GENDER LENS

THE CENTRE Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development

JULY- OCTOBER 2026

GENDER LENS 20TH EDITION



A newly operationalized Shelter within the GBV Recovery Centre at Maralal Referral Hospital in Samburu County, providing a safe and supportive space for survivors of gender-based violence.

Jasiri Program

From Survival to Self-Reliance: Ravel Builds a New Future Through Masonry



Page 4.

In the Headlines

- **Justice for Minor in need of livelihood Opportunities**
  (Page 2.)
- **Safety and Recovery for GBV Survivors in Samburu**
  (Page 3.)
- **Rebuilding Her Life, One Brick at a Time**
  (Page 4.)

Justice for Minor in need of livelihood Opportunities



Karen (not her real name) (left), pictured in court alongside the two perpetrators and the presiding judge during the delivery of the conviction

A promise of employment became the pathway to abuse for a 15-year-old girl from Kisima- Samburu County. Her trust was exploited by two men who subjected her to repeated sexual abuse. Francis Ndungu Njoroge, met the girl in Maralal Town and obtained her contact details. He later sent her transport money and persuaded her to travel to Kisima with the promise of employment. Instead of finding the opportunity she had been led to expect, the minor was taken to his residence, where she stayed for approximately two weeks and was repeatedly defiled.

After she left his house, Edwin Mureithi, a colleague of Francis, took her into his own home. She remained there for about three weeks, during which she was subjected to similar sexual exploitation and abuse.

The ordeal came to light when concerned neighbours raised the alarm and alerted the girl's parents. Their intervention led to her rescue, investigations and the eventual prosecution of both men. Through legal support two related cases, MCSO E002 of 2026 – Republic versus Francis Ndungu Njoroge and MCSO E003 of 2026 – Republic versus Edwin Mureithi, resulted in convictions. Both the accused were sentenced to 15 years imprisonment.

Standardizing Kenya's GBV Helplines: New SOPs Validated

CCGD led the development of national Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) helplines in Kenya. The work was done in collaboration with the State Department for Gender Affairs and Affirmative Action (SDGAAA), with support from UNFPA through the Government of Japan. The SOPs have now been validated awaiting to be launched.

Helplines such as the National GBV Helpline (1195), Police Emergency (999/991), DCI Fichua (0800 722203), Child Helpline (116), CREAW (0800 720 186) and Usikimye (0800 000 999) are vital lifelines for survivors. Until now, they have operated without unified protocols, leading to inconsistent service quality, fragmented data management and coordination gaps.

The SOPs provide a nationally harmonized, survivor-centered framework built on seven pillars:

- Registration and staffing requirements
- Call-handling protocols, including risk assessment and informed consent
- Data management in line with the Data Protection Act (2019)
- Referral pathways to medical, legal and psychosocial services
- Tele-counsellor well-being, including shift limits and mental health support
- Public awareness and community sensitization
- Monitoring and evaluation for continuous improvement



It has eased coordination and collaboration between health facilities, police gender desks, children's officers, investigation and prosecution departments social services and other service providers to ensure survivors receive timely support throughout their recovery and pursuit of justice.The GBVRC Samburu Shelter represents an important step towards a more accessible and coordinated response to gender-based violence.

Safety and Recovery for GBV Survivors in Samburu



Inside the newly opened shelter within GBV Recovery Centre at Maralal Referral Hospital in Samburu County, now providing support to survivors.

Access to safe shelters for survivors of GBV, is often the first step towards recovery. Yet, for years, the availability of such services in Samburu has remained a challenge. The closure of Nainyoie Safe House in December 2020 highlighted the difficulties of sustaining safe spaces for survivors. 6 years later a new shelter was operationalized beginning of October 2026 as part of the services offered by the Maralal Referral Hospital Gender Based Violence Recovery Centre (GBVRC- code named Hope Centre).

The new shelter builds on lessons from the GBVRC Busia Shelter, which has supported 61 survivors since becoming operational in August 2025.

In Busia, Kajiado and Samburu, CCGD partners with respective county governments departments in charge of health and gender to bring together clinical, shelter, psycho-social support and facilitation of legal/access to justice services at one easily accessible point of action.

This has brought essential GBV support services closer to women, girls and children in need of protection.

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Rebuilding Her Life, One Brick at a Time

Ravel left school in Form Two and got married at the age of 17 after becoming pregnant. However, the marriage was marked by physical and emotional abuse. Her husband, subjected her to violence and verbal insults. She first left the marriage when she had her second child but was encouraged to return and try to make it work.

After several attempts to leave, Ravel eventually made the bold decision to end the marriage. By then, she had four daughters to care for. Her decision came at a personal cost, as she found herself without the support of her family. She had to find a way to provide for herself and her children on her own. Before joining masonry training, Ravel earned a living as a mobile hairdresser. Although this work helped her meet her family's needs, she recognised the importance of developing another skill that could expand her income opportunities.



Ravel in action, painting a wall during a practical masonry exercise as part of her construction training.

She enrolled in masonry, determined to build a more secure livelihood for herself and her daughters. Her journey into the construction trade has not been without challenges. As she seeks opportunities to gain practical experience, some masons she has approached have made unwanted sexual advances towards her. These experiences have made it difficult for her to find a suitable path into the profession, but they have not diminished her determination to progress.

Ravel now hopes to further her education and become a Trainer of Trainers (TOT) in masonry. This would allow her to deepen her technical knowledge and work towards helping others acquire construction skills.

For Ravel, the opportunity to return to learning carries special meaning. Having left school in Form Two, she is grateful for the chance to gain new knowledge and pursue a different future. Her experience reflects the barriers that women can face when seeking economic independence in male dominated field particularly when they have experienced gender-based violence and lack reliable support systems.

Despite the challenges she has encountered, Ravel continues to look ahead. She is determined to use her skills to support her four daughters and build a more stable life for her family.

Her journey is a reminder that education and skills training can open new possibilities, even after difficult setbacks. With access to inclusive training, safe opportunities for practical experience and continued support, women like Ravel can strengthen their livelihoods and pursue careers that once seemed out of reach.

For Ravel, every new skill is a step towards independence. She is working to lay the foundation for a future in which she can provide for her daughters and shape her own path.

"I want to build more than walls; I want to build a future where my four daughters and I can stand on our own, free to shape our lives through our own hard work."

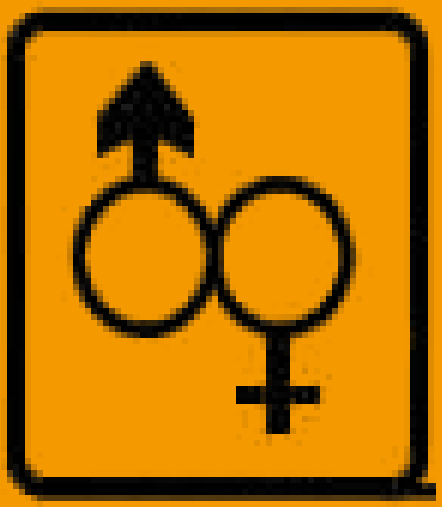
— Ravel,

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