

# Da' Voice

*A Quarterly Newsletter Publication by Collaboration of Women in Development (CWID)*

## Here is what has happened in the last three months!

Welcome to our quarterly newsletter! We are thrilled to share with you the latest developments in our mission to make a positive impact in our community.

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude to all of our development partners and communities who have continued to support us during these challenging times. Your generosity and dedications have allowed us to keep our programs running smoothly and effectively.

In terms of our projects updates, we are happy to announce to you that we finished the second phase of the WGG program in March this year. The WGG aims to prevent and eliminate SGBV against women and girls and strengthening women's leadership and women's participation in (political) decision making.

We term it a huge success as we were able to conduct more than 156 health talks, through the 12 trained health champions in the duration of 6 months on preventing and eliminating SGBV in Mombasa County.

5 health champions leveraged on the chief barazas and conducted the health talks in different subcounties. 1491 diverse young women and men were reached through the health talks in the public health facilities in Mombasa County to better understand prevention and response to SGBV cases.

We took part in many activities supportive of our pillars aimed towards the empowerment of women and girls in the community. Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most. Thank you for your continued support and partnership!

Enjoy our newsletter!

### In this newsletter you can expect:

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Update of our projects

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Shifting the focus on GBV perpetrators

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Rise of Tech Generated GBV

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Doctors' strike exposes state of health service delivery in Kenya

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Digital Safety

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Women in the face of climate change

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## Shifting the focus on perpetrators

On the morning of January 4th, news on the internet spread like wildfire with disheartening information of the death of Kenyan socialite, Starlet Wahu. Deeper investigations revealed that the murderer, John Matara, had preyed on quiet a number of women through a dating site, who had also experienced a similar form of abuse surviving but deeply wounded. This dust had barely settled when another woman was killed in another Airbnb in Roysambu, Nairobi. The woman's mutilated body had been stashed in a bag and dumped by the roadside! These chilling incidences brought to light the terrifying rise of femicide cases in not just Kenya but the global world as well. The outcry of the general public on social media platforms under hashtags like #endfemicidesKe and #EndGenderBasedViolence and Human Rights called on urgent mitigation measures to be put in place to curb further cases.

Collaboration of Women in Development, joined a nationwide peaceful protest #ENDFEMICIDEKE which took place on the 27th of January, calling an end to the brutality against women and girls in Kenya. At Cwid, our overall objective remains to enhance equitable development and empowerment of women, girls, their families, and communities in selected areas of Africa. This can be achieved through strengthened delivery of quality Gender responsiveness, inclusive education, early childhood development and other sustainable development services in selected areas of Africa.

According to the recent report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, globally, nearly 89,000 women and girls were killed intentionally in 2022, the highest yearly number recorded in the past two decades. Moreover, available data suggest that while the overall

number of homicides globally has begun to fall in 2022 after a spike in 2021, the number of female homicides are not decreasing. Most killings of women and girls are gender motivated.

While a lot of attention and light is shone on the victims of GBV, ED, CWID, Betty Sharon, believes that the most significant change will be felt when the attention is equally shifted to the perpetrators.

"Since Covid, SGBV issues have escalated, but most people are only coming in to do research but very few investing in prevention. There are a lot of research on the teenage pregnancies but not on the people committing the crime. Just recently, Bungoma Governor Kenneth Lusaka recommended a ban from school on pregnant teenagers. How will they participate in politics and leadership if they don't continue with studies? Let's start talking about people perpetrating these crimes," she says in determination.

Started in 2011, BADILIIKA project aims to fight Gender based violence by turning the focus on male perpetrators of violence.

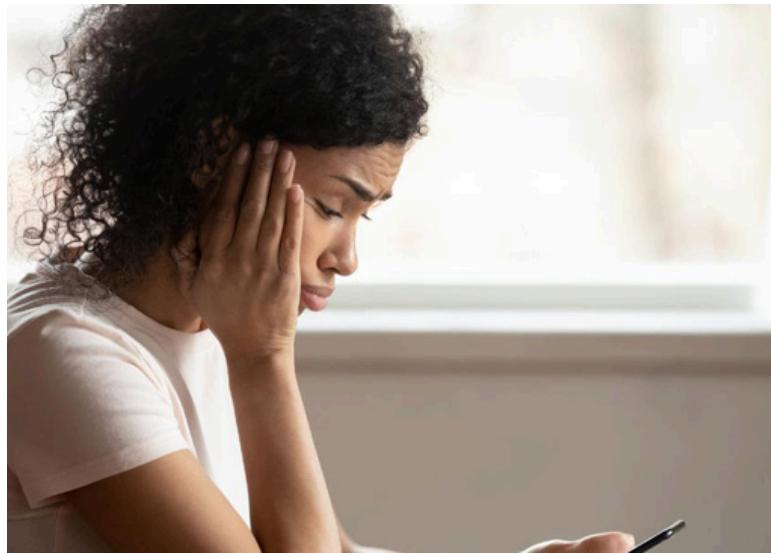
By working with inmates at Shimo La Tewa prisons who had accepted their mistakes and were open to change, teaching them both laws and human rights, the program proved its success as most of the perpetrators in the program reformed, and some even turned to peer-influencers.

The Integrations through Badiliika provides a healing space for the victims of GBV. As much as it doesn't take away the sin against them it is the beginning of the healing process. The project has proved a success so far with the first cohort having also successfully reintegrated into the society as reformed members, some even becoming peer influencers.

# Tech-Generated GBV, the new crisis after the pandemic

There is a real stillness felt in the room after a video presentation is finally stopped. The video presentation is meant to show the extent to which artificial intelligence can be used in identity them. In the video, a 9-year-old girl named Ella (played by an actor)'s photos posted by her parents online are used to generate an identity which message is later shared with the parents. The replication of the voice and face are very exact. While sharing cute photos has for years been used for just global connections and stuff like that, unfortunately the gravity of technology facilitated gender based violence might be taking a whole new turn to this dangerous.

Technology facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) is an act of violence perpetrated by one or more individuals that is committed, assisted, aggravated and amplified in part or fully by the use of information and communication technologies or digital media, against a person on the basis of their gender. It is any act that is committed or amplified using digital tools or technologies causing physical, sexual, psychological, social, political, or economic harm to women and girls because of their gender. This action is carried out using the internet and or mobile technology and includes stalking, bullying, sexual harassment, defamation, hate speech and exploitation. According to the Institute of Development Studies, between 16-58 per cent of women have experienced technology-facilitated gender based violence.



The Economist Intelligence Unit found that 38 per cent of women have had personal experiences of online violence, and 85 per cent of women who spend time online have witnessed digital violence against women.

The most common forms of violence reported were misinformation and defamation (67 per cent), cyber harassment (66 per cent), hate speech (65 per cent), impersonation (63 per cent), hacking and stalking (63 per cent), astroturfing (a coordinated effort to concurrently share damaging content across platforms, 58 per cent), video and image-based abuse (57 per cent), doxing (55 per cent), violent threats (52 per cent), and unwanted images or sexually explicit content (43 per cent).

Artificial Intelligence (AI) raises concerns about protecting and promoting human rights. Societal biases linked to gender roles and identities are ingrained in social programs and services through automated decision-making. Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence targets all women who use technology.

Certain groups of women are more prone to this type of violence because of their activities, identities, or access to specific information and services. Notably, human rights defenders, journalists and lawmakers, politicians, women activists and feminists, academics and young people face increased rates of violence. Preventing and addressing Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence necessitates collaborative efforts involving national governments, technology companies, digital rights and feminist movements, gender-based violence service providers, academics, and, most importantly, survivors.





## Doctors' strike exposes weak state of health service delivery

On March 14th 2024, Kenyan doctors began the second longest strike which lasted about 56 days, accusing the government of failing to implement a raft of promises from a collective bargaining agreement signed in 2017 after a 100 days strike. This strike brought to light the inadequacies within the sector as it left many of the public hospital users very vulnerable. Families lost their loved ones due to the strike, while others watched on as health of their loved one deteriorated.

Research compiled by Health Champions on the status of the health facilities, with the support of Collaboration of Women in Development revealed that on 23rd March, an expectant mother Winfred Nduku, from Tudor area was in labor and rushed to the Coast General Hospital for delivery but she was turned away, forcing her to seek help at a private hospital in Mtwapa. While the delivery was successful the newborn developed a fever and had to again be rushed to the same hospital.

"The only thing they did was check on the child. They said the doctor wasn't around, he only came in on the 7th day, when he came he tested the child and confirmed that she had an infection, so the doctor said he would communicate to Makadara Coast General to see if the child could get treatment. When he called they told him that they were not admitting any patients," Shared Winfred Nduku. Despite referral from the Kilifi referral hospital, Winfred lost her child, while still bearing a bill of almost 100,000 shillings' post-surgery.

The Health policy, 2014-2030 gives directions to ensure significant improvement in overall status of health in Kenya in line with the constitution of Kenya 2010 which aims to attain the highest standard of health in a responsive manner to the needs of the Kenyan population. The Constitution of Kenya also provides the overarching legal frameworks to ensure a comprehensive rights based-based approach to health services delivery.

In addition the Health Act 2017 formalizes collaborations between national and county governments, obliging Kenya to address the health needs of vulnerable groups, and mandates the provision of emergency and specialized care.

Among those who were greatly affected by the long strike are GBV (Gender based violence victims) who could not access vital services from the health facilities. There are others who were unable to access P3 forms which would be useful in jump-starting their access to justice process.

In response to this Collaboration of women in Development led members of the Coast Civil Societies Network in rebuking this act of rebellion which had costed especially citizens from poor backgrounds who are most dependent on the public health facilities, by calling for a press conference which highlighted the situation in Mombasa following the strike.

The collective media address was highlighted by amongst others TV47, KTN, Msenangu Fm, The People Daily Newspaper, Sauti ya Pwani and BBC News. Speaking at the press conference, Doris Ojiambo, the Programs Officer at Collaboration of women in Development, (the Health and Gender Thematic Lead), appealed to the government to intervene on the situation.

"We can confirm that residents of Mombasa cannot access the public health facilities and have to go to private health facilities which is also a burden because most of them cannot afford. From our research which arises from all the sub counties, there is proof of lives lost, and these are just the cases that we have got from our research, there are more that we don't know about. So this is an issue that needs to be urgently addressed," shares Ojiambo.

## Crucial online safety tips

Playing it safe online can help prevent you from being exposed to unwanted information, materials, or risks on the internet that might harm your devices, personal information, or your family. One of the prevalent dangers of the internet is cybercriminals and the ever-evolving cybercrimes they create.

### 1. Use strong passwords and password manager

Create a hack-proof password by selecting a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols, and make sure it's at least 12 characters long. Never use common words, phrases, or personal information like a phone number or family members' names. And bolster your password protection with a password management program, which can remember unique passwords for all your accounts. Best of all, with a password manager, you only need to remember one password.

### 2. Close unused accounts

Unused accounts can be a rich source of personal information for cybercriminals. Cybercriminals can patch these data points together and steal information from other sites that the individual uses. If you think you won't be revisiting the site, it's best to close the account.

### 3. Careful with your downloads

There are more than 1.8 billion websites worldwide, and it's no secret that some of them have malicious intent. A malicious website is a site that attempts to install malware on your device, meaning anything that will disrupt computer operation, gather your personal information, or allow unauthorized access to your machine. This usually requires some action on your part, but there are also drive-by downloads, whereby a website will attempt to install software on your computer without asking for permission first. Downloading and running security software can help defend against these threats.

### 4. When in doubt, call support

The best security software programs offer 24x7 support. If you have any suspicion you've been hacked, call for help. If you think your device is under malware, spyware, or ransomware attack, call for help. A good security suite will have experts to help you resolve your problem.

### 5. Avoid public Wi-Fi

There are a lot of risks of connecting to public Wi-Fi networks. In addition to keeping your kids and teens attuned to them, it's important for parents to remind themselves that hackers and cybercriminals consider public Wi-Fi, such as in malls and coffee shops, an easy access point to getting hold of your data. For this reason, always use a VPN when connecting to public Wi-Fi. Don't have a VPN? Consider if you can hold off on internet browsing until you are home.

### 6. Secure your internet connection.

It should come as no surprise that hackers also want to use your home Wi-Fi network. Cybercriminals can hack home routers and gain access to various internet-connected devices like home security systems and smart doorbells. Make sure your home Wi-Fi system has a hard-to-crack password and consider cybersecurity software that identifies "intruders" on your network. Finally, a VPN is one of the best ways to ensure your internet connection is secure.

### 7. Privacy policies...not so private

know that privacy policies may not be private. With more websites and applications collecting information and using it for advertising and marketing purposes, make sure your family knows the value of online privacy. Many apps have privacy policies that disclose that the apps collect and share their users' information. Kids and many adults often accept these policies without reading them. Even if your settings are set to private, remember nothing is private. Even the so-called private browser is not private. Law enforcement, website administrators, and hackers could have access to your so-called private information.

# Women in the face of Climate Justice



**Human rights activist, Benna Buluma aka Mama Victor who died in the Nairobi floods.**

Starting 18 April 2024, floods hit Kenya, affecting people in 33 of the 47 counties, while also causing devastations which we might not easily recover from. Not exclusively, but we were brutally pained with the death of one of us, a popular Human Rights Advocate Benna Buluma popularly known as Mama Victor, who passed on on the 24th of April. This was as a result of ravaging floods in Nairobi's Mathare Estate. She was trapped in her house together with her family and all their lives were lost.

This case and many others seen during the flooding period, is literally additional proof that indeed women are more vulnerable than men to the impacts of climate change, mainly because they represent the majority of the world's poor and are proportionally more dependent on threatened natural resources. The difference between men and women can also be seen in their differential roles, responsibilities, decision making, access to land and natural resources, opportunities and needs, which are held by both sexes. Worldwide, women have less access than men to resources such as land, credit, agricultural inputs, decision-making structures, technology, training and extension services that would enhance their capacity to adapt to climate change.



70% of the 1.3 billion people living in conditions of poverty are women. In urban areas, 40 per cent of the poorest households are headed by women. Women predominate in the world's food production (50-80 per cent), but they own less than 10 per cent of the land. Women represent a high percentage of poor communities that are highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihood, particularly in rural areas where they shoulder the major responsibility for household water supply and energy for cooking and heating, as well as for food security. In Kenya and the global space in general, women still have limited access to and control of environmental goods and services; they have negligible participation in decision-making, and are not involved in the distribution of environment management benefits. Consequently, women are less able to confront climate change.

This is why as Collaboration of Women in development we aim to continue empowering women through Ecosystem-based adaptation as a strategy for adapting to climate change that harnesses nature-based solutions and ecosystem services.

Since last year we have continued to support projects that mitigates climate change through planting of trees like mangroves to protect the coastal habitats, these also provide natural flood defenses. We also encourage more funding organizations and donors to take into account women-specific circumstances when developing and introducing technologies related to climate change adaptation and to try their best to remove the economic, social and cultural barriers that could constraint women from benefiting and making use of them.

# HIGHLIGHTS



CWID joined Kilifi North Sub-county, Matsangoni ward, Uyombo Maweni village for a public participation on the government's 500B nuclear plant project.



CWID attended the inception meeting of the **#USAWA** Program organized by [transparency international](#). The goal of the program is to enhance efficiency, transparency and accountability in the use of public resources for improved health service delivery in Isiolo, Kakamega, Kilifi, Mombasa and Nakuru counties.



Our ED, attending the Regional Meeting for the East and Southern Africa Region on Scaling Up Nutrition convened in Nairobi from April 14th to April 20th, 2024. The gathering aimed to address the pressing issues surrounding nutrition in the region and devise strategies to scale up efforts for improved nutrition outcomes.



CWID conducted a monthly review meeting with health champions to review the Health Talks progress. i.e. understanding new learnings, areas of improvement, opportunities and unexpected roadblocks faced in the delivery of health talks on SGBV in public health facilities in Mombasa County.



Collaboration of Women in Development played a pivotal role in the official launch of the Mombasa Adolescents and Young People (AYP) strategy 2024-2029 which was held at Tononoka Grounds.



Coast Civil Societies Network had an enlightening day as they paid a courtesy call to Hon. Japheth Musyoka Mang'oka, CECM for Devolution, Public Service, Public Participation, and Special Programs in Makueni County,during the excange learning visit by Timiza-Ugatuizi.



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