

AWE — SOME



Dear friends and colleagues,
Welcome to the November 2022
Awesome Newsletter. FIDA-Kenya
and Womankind worldwide are
in a collaborative program to
advance SDG 5: Achieve gender
equality and empower all women.
This is aimed at the prevention
and elimination of sexual and
gender-based violence (SGBV)
against women and girls and
strengthening women's leadership
and women's participation in
decision-making.

The aim of the project is that women's
movements are strengthened, less fragmented,
and more representative of diverse groups
of women, including women with disabilities
(WWD). These stronger women's movements
contribute to strong women leaders at all levels
and the prevention and elimination of SGBV
(Sexual and Gender-Based Violence) against
women and girls.

Our Awesome newsletter focuses on a specific
theme — gender equality, elimination of sexual
and gender-based violence, advocating for
women's political participation — and brings you
enriching stories from the field. Enjoy!





WOMEN, BUSINESS AND THE LAW 2021



Kenya Global Gender Report

Kenya scored 80.6 out of 100 on the Women, Business, and the Law 2021 index and ranked 95 out of 156 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2021, with an overall score of 0.692. Overall, these scores remain consistent from the previous year though the lived realities for women and girls are markedly different, particularly in terms of the statistics based on age, marital status, and geographical location

International Women's Day 2022



This year, the theme for International Women's Day was "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world," FIDA-Kenya was actively involved in a series of activities to celebrate #IWD. Some of the activities included. Sensitization forums on GBV with the community and duty bearers in Tala, Kibera, Mukuru, and Garissa.

FIDA-Kenya calls on government agencies to tame rogue boda boda riders.



FIDA-Kenya, during International Women's Day 2022, held a peaceful procession on the streets of Nairobi demanding action against rogue Boda Boda (bicycle taxis) riders and has called for the creation of a task force to curb the rouge Boda Boda industry. During the procession, FIDA-Kenya presented a petition to the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Interior Dr. Fred Matiangi, and the National Police Service Inspector General Hillary Mutyambai calling for the protection of women in Kenya following the sexual assault of a female motorist on Friday along Forest Road.



“We call on the IG of police today. Whatever it means. Whether it will be a task force or a special unit to curb the Boda Boda drivers so that like other road users they are put under the adherence of the rule of law,” said FIDA-Kenya Executive Director Anne Ireri.

“We demand concerted efforts and public declarations from the current government as well as those seeking electoral offices to rein in on the bodaboda industry and ensure that women are safe as they use bodabodas,” she added. An NPS representative from the spokesperson’s office, Bianca Nzioki, assured the protesters the police regret the incident and progress had been made to ensure all culprits involved are brought to book.

“As a law enforcement agency, we continue to do our part in ensuring that the rouge bodaboda riders face the wrath of the law and we call on the other stakeholders to join us in seeing this process through,” Nzioki told the protesters. A call to Action Against Gender-Based Violence: Remembering GOK Commitments!

In June 2021, the Government of Kenya made a valiant decision to end Gender-Based Violence (GBV) including sexual violence by 2026. When making the announcement, Kenya promised to intensify its campaign to end these violations by undertaking a series of 12 bold commitments that would remove the systemic barriers that allow GBV to thrive. Towards this, it has committed to invest 23 million USD in GBV prevention programmes and increase budgetary allocation to 50 million Kshs by 2026. The investment will include allocations to research funding and a GBV survivors kitty. There are also plans to introduce data-supported policies in its anti-GBV efforts. Finally, there will be an implementation of an integrated national police service response mechanism dubbed ‘policare’ as well as the establishment of GBV recovery centers in all 47 counties. We humbly remind the new government, led by His Excellency the President of the Republic Dr. William Samoei Ruto of these commitments.

Galvanizing our Male Champions to Promote Women's Rights

FIDA Kenya continues to engage male champions recruited in 2021 in target counties to advance the women's rights agenda.

Our [#AwesomeMaleChampions](#) help prevent & eliminate [#SGBV](#), strengthen women's leadership and promote women's participation in decision-making. Through our engagement with the champions, we continued our efforts to dismantle patriarchy one step at a time by engaging them on gender sensitization drives that include advocacy against [#SGBV](#) and [#FGM](#) at the community level & advocacy on women's representations in elective positions.

Positional power has been identified as a critical variable in gender change initiatives hence the term 'champion'. The focus of these male champions to lead change in the 8 regions in Kenya will ensure unwavering support throughout the program. In particular, the male champions shall be critical allies in gender awareness campaigns.

Male champions have been engaged in media and community forum initiatives to advocate for inclusivity in leadership.

Support to CBO networks for Widows and Vulnerable groups

Our continued collaboration with Come Together Widows and Orphans Organisation and other widow organizations continues offering legal aid services to widows in Nairobi, Kiambu, Mombasa, Kisumu, and other parts of Nairobi. In February 2022 we had an event that brought together 120 widows in an organized dinner event where they were trained on various laws including the Succession Act, Matrimonial Property Act, Protection against Domestic Violence Act, and Land Act. From the event, cases were taken up for legal assistance.

SGBV in Elections: Strengthen the capacity of Duty Bearers to respond effectively to ESGBV

In June through the support of Womankind Awesome and in partnership with stakeholders under the National Council on the Administration of Justice (NCAJ) FIDA-Kenya participated in the National Conference on Electoral-related Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Nairobi.

The justice sector actors discussed their mitigation and preparations for elections with a key focus on ESGBV. It also provided an opportunity to discuss challenges and gaps in prevention, response, and support to survivors and the procedures and mechanisms that agencies have set up to fast-track prevention and response to ESGBV cases within the justice sector.



Further, the platform provided an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss and share their experiences and measures towards the operationalization of laws, policies, and institutional mechanisms to prevent and respond to ESGBV and support survivors.

Survivors had an opportunity to amplify their voices by giving first-hand experience and recommendations to the justice actors with justice actors analyzing and consolidating different approaches aimed at preventing and responding to election-related SGBV while addressing the gaps and challenges in access to justice for survivors.

There was a commitment from Justice Actors to the efficient and effective administration of justice during the electioneering period.

Gender Sector Working Groups: Another milestone towards gender equality.

Under the Awesome project, FIDA-Kenya, in collaboration with the State Department for Gender, support the Gender Sector Working Groups in Kisumu, Uasin Gishu, and Nyamira between February and June. Through these capacity-building forums, participants were able to identify gaps in Prevention and Response to SGBV and together craft Strategies for Eliminating SGBV in these counties including Election related SGBV.

Court User Committees: An important partner in enhancing access to justice for the indigent

FIDA-Kenya through its access to justice platform promotes legal access to the public through legal aids and pro-bono advocates. This cannot be done without engaging other justice stakeholders. Concerning this, FIDA-Kenya works hand in hand with CUCs to ensure the public is kept at par with the changes in the legal system. Training of CUC members also capacity builds the judiciary for the efficient administration of justice. Moreover, the training allowed the CUC to deliberate on their issues and come up with a way forward. Through the Awesome project, we have managed to support several CUCs including Vihiga, Lamu, and Tononoka Law Courts. CUC members have been trained on handling gaps in prevention and response to GBV focusing on the duty to investigate and prosecute and strategies for preventing and responding to GBV.

Enhancing access to justice for SGBV Survivors through community legal aid clinics

Between January to October, the Awesome project continued providing free community legal aid clinics in Kajiado, Siaya, Bungoma, and Mombasa. Through the Legal Aid Clinics, we have managed to offer both Legal Aid and Psychosocial support for members of the community with a specific target of those who have suffered either SGBV or GBV.

Further to the above, we have been able to enhance awareness of SGBV, its causes, and legal and psychosocial ways of combatting and responding to the same.

The Community members were also capacity built on how and when to report the matters concerning SGBV and which relevant stakeholders would serve as first responders in case of any SGBV occurrence. The legal team has been picking cases for pro bono legal representation.



Responses and prevention of SGBV/GBV

GBV refers to any form of violence/act that occasions physical, sexual, or psychological harm to both women & men. Its abuse perpetrated on a person based on his/her gender. It's affects range from personal, cultural, economic, social, and political. Global statistics indicate the majority of survivors are mainly women & children.

Forms of violence

1. Sexual violence
2. Physical violence
3. Economic violence
4. Psychological violence
5. Cultural violence

Causes of GBV

1. Non-reporting of GBV cases by survivors
2. Lack of political will to fight GBV
3. Culture of silence and shame around GBV
4. Limited access to trusted service providers by GBV survivors
5. Fear of retaliation by perpetrators towards survivors and survivors' intermediaries
6. Culture and traditions that men ought to 'discipline' their wives when they are disobedient

Consequences of GBV

Fatal

- Homicide
- Suicide
- Maternal mortality
- Infant mortality
- HIV/AIDS

Acute physical

- Injury, including fistulas
- Shock
- Disease
- Infection

Chronic physical

- Disability
- Chronic pain or infections
- Gastrointestinal problems
- Eating or sleeping disorders
- Alcohol/drug abuse

Reproductive

- Miscarriage
- Unwanted pregnancy
- Unsafe abortion
- STDs, incl. HIV/AIDS
- Menstrual disorders
- Pregnancy complications
- Gynecological disorders
- Sexual disorders

Emotional and psychological

- Post-traumatic stress
- Depression
- Anger, anxiety, and fear
- Shame, self-hate, and self-blame
- Mental illness
- Suicidal thoughts and behavior

Social and economic

- Blaming of the victim/survivor
- Loss of role or functions in society
- Social stigma, rejection, and isolation
- Feminization of poverty
- Increased gender inequalities
- Loss of livelihood and economic dependency
- Arrest, detention, and/or punishment

Challenges encountered while addressing GBV

1. Inadequate resources
2. Inadequate legal representation
3. Women economic vulnerability
4. Late reporting of GBV cases
5. Lack of Dignity kits for GBV survivors
6. Deep-rooted patriarchal norms that fuel GBV
7. Interference of law (rights) by clients and community

Prevention of GBV

1. Conducting community sensitization through public forums
2. Challenge patriarchal norms and gender inequality
3. Media Advocacy
4. Fund institutions handling GBV including Community Centers
5. Establish strong networks-collective accountability and responsibility

Response to GBV

1. Report incidences
2. Emergency response for both survivors and perpetrators
3. Psychosocial management-counseling
4. Public interest litigation
5. Legal representation- pro bono including Law Society of Kenya
6. Humanitarian support-safe houses/ shelters for survivors

Legal intervention and policy frameworks for addressing GBV

1. The Sexual Offences Act
2. Protection Against Domestic Violence Act
3. The Penal Code

Legal and Policy Frameworks

1. CEDAW
2. Maputo Protocol

Electoral Laws**Key Election Laws**

1. Constitution of Kenya 2010
2. Election Offences Act
3. IEBC Act
4. Political Parties Act. No 11 of 2011

Turning the tide: The fight to reclaim gains and accelerate progress in the fight Against Gender-based Violence



Gender-Based Violence (GBV) refers to any form of violence/act that occasions physical, sexual, or psychological harm to both women & men. Sexual and gender-based violence is prevalent in our society both actively and passively. Its effects range from personal, cultural, economic, social, and political. This occasioned untold suffering for both women and men. Global statistics indicate the majority of survivors are mainly women & children.

FIDA-Kenya and Womankind worldwide hosted Women's Rights Organizations in May 2022 from Eastern regions in a networking forum intending to empower the WROS on gender equality and enhance women's political participation.

The forum was also aimed at the prevention and elimination of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against women and girls and strengthening women's leadership and women's participation in decision-making.

During the forum in Embu, discussions focused on the achievements made by the WROs which included; the establishment of learning tools on SGBV including capacity building for teen mums, advocating for alternative rites of passage, advancing programs on economic empowerment for women and PWDs-which led to a reduction in GBV and improved health, increased partnership with counties, and SGBV movement formation in Makueni County among others.

Despite the achievements made, there were also challenges faced by WROs which included; political disagreements which have slowed the movement programs-challenge

on continuity, existing women leaders perpetuating nepotism leading to re-election challenges, political parties using consensus ideology leaving women out, counties not receptive to governance due to the political season, shelters remain unavailable in Kitui and Tharaka Nithi among others.

The facilitator also noted that the laws in Kenya have provided how Sexual & Gender-based violence should be handled under; (a)Constitution of Kenya: Article 2 (4) which provides that any law, including customary law, that is inconsistent with the Constitution is void to the extent of the inconsistency, and the fact that any act or omission in contravention of the Constitution is invalid.



Training in progress

RE-IGNITING OF THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN KENYA



Group photo in Bungoma

During this period, FIDA-Kenya continued to support the strengthening of women's rights movement-building through a series of eight regional networking forums for WROs. The interactive forums were mainly conceptualized as an introduction to the overall objective of strengthening grassroots advocacy.

The Women Rights Organizations (WROs) have since been working towards advocating for gender equality in their different areas through support from FIDA-Kenya under the Awesome Project.

Having established them in year one, we have been working in year two, which is the general elections year, to build on the strengths of the networks to ensure that more women get into governance and the incidences of electoral-related violence



WRO Forum in Kisumu

would be reduced in 2022. These two main issues are one of the key impediments that Kenya has had in the push for gender equality through governance structures. It cannot be gain said that the Constitution of Kenya 2010 provides women with great opportunities to engage in politics at different levels that is, Presidential, Gubernatorial, Senatorial, Members of Parliament, and at County Assemblies. This, coupled with other governance-related opportunities that present themselves in the National and County governments, is what FIDA-Kenya has been focusing. In this regard, some of the topical issues that we engaged the WROs on include; mechanisms for accountability for women who take political seats; How to push for the gender agenda for the elimination of GBV through support for better family relations, ending poverty among communities

and especially among women, ending harmful cultural practices for example, early child marriages and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and electoral-related GBV; Mobilizing for women grassroots support for female aspirants through Vote-a-Dada; and Sensitization on the new electoral laws.

Through the forums, we have continued to develop accountability mechanisms for women leaders, increase synergies in WROs networks through grassroots networks, discuss approaches to eliminating SGBV in elections and advocate for our vote-a-dada campaign.

THE TWO-THIRD GENDER RULE



The issue of the two-thirds gender principle mutilation started with the court's ruling in 2012, in response to an opinion sought by the Attorney General, indicating that the implementation of the two-thirds principle was progressive and was not expected to fully take effect in the 2013 elections.

Nothing in the constitution had indicated that the implementation of this provision was progressive, so the courts in essence introduced a new condition to the implementation of this provision. In 2013, the Attorney General sought an advisory opinion from the Supreme Court on the actualization of the rule, and while the court ruled that it was to be realized progressively, they gave a deadline of 27 August 2015 to prepare the necessary legislation to give this provision effect. This date and the one-year extension Parliament gave itself all lapsed.

We continued our engagements in Embu updating WROs and developing strategies on eliminating legal provisions that are discriminatory especially to women.

The forum also looked at aligning these legislations to international and regional conventions, strengthening capacity for gender-responsive planning and budgeting across MDAs, governance levels, and sectors, ensuring the effective implementation of performance monitoring and accountability mechanisms, and supporting gender-transformative interventions – raise awareness on gender and social inclusion and support positive behavior change by involving men and boys, in all their diversity as well as influential community leaders.

The participants also came up with an action plan and identification of policy action for advocacy. They formed a technical working group and named it KMMET (Kitui Makueni Meru Embu TharakaNithi) Kenya Eastern WROs. The purpose of this movement was to enhance and empower women economically. The activities they would undertake included the following: Civic education and sensitization, Policy formulation and documentation, resource mobilization, mentorship programs, and group partnerships.

DAY BREAK

CITIZEN TELEVISION

ANNE IRERI
CHAIRPERSON, ELOG & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FIDA

WANJA MAINA -
DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST & CHAIRLADY, JUBILEE PARTY PWDS LEAGUE

SOIPAN TUYA
WOMAN REP, NAROK

2022: THE GENDER CARD

17TH JUNE 2022
6.30AM



VOTE A DADA: Claiming our Space to increase the number of women Elected

The increased participation of women in elective and appointive governance is an important affirmative action principle laid out in the Constitutional Framework. Its realization has however remained unrealized 11 years on and the status quo may remain unchanged in the 2022 elections if stakeholders do not engage the public purposefully.

It is on this account that the vote-a-Dada was launched on 26th August 2021 during the inaugural Women Leadership Conference to promote the participation of women in political leadership after the 2022 General Election.

The campaign dubbed #VoteADada (Elect a Sister) called for increased women's participation and representation in the country's leadership. It is also geared towards initiating dialogue and actions that will be implemented towards achieving the constitutional minimum of two-thirds in elective and appointive positions.

The project also aimed at advancing the rights of women, including women with disabilities, in national and county-level political

leadership. It will also create a platform for women in the country to call for call/demand action from the public, legislative, and governance institutions thereby requiring them to be accountable for promoting women's leadership across the 47 counties.

This has seen the number of women vying for various seats, and who was part of the academy increase as per the IEBC gazette notice: <https://www.iebc.or.ke/uploads/resources/gtfobV5b0m.pdf>

History was made as Kenyan women made a breakthrough winning 26 female MPs, up from 23 in 2017, seven female governors, up from three in 2017, and three female senators. The campaign had already been atypical, with a record number of women candidates, including three who were running for the four presidential candidates.

A total of 1,962 female candidates were cleared by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to vie for different seats in the 2022 elections. This was an increase from the 2017 elections when 1,300 women contested. Though the number is still low as the 2022 elections had a total of 14,137 candidates and the 2017 elections had 14,523 meaning the majority of aspirants were still male.

Our engagement with the media editors led to more coverage for women aspirants. Most major media houses have dedicated special sessions and pull-outs (Nation, Standard, The Star) specifically dedicated to women thereby enhancing their visibility.



theVoice | The Aspirant



Voice of the voiceless She joined KQ in 2006 and quickly got interested in advocating for workers' labour rights

After Perpetua Mponjiwa's spirited union efforts came to a halt when Kenya Airways dismissed her from employment in January 2012, she redirected her efforts to mainstream politics and her printing business

BY AGATHA GICHANA

Perpetua Mponjiwa is no stranger to politics. She has been an instrumental player in some of the most transformative collective bargaining agreements in the history of Kenya's aviation sector.

She is currently running for Member of County Assembly (MCA) in Kilisnoo, Baringo North, Nakuru. But first she will have to overcome a hurdle that stilled her 2017 bid. This is getting the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) party ticket.

Ms Mponjiwa burst into the limelight of mainstream elective politics in 2017, when she stood for the same seat but lost during ODM nominations. This setback did not, however, dampen her spirit. She is now a fourth or fifth and expresses confidence that this time, she will emerge victorious and proceed to win over the August 9 national Election. "You have to be aggressive when joining politics because it can be disappointing otherwise," Ms Mponjiwa says.

"Most women get depressed when they lose an election, but I would advise them to be persistent."

The 40-year-old Kenya Airways pilot in 2006, as a flight attendant and quickly got interested in advocating labour rights for fellow employees. She then joined Aviation and Allied Workers Union where she served in various capacities including as secretary general and eventually chairperson. It was



Perpetua Mponjiwa is vying for Kilisnoo MCA seat. She burst into the limelight of mainstream elective politics in 2017. FRANCIS OCHIENG/DAILY NATION

Former aviation unionist trains eyes on MCA seat

through her role as chairperson in 2007 that Kenya Airways made no wince to strike to demand a revision of their employment terms. After intense negotiations with then Managing Director Evans Ndung'u and other trade organisations, two CRAs covering 2008 to 2010 and 2010 to 2012, were signed. This led to a 33 per cent salary increment, as well as increase in gratuity and mandatory leave days and sick leave.

But her spirited union efforts were put to a halt when Kenya Airways dismissed her from employment in January 2012. She has since redirected her efforts to mainstream politics and her printing business.

Although the former trade unionist draws parallels between aviation and mainstream politics, she remains committed for public office. "I'm more socially inclined," Ms Mponjiwa maintains.

2017

The year Ms Mponjiwa burst into the limelight of mainstream elective politics when she stood for the Kilisnoo seat for ODM.

2009

The year she led Kenya Airways workers in a strike to demand a revision of their employment terms.

You have to be aggressive when joining politics because it can be disappointing when you lose.

Perpetua Mponjiwa

It was difficult balancing aviation management and collective bargaining initially. She says that if elected, she will prioritise access to education, especially for children in Wariakia, a low-income settlement. Her husband is Mathias Kwa's wife, Oluwafemi Kwa.

"There has been a lot of discrimination in accessing education for children from the Wariakia area. Some parents have had to bribe officials to access the funds when they don't need it," she says, maintaining that insurance and health services are also areas that need to be addressed.

She says residents have a poor relationship with the ruling MCA, whom she also accuses of skewed industry allocation.

"Kilisnoo residents also experience constant water shortages and poor roads. There is no bank here, so it is difficult to be the ruling MCA," she adds.

Besides stimulating education opportunities, she also plans to work with vulnerable groups such as women, youth and persons with disabilities to improve current programmes. She intends to increase their access to loans and youth enterprise funds to help them directly in the blood.

Provision of healthcare services in Wariakia is also top priority for her. Ms Mponjiwa plans to build a clinic for them should she win the seat.

Beyond her ambitious first bid, campaigning has not been easy for Ms Mponjiwa. She is frequently harassed on account of her femininity.

"People expect my husband to accompany me as I campaign. He always interprets a lack of support for my political endeavours. He has also exposed me to uninvited propaganda attacks," she says.

Despite her financial constraints and the attacks on her reputation, Ms Mponjiwa says she will continue mentoring young women in politics. She believes this will increase their participation and entrepreneurial spirit in breaking the traditional gender role.



Ms Mponjiwa at Change House, the ODM headquarters, in Nairobi on Monday. PHOTO: JCS

THE STORY

How political activities came back to her former boss as chairperson of the Aviation and Allied Workers Union where she championed some of the most transformative collective bargaining agreements in the history of Kenya's aviation sector.

We have also managed to sponsor female candidates to different media houses on radio and TV.

FIDA-Kenya, through the support of Womankind Awesome, continued to sponsor female candidates appear on radio and TV to sell their manifestos. The women aspirants engaged the public through interactive radio and TV talk shows in the morning and evening when radio traffic is at its peak.

The radio shows follow a format where the presenter and the guest have a topical discussion with members of the public allowed to ask questions.

FIDA-Kenya also sent experts to deliberate on women's political participation, tackle some of the obstacles that have hindered them in seeking elective posts, qualities women aspirants should have to enable successful political bids, and take the public through what support FIDA-Kenya, in collaboration with other partners, will offer women aspirants.





**AWE —
SOME**



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