

# GENDER

# LENS

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GENDER LENS 17TH EDITION



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*A protest march to end femicide during the culmination of the 16 days of activism in Mombasa County.*



*MOU signing between Nairobi City County and CCGD: (Left) Director Trade and Markets, Joel Muli, Chief officer trades and Market Jane Wangui (right), and CCGD executive director Masheti Masinjila,*

## In this Edition

- The Shadow Over Kenya: The Rising Tide of Femicide
- Scaling Up Accessible and Affordable Child Care service in Nairobi County.
- Tackling GBV, Mental Health, and SRH in Lodwar
- Strengthening GBV Prevention and Response Through Capacity Building of Duty Bearers.
- Women Rights Organizations Partner on GBV Response to Enable Women to Work.
- Broadening The Skilling Opportunities for Young Women.
- Rebuilding Futures and Reclaiming Lives.

*A Centre for Policy Advocacy and Non Discrimination*

## The Shadow Over Kenya: The Rising Tide of Femicide



*Stakeholders unite in Turkana County for a march to protest against the rise of femicide in Kenya*

Femicide—the killing of women because they are women—has become a chilling reality in Kenya. Reports indicate that Between September 2023 and January 2024, 7,107 cases of gender-based violence were reported, with 100 women killed, mostly by intimate partners. These deaths are not random; they are rooted in power, control, and a systemic devaluation of women’s lives. The violence takes different forms—jealous lovers, controlling partners, or even strangers. Across villages and cities alike, whispers of violence echo: another woman gone, another family shattered.

When femicide cases make headlines, narratives often shift blame to the victims. “Why was she out so late?” or “What did she do to provoke him?” Such narratives perpetuate a culture of victim-blaming, diverting attention from the real toxic masculinity issues and systemic failures.

During the conclusion of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, CCGD joined other stakeholders in Mombasa, Baringo and Turkana in a march to end femicide standing in solidarity with victims and their families to demand justice and accountability.

## Scaling Up Accessible and Affordable Child Care Service in Nairobi County.



***Mou signing between the Nairobi City County and CCGD: Jane Wangui (center)-Chief Officer for Markets and Trade, John Ombongi (left)- County Antoney General and CCGD-Executive Director Mashetl Masinjila (right) , at city hall annex, Nairobi County.***

On December 10th, CCGD and the Nairobi County City Government (NCCG) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide affordable and quality childcare services to working mothers in Nairobi. Ms. Jane Wangui, Chief Officer for Markets and Trade, emphasized the holistic approach of the childcare initiative in helping mothers balance professional careers with caregiving roles. She also underscored that this initiative aligns with the Governor's vision of transforming Nairobi into a city of Order, opportunity, dignity, and hope. The childcare facility is set to be established at city park market in parklands to serve mostly informal traders who are largely young women at the peak of their reproductive cycle while also venturing into entrepreneurship and employment. The issue of

limited public investment in childcare is deeply intertwined with gender stereotypes that define women's roles as natural primary caregivers. Despite significant advancements in women's rights and empowerment, women continue to face systemic challenges that hinder their participation in the workforce. The responsibility of caring for children falls on mothers, limiting their ability to pursue education, employment, or entrepreneurship. This burden disproportionately affects working mothers, especially those in informal sectors, who are often left without affordable and reliable childcare options.

## Tackling GBV, Mental Health, and SRH in Lodwar



*Participants attentively listening during a sensitization meeting on GBV, mental health, and sexual and reproductive health at the GBVRC wellness center, Turkana County*

Young girls and women in Turkana Central face multiple barriers that hinder their personal and social development. From the deep-rooted challenges of gender-based violence (GBV) to limited access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, these young women often navigate a world where their voices are unheard, and their rights are ignored. Additionally, the stigma surrounding mental health further isolates them, making it harder to seek help or even acknowledge the impact that violence, trauma, and inadequate healthcare services have on their well-being. Gender inequality and patriarchal norms fuel cycles of abuse, while limited access to education and healthcare heightens vulnerability.

Many survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) endure their trauma in silence, lacking the resources or support to manage the emotional and psychological impact of their experiences.

In partnership with the Wellness Center in Lodwar, CCGD, Akili Dada, and We for Girls, gathered 30 young women, aged 18 to 24, to share their experiences and receive guidance. The session sensitized them on the intersection between GBV, mental health, and sexual and reproductive health, helping them understand how GBV affects not only their physical safety but also their mental well-being and access to essential health services.

## Strengthening GBV Prevention and Response Through Capacity Building of Duty Bearers.



*Cecilia Maina, CCGD Legal Support Officer, addressing police officers during a capacity-building session to enhance their skills in prevention and response to GBV in Samburu County*

Critical GBV prevention and response duty bearers including police officers, chiefs, county policy makers and healthcare workers in Kajiado, Baringo, Kwale, Samburu, and Mandera counties have been receiving capacity-building sessions to enhance their effectiveness at enhancing a safer environment for women and girls. The main aim is to enhance working of the GBV referral system in the respective counties to improve access survivors to services in a holistic.

Recognizing that access to robust support systems is vital for survivors of GBV to heal, reclaim their agency, and thrive in violence-free environments.

CCGD, through the Jasiri program is supporting a survivor-centered delivery of services by duty bearers in in these counties. The training seeks to tackle cultural stigma and societal norms that often compromise the behavior of service delivery personnel resulting in discriminatory practices, moralistic attitudes and victim-blaming. Fragmentation within the GBV response ecosystem further complicates survivors' access to comprehensive care, with healthcare, police, chiefs, and shelter services often operating in silos. Institutional policies that deprioritize GBV services exacerbate these issues, leading to underfunding, understaffing, and insufficient accountability.

## Women Rights Organizations Partner on GBV Response to Enable Women to Work.



***Jasiri Program Women right Organization Sub-grantees during a joint sub-grantee meeting at Golden tulip, Nairobi County***

12 Community based Women rights organizations (WROs) across 6 counties, Kwale, Baringo, Busia, Mandera, Samburu and Kajiado are set to collaboratively focus on preventing and addressing GBV in their communities in particular affecting adolescent girls and young women. to access finances and skilling opportunities to better participate in the economy.

These organizations include Hope For Samburu in Samburu County, WETEC, REEP and Dhamira Moja in Busia County, Women for Peace in Development in Mandera County, Tuwajali Wajane and Nawiri CBO in Kwale County, GEWEC, Tangelbei Indigenous Women Network, Koimugul Indigenous Network and Nareto Laitia and Forum for Women in Development,

Democracy and Justice in Kajiado County. In partnership with CCGD under the Jasiri Program, the WROs are stepping up efforts in their respective counties at mobilizing community activism against GBV, responding to GBV emergencies, enabling access to clinical and psycho- social support services to survivors and supporting case management. They will in particular harness their efforts to make the referral system work for survivors including helping them access remedial services such as opportunities to acquire appropriate work-related skills for employment or/and entrepreneurship. A critical part of the partnership aims to increase the visibility, voice, participation and agency of young women in anti-GBV and gender equality advocacy among other areas of concern.

## Broadening The Skilling Opportunities For Young Women.



**CCGDs officers: Sylvester Saiti, youth skilling officer and Cecilia Maina, legal support officer conducting a field visit in a skilling center in Kajiado County.**

Stereotypes often shape perceptions and influence decisions, especially when it comes to women's participation in skilling opportunities. Traditionally, fields such as tailoring, salon and beauty, and catering have been seen as "appropriate" for women, reflecting deeply ingrained societal expectations about gender roles. While these skills offer practical and immediate income-generation opportunities, they can also confine women to roles that limit their economic potential, reinforce outdated norms and saturate the market, making it increasingly difficult for women to scale their businesses. By framing certain industries as off-limits for women, these stereotypes hinder their access to broader fields that offer higher income, stability, and opportunities for growth.

CCGD, through the Jasiri program, is gender-demystify

skilling opportunities for young women by offering advancement in traditionally male-dominated fields like IT, engineering, mechanics, and renewable energy emphasizing that success is not determined by gender but by passion, perseverance, and skill. Additionally, it reimagines how traditional skills, are taught and practiced, they can be transformed into thriving businesses. Tailoring can evolve into fashion design targeting local and international markets, and caterers can expand into event management or specialized culinary services.

To accomplish this, CCGD conducted a field activity across six counties, Kajiado, Kwale, Busia, Mandera, Samburu and Baringo, to identify community skilling centers, Vocational training centers and master craftsmen/women to partner with in training survivors of gender-based violence and at-risk young women and girls.

## Rebuilding Futures and Reclaiming Lives.



***Participants from Loosuk Ward in Samburu County take part in a group discussion during a financial literacy training on business planning, budgeting, saving, and group formation, aimed at diversifying their income and launching small businesses.***

Loosuk Ward, Samburu County, is a region long plagued by the effects of banditry and conflict. For generations, the community's livelihood has been rooted in livestock farming, a practice that has often fueled tensions and violence. The struggle for grazing land and water, combined with the violence from banditry, has led to instability, with women bearing the heaviest burden of the ongoing conflicts. For years, these women have watched as the cycle of violence has limited their opportunities and sidelined their voices in the decisions that shape the future of their community.

Despite the fertile lands in the region that hold immense potential for agricultural growth, many women have faced significant barriers in accessing the tools,

knowledge, and resources necessary to move beyond livestock farming.

That notwithstanding, a transformative shift is underway through partnerships with organizations such as CCGD. Financial literacy training for women, business planning, budgeting, saving, and group formation in order to diversify their income and launch small businesses is opening new opportunities in agriculture and entrepreneurship for women away from conflict riddled pastoralism.

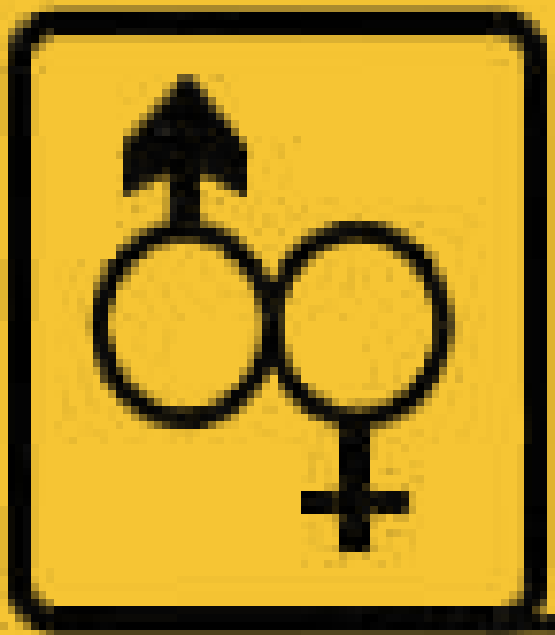


# Editorial

**Editor-** Michelle Katete, Sylvester Saiti, Faith Mutinda, Helidah Okoth, Pascaline Lasangurikuri, and Sylvia Asaf

**Photography-**Habil Machengo, Sharon Ngaira, Carol Jebet, Vicky Kisilu,

**Design & Layout-**Habil Machengo



3rd Floor, Overbay Apartments, Church Road,  
off Waiyaki Wy, Nairobi



0746167190



@CCGD\_KE



<https://ccgdcentre.org/>



CCGD kenya



ccgd.ke



CCGD Kenya



[info@ccgdcentre.org](mailto:info@ccgdcentre.org)