the OCSEA.

According to Ms Mary Makokha of the Rural Education and Economic Enhancement Programme (REEP), a representative of the Busia County CSOs Network, the day provided an opportune time for state and non-state actors to reflect on how children in Busia County can live in an environment free of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) both online and offline, given the county's rise in violence against children.

Similar events were held in Baringo, Kwale, and Kajiado counties, with clear appeals to the public to protect children from OCSEA dominating the proceedings. Ag. Chief Magistrate Lady Justice Judith Wanjala of the Kabarnet Law Court said that through the usage of digital spaces and the internet, children are now able to testify or function as witnesses without attending court hearings. However, she called for the proper use of digital spaces. "We are in a digital world, we cannot avoid being in a digital.. [Read more](#)

SGBV survivors access services at Gender Based Violence Recovery Centres



Ms. Beatrice Gitau Msambweni County Referral Hospital GBVRC unit (Picture: Courtesy)

By Maurice Goga

Ms Beatrice Gitau, a Clinician at Msambweni County Referral Hospital in Kwale County, says the GBVRC unit at the hospital has strengthened hospitals' capacity to deal with SGBV cases within the county.

“No survivor goes home without service; previously, once the pharmacy was closed, survivors could not get PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis), emergency contraception, or STI prophylactic treatment. However, now that there is a dedicated unit for SGBV survivors, all of these treatments are available even on weekends,” Ms Beatrice explained.

Furthermore, the availability of services at the centre has led to regular visits by survivors seeking various types of treatment provided at the unit. “In the month of May alone, we were able to attend to 11 cases of SGBV and 49 cases of physical and emotional abuse at the facility,” Ms Beatrice said.

She lamented the lack of safe shelters where close relatives of the survivor could be housed while the survivor was admitted to the unit, citing an example of a defilement case involving a daughter and the father, in which the mother was unable to return home or report the case to the police due to societal cultural norms.

“It would be very nice if we had a ‘centre’ where we could keep the mother and baby or father or whomever it is to the survivor for a while before they can get arrangements on where they are going to go back to,” the Clinician added.

CCGD with support from Master Card Foundation (MCF) supported the counties of Kwale, Kajiado and Busia set up GBVRC units at their referral hospitals.

Jasiri Fund made me cancel my plans to travel to the Middle East



Ms. Mwaka Chombo Jasiri Fund beneficiary in Kwale County speaks on the benefits she has seen from the project.

By Maureen Wairimu

Ms Chombo intended to travel to the Middle East in search of work that would allow her to educate her four children. Things changed course after one of the members of Nikumbuke women’s group that she belongs to benefited from a Jasiri loan and briefed them about the project. Chombo was later invited to Lunga Lunga for entrepreneurial training and was among those who took a Kes 30000 loan from Kenya Women Finance Trust (KWFT).

The mother of five used a loan to start a maize vending business; eventually using the revenue from the maize vending business to create a retail shop in Kwale town, which she said was also doing well.

Ms Chombo says that the Jasiri loan has allowed her to provide care to her children, including her late sister’s child. “I am currently paying school fees for all six children, one in college in Lamu, two in secondary school in form four and form one, and the other three in grades seven and five,” she revealed.

She says the Jasiri loans have empowered many other women survivors of violence in Kwale County. She has no regrets about cancelling her plans to travel to the Middle East since the Jasiri initiative has profoundly changed her life and the lives of her children.

Implement pledges to combat corruption



Mr. Suba Churchill, Executive Director Kenya National Civil Society Centre. (left) Ms. Lilian Muchoki, Executive Director Sauti ya Jamii and Mr. Masheti Masinjila during a press conference on the state of governance and recent developments in the fight against corruption in Kenya on July 6, 2023 (Picture: Maurice Goga, CCGD)

By Purity Jebor

Civil Society Organizations under the Citizen Agenda Pillar umbrella have called on the government to make their commitment to fighting corruption a reality.

Speaking on behalf of CSOs at a press conference on the state of governance and recent developments in the fight against corruption in Kenya on July 6, 2023, Suba Churchill, the Executive Director of Kenya National Civil Society Centre noted that under the Kenya Kwanza manifesto, also known as the ‘The Bottom-up Economic Transformation 2022-2027,’ the government committed to ending the weaponization and politicization of anti-corruption efforts by allowing relevant institutions to freely exercise the independence granted to them by the Constitution; grant them and the police financial independence to end their reliance on the Office of the President and promote accountability and openness in the management of public affairs; institutionalize open governance in all State organs and agencies and publish an annual State of openness report.

The CSOs commended Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) for making some progress in the recovery of corruption-related asserts but regretted recent efforts by members of parliament to water down safeguards against corruption by proposing amendments that would weaken the law.

They urged MPs to be at the forefront of the battle against corruption because they are charged with the primary responsibility of providing oversight to the Executive and serving as the defender of citizens’ interests.

The Citizens Agenda Pillar is one of the key planks of the Multi-Sectoral Forum (MSF): the initiative that brings together the private sector, professional associations, civil society organizations, and a diverse array of interest groups to address governance and citizens-centred issues of public interest and concern in Kenya.



THE CENTRE Collaborative Centre for
Gender & Development



**East African Civil Society
Organizations' Forum**

*Strengthening Civil Society in the
Intergration Process*

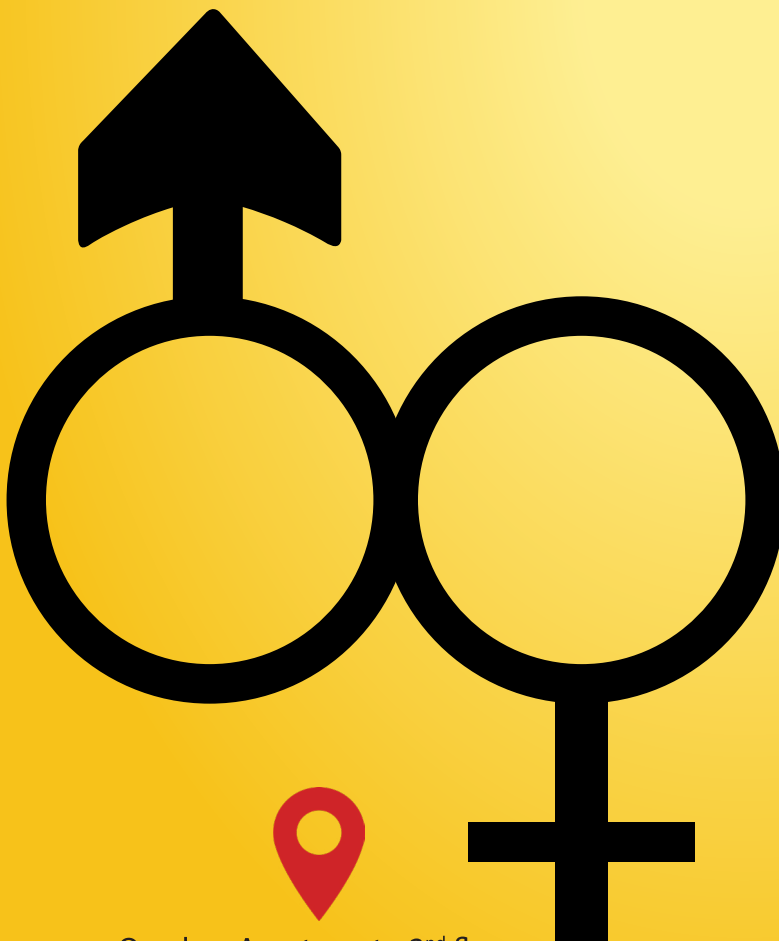
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