

Summary Report

Q&A; Summary: Analytical Overview of Femicide Reporting in Kenya (January 1st to January 31st, 2024)

1. What is femicide?

Femicide is defined as the intentional murder of women because they are women. It is a global issue driven by gender inequality, discrimination, and harmful social norms.

**2. What is the current state of femicide in Kenya?

- 1 **Statistics**: In 2023, 150 femicide cases were reported, with at least 10 women killed in January 2024 alone. Between 2019 and 2024, 504 women were killed.
- 1 **Hotspots**: Nairobi, Kiambu, and Nakuru counties report the highest incidences, though underreporting in other areas may skew data.
- 1 **Methods**: Common methods include stabbing, hacking, strangulation, and extreme acts like beheading and burning.

**3. How has the media covered femicide in Kenya?

- 1 **Role**: The media has been instrumental in raising awareness, setting the agenda, and pressuring authorities to act.
- 1 **Coverage**: Broadcast, print, and digital media extensively covered cases like Scarlet Wahu and Rita Waeni, sparking national debates.
- 1 **Issues**: Some outlets, like Anguo FM, Taifa Leo, The Star, and Kiss FM, were criticized for sensational, inaccurate, and insensitive reporting.

**4. What legal frameworks address femicide in Kenya?

- 1 **Constitution**: Guarantees the right to life, equality, and protection from violence (Articles 26, 27, 28, and 43).
- 1 **Acts of Parliament**: Includes the Sexual Offences Act (2006), Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act (2011), and Children's Act (2022).
- 1 **International Conventions**: Kenya is party to treaties like CEDAW, the Maputo Protocol, and the Convention Against Torture, which obligate the state to prevent and address gender-based violence.

**5. What are the challenges in addressing femicide?

- 1 ****Underreporting****: Many cases go unreported due to stigma and fear.
- 1 ****Slow Justice****: Investigations and legal processes are often delayed, with some cases taking up to 5 years to resolve.
- 1 ****Cultural Norms****: Patriarchal attitudes and harmful social norms perpetuate gender-based violence.

****6. How has the media adhered to ethical standards in reporting femicide?****

- 1 ****Positive Efforts****: Many outlets provided balanced, sensitive coverage and hosted expert discussions.
- 1 ****Failures****: Some media houses engaged in victim-blaming, sensationalism, and intrusion into grief, violating the Code of Conduct for Kenyan Journalists.

****7. What actions have been taken to combat femicide?****

- 1 ****Government****: Ministries of Tourism and Interior are addressing safety in short-term rentals like Airbnb.
- 1 ****Civil Society****: Organizations like FIDA Kenya, Usikimye, and the Zamara Foundation are advocating for justice and awareness.
- 1 ****Media****: Despite some lapses, the media has played a crucial role in exposing cases and fostering public discourse.

****8. What are the key recommendations?****

- 1 ****Media****: Adhere to ethical standards, avoid sensationalism, and provide accurate, sensitive reporting.
- 1 ****Government****: Strengthen legal frameworks, expedite investigations, and implement preventive measures.
- 1 ****Public****: Raise awareness, challenge harmful norms, and support victims.

****9. What is the conclusion of the report?****

The media has been pivotal in highlighting femicide, but ethical lapses must be addressed. A collaborative effort involving the media, government, and civil society is essential to combat this crisis and protect women's rights.

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This summary captures the critical aspects of the report, focusing on the definition, statistics, media coverage, legal frameworks, challenges, and recommendations related to femicide in Kenya.

