

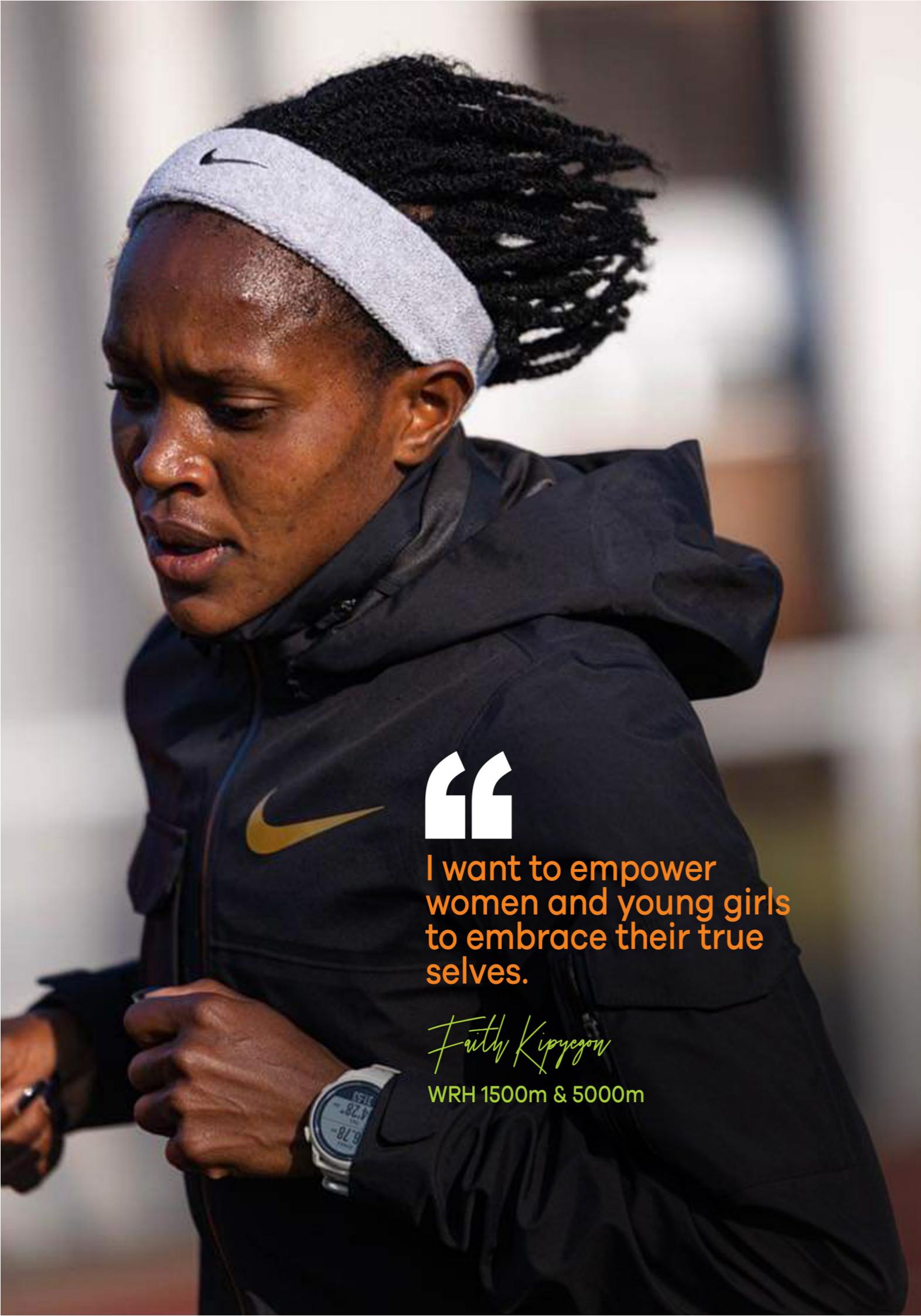
Da' Voice

The Premier Grassroots Women Newsletter by Collaboration of Women in Development (CWID)



03. Feminist Movement Building Critical towards Empowering Young Girls to Understand and Advocate for Women Rights

06. Women and Youth Play a Key Role in Contributing towards Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience



Feminist Movement Building Critical towards Empowering Young Girls to Understand and Advocate for Women Rights



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A kili Dada in partnership with Collaboration of Women in Development - CWID recently organized a Feminist Movement Building meeting at Pride Inn Nyali Hotel. The meeting aimed at centering young women's voices on critical issues affecting their lives and creating a vibrant young feminist movement that collectively works to advance adolescent girls' and young women's interests. Strategic engagements with partners and networks are instrumental in advancing young women and girls' leadership and meaningful engagement in addressing pertinent issues such as Gender Based Violence (GBV), Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), intersectionality, etc. The meeting brought together the We for She Movement, Young African Grassroot Women Movement (YAGWOM) and I am a Star Campaign Movement.

During the meeting, CWID Executive Director HSC Betty Sharon highlighted some of the efforts her organization has been involved in to champion for SRHR and fight against GBV/SGBV. She said that CWID leads the Pwani GBV Network which works to achieve a violent free society by fighting GBV/SGBV. "As an organization, CWID has been able to collaborate with other partners to develop the Mombasa County Women Charter which has pertinent issues concerning Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and gender equality that need to be addressed by the Mombasa County Government through the leadership of the current Governor H.E Hon. Abdulswamad Shariff Nassir," said Betty. She added that it is important to ensure that diverse women participate in decision making tables. This is possible through trainings on National and International frameworks which will help them advocate for their rights.

The Project Lead WASHA Program Emma Mogaka from Akili Dada advocated for more young women to organize and join Feminist Movement Building spaces to bolster their numbers in decision making and leadership platforms. This should not only be confined to political or elective spaces but also other influential spaces in the society and corporate world. Emma outlined the importance of mental health and how positive attributes and leadership traits can help build young women to become feminists in their elements.

The Program Associate WASHA Nancy Mutola from Akili Dada said that there is need to address structural and systemic gaps existing in feminists' spaces and include women in leadership roles effectively. She also emphasized on the important role that intersectionality plays in holistically representing women in economic, political and social aspects of development.

The young women present emphasized on the need for bridging the gaps that exists between them and women of strong personality. They also mentioned that for them to sustain these movements, they need to complement each other's activities and urged women of strong personality to act as mentors and role models for them to emulate. Women Living with Disability (WLDs) present in the meeting appreciated efforts by some institutions for constructing disability friendly structures making them easily accessible. They however challenged the County and National Governments to ensure that all their offices can be accessed by People Living with Disability (PLWDs).

Poor Parenting a Major Contributing Factor for the Youth Joining Juvenile Gangs

Emergence and mushrooming of juvenile gangs has been a major threat to security in Mombasa County and the Coastal region at large. Juvenile gangs constituting of young boys from the ages of 10 years have been occasionally wreaking havoc in the different Sub Counties of Mombasa County. Extremist narratives full of false promises have plunged young boys into criminal gangs. Girls have also been drawn into juvenile gangs playing the role of informants and help to store weapons and stolen property for their male counterparts. These gangs have stepped up their recruitment methods with some engaging in vile ritual processes that makes it very difficult for those wanting to opt out of the gangs to leave.

A recent baseline study on Reduced Vulnerability to Extremist Narratives for at-risk Youth among Juvenile Gangs in Mombasa County conducted by Lwanenergy Infiniti Consulting for the Fungua Pazia project funded by IGAD-CEWARN, implemented by Collaboration of Women in Development – CWID revealed that poverty, dysfunctional families and parental neglect, unemployment and low literacy levels were the major factors pushing at-risk youth to join juvenile gangs.

The report was subjected to various Community Dialogue Forums in all the six Sub Counties of Mombasa County namely Kisauini, Nyali, Mvita, Likoni, Changamwe and Jomvu to ascertain whether the findings in the report are true and include any additional recommendations which might have been left out. One thing that strongly came out from all the dialogue forums was poor parenting which drove many at-risk youth to join juvenile gangs.

One of the participants who witnessed a mob justice killing of a youth gang member in Vikwatani said that the boy's last words to the mother were, "Mum, you never told me that this is wrong." Another participant narrated how a youth gang with close to 200 young boys and girls chanting and wielding pangas in the air went to bury one of their members who had been killed by a viral gang. They took control of the whole burial, carried the boy's casket and even put pangas in his grave. The mother to the boy had been told many times that her child was in a gang but she never accepted it until when she witnessed what happened on that day.

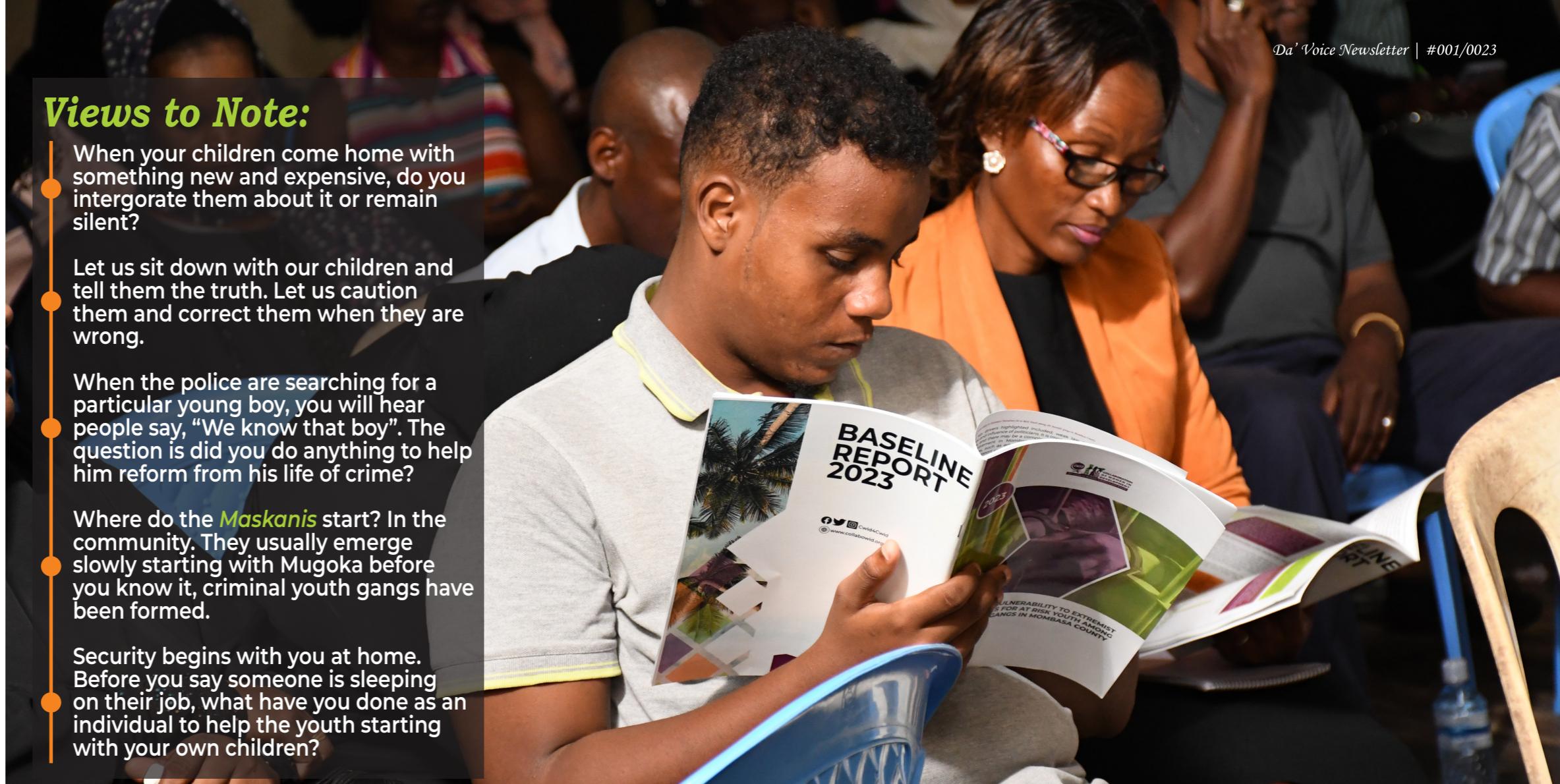
Majority of the participants agreed that when a child gets spoilt, it starts from home. Education starts with parents even before children start attending school. It is common for parents to be heard saying 'problems are back home' after

Views to Note:

- When your children come home with something new and expensive, do you interrogate them about it or remain silent?
- Let us sit down with our children and tell them the truth. Let us caution them and correct them when they are wrong.
- When the police are searching for a particular young boy, you will hear people say, "We know that boy". The question is did you do anything to help him reform from his life of crime?
- Where do the **Maskanis** start? In the community. They usually emerge slowly starting with Mugoka before you know it, criminal youth gangs have been formed.
- Security begins with you at home. Before you say someone is sleeping on their job, what have you done as an individual to help the youth starting with your own children?

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schools are closed begging the question, where do you expect your child to go really? Another concern is that children are left with phones unsupervised making it easy to visit unwanted cites used by juvenile gangs to recruit new members.

The police administration together with the Chiefs, Wazee wa Mitaa, Wamama wa Mitaa and members of peace committees present encouraged parents to be truthful to their children. Sometimes they arrest the youth involved in criminal activities but their parents, especially mothers, do everything in their power to bail them out. Mothers are extremely empathetic and loving to the extent that they do not correct their children when they are wrong. Fathers on the other hand have left the responsibility of parenting to mothers which means that there is inadequate support in fostering discipline in their children.

For us to successfully prevent violent extremism, a wholesome approach needs to be agreed upon. During the Technical Review and Validation Committee Meeting for the baseline study at the Mombasa County Commissioner's Boardroom, the Continuous Assessment Prevention and Empowerment (CAPE) model was suggested. The CAPE Model will use a holistic approach that will address the root causes of youth vulnerability to extremist narratives through continuous assessment, prevention, and empowerment strategies. It will create opportunities for inter-sectorial collaboration and allow diverse partners to specialize in the delivery of specific components of the model to improve strategies and avoid duplication of efforts.



Women and Youth Play a Key Role in Contributing towards Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience

Climate change is a cross cutting issue that affects food security, nutrition, health, employment among other things. Women are predominantly vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men. Men largely influence land ownership and the activities carried out on those lands. The vulnerability of women in climate change is caused by a number of factors which are cultural, social and economic. The youth have also been segregated on matters of land ownership and there is a huge intergenerational gap on knowledge dissemination on climate change adaptation and resilience. The historic absence of women and girls reflects under-representation of women in environmental climate change discussions, and lack of community-level research on women and environment. This problem is exacerbated by the increase in the number of women who are disproportionately affected in relation to their 'contribution' to environmental and climate change.

It is in regard to these challenges that Collaboration of Women in Development – CWID seeks to address the neglect of gender dimension in environmental adaptation and resilience efforts and programming through the Tabasamu ya Wamama project, funded by Forum Civ. The 3 year project will be implemented in the four Sub Counties of Nyali, Likoni, Kisauni and Jomvu. The Tabasamu ya Wamama Initiative project envisions three outcomes: Improved understanding of the risks and vulnerabilities faced by communities in relation to climate change and other shocks; Enhanced adaptive capacities of communities including improved access to resources and skills; Stronger partnerships and collaborations with local organizations and stakeholders to support community resilience, and reduced negative impacts of climate change and other shocks on communities.

During the inception meeting for the project held at Nyali Sun Africa Hotel Resort and Spa, the Assistant County Commissioner 1 (AACI) under the Office of the County Commissioner Mombasa County Madam Irene Munyoki began her speech by emphasizing that climate change mitigation is everyone's responsibility. She went ahead and stated that Mombasa County is mandated to plant 56,000 trees every month.

Madam Irene said, "As part of the environmental conservation mechanisms, Mombasa County residents should embark on planting mangrove trees both at individual and community level." She concluded her speech by saying that her office will offer support in the implementation of the Tabasamu ya Wamama programs and is ready to convene County Engagements Forums on Climate Justice.

CWID Executive Director HSC Betty Sharon in her remarks said that women and youth should be at the forefront of fighting for climate change adaptation and resilience. "Who is responsible for looking for clean water and food? Women. That's why we need great consideration to be given to women when climate change policies are being made," said Betty.



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The Coast Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Chair Mr. Zedikiah Adika applauded the numerous efforts and support by CWID geared towards ensuring an environmentally just society. Mr. Zedikiah said, "I am ready to offer support to anyone who need a lawyer for cases related to environment, land and climate change." he further outlined that most of the socio-economic activities result to environmental degradation. Concluding his remarks, the CSOs Chair stated the importance of involving and mainstreaming the vulnerable communities in environmental activities, that is, People Living with Disability (PLWDs) and the elderly.

The Mombasa County Forest Conservator Mr. Benjamin Mwindi emphasized on the importance of employing multi-sectorial approach in efforts to conserve the environment in order to achieve a greener Mombasa County. He also encouraged participants to practice tree planting campaigns at community level and conserve the environment by ensuring proper waste disposal.



World Environment Day – Beat Plastic Pollution

Plastic pollution is a huge crisis with micro-plastics contributing largely to water contamination and risking the lives of marine life. This year, the World Environment Day theme is very clear, 'Beat Plastic Pollution'. Collaboration of Women in Development – CWID together with other stakeholders took part in celebrating the World Environment Day at Moroto, Tudor. The event was graced by H.E the Deputy Governor Mombasa County Hon. Francis Thoya, who flagged off the World Environment Day procession from Makupa Roundabout to Moroto Grounds.

The Deputy Governor who is the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) Environment and Solid Waste Management in his address urged Mombasa residents to be environmentally conscious and practice proper waste disposal. "The people of Mombasa desire to live in a clean environment but do little to show it," said the Hon. Thoya. He noted that most pandemics affecting the world have been brought by environmental crisis. He took the opportunity to caution residents of Tudor from collecting wastes in bags and using them to encroach riparian land at the ocean shores. In his closing remarks, Hon. Thoya mentioned that he and the Governor are very committed in realizing a circular economy where the youth will be very instrumental in ensuring that recycling of plastic wastes is achieved while they make an income for themselves. The Deputy Governor welcomed the suggestion by Haki Africa to dedicate every second Saturday of the new month starting from July to be Zero Waste Mombasa Day where he promised to ensure that all the 30 Wards in Mombasa County will actively participate in the activity.

The CECM Water, Natural Resources and Climate Change Ms. Emily Achieng emphasized on the importance of recycling and the significance of reducing the use of single plastic. She said that her department will work closely with other County Government departments and other stakeholders through Climate Ward Officers to ensure that Mombasa County triumphs in environmental conservation. She closed her speech by saying that if the environment is well conserved, we will get better food production, clean water and a decline in diseases.

Prof. Najya Muhammed of Pwani University asked the participants to do more research on the effects of plastic pollution to the environment and marine life. The professor called upon the residents of Mombasa County to keep their bodies active by engaging in environment cleaning and tree planting exercises. She discouraged the act of disposing straws in the ocean due to its hazardous effects on marine life especially on the tortoise. "You do not need straws to drink your soda or Mafadu. All of us can easily do without straws," said the Professor. She went ahead to encourage everyone to invest in 20L jerricans for drinking water which can easily refill one small water bottle for our daily use.

After the speeches, the Deputy Governor together with other stakeholders present and the community members braved the rainy weather and teamed up for a cleanup exercise around Moroto Area. A united approach towards beating plastic pollution is key towards achieving a clean environment. If we take care of our planet, our planet will take of us.



Using fun Activities and Sports to End Teenage Pregnancy!

According to the Kenya Demographic Health Survey 2022, pregnancy for young women aged 15 to 19 yrs old in Mombasa County is 11%. Counties with higher percentages include Samburu (50%), West Pokot (36%), Narok (28%) and Meru (24%). Other Coastal Counties of are as follows: Tana River (18%), Taita Taveta (18%), Kwale (15%), Lamu (14%) and Kilifi (13%). If you compare Mombasa to other Coastal Counties, our percentage is fairly low but not impressive. More needs to be done to reduce teen pregnancy cases.

The We for She Movement supported by Collaboration of Women in Development - CWID has been very instrumental in the quest to End Teenage Pregnancy. The movement has been able to organize a football tournament at Marimani in Kisauni Sub County, mentorship program in Kongowea Ward Nyali Sub County and Jomo Kenyatta Beach Clean-up activity. In all of these activities, 218 young girls have been empowered on the importance of knowing their Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and have been taken through mentorship sessions on knowing and championing for their rights.

Under SRHR, the young girls have been taken through proper menstrual hygiene which entails; changing of sanitary pads after 6 to 8 hours of use, using clean undergarments and pads on each change, washing your hands properly before and after changing your pads, taking regular baths and washing your body properly and wrapping used sanitary pads well and disposing them off in a dustbin. It is important for the young girls to maintain proper menstrual hygiene to prevent them from getting infections.

On mentorship programs the girls have been sensitized on the referral pathways for Gender and Sexual Based Violence (SGBV/GBV) cases. The girls were also taught that they should not take a bath in case one has been sexually violated. Instead, they should immediately report the case at the police station at the Gender Desk which specifically handles GBV/SGBV cases. The girls from Marimani learnt that GBV/SGBV and sex for pads is an offense and shouldn't be normalized. Generally, the girls have become champions against GBV/SGBV in and out of school and have vowed to report any cases to the police for justice to be served.

Additionally, the young girls have been sensitized on the importance of environmental consciousness and conservation. During the Jomo Kenyatta Beach cleanup activity, they were learnt the impacts of negative climate change and how human activities are contributing to environmental degradation. They also learnt the dangers of plastic pollution to marine life and how proper waste disposal can help conserve our oceans.



TABASAMU
Environmental Enthusiast



Less than 10% of plastic ever produced is recycled

SOURCE: UNEP

YOU DONT
NEED STRAWS
TO DRINK FROM
BOTTLES

MARINE LIFE
DON'T FEED
ON PLASTICS
DISPOSE USED
PLASTIC BOTTLES
WELL

IF
YOU
CAN'T REUSE IT
REFUSE IT

#TabasamuYaWamama #BeatPlasticPollution

Economic Empowerment of Junda Women using Clean Energy – Briquette Making



Briquette has zero smoke emissions lowering Greenhouse Gas Emission into the atmosphere reducing global warming effects. It also retains heat for a long time hence its can be used to prepare a number of foods without having to add more briquettes like wood charcoal which is economical for low income earners.

Using alternative sources of fuel (clean energy) is one way of environmental conservation hence climate change adaption, mitigation and resilience. Through the Jijenge Jiboreshe Youth Initiative Project funded by the Australian Government through the Direct Aid Program implemented by Collaboration of Women in Development (CWID), young women and youth from Junda Ward are now able to earn a living and conserve the environment through briquette making techniques. The coordinator of Imani Imara Women Group from Junda Ward, Kisauni Constituency Ms. Zainab Hussein has taken up the initiative to empower women in her area economically and sensitize residents of Junda Ward on the importance of using briquette as a clean source of fuel.

"For a long time, the people of Junda Ward have been using the normal charcoal as their main source of fuel. It is important for us to know the effects of the normal charcoal to the environment and our health," says Zainab. Collaboration of Women in Development (CWID) took the initiative to train various youth and women groups in Kisauni Constituency on environmental conservation through waste management through briquette charcoal making.

Briquette can be made by mixing sand, charcoal waste, waste papers, wood waste, sawdust, starch and molasses. After the materials have been properly mixed, they are pressed using a briquette making machine to form a cylindrical shape then dried. Imani Imara Women Group have a briquette making machine donated to them by CWID which they use to make the briquette charcoal. After the briquette has been dried for a few days, it is now ready for sale.

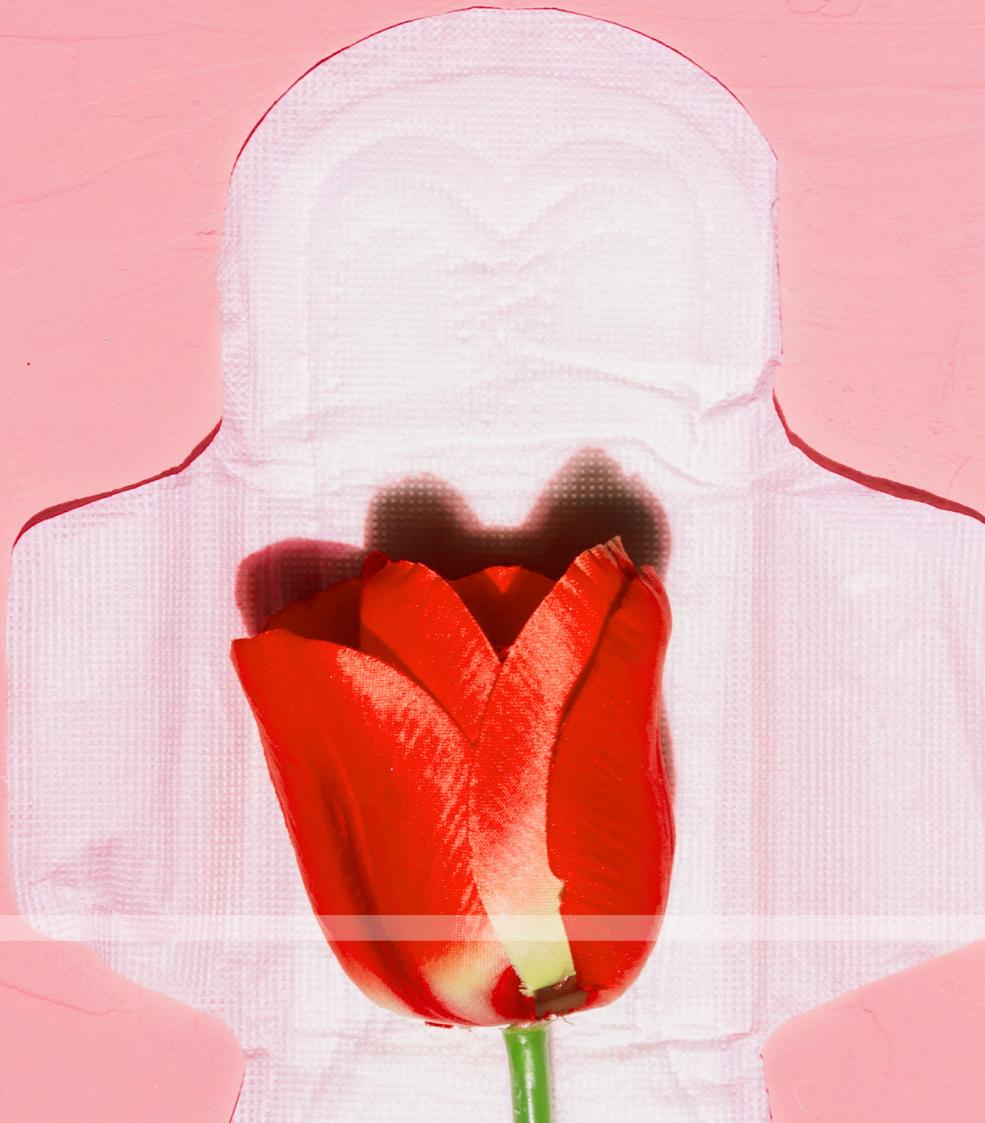
The group can produce around 2 crates of briquette in a day and make a sale of Kshs. 15,000 a month or more depending on the orders they get. The sales made are then consolidated by the group then lend out through a table banking system that they maintain. Members of the group can borrow money and pay back at reasonable interest rates enabling them to fend for their needs and those of their families. This is aided by the financial trainings received which include book keeping that helps the group keep financial records of each member. Briquette has zero smoke emissions lowering Greenhouse Gas Emission into the atmosphere reducing global warming effects. It also retains heat for a long time hence its can be used to prepare a number of foods without having to add more briquettes like wood charcoal which is economical for low income earners.

"Before the Jijenge Jiboreshe Project came, we never knew that we could turn wastes into income generating products and conserve the environment at the same time. I am very happy and thankful to CWID for giving young women in Junda this opportunity and we would like to sensitize our community to know the importance of environmental conservation hence climate change adaption, mitigation and resilience," concluded Zainab.

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Imagine a world where every woman and girl can manage her periods with dignity and without hindering her education, health, self-esteem, social mobility and economic opportunities.

#EndPeriodStigma #EndPeriodPoverty



Promoting Sexual Reproductive Health Services for Women and Girls through Networks and Favorable Policy Formulation to Combat SGBV

Collaboration of Women in Development (CWID) works to increase access to Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) services for women, girls and other vulnerable populations in Kenya. CWID has a team of experts providing technical support on maternal and child-health and access to SRH programs. CWID also works with a network of trained community health workers and volunteers. The organization works with the Mombasa County Health Advocacy Network (MCHAN) to review health budgets, review and support in the development of gender responsive health policies and laws. In the past twelve months, CWID has supported the development of the Mombasa County Guidelines on the Provision of Essential Health Services for Gender Based Violence Survivors during pandemics.

"Reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being in all matters relating to the reproductive system. It implies that there is capability to reproduce, and the freedom to decide if, when, and how often to do so. To maintain one's sexual and reproductive health, people need access to accurate information and the safe, effective, affordable and acceptable contraception method of their choice," stated CWID Executive Director HSC Betty Sharon.

As CWID, we aim to improve access to justice for victims of gender-based violence in Kenya through working with other CSOs and State actors to establish institutions that will ensure continuous flow of services to victims of SGBV and build capacity of local groups including community health workers and women groups to prevent and respond to GBV. To boost impact, CWID works closely with the Gender Technical Working Group, which among other duties, leads the fight against GBV and hosts the Pwani GBV Network. In the last years, we have supported the Mombasa

County Government (Department of Gender) to develop the County SGBV Policy and Bill.

The Policy addresses issues affecting gender and violence in relation to the social, political and economic issues and suggests ways of addressing them as well as to give direction and ensure significant improvement in the management and implementation of measures to curb sexual and gender based violence within the county and the empowerment of vulnerable groups.

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To maintain one's sexual and reproductive health, people need access to accurate information and the safe, effective, affordable and acceptable contraception method of their choice.

Highlights of this Issue



The CWID team paid a courtesy visit to the Minister for Blue Economy, Agriculture and Livestock Hon. Kibibi Abdallah Khamis where she was briefed about the Tabasamu ya Wamama project supported by Forum CIV.



The We for She Movement through the support of CWID and Akili Dada and the partnership of Kenya Wildlife Service and the Nyali Beach Management Unit took part in a Beach Cleanup exercise at the Jomo Kenyatta Public Beach.



We attended the opening ceremony of the Mombasa Ocean Festival at Alliance Française. Children from various schools in Mombasa County made art pieces all done from plastic items to show the importance of ocean conservation and the impact plastic pollution has to the marine life.



CWID joined the Coast CSOs Network in the Launch of the Maunguja Resource and Gender Based Protection Center which was officially commissioned by the Chairperson, Actionaid International Kenya Board Mr. Samuel Muga. The center will serve as an economic empowerment and psychosocial support center for GBV/SGBV survivors in Mombasa County.



CWID took part in the World Ocean Day celebration at the Jomo Kenyatta Public Beach whose theme was *Tides are Changing*. Ocean Conservation is important to marine life and also the fishermen who depend on it to earn a living.



CWID joined H.E the Deputy Governor Mombasa County Hon. Francis Thoya and other stakeholders in celebrating the World Environment Day at Tudor Moroto with the theme being *Beat Plastic Pollution*. The DG said that from the next month, every second Saturday will be Zero Waste Mombasa Day.



CWID took part in a Public Participation Forum at Bilima Grounds Kisauni Sub County meant to deliver a Memorandum on the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2023-2027 prepared by the Kisauni community members representatives, through the support of the Aga Khan Foundation.



The technical Review Committee validating the baseline study on Reduced Vulnerability to Extremist Narratives for at-risk Youth in Mombasa County. Reviews on the baseline study were made and further recommendations suggested to enrich the report.



The Executive Director joined members of the Pwani GBV Network in paying a courtesy visit to the CECM Transport and Infrastructure Mombasa County Mr. Daniel Manyala and deliberated on gender mainstreaming in the department, safety of women traders in informal settlements and gender responsive budgeting in the IDPP programs.

STOP!

GENDER & SEXUAL BASED VIOLENCE

Report any cases of GBV/SGBV through:

0800 720 587/21094 - GBV Hotline Mombasa County
1195 - Gender Based Violence Hotline
0800 730 999 - KPS GBV Helpline
0110 097 279 - CWID GBV Hotline
719 - Mental Health Hotline
116 - Child Helpline

#EndGBV #CWIDGender



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