

# GENDER LENS

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER ISSUE

Gender Lens 14<sup>th</sup> Edition



State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action PS, Anne Wang'ombe (centre) leading in procession during the national launch of 2023 16 Days of Activism Against GBV in Busia County. (Image: Courtesy of REEP)



CCGD Policy and Gender Advocacy Programme Officer, Eva Ntinyari participating in Nakuru community members peace walk in Nakuru County. (Image: Courtesy)

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# Adoption of CCGD Strategic Plan 2023 -2027



CCGD Strategic Plan 2023 -2027 (Design: Maurice Goga, CCGD)

By Maurice Goga

The Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development (CCGD) Board, led by Professor Philomena Mwaura (pictured), officially adopted its strategic plan 2023 -2027 on October 14, 2023, CCGD has prioritized continuing to contribute towards closing structural gender inequalities with interventions that accelerate the achievement of women’s socio-economic empowerment and equitable participation in all spheres of decision-making. This will involve working collaboratively with the county and national government Ministries Department and Agenceis, Civil Society Organizations and the private sector



Speaking during the adoption of the strategic plan, CCGD Chairperson, Prof. Philomena Mwaura commended the secretariat for the efforts they put into the preparation of the stra-

tegic

She urged them to make use of the plan and ensure its full implementation so that the centre can continue closing the

gender inequalities gaps and accelarate the achievement of women’s socio-economic empowerment and equitable participation in all spheres of decision-making.

Also present during the adoption included Mr. Milton Obote, Prof. Njogu Waita, Ms. Rosemary Gitachu, Prof. Wanjiku Kabira and Mr. Peter Ondieki

In the strategic plan, CCGD will prioritize: (see next page)



Change negative social norms, and harmful traditional practices and reverse the backlash against gender equality



Prevent and respond to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)



sexual and reproductive health services and enjoyment of related rights



Support initiatives that enable skilling, mentoring/coaching, placement and accessing in particular youthful women to sustainable work opportunities



Reduce negative impacts of unpaid care and domestic work on women and girls



Increase women's access to financial services



Enhance gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and management



Mainstream socio-gender concerns in public sector infrastructure development and increase equitable participation of women



Contribute to ongoing development/ finalization of new policies



The State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action Fund, led by PS. Veronica Nduva, spearheads the Technical Working Committee drafting the National Care Policy.



Clinician Hellen in a legal aid training at Kajiado County Gender Based Violence Recovery Centre (GBVRC).



40 women in Samburu participating in an entrepreneurship training program by CCGD tailored to enhance their skills in managing and growing their business.



Busia Childcare staff with some of the children at the centre



Beneficiary of Jasiri loan Ms. Binti Khamisi sharing her experience at a workshop



Bank Information Centre Child's Rights Campaign Manager with a team from Kilifi County and CCGD during a meeting on the monitoring of child sexual exploitation & Abuse/Harassment and child Labour in the construction of East Africa Corridor Road in Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale.

## GBV is Unacceptable



State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action PS, Anne Wang'ombe addressing state, non-state actors and the general public during the national launch of 2023 16 Days of Activism Against GBV in Busia County. (Image: Courtesy of REEP)

By Maurice Goga and Sharon Ngaira

The State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action Principal Secretary, Anne Wang'ombe declared GBV unacceptable during the 2023 National Launch of 16 Days of Activism Against GBV held on November 29, 2023, at Busia Youth Polytechnic and Vocational Centre in Busia County. She emphasized that putting an end to GBV is a collective responsibility of the Government at both levels, the community and all other stakeholders.

The PS revealed that the government has strengthened accountability through the implementation of GBV policies and laws and increased financing and budgetary allocation for GBV programs

Further, she said the government has implemented measures to address GBV, including the establishment of Gender-Based Violence Recovery Centres (GBVRCs) aiming to both prevent and respond effectively to GBV.

She noted that there is a need for county governments to address the demand for safe spaces and shelters for survivors of GBV since such facilities are very few despite the high demand for their services across the country.

Ms Wang'ombe urged the stakeholders to intensify their efforts at creating awareness about the existing laws and policies, emphasizing that will facilitate the eradication of GBV.

She acknowledged and recognized the collective effort made by various arms of government and duty-bearers and the civil society organizations that have made tremendous contributions to the fight against GBV.

“Our special appreciations go to the judiciary, Office of the

Director of Public Prosecution, the National Police Service, the health department and the civil society organizations for your concerted efforts and support in this fight,” she said.

Similar events were held in various counties including Baringo, Mombasa, Garissa, Turkana, Samburu, Kajiado, Garissa and Kwale.

In Baringo County, Ms Maureen Lemashep, the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Youth, Gender, Sports and Culture, pledged to ensure that the County prioritizes the establishment of GBVRC and safe houses.

She urged partners in the Gender Sector Working Group to collaborate closely and accelerate the formulation of county gender policy.

In Mombasa County, Ms. Irene Ndambuki, Mvita Sub-County Assistant County Commissioner called for collective action from both the National and County Governments in combatting GBV. Adding that focus should be made on the construction of a GBV situation room which will manage all GBV cases, provide survivors with psy-



Our special appreciations go to the judiciary, Office of the Director of Public Prosecution the National Police Service, the health department and the civil society organizations for your concerted efforts and support in this fight.

Anne Wang'ombe, PS Gender and Affirmative Action

## Women Urged to Explore Untapped Business Opportunities in Samburu County



Participants of the entrepreneurship training held on 18th December 2023 in Samburu Central, Samburu County. (Image: Mitchell Katete, CCGD)

By Mitchell Katete

Close to 40 women, young and old, in Samburu County, were urged to explore untapped business opportunities in Samburu County during an entrepreneurship training held on 18th December 2023 in Samburu Central, Samburu County.

Addressing the participants during the training, Mr. Francis Koros from the State Department for Social Development urged the women to explore untapped business opportunities in Samburu County. He cited the absence of local shops selling motorbike spare parts, despite a considerable number of motorbikes operating in Samburu Central, creating a readily available market for such spare parts.

Mr. Koros urged the women to consider engaging in farming, specifically emphasizing the potential success of onion cultivation in Samburu. However, the women expressed concerns about land ownership, noting that the land is typically owned by their husbands, thereby limiting their ability to utilize it without their husbands' consent.

Ann Kanai, the Director Samburu Women Economic Empowerment Program (SWEP) stressed the importance of women leveraging on the available government funds at both the County and National Governments. She specifically drew attention to the funding opportunities offered by the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF), encouraging the women to explore and take advantage of these resource mobilization opportunities to

expand their businesses.

During the training, the women cited the alarming prevalence of GBV in the County, identifying it as a significant threat to their businesses. They expressed concern that experiencing GBV could render them unproductive in their entrepreneurship. Additionally, underscoring the adverse impact of climate change on their businesses, citing challenges during both drought and rainy seasons. In particular, they pointed out that the inaccessibility of roads during the rainy season limited their ability to operate in the market effectively.

The women who were drawn from diverse women groups such as Nagiri GBV Survivors Network, Ushanga Women, Mwamba Teen Mothers and Sasa ni Sisi underwent numerous essential entrepreneurship principles and practices, including business idea and planning, financial literacy, marketing and branding strategies, record keeping, resource mobilization and business language proficiency.

The training was facilitated by CCGD under the Prevention and Response to GBV including FGM and Child Marriage Program with UNFPA support. The training was designed to enhance the entrepreneurship capacity of adolescents, youth and a female-led social enterprise with essential skills, knowledge, and tools to enhance their entrepreneurial capabilities and contribute to the growth of their businesses.

## Young Women in West Pokot County Speak Against FGM



One of the young women sharing her experience with FGM during an intergenerational dialogue on FGM (Image: Irene Cheruto, CCGD)

By Irene Cheruto

Young women in West Pokot County have openly opposed the practice of FGM in West Pokot during a recent Intergenerational Dialogue on FGM held in Sigor, Pokot Central, West Pokot County. Both those who have undergone FGM and those who haven't, opposed FGM due to its detrimental effects on women and girls, citing personal experiences or witnessing complications such as difficulties during childbirth, excessive bleeding and, tragically, death.

One of the participants who shared her painful journey revealed that pressure from her in-laws led her to undergo FGM while three months pregnant with her second child, resulting in complications during her delivery.

A participant who had attended the "Tongowo" (FGM ceremony) during her youth and witnessed the young girls bleeding to death, firmly rejected the practice. She sought refuge in the church, considering it as the only haven that could deter her from undergoing the cut.

The uncut women noted they won't submit to fear and pressure from the community to undergo FGM for them

to take part in significant ceremonies including the graduation of their sons after circumcision rites.

Nevertheless, the women acknowledged that societal privileges, including obtaining permission to participate in their sons' circumcision ceremonies, performing tasks such as cooking for the elders, and milking the cows, serve as compelling factors for some uncut Pokot women to undergo FGM to conform to societal expectations.

The Intergenerational Dialogue on FGM which was facilitated by CCGD with the support of UNFPA. The dialogue created a secure environment for both young and seasoned community women to share on the existing harmful cultural practices with particular focus on FGM and have a clear path towards its eradication

## Utilize the GBV-toll-free Helplines 1195 and 1198



Participants of GBV and mental health training held in Manderu County (Image: Noor Ahmed, CCGD)

By Zeiton Aden

More than 100 youth from four Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL) counties – Manderu, Marsabit, Garissa and Turkana counties have been encouraged to utilize GBV toll-free helplines 1195 and 1198, providing them with to access free tele-counselling services.

Addressing the youth during training on GBV and its impact on mental health on November 9, 2023, at Tana Gardens in Garissa County, Mohamed Madobe, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Promoter in Garissa County urged the youth to make use of the helplines by reporting GBV cases or seeking free tele-counselling services offered by the helplines whenever they encounter issues related to GBV or mental health.

He specifically encouraged young men to report any instance of GBV they may experience. Emphasizing the importance of breaking the stigma associated with seeking help, he urged them not to suffer in silence and not let societal biases hinder them from accessing the necessary services when faced with GBV.

During the training, the youth collectively called on the county government to establish a rehabilitation centre to address mental health issues and substance abuse. Further, they advocated for an increase of MHPSS promoters in the county. These additional promoters they said will be vital in addressing the needs of survivors of GBV and those experiencing mental health challenges.

In the four counties, mental health is commonly associated with various factors, including perceptions of demonic possession, witchcraft, weakened physical health, inherited generational curses, drug and substance abuse and overthinking situations. It is noteworthy that these beliefs may contribute to a stigmatized view of mental health.

With the support of UNFPA Kenya, CCGD aims to improve the accessibility of mental health and psychosocial support services. The focus is on reducing the drought-induced sexual reproductive health (SRH) issues and GBV risk for vulnerable populations in four counties: Garissa, Manderu, Marsabit and Turkana.

From the People of Japan

### Dhuluma ya kijinsia ni nini?

Dhuluma ya kijinsia ni kitendo chochote chenye madhara kinachotendwa kinyume na matakwa ya mtu na ambacho kinatokana na jinsia ya yake. Madhara ya dhuluma ya kijinsia yanaveza kuwa ya kimwili au kiakili.

1. ZUNGUMZA KUHUSU HISIA ZAKO	2. WEKA MTINDO WA MAISHA YENYE AFYA
Kupitia kwa mtu unayemtambua. Wadhamini na wafanyakazi wa kiamali pamoja.	Iwapo ni lazima ukae nyumbani, dumisha maisha yenye afya pamoja na lisho sahihi, usingizi, mazoezi na mawasiliano na wapendwa nyumbani.
3. TAFUTA USAIDIZI	4. EPUKA MATUMIZI YA DAWA YA KULEVYA
Ikiwa unahisi kulemewa, zungumza na mfanyakazi wa afya, mfanyakazi wa kijamii, mtaalamu sawa, au mtu mwingine unayemtambua katika jamii yako ama washauri wetu wa simu kupitia 1195 ama 1198.	Acha matumizi ya sigara, pombe au dawa zingine ili kukabiliana na hisia zako wakati unapitia madhara ya dhuluma ya kijinsia.

**Piga simu kwa NAMBARI ZA HUDUMA BILA MALIPO**

**1195** – HealthCare Assistance Kenya (HAK)

**1198** – Dan ShieShie Foundation (DSF)

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## Baringo County Strengthens Administration of Justice for GBV Survivors



Members of Baringo County Court Users Committee during training of duty bearers held on 28th October 2023 in Kabarnet.

By Carol Jebet

The Baringo County Court Users Committee (CUC) took a significant step towards strengthening the administration of justice for survivors of GBV by training 19 investigating officers from five police stations in Kabarnet.

The training held on 28th October 2023 sought to equip the duty bearers with the necessary knowledge and skills on anti-GBV protection laws, elements of the offence, preservation of evidence, and management of evidence inventories and police files.

The training focused on closing the gaps within the legal system, which have often resulted in several GBV cases being dropped due to insufficient evidence and flawed investigations. Thus, survivors of GBV in the County will now look forward to a more efficient and effective legal process.

The session was supported by the Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development under its partnership with UNFPA. Among the key stakeholders in the justice system were Kabarnet High Court Judge, Senior Principal Magistrate, and Principal Magistrate, as well as the members of the prosecution council.

CCGD remains committed to supporting the CUC and its partners to enhance the capacity of duty-bearers involved in the fight against GBV, with the ultimate goal of preventing and responding to incidences of GBV and FGM, and ensuring justice is served for the survivors.



## Why does FGM Persist in Samburu County?



CCGD Women Peace and Security Programme Officer, Grace Musyoka engaging morans on the need for eradication of FGM during a male engagement forum held at Kisima Grounds in Samburu County (Image: Mitchell Katete, CCGD)

**By Grace Musyoka**

According to morans (youth) in Samburu County, the persistence of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is fueled by low literacy levels among them.

Speaking at a male youth dialogue forum in Suguta Mar Mar, Agata Rongai, the morans expressed concern about the lack of awareness regarding existing laws and policies that prohibit the practice of FGM. They highlighted that cultural pressures often compel them to marry girls who have undergone FGM.

For instance, a moran seeking to marry an uncut girl may not get support from elders.

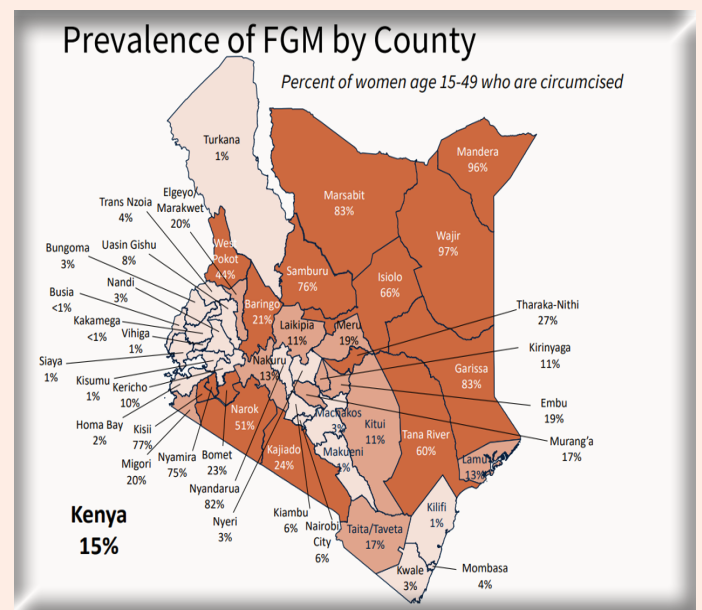
The morans also noted that cultural practices such as night dances contribute to an increase in incidents of SGBV such as rape and child pregnancies.

They called for continuous engagement and sensitization on the existing policies and legal frameworks that outlaw the practice of FGM in Kenya.

The latest data from the 2022 Kenya Demographic & Health Survey (KDHS) highlights that the prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Samburu County

stands at 76%, significantly higher than the national average of 15%.

With the support of UNFPA, CCGD employs an intergenerational dialogue to comprehend the intricacies that sustain the practice of FGM in Samburu, Baringo, and West Pokot counties as part of the implementation of Prevention and Response to GBV, including FGM and Child Marriage Program.



(The Kenya Demographic Health Survey in 2022)

## Nakuru Community Members Walk for Peace



Members of Nakuru Wanavijiji Housing Cooperative Society taking part in Peace Walk held in Nakuru on 19th December 2023. (Image: Courtesy)

By Eva Ntinyari

Nakuru Wanavijiji Housing Cooperative Society, a community-based organization in Nakuru, marked 2023 16 Days of Activism Against GBV with a peace walk in Kaptembwo and Rhonda informal settlements area of Nakuru to advocate against GBV.

The walk was staged to elevate awareness about different forms of GBV, sensitize the community on prevention and response strategies to GBV, underscore existing referral pathways, and encourage the use of GBV toll-free hotlines 1195 and 1198.

This initiative was supported by the Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development under its partnership with We Effect.



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## EDITORIAL TEAM

### Editor

Maurice Goga

### Reporters

Maurice Goga  
Mitchelle Katete  
Eva Ntinyari  
Irene Cheruto  
Zeitun Aden  
Grace Musyoka  
Carol Jebet  
Sharon Ngaira

### Photography

Mitchelle Katete  
Noor Ahmed  
Irene Cheruto

### Design and layout

Maurice Goga

### VISIT US TODAY

#### **Main Office (Nairobi)**

Overbay Apartments, 2nd floor  
Church Road- Rhapta Road Crossroads (right turn immediately after barrier)  
Westlands, Nairobi

#### **Kajiado County Office**

Kajiado County Gender-Based Violence Recovery Centre  
Kajiado County Referral Hospital

#### **Busia County Office**

Busia Childcare Centre, off Ministry of Energy Centre-Farm View Road  
Near Busia Slaughter House

#### **Baringo County Office**

Kipnyekwei Building (PACSET offices) next to Reale Hospital,  
Kabarnet Town along Kabarnet- Kabartonjo Road.

#### **Kwale County Office**

The Kenya Redcross - Mvindeni along the Likoni - Lunga Road.

#### **Mombasa County Office**

MUHURI Offices, Shree Building, Nyali-off Links Road.

#### **Samburu County Office**

Child Fund Offices on your way to Seniya Special Needs School

#### **Marsabit County Office**

ACK ST.Peter's Cathedral compound, adjacent to Saku Modern Market.

#### **Garissa County Office**

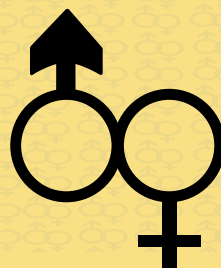
MUHURI (Muslim for Human Rights) opposite Medina Pharmacy, above Albukhari Bookshop  
Garissa Town Centre

#### **Mandera County Office**

Human Rights Network offices between the Mandera Palace Hotel and the former Mandera East  
constituency office, Mandera Town.

#### **Turkana County Office**

NGO Suite, Kerio Road, off Cradle Camp, Lodwar Kenya.



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0746 167 190



info@ccgdcentre.org



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