

# GENDER

# LENS

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GENDER LENS 16TH EDITION



*Women In Baringo County listening during the Jasiri GBV awareness and life-skills training.*



*Participants receiving a flood response humanitarian support in Baringo County.*

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## Confronting the Harsh Realities of Gender-Based Violence in Baringo and Busia Counties



***Women In Busia listening during the Jasiri GBV awareness and life-skills training.***

A remote village in Baringo County has seen a troubling rise in teen pregnancies. Economic hardships often leave teenagers with limited support and options, increasing the likelihood of teen pregnancies and further entrenching poverty.

Meanwhile, in Busia County the plight of a four-year-old girl defiled and infected with HIV by a neighbor serves as a chilling reminder of persistence of rampant sexual violence affecting the region. The child is now grappling with societal stigmatization and challenges of care. Justice for her remains a mirage after her abuser is said to have fled across the border to Uganda.

These lived realities reflect the struggles of marginalized women and girls, where social norms and gender-based violence (GBV) have drastically altered the course of their lives. Through the Jasiri program implemented by CCGD in Baringo, Busia, Kajiado, Mandera, Kwale and Samburu counties, some young women survivors of GBV aged 18-35 will be skilled to access employment opportunities while others will be enabled to improve their entrepreneurial capabilities and access financial services to grow their businesses.

## Drowned Voices: The Hidden Crisis of Gender-Based Violence Post-Floods.



*Participants during a flood response humanitarian support in Turkana County.*

In the wake of the recent devastating floods experienced across the country, there has been a rise in gender-based violence. Challenges faced by women, girls, and children are often overlooked during emergency response efforts that prioritize immediate needs such as, rescue operations, temporary shelters and food distribution.

Survivors of the recent floods in Baringo County among others have shared harrowing accounts of increased violence within their communities. Women in particular have been forced to seek refuge in overcrowded camps and shelters, where the lack of privacy and security creates aggravated sexual harassment and abuse.

For many business women in Busia, the flooding of market areas has disrupted their economic activities rendering them jobless, exacerbating domestic violence and increasing public health risks.

CCGD was among organizations that responded to the flood emergency in partnership with local women rights organizations to provide WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) supplies and small business (revival) grants to affected women and girls in Baringo, Busia, Kajiado, Turkana, Kwale and Mandera Counties.

## Gender Responsive Budgeting on advocacy and communication strategies



***Representatives from various CSOs in Kenya during a GRB training on advocacy and communication strategies with Erin Mansel (in white) from UK-WBG***

Youth, women, PWDs and children are often underrepresented in decision-making spaces that shape budget process. This lack of diverse perspectives leads to blind spots in understanding and prioritizing issues that affect them in healthcare, education, childcare and violence prevention. More so, the lack of Gender responsive awareness among government stakeholders hinders the effective integration of gender considerations into the budgeting process. While there are gender policies in counties, frequently they do not translate into actionable budgetary commitments due to lack of concrete funding mechanisms to support their implementation. Stakeholders in Nairobi and Busia County have since July 2023 engaged in trainings on strategies of integrating Gender responsive budgeting theoretical insights with practical exercises on advocacy, influencing and communication specific to the Kenyan context. Recent workshop aimed at enhancing county stakeholders with practical skills.

It provided hands-on experience in advocacy, influencing, communication, media engagements and improved networking among stakeholders in the budgeting process. Participants, drawn from the counties of Baringo, Makueni, Nakuru, Marsabit, Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Kilifi, Nyeri, and Kakamega were facilitated to develop action plans for accelerating GRB implementation in their respective counties.

The collaborative Center for Gender and development (CCGD) in partnership with Women Budget group-UK is facilitating the efforts in advancing Gender Responsive Budgeting, to make budgeting processes equitable and effective at addressing the needs of, in particular women and girls who still suffer inequality compared to men and boys as well as marginalized communities including people with disability (PWD).

## Empowering Girls and Boys Through Sports.



### *Girls and Boys Engaging in Sports*

Young women in Samburu county are seeking to increase their participation in sporting activities such as athletics. Cultural perceptions create environments that discourage young women from getting involved in sports. Societal feminine etiquette expectations and standards make sports less of an attraction to young. Also, burdening of young women with unpaid care work activities for the family leaves them less time for leisure and relaxation compared to young men. which is further exacerbated by the media's consistent underrepresentation of women's sports.

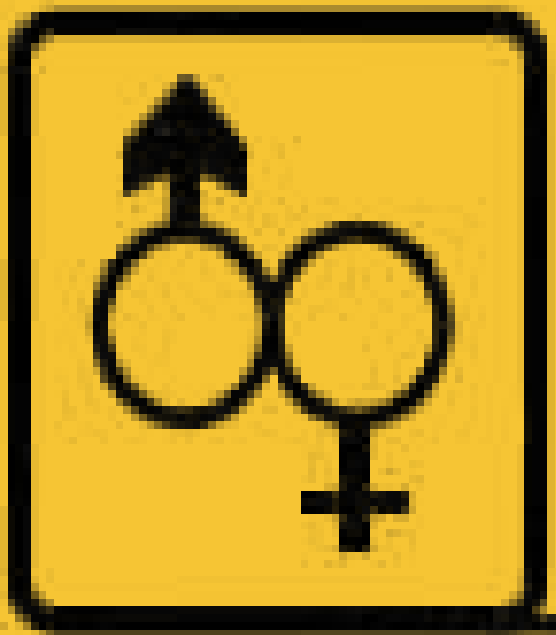
The women in Samburu are also using sporting activities to raise awareness about issues that affect them such as gender-based violence (GBV) and low awareness on sexual and reproductive health rights SRHR and services. They use sports to build resilience and foster a strong sense of identity and empowerment to challenge norms that restrict women's spaces and dreams. Through sports, they are raising their voices on concerns about their safety and well-being. The Collaborative Center for Gender and Development (CCGD) is among organizations supporting girls to excel through sports.

# Editorial

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