



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WORKSHOP REPORT

GUIDING (MOLDING) THE GIRL CHILD TOWARDS ACHIEVING AN EQUAL FUTURE IN A COVID-19 WORLD

March 9, 2021



About Beauty for Ashes Project – Kenya

There's beauty and greatness behind every mark of darkness.

*Beauty for Ashes (BFA) has been born out of the increasingly rising rates of Gender-Based Violence in Kilifi County. According to the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2020, Kilifi County was identified as one of the most affected regions in Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevalence in the country. BFA's aim is to reduce Gender Inequality and Gender Based Violence through economic empowerment as well as to align with the priority theme of the 65th Session of the **Commission on the Status of Women**: *women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.**

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Partners and Donors



KILIFI MUM'S C.B.O



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Canada

Acknowledgements:

On behalf of Jarumi Consulting Ltd, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our donors the Canadian Embassy in Kenya and Center for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW), our partners Wacu Mwenja & Co. Advocates and Kilifi Mums' CBO who without them, this workshop would not have been possible. Additionally, I want to thank the speakers and participants for their rich and objective scholarly contributions in the conversations laid on the floor. Last but not least, I want to thank Kilifi County Government for allowing us to host this workshop in the County and for their ongoing support.



Abbreviations and Acronyms

IWD	International Women's Day
COVID 19	Coronavirus Disease of 2019
CREAW-Kenya	Center for Rights Education and Awareness – Kenya
CBO	Community Based Organization
GBV	Gender Based Violence
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
CBD	Central Business District
GBVRC	Gender Based Violence Recovery Center
MOH	Ministry Of Health
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ARVs	Antiretroviral Drugs
CEC	County Executive Committee

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Background

In Kenya, women and girls face increased and multiple challenges including physical and psychological violence related to family confinement, isolation, and loss of socio-economic activities. Kilifi County particularly, is reported to have one of the highest rates of gender-based discrimination. Teenage pregnancies for instance affect one in every five girls within Kilifi, making it the worst affected county in Kenya. As a result, the high gender inequality gap and low empowerment of girls continue to impede development. According to the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2020, Kilifi County was identified as one of the most affected regions in Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevalence in the country.

The survey found that the drivers of GBV include: socialization and normalization of GBV through religious and cultural beliefs; retrogressive cultural and traditional practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage, and assault which is often perceived as instilling discipline to one's wife or child; cultural attitudes that reinforce inferiority of women and girls over men and boys; stigma, and shame and culture of silence around GBV. It can be argued that GBV is exacerbated by the absence of strong prevention interventions, weak protection mechanisms for survivors; slow and/or failure of prosecution of GBV cases; insufficient coverage of health services for survivors; weak programming and partnerships among both state and non-state actors to afford the survivors prompt response, and effective services, as well just and adequate remedies.



With this backdrop, Jarumi Consulting Ltd in partnership with Wacu Mwenja & Co. Advocates, Kilifi Mums CBO, the Canadian Embassy (Kenya) and the Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW Kenya), organized a 1-day workshop in Kilifi County with the intent to commemorate International Women's Day. The workshop aimed to celebrate the efforts by the women in Kilifi County who have impacted their communities in shaping a more equal future and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Objectives of the workshop included:

- to understand girl child's contribution to household economies;
- to enhance the girl child's economic resilience through evidence-based approaches; and
- to present avenues through which the girl child can voice agency, and above all, gender equality.

The workshop was held at Juwaba Hall, Kilifi North, on March 9, 2021. The 1-day workshop had four thematic sessions, each session having a speaker addressing a specific topic centered on gender-based violence issues. The first session of the workshop focused on Gender-Based Violence during COVID-19 Pandemic and the Necessity for Male Dialogue, while the second session was on Addressing the Social Cultural Attitudes and Capacity Building in GBV.



Introduction



Pauline Mwenja (Managing Partner, Wacu Mwenja & Co. Advocates) was the moderator for the first session of the workshop who welcomed the speakers and participants and invited Ms. Florence Hare for a word of prayer.

Ms. Mwenja touched on the current issues in Kilifi County regarding gender based violence. She spoke on the rising number of teen pregnancies in the county after the COVID 19 outbreak, which exacerbated the issues at an alarming rate, exposing the underlying of issues gender-based violence which is prevalent in the county. Pauline emphasized the need to focus on what has been done and what could be done and encourage finding equal grounding for both genders in the fight against violence on women and girls in Kilifi.

Ms. Mwenja welcomed the first speaker of the event Ms. Faith Tsuma (Projects Officer, CREAW) to highlight the psycho-sociological outcomes of gender-based violence.

Thematic Sessions

Session 1: Gender Based Violence during the COVID-19 Outbreak



Faith Tsuma, Project Officer – CREA, in charge of the Kilifi County office, discussed ‘addressing the socio-psychological aspect of GBV: facilitating factors and possible interventions.’

Violence against women and girls is the most prevalent human rights violation affecting a large number of people all over the country and in every social class. Women and girls suffer from some sort of violence and it affects their physical, sexual and mental health. The social cultural structure has an influence on violence against women by containing a set of widely shared beliefs and values related not only to GBV in particular but also the social system in general and to the relationships between men and women.

Ms. Tsuma went on to state the causes of gender-based violence in Kilifi County as; the unequal power relation between men and women, social cultural norms that normalize gender-based violence, poverty, illiteracy, breakdown of family units and support systems, insecurity, alcohol and drug abuse, conflict and poor enforcement of the laws and policies.

Some of the solutions stated included:

- Raising awareness on gender-based violence in the communities by talking about GBV prevention and response;
- Establishing referral pathways as most people know what GBV is and know it is happening, unfortunately they do not know where to go and what do if that happens to them;

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- Establish partnership among stakeholders. In Kilifi County, under the leadership of the County Executive Committee, there is a coordinated technical working group with thematic goals working on GBV issues. There is also a need for advocacy with relevant actors (non-state and state actors) to ensure effective prevention and response of GBV.
- Ensuring adequate referral and response mechanisms are put in place which are clear and acceptable by respecting the survivors' rights and confidentiality.
- Provision of safe spaces - there is lack of shelters and safe spaces in Kilifi County. Therefore, it is crucial to provide shelters and safe spaces for GBV services and psycho-social support.

Currently CREAW is supporting 2 shelters, one in Kilifi CBD and the other in Mtwapa, supporting women and girls, as young as 1 year old to women aged between 50 to 60 years.

Ms. Tsuma ended off her presentation by emphasizing on providing access to justice for the survivors and, ensuring their right to legal advice and protection of privacy. CREAW provides victims/survivors with free legal representation in order for them to get the legal services they need. Lastly, the organization, supports livelihood schemes for the survivors so as to encourage self-resilience. Such schemes have proven to reduce the risk of GBV and mitigate its effect by facilitating the rehabilitation and reintegration of survivors of GBV. CREAW provides survivors with grants and low interest loans to around 80 women under its livelihood programs.



Session 2: Necessity for Male Dialogue



Raymond Katana, GBVRC Medical Social Worker, (Kilifi County Hospital) discussed "gender division and the transformative process in Kilifi County".

Mr. Katana started off with the teenage pregnancy situation in Kilifi for the previous year (2020) using reports released by the Ministry of Health (MOH). The two clusters of reports focused on the number of reported pregnancy cases of young girls between the ages 10 to 14 years and 15 to 19 years who visited the health facility for an anti-natal care visit. Between the ages of 10 to 14 years, 186 girls were reported to be pregnant, with Kaloleni Sub-County leading at 66 cases. Between the ages of 15 to 19 years, a total of 7,271 pregnancy cases were reported with Magarini sub-county leading having 1,721 cases as per last year from January to December, 2020.

Mr Katana posed the following questions; who are the perpetrators? They are the men. In terms of gender division are there some norms, practices, roles, men are assigned in the community which in one way, is resulting in high rates of teenage pregnancy? Are there some ways we can change the norms, roles and responsibilities in the community in order to reduce these numbers? How can men be involved in the preventive strategies and come on board to address the challenges of women and girls? Hence, we look into gender transformative techniques.

Firstly, the root causes need to be addressed regarding systemic inequalities that is affecting the women and has led them to be vulnerable to violence. The redistribution of roles and responsibilities needs to be looked into between the

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men and women in the society in order to reduce some of the women's burdens by increasing their involvement in household and community decision-making. Decision-making can be improved by engaging the men.

Gender transformation can address the gender inequalities we see in our communities and schools as it promotes women empowerment. In order to address the root causes we need to look into the roles and responsibilities assigned to each member of society, what are the possible harmful practices that could harm the other people? In our social cultural practices, there is a need to restructure in order to benefit all groups in the society. There is a need to be gender responsive.

Engagement of men and boys in all activities is important whereas change in policy will benefit all. Male dialogue and involvement are required to discuss challenges faced by women and girls in the community.

Questions and comments from the floor

questions asked included;

- What are the specific reasons to the variations of data between the sub counties presented by Raymond Katana? And what happened to the reporting tool on matters of GBV developed by Red Cross for the county government?
- What is the county's policy that guides the efforts of addressing these issues and to what extent has the county managed to address these issues?
- Which men in the community should be engaged?

Responses;

- Reports used in the above presentation was data collected using reporting tools developed by the Ministry of Health which are available in all the health facilities and the reporting tool is still being finalized.
- Child to child defilement cases is a grave concern. Young adolescents are engaging in sexual activities. Therefore, social services to provide parental guidelines on how to approach young adolescents in these matters. Sensitization of young teen between the ages 13 to 17 on matters concerning sex and consent is needed and prioritization of sex education in schools and homes.
- It was pointed out that men are already involved as champions and agents of change yet GBV issues continue. Therefore, male involvement should be re-strategized and address the challenges hindering their participation.

Session 3: Addressing the Social and Cultural Attitudes

The second half of the workshop was moderated by **Mwangale Kevin (Strategic Planning Director, Jarumi Consulting Ltd.).**



Mr Mwangale introduced **Kibibi Ali, Director of Kilifi Mums' CBO**, to discuss "Strengthening Existing County Gender-Based Networks".



Ms. Ali begun her presentation by mentioning poverty as a key cause of gender-based violence in Kilifi County. With the high rates of GBV cases in the country there was a need to look into what was happening and, apart from poverty it was discovered part of the problem lies with the parents. Parents have failed to take care of their responsibilities towards their children and more often than not, left the job to their teachers. Parents are unable to provide basic needs such as sanitary pads for their girls, forcing young girls to seek for them elsewhere. They are pushed to exchange their bodies with the boda boda riders for funds to purchase the sanitary pads.

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Cultural attitudes against family planning, issues of dowry, lack of marriage certificates, and ill guidance from traditional healers are among the social issues that exacerbates violence against women and girls. Incest cases have increased in period of COVID 19 lockdown with child defilement issues on the rise due to false belief of curing HIV/AIDs. That ARVs is not the cure rather, they can have intercourse with virgins to get cured. This makes them to go for very young children as low as 1 year olds.

Ms. Ali suggested possible solutions to include;

- Encouraging self-help groups among women and get economic empowerment in order to be self-reliant.
- Address GBV survivor's needs and hold meetings for parents in order to reestablish their roles and responsibilities towards their children.
- The role of men to be established in GBV matters and address the pain they inflict on women. Ms. Ali stressed on the importance of partnerships and coordination of efforts between organizations in Kilifi County regarding gender-based violence issues.

Session 4: Capacity building in GBV



"How Financial Institutions Can Take the Lead in Combatting Gender-Based Violence"
Presented by **Annette Musabi**,
Director of Studies, School of Pension and Retirement Studies.

- Financial literacy: what are the options out there for women, e.g., pension plans and entrepreneurship programs.
- Partnerships with various institutions, to cover different sectors of the same issues, provide financial solutions to social issues by partnering with the community and setting up platforms such as saving and credit services and educate on different business options.
- Distributions: Curriculum to be changed in order to equip each young girl and boy on how to carry out a business. Teach women to identify investment opportunities then financial institution are able to come in and provide loans at accessible rates.

Ms. Musabi begun her speech on her passion regarding financial inclusion for women and firmly believes this can be a game changer in GBV spaces if more investment is driven to women. She reiterated on the fact that we need to challenge financial institutions in Kenya to think differently and invest in women.

How can financial institutions come in and tackle the issue of gender-based violence? Ms. Musabi shared with us some pointers;

- Fellowship: setting up dialogue with the women in the affected communities and customizing products and solutions for the women.

Financial inclusion and management for women is a must, by giving them resources and showing them how to

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use it. 90 per cent of problems are solved when people are financially secure. Gender-based violence can be reduced when tackling the issue of poverty as there is always a choice regardless of the financial situation.



Questions and comments from the floor.

Key questions asked included:

- Should violence against women and girls be linked only to their financial needs or constraints?
- With the financial institution's role to assist affected women and girls, one questions the position they occupy or how practical their contributions are and what are the long-term implications.

Responses;

- Firstly, the beneficiaries should have a change of mindset which takes a long time, thus why financial institutions should look into long-term investments with the affected community. Wealth generation is key and it takes time, effort and resources.
- Secondly, it is vital to scout various business opportunities within the given settings. Financial institutions need to teach how to generate wealth and then they can support from an educational and technical perspective and show how and where to source the funds.

Remarks



Judith Kashero, Director of Social Services, representing Dr. Anisa Omar highlighted two main points;

- i. Invest in your children's future and ensure their proper upbringing by instilling good values and equipping them with skills they need to become productive adults in their society. We should change the way we care in what she referred to as ***malezi mema***.
- ii. Do not shy away from cultural practices that make the coastal people and carefully examine cultural practices and propagate the positive aspects of it.

**Gladys Etemesi, Programs Manager,
Department of Gender, Kilifi County;**

Ms. Etemesi GBV is a social issue that needs to be addressed by forming partnerships. Coordinating efforts between partners in order to move forward. Let women know they have a choice in all aspects of their lives by empowering them in ways that are religiously and culturally right. Some women are stuck in themselves with some self-cultural fixes in which they need time to accept and adapt to their mental awareness.





Remarks from **Emmanuel Bwenyenyenye**, representing Hon. Teddy Mwambire, MP Ganze Constituency;

Statistics of the county in terms of the teenage pregnancies, school dropouts and gender based violence are threatening. There is need to have cohesiveness in the society to have a joint force in tackling the gender based scourge. Hon. Teddy Mwambire is in full support of the girl child by providing a second chance to education where he currently undertaking a scholarship project of constructing of a girl's secondary school, specifically for survivors of gender-based violence and dropouts with the aim of the girls to continue their studies.



Mary Ododa, Executive Director of Jarumi Consulting Ltd.

Ms. Ododa thanked all the partners present at the event and emphasized on the need for partnership and joining of hands to continue the conversation in combating GBV. She introduced the concept behind the

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Beauty for Ashes project that will focus on economic empowerment programs and provision of psycho-social support to the survivors, in partnership with Wacu Mwenja & Co. Advocates and Kilifi Mums CBO.

Recommendations

- The root causes of Gender Based Violence need to be addressed in Kilifi County from the National levels to the grassroots levels;
- Engagement with men is vital in fighting gender-based violence in the county;
- Effective collaborations and coordinated efforts is key in the fight against violence of women and girls;
- Financial inclusion of women is a must to encourage financial independence, in order to curb the issue of poverty which correlates with causes of gender-based violence.
- Technical working groups needs to be set up to review county policies regarding gender issues.



Closing Remarks

Dr. Anisa who has made remarkable strides in the county spoke on how saddened she is that women today permit certain treatment, yet women suffrage was fought for long ago, back in the 1900s for women today to enjoy certain rights and freedoms. However, in this part of the world there are still more areas to improve when it comes to the fight for women's rights. There is work to be done so that future generations can have a better future in Kilifi County. She went to say that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a lot of disruptions, as schools and colleges were closed and jobs were lost as it has been a difficult time.

Where we have reached, is the right time for women to take the opportunity to sit at the table together with men to make decisions for ourselves. She stated that now is the time for women's voices to be heard (in terms of resources, education, empowerment, and our rights as women), we must push equal rights, opportunities and distribution of jobs.

Dr. Anisa ended off by suggesting a technical working group will be formed to look into and review these policies available at the county level (Child Protection, GBV and Gender policies). She invited experts to review the policies that will be presented at the county assembly. Dr. Anisa firmly believes that more women are needed in leadership and governance.

Dr. Anisa Omar, CEC Culture, Gender, Social Services & Sports, Kilifi County;



Vote of Thanks and Conclusion

Ms. Mwenja, recognized the presence of Dr. Anisa Omar, thanked the speakers for their contribution to the workshop and the participants present. Ms. Mwenja spoke on the workshop having highlighted the need to coordinate efforts between partners in order to effectively address the issues of GBV in the county and, further evaluation of the preventive, response and referral mechanisms and policies out there whilst creating equal gender grounding in solving the problem. Ms. Mwenja pointed out the point of contacts and the need to follow up with organizations present to see how to move forward regarding the planned project (Beauty for Ashes) by the Jarumi team.



Annex I

Workshop Program

INTERNATIONAL WOMENS' DAY WORKSHOP

GUIDING (MOULDING) THE GIRL CHILD TOWARDS ACHIEVING AN EQUAL FUTURE IN A COVID-19 WORLD

March 9, 2021 | 08:00am - 11:30pm | Juwaba Hall, Kilifi

8:00am – 8:20am	Arrival and Registration of Participants
SESSION 1:	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
Moderator	Pauline Wacu Mwenja , Managing Partner, Wacu Mwenja and Company. Advocates
8:25am – 8:40am	Introductory Remarks by Dr. Anisa Omar, CEC Health Kilifi County
8:40am – 9:00am	Addressing the Socio-Psychological Aspect of GBV: Facilitating Factors and Possible Interventions by Faith Tsuma, Project Officer, CREAW
SESSION 2:	NECESSITY FOR MALE DIALOGUE
09:00am – 09:20am	Gender Division and the Transformative Process in Kilifi County by Raymond Katana, GBVRC Medical Social Worker, Kilifi County Hospital
09:20am - 09:40am	COMMENTS, Questions and Answers
09:40am – 09:50am	HEALTH BREAK
SESSION 3:	ADDRESSING THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ATTITUDES
Moderator	Mwangale Kevin Strategic Planning Director, Jarumi Consulting Ltd
09:50am – 10:10am	Strengthening Existing County Gender Based Networks by Kibibi Y. Ali, Director of Kilifi Mums' CBO

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SESSION 4:

10:10am – 10:30am

CAPACITY BUILDING IN GBV

How Financial Institutions Can Take the Lead in Combating Gender-Based Violence by **Annette Musabi, Director of Studies, School of Pension and Retirement Studies**

10:30am - 10:50am

COMMENTS, Questions and Answers

10:50am – 11:05am

Workshop Recap by **Gladys Etemesi, Programs Manager, Department of Gender, Kilifi County**

11:05am – 11:10am

Way Forward by **Mary Yvonne Ododa**, Executive Director, Jarumi Consulting Ltd

11:10am – 11:20pm

Closing Remarks by **Hon. Teddy Mwambire, MP Ganze Constituency**

REFRESHMENTS



Annex II

List of Participants

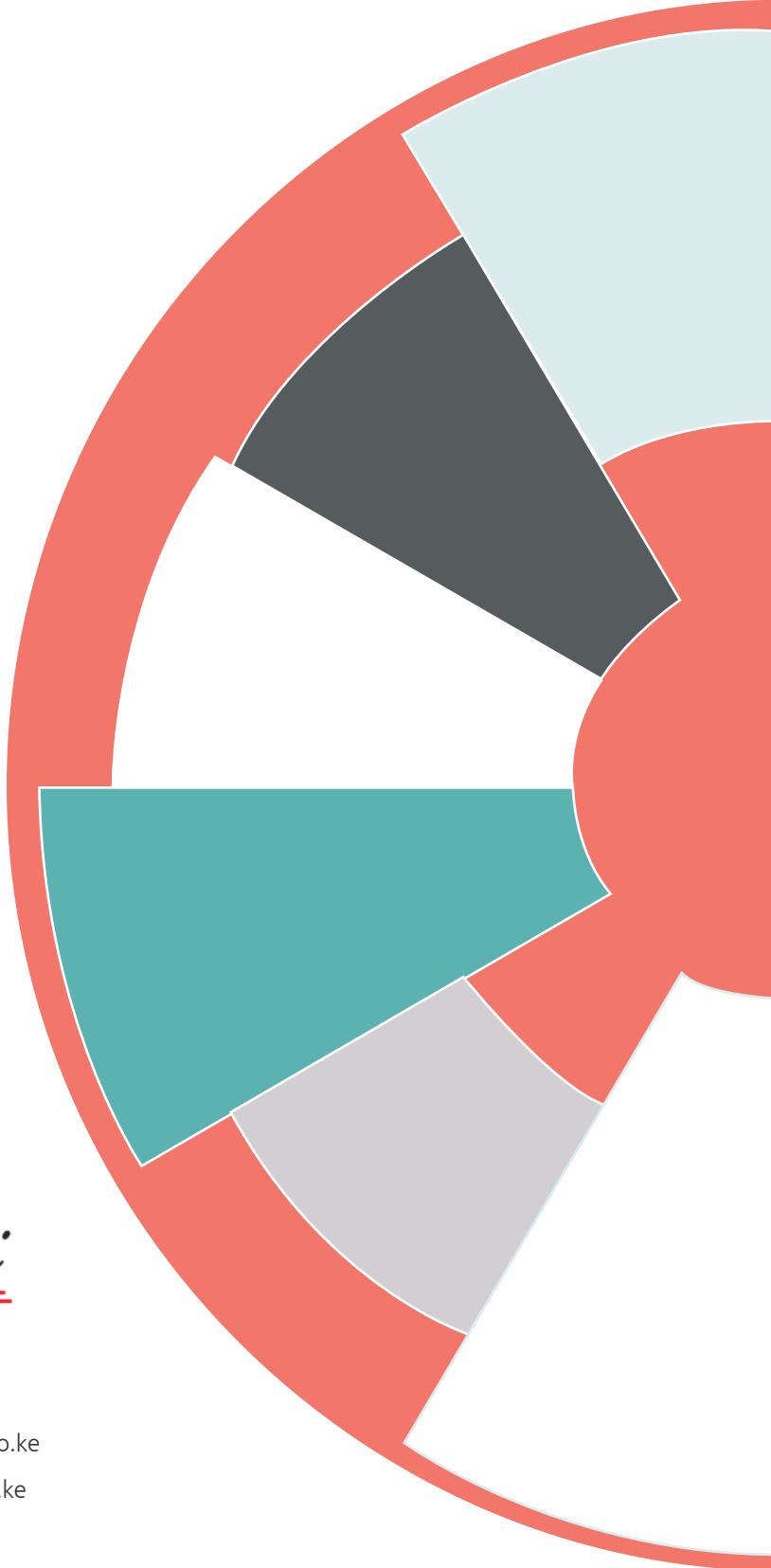
	NAME	POSITION	ORGANIZATION
1	Dr. Anisa Omar	CEC Culture, Gender, Social Services & Sports	Kilifi County
2	Kibibi Y. Ali	Director	Kilifi Mums' CBO
3	Faith Tsuma	Projects Officer	CREAW
4	Raymond Katana	Medical Social Worker	Kilifi County Hospital
5	Gladys Etemesi	Programs Manager, Dept. Of Gender	Kilifi County
6	Annette Musabi	Director Of Studies	School Of Pensions And Retirement Studies
7	Benjamin Kahindi	Chief Executive Officer	Safe Community Youth Initiative
8	Brian Biryia	Chairperson	Kilifi Dads
9	David Ziro	Officer	Redcross Kenya
10	Luisalba Mwende	Regional Health Officer	Redcross Kenya
11	Betty Mtuweta	Program Coordinator	Kilifi Youth Advisory Council
12	Florence Hare	Pwd Leader Rabai	
13	Fatuma Juma		Mariakani Old Stars
14	Jacob Wafula		Angaza Youth Initiative
15	Pamela Mbeyu		Pac - Kenya
16	Anscillar Mwamuye	Treasurer	Kilifi Mums' CBO
17	Ismail Mohammed	Program Coordinator	Child Welfare Society Of Kenya
18	Mary Yvonne Ododa	Executive Director	Jarumi Consulting Ltd
19	Mwangale Kevin	Strategic Planning Director	Jarumi Consulting Ltd
20	Clara Njoroge	Operations Director	
21	Pauline Mwenja	Managing Partner	Wacu Mwenja & Co. Advocates
22	Faiza Farah	Researcher	Jarumi Consulting Ltd
23	Shadia Asindua	Development Specialist	Jarumi Consulting Ltd
24	Leila Abdulkeir	Facilitator	Kilifi Mums CBO

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	NAME	POSITION	ORGANIZATION
25	Yaa Wilson	Facilitator	Kilifi Mums CBO
26	Karen Ndubi		Keeping Community Hopes Alive (KCHA)
27	Stephen Kioko	PA	CREAW- Kenya
28	Judith Kashero	Director, Social Services	Department of Gender
29	Kazungu Katana		KRCS
30	Triza Bwire	Team Leader	Sena Nami Mama
31	Emmanuel Bwenyenye	C.O Manager	Ganze Constituency
32	Zakiya Rashid	Vice Chair	Kilifi Mums
33	Nehemiah Okwemba	Team Leader - Malindi	
34	Roba Liban	Media	Citizen TV
35	Zomolo	Media	Royal Media Services
36	Alice Naribia	Media	SBS Radio
37	Ashui Tembo	Media	SBS Radio
38	Dan Mogaka		WHO-Kenya
39	Martin Murithi		Department of Gender





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hello@jarumiconsulting.co.ke



www.jarumiconsulting.co.ke