

FORGING BOLDLY AHEAD WITH A NEW STRATEGY



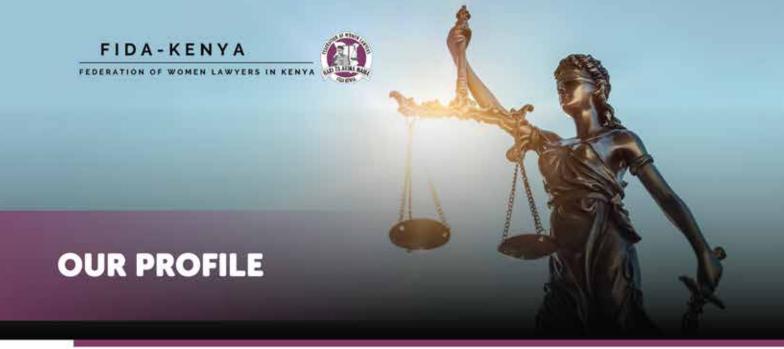
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS







38yrs old



Members
Over 1,400



Where we 47 Counties work



Nairobi, Kisumu, Mombasa



Over 4,000,000

Women and Children Supported

MEMBERSHIP



- Observer Status United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) & the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR)
- Chair- NCAJ Committee on SGBV in Kenya
- Member National Steering Committee on the implementation of AJS
- Member Criminal and Civil & PIL Committees



WORD FROM THE CHAIR

he advancement of women and girls' rights is pivotal and imperative in the bid to foster a more equitable and inclusive society. The FIDA-Kenya 2023 Annual Report delves into the impact of and gives a comprehensive analysis of FIDA-Kenya's programs dedicated to the empowerment and advancement of women and girls rights in Kenya,

the region and beyond. In the global landscape, gender inequality persists as a formidable challenge, hindering not only the potential of half the population but also impeding the overall progress of communities and nations.

FIDA-Kenya operates during times when the call for gender justice has increasingly gained resonance. The global community, represented by governments, non-governmental organizations, and grassroots movements, has recognized the urgency of dismantling discriminatory structures and creating an environment where women and girls can thrive. FIDA-Kenya's 2023 program interventions under scrutiny are a manifestation of these collective efforts, aiming to break down barriers, challenge stereotypes, and pave the way for a more just and equitable society.

On the 3rd of August 2023 FIDA-Kenya launched its 2023-2027 Strategic Plan in line with stakeholders' financial, internal, learning and growth perspectives. The plan elaborates 8 sets of objectives geared towards increasing the number of women in leadership and decision making in all sectors; expanding access to justice for women and girls in social, political, and economic spheres; attaining financial stability and sustainability; improving efficiency, accountability, and transparency in business processes; strengthening membership management and engagement; strengthening corporate governance; advancing knowledge of women's and girls' rights and institutionalizing excellence in programme management

As we embark on implementing this strategy for the next 5 years, we are cognisant that the advancement of women and girls' rights is not only a moral imperative but also a strategic investment in the socio-economic development and well-being of communities worldwide. I appreciate the efforts and support of the FIDA-Kenya Board, Secretariat, our development partners, stakeholders, the Judiciary and actors in the criminal justice System, the government, private institutions and cooperates who have worked tirelessly to support FIDA-Kenya on this journey. Through this report, we aim to shed light on the program's effectiveness, and the transformative potential it holds for individuals, communities, and nations at large.



Nancy W. Ikinu Board Chair, FIDA-Kenya



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

or almost 4 decades, FIDA-Kenya has employed conventional methods to ensure access to justice, including providing legal advice, drafting legal documents, offering representation in court, training clients in self-representation,

providing psychosocial support, engaging in mediation and alternative justice systems (AJS), and undertaking Strategic Impact litigation (SIL). In 2023, a total of 8,268 clients received free legal advice through both digital platforms and walk-in consultations, resulting in 70 secured judgments under legal representation. Additionally, 947 clients were trained in self-representation, leading to 92 secured judgments, and 563 cases were resolved through mediation.

In the pursuit for justice for indigent women and girls, FIDA-Kenya maintained strong partnership with pro bono lawyers who played a crucial role in bridging the justice gap faced by marginalized clients and victims of human rights abuses. In collaboration with these pro bono lawyers, FIDA-Kenya assisted indigent women and girls in articulating their legal needs and finding appropriate channels for addressing reported human rights violations. A total of 238 cases were referred to pro bono lawyers, resulting in 76 secured judgments.

FIDA-Kenya ensured Informal Justice Systems (IJS) adhere to human rights principles and constitutional mandates of good governance, human rights, and transformative justice. This approach was informed by the understanding of the role played by elders in delivering justice to local communities, particularly in civil matters. Consequently, 563 cases were resolved through AJS

In addition, FIDA-Kenya provided training and mentorship to Paralegals, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), grassroots Women's Rights Organizations (WROs) and other stakeholders in the justice system who support the realization of women's rights and enhance advocacy skills. This empowers CBOs and paralegals to influence policy at local, national, and international levels, particularly concerning sexual and reproductive rights and gender equality. FIDA-Kenya takes pride in her efforts to promote the realization of the two thirds gender rule by supporting initiatives that are geared towards promotion of leadership and decision making for women



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

n early 2023, the nation witnessed sporadic and widespread protests driven by political tensions. In response to these protests, the National Dialogue Committee (NADCO) was formed in September 2023, to address 5 major grievances.

The Committee submitted its report to the President in November, 2023. The report includes recommendations such as auditing of the 2022 election process, expanding the selection panel of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), restructuring the IEBC, extending timelines for Supreme Court petitions, and implementing legal reforms in subsequent electoral cycles. These electoral recommendations also present potential opportunities for the project to advocate for measures enhancing women's safety and participation in politics.

July 2023, marked the 20th anniversary of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol). The judiciary launched its Social Transformation Through Access to Justice (STAJ) blueprint together with the annual State of the Judiciary and Administration of Justice Report (SOJAR) all speaking towards the need to promote access to justice in further realizing of rights of the marginalized and vulnerable groups. The Judiciary particularly prioritized establishment of specialized courts addressing SGBV further safeguarding the rights of the vulnerable population.

In August 2023, FIDA-Kenya launched its 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. Shortly thereafter the Multi-Sectoral Working Group (MSWG) on the realization of the not more than two-thirds gender principle was gazetted by the president. FIDA-Kenya was privileged to be part of the team that was tasked to develop and recommend a framework for the implementation of the not more than two-thirds gender principle. This shall go a long way in promoting FIDA-Kenya's objective of increasing the number of women in leadership and decision making in all sectors.

There were glaring setbacks relating to subsequent attempts at impeachment against Governor Kawira Mwangaza of Meru, citing allegations of funds mismanagement, nepotism, bullying, and improper appointments. FIDA -Kenya offered pro bono legal aid to the Governor and despite significant disagreements between the Governor and County Assembly Members, the Senate dismissed charges against the Governor citing failure to meet the impeachment threshold. The persistent attempts to impeach the Governor underscore the importance of consistent awareness raising against GBV in collaboration with political parties and leadership the need to tackle technology-facilitated GBV.

2023 AT A GLANCE

I) The women leadership Academy

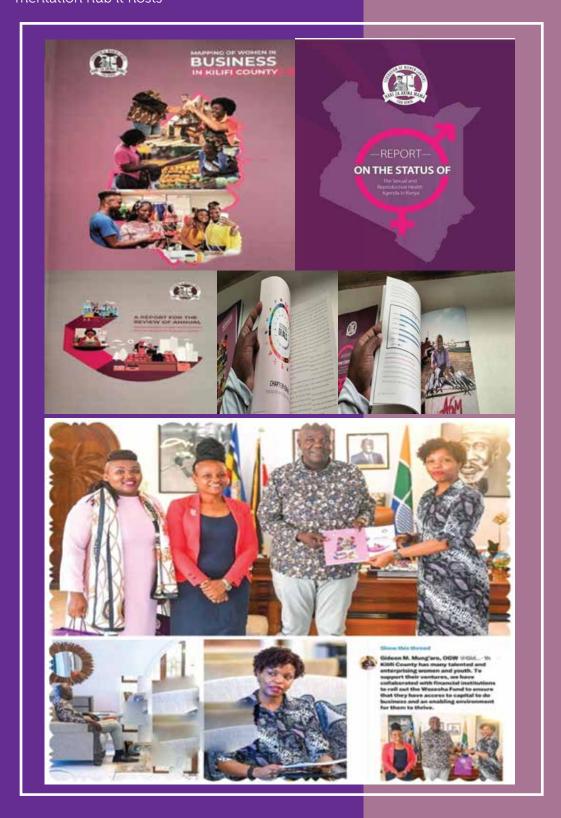
he Women Leadership Academy has become a beacon of empowerment and a catalyst for change in the realm of women's leadership. It has been successful in creating a ripple effect within the wider community of women leaders. Women leaders who have undergone the capacity building trainings have become advocates for continued learning and growth which has resulted in sustained interest in capacity-building trainings.



Pictures taken at the National Dialogue on Gender and Leadership on 22nd November 2023

II) Center of Excellence in Knowledge Management

Evidence based programming has positioned FIDA-Kenya as a center of Excellence in Knowledge management due to the robust research, learning and documentation hub it hosts



III) Recognitions in advancement of the SDG 5 agenda.



Recognitions in advancement of the SDG 5 agenda, achieving Gender Equality and Empowerment of all women. Kisumu County Governor awarded FIDA-Kenya a certificate of recognition of its work in promoting Gender Equality and empowerment of Women and Girls in Kisumu County. In connection to this, FIDA-Kenya was specifically selected to the committee to review the Kisumu County 2019 SGBV Policy..



Ms. Anyango receiving the certificate on behalf of FIDA-Kenya from His Excellency Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o Governor Kisumu County. The Certificate of recognition awarded to FIDA-Kenya in recognition of our work in promoting Gender Equality and empowerment of Women and Girls in Kisumu County

IV) The inclusion of FIDA Kenya in the Multi-Agency Working Group on the Two-Thirds Gender Rule.

This achievement stems from FIDA Kenya's unwavering commitment and relentless advocacy for the implementation of the 2/3rds Constitutional provision on affirmative action. FIDA Kenya's presence in the multi-agency working group affirms the organizational expertise, credibility, and the impact it has made in advocating for the 2/3rds gender rule.



Multi agency working group meeting at the State Department for Gender Headquarters at Teleposta on 19 June

The continued engagement of women leaders through capacity strengthening initiatives and the established women's movements has fostered a sense of solidarity and collaboration among women leaders across the counties. women leaders have strengthened capacity to effectively navigate governance processes and engage in policy and legislative reform process as a result of capacity building engagements



Participation in the Kisumu 2019 SGBV policy Summit

V) The Content gathering and Learning event

Organized by the AWESOME project has enabled the program 'AWESOME journey'



Picture taken at the close of the WRO conference in Nairobi on 1st December 2023



Participants pose for a group photo during the 2023 AWESOME Consortium Partners Learning Event in Kenya.

VI) The collaboration with community-based organizations and male champions

FIDA-Kenya's collaboration with community-based organizations, male champions and paralegals has significantly improved women and girls' access to justice at grassroot level. This partnership has not only enhanced access to justice for communities at the grassroots level but also resulted in improved referral pathways for communities seeking legal aid support. Furthermore, the partnership has improved linkages and support for gender equality across the 47 counties.



VII) Sustained efforts in enhancing access to justice for SGBV survivors

FIDA Kenya's sustained efforts in enhancing access to justice for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence contributed to the establishment of SGBV special courts in Shanzu, Siaya, Winam, Makadara, Kibera, Nairobi, Meru, Kiambu, kakamega, Kitale and Kisumu. The courts are integral in ensuring expeditious trials and are critical for the preservation of the dignity of the survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.





Ms. Onjalla and Dr. Ombok from GBVRC and MOH Respectively making presentation on Victim Centered approaches in medical examination, Evidence Collection, documentation and Presentation.



FIDA Kenya being an accredited institution and has observer status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR). Submits periodic shadow reports to the international and human rights agencies. These platforms continue to provide space for advocacy at higher levels. In addition, the organization continues to use networks established regionally such as the Women Inheritance Now (WIN), CSO Platforms of the African Union Land Policy Initiative and Lake Victoria Rights Alliance – East African to engage in joint advocacy on women's rights

FIDA-KENYA 2023-2027 STRATEGY

FIDA- Kenya's 2023 to 2027 Strategy represents a dedicated effort and a rallying call for transformative action on the rights of women and girls. What originated as informal discussions during a women's conference in 1985 has evolved significantly, and this Plan encapsulates the collective achievements amassed over 38 years. Recent years have been particularly dynamic in fulfilling our mandate, especially amidst the profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls. In this new strategy, FIDA-Kenya remains steadfast in advocating and lobbying for the adoption of key gender-transformative approaches to advance the rights of women and girls across various intersections.



Our objectives include:

- **1.** Cultivating a national, regional, and global movement of diverse women committed to the gender agenda.
- **2.** Encouraging critical examination of inequalities, gender roles, and norms that impede efforts to end gender-based violence (SGBV), and taking leadership in devising interventions to address these barriers.
- **3.** Identifying and reinforcing positive norms, policies, and strategies that promote equality, fostering an environment conducive to upholding women's rights.
- **4.** Promoting the full participation of women, girls, and marginalized groups in reshaping underlying social structures, policies, and entrenched social norms that perpetuate and justify gender disparities.

THIS STRATEGY EMBRACES TWO KEY APPROACHES:

- 1. Pursuing excellence through deliberate, systematic measures to ensure our operational environment is diverse, adaptable, inclusive, enabling, and gender-equal.
- 2. Exemplifying the dynamic change, we aspire to see in the world.

FIDA-Kenya stands as a robust institution with a solid legal foundation, entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring access to justice for women and girls. We are particularly focused on empowering these vulnerable groups to recognize their value when engaging with criminal justice systems. FIDA-Kenya is committed to ensuring that responses to their needs are fair, effective, and accountable, catering to the requirements of all segments of society. Furthermore, we will continue to advocate boldly for the effective representation of the individual and collective voices of women and girls in decision-making processes across all sectors.

The implementation strategies outlined in this Plan draw heavily from our achievements, lessons learned, conclusions, and recommendations from our previous plan spanning 2018-2022. They are also informed by the current operational context and emerging issues. Leveraging insights from past experiences and building upon our track record, this Plan aims to position FIDA Kenya effectively within the evolving land-scape to enhance our relevance and effectiveness. It sets broad parameters that will guide the development of more specific annual work plans and program documents, serving as a reference for our collective efforts and the collaborative endeavors of diverse stakeholders who continue to support the integration of gender equality perspectives, aligning with international commitments.

In adopting this strategic plan for 2023-2027, FIDA-Kenya embraces a profound sense of privilege and responsibility. We look forward with determination and commitment, guided by this plan, and unwavering in our core mission and vision, which are deeply rooted in the realities of the communities we aim to serve. FIDA-Kenya moves forward with the input of our membership, informed by our past experiences, inspired by our beneficiaries, and supported by our Board, partners, and wider stakeholders. We eagerly anticipate the next five years as we strengthen gender-transformative responses and advance human rights.



Counsel Nancy Ikinu,
- Chair of FIDA-Kenya Board-

INCREASED REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AND DECISION MAKING SPHERES

FIDA-Kenya has shown a strong commitment to enhancing women's representation in public spheres, driven by its dedication to advancing women's rights through policy, legislative, administrative, and institutional reforms at both national and county levels. The strategies employed have included:

- Engaging with caucuses and networks across various sectors (private, public, civil society), such as KEWOPA, political parties, and private sector associations like Women on Boards, to garner support for women in leadership roles and to continue strategic advocacy efforts.
- Influencing knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAPs) within communities across Kenya to challenge cultural stereotypes that hinder women's participation in leadership and decision-making.
- Promoting an intersectional approach to addressing issues affecting women and girls, such as abortion rights, LGBTQI rights, peace and security, emotional and psychosocial support, and climate change, among civic, political, and private sector leaders.



A myriad of outputs in support to the venture were realised in 2023, some projections are:

Pictures taken at the mentorship training for KEWOPA Members in December 2023

The Machakos County Assembly amended the Standing Orders to make the Women Caucus into a substantive committee of the House on 21st November 2023. This change will foster prioritization of gender issues and gender responsive legislation at the county assembly. Moreover, following the sensitization of the women members of the Machakos County Assembly, the women MCAs have taken initiative to upscale the campaign by seeking further training support from the International Labour organization.

Ongoing training programs focused on women's leadership and effective governance have fostered unified backing for women leaders and a sense of solidarity in safeguarding their positions of leadership, as evidenced during the impeachment proceedings against the Meru governor. Additionally, FIDA-Kenya has forged connections with the Kenya Young Parliamentarians' Association (KYPA) to involve young parliamentarians in discussions on gender and leadership. Collaborations with male advocates, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), and Women's Rights Organizations (WROs) have furthered efforts to improve access to justice and address gender-based violence nationwide.



Pictures taken during Courtesy Call Visit at the Office of the Machakos Governor in June 2023.



Women Leaders in Machakos County coming up with actions points at the mentorship training on 16 June 2023

JUSTICE FOR WIDOWS IN TAITA TAVETA

Widows in Taita Taveta have had difficulties in addressing issues of succession and matrimonial property rights escalated by lack of a platform for unified voices to amplify challenges . 3 years ago. Taita Taveta human rights watch identified this gap and embarked on a journey to achieve this goal. We started in one village called Kajire which had 238 widows who were facing challenges in the succession process and some even were in fact forced out of their matrimonial homes after death of their spouses. Mostly the husband's die in the estate.

We started with **sensitization forums on women rights and the succession process**, we brought on board Chiefs , Religious leaders, Council of elders among others. We supported the group of **14 widows get their grant letters, secure their lost properties, and a forum to discuss their issues**, we also supported them **hold radio talk shows in local FM radio (Sifa FM)**, this made other widows in the County demand more information , which made us hold more sensitization forums which lead the formation of a **larger movement**.



The Judiciary in Voi Law courts really supported the sensitization forums by sending a Magistrate to take women through the succession process. The Taita Taveta widow's movement was forwarded in July last year 2024 with now a membership of 6348 spread in the 4 sub counties of Voi,Mwatate Wundanyi and Taveta. While launching this Movement the Governor Hon. Mwadime promised to support the widow's movement. Our widows in Taita Taveta now a Voice to amplify their issues

Pro-choice advocates who received training in Kisumu have subsequently conducted community workshops on sexual and reproductive health rights and are actively recruiting more pro-choice advocates in these sessions. The training provided to chiefs on sexual and reproductive rights has led to a decrease in arrests within Kisumu County and has created a conducive environment for appropriate post-abortion referrals.

In collaboration with KELIN and the Reproductive Health Network, FIDA Kenya facilitated the validation of the Nakuru County Gender and Reproductive Health Education Bill on November 24, 2023. During the validation, Nakuru County Members of County Assembly (MCAs) and County Executive Committee Members (CECs) identified the County Executive Committee for Education to sponsor the Bill. The Bill includes progressive, gender-sensitive provisions, including the establishment of county-supported safe houses. Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) training sessions in Nyeri have led to police officers in the area adopting the revised P3 form, resulting in improved evidence collection and documentation of SGBV forensic evidence in Othaya.

Values clarification and attitude transformation training sessions conducted in Nairobi County have resulted in the delivery of three health talks in three schools: Waiton Academy, Blessed Academy, and Baraka and Daniel Academy in Korogocho. A total of 4,800 students were reached through these talks



Picture taken at a public participation meeting held with youth to mark international safe abortion day in Kisumu



Maputo's 20-year Odyssey: Threads of growth, challenges and hope.

By Tracey Lichuma

This year marked 20 years since we adopted The African Charter on Human and Peoples' rights on the rights of women better known as the Maputo Protocol. 1 The Protocol was adopted in the eponymous city of Maputo, Mozambique, on July 11, 2003. It symbolises two decades of dedicated advocacy by various civil societies groups to safeguard and actualise the rights of women and girls. Kenya, having ratified the protocol in 2008, stands as one of the 44 African Union member states that have embraced it. It has however put its reservation on article 14(2) (c) that speaks on abortion.

What are some of the gains seen from the Maputo protocol?

The main aim of the Maputo protocol has been to expedite the actualisation of Sustainable Development Goal 5 2, which aims at achieving gender equality. It requires that states stay committed to combating all forms of discrimination against women, end harmful practices like FGM and child marriages as well a advancing the sexual and reproductive health rights of women and girls which includes the right to abortion. In Kenya, one of the notable gains has been the enactment of legislation outlawing FGM supported by the establishment of a dedicated board to promote gender awareness and advocate

against these harmful practices.

Challenges

The road leading to 20 years has encountered several hurdles: the various forms of Sexual and gender-based violence, and the stigma around it hinder victims from pursuing help and receiving necessary services including healthcare thereby infringing upon their reproductive and health rights. These challenges are compounded by instances of maternal mortality tied to inadequate

access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive healthcare services.

The biggest challenge has been the alignment of Kenya's domestic laws with the Maputo protocol. In Kenya, ratified treaties form part of our laws however, since we have put a reservation on article 14 of the protocol it limits the women and girls from exercising their bodily autonomy. These challenges can be coupled up with the lack of safe abortion laws. Having access to safe abortion is a fundamental part of health and reproductive rights. However, the lack of a legal framework providing for this continues to create a barrier to women's health and reproductive rights.

Moreover, the lack of comprehensive education system particularly in the rural set up means that most girls and women are unaware of their rights under the protocol.

Hope

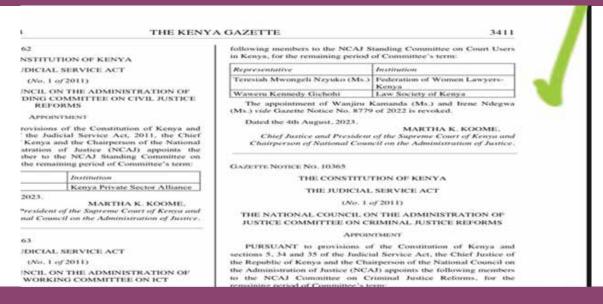
As Maputo celebrates its 20 th anniversary, it is marked by gratitude for the collaborative efforts that have shaped its narrative. Recognizing the contributions of individuals, community organizations and international partners fosters a sense of shared responsibility for the continued success. It is also a chance for member states that have not signed and or ratified to sign and ratify the protocol. It is also a call for the state to lift its reservations on article 14 (2)(c)

EXPANDED ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AN ECONOMIC SPHERES

FIDA-Kenya's efforts to enhance Access to justice to the indigent woman. This was realised through various interventions which are

- **a)** Legal representation which encompasses provision of legal aid and litigating matters on behalf of women and girls.
- b) Self-representation, which essentially involves clients being equipped with skills and knowledge to represent themselves in court.
- c) Psychosocial support which goes hand in hand with provision of legal aid to FIDA-Kenya clients and takes the form of individual counselling, couple counselling and group therapy.
- d) Strategic Impact litigation which focuses on building jurisprudence that advances the rights of women and girls in Kenya
- **e)** Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms such as mediation and working with informal justice systems for resolution of disputes.
- f) Partnerships and linkages

FIDA-Kenya Senior Legal Counsel in Mombasa was Gazetted as a member of the National Council on Administration of Justice (NCAJ) Standing Committee on Court Users in Kenya on 4th of August 2023, FIDA. This shall go a long way in providing a platform for FIDA- Kenya to directly provide guidance not only on improvements in the operations of courts in Kenya but also ensure coordinated, efficient, effective and consultative approach in the administration of justice countrywide.



FIDA-KENYA was recognized as the legal thematic lead in the continuous support towards eliminating violence against women and girls in Kilifi County during the 16 days of activism at Matsangoni Location in Kilifi County. The Governor of Kilifi signed the Kilifi County GBV Bill into law courtesy of consistent advocacy by FIDA-Kenya and Kilifi Gender Sector Working Group stakeholders



His excellency Gideon Mungaro, Her Excellency the deputy governor Flora Mbetsa witnessing the signing of the Kilifi County GBV Bill into Ms. Anyango receives a certificate of appreciation from the president of IWJA Hon. Lady Justice Hellen Omondi during the community forum in commemoration of 16days of activism at Dunga Beach-Kisumu County

Alternative Justice System

FIDA-Kenya engages with Informal justice system by capacity building council of elders on human rights and gender justice, organizes learning, exchange and debriefing session for them and facilitates them to resolves cases at community level. In the year 2023, FIDA-Kenya refrred 225 to council of elders country-wide. Further in collaboration with the National Steering Committee on the Implementation of the AJS policy and other partners, organized the second Annual AJS conference from June 26th to 28th, 2023.

The 500 attendees were drawn from members of the NaSCI-AJS committee, judiciary representatives, ODPP members, national and county government officials, legal aid providers, development partners, academia, civil society organizations, social justice centers, and AJS practitioners from diverse counties. The conference was inaugurated by the esteemed Chief Justice Martha Koome. The 2023 conference theme centered around "AJS as a culture and innovation in accelerating social transformation through access to justice."



Chief Justice Hon. Martha Koome receives FIDA-Kenya branded gifts from our Vice Chair, Christine Kungu.

Kajiado County Governor Hon. Olelenku giving his key note address during the 2nd Annual AJS conference 2023.



By Ms. Anyango Janet
The Deputy Executive Director
(DED), Members-NaSCI-AJS

For two decades now FIDA-Kenya has engaged with the informal justice systems informed by knowledge of the role they play in delivering justice to local communities. The intervention has been two-fold; to increase the number of women accessing justice through both formal and informal structures and to ensure that AJS uphold the principles of human rights in their adjudication and that they work under legal provisions.

Training Alternative justice System actors in principles of human rights and the provisions of the Constitution with respect to human rights and gender justice has been at the core of FIDA-Kenya's engagement with these systems. As at 2023 and contrary to popular opinion there has been increased gender mainstreaming in the various council of elders, increased uptake of clients preferring the Alternative Justice System and increased adoption of their decisions/awards as court orders. However, there are lingering concerns about these systems as perpetuating oppression and gender discrimination.

Gender stereotypes, social constructions, and cultural impediments and/or deep-rooted practices which are inconsistent with the Constitution still make women and girls shy away from having their cases resolved at AJS. Knowledge gap in procedural fairness and unavailability of standardized training curriculum for capacity enhancement of AJS actors' occasions lack of uniformity in application of acceptable human rights standards in AJS and developing the most desired jurisprudence. Enforcement of gender progressive decisions is still a challenge due to the informal nature of AJS leaving women and girls at a loss despite having voluntarily presented their cases for resolution at AJS.

As confirmed in 2023 Annual AJS Conference, FIDA-Kenya affirms that indeed AJS is a key component in accelerating social transformation and is meant to create an avenue that will ultimately transform the deep-rooted cultural practices that are inconsistent with the Constitution and further expand avenues for seeking justice for Wanjiku. FIDA-Kenya applauds the Judiciary for setting up an effective strategy that will act as an intervention to respond to the increasingly high demand for AJS

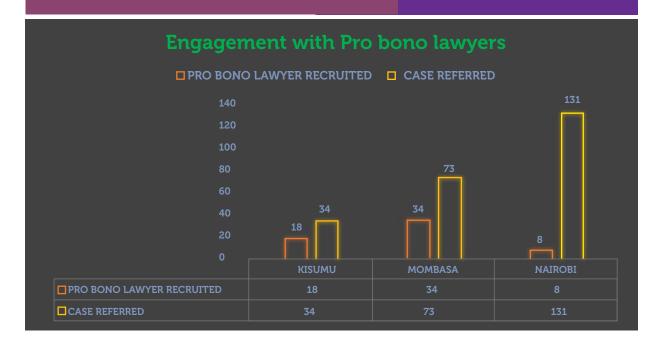
FIDA-Kenya calls upon all practitioners and stakeholders in the justice chain to support this initiative, beyond improving access to justice, to increase accountability, foster partnership for the gender justice in AJS, enhance public trust in the amicable out of court dispute resolution that will ultimately go a long way in enhancing access to justice to women in Kenya!

Engagement with Pro Bono Lawyers

In 2023, FIDA-Kenya referred 137 new matters to Probono lawyers and secured 34 judgements. The Annual Probono Lawyers Conference and debriefing session was held in October reaching 65 advocates countrywide. The event was graced by the President of the Law Society of Kenya, as well as representatives from DANIDA and URAIA development partners who commended the lawyers for their dedication to providing probono legal services to indigent women and pledged their continued support for this cause in the future years. The lawyers were sensitized on Survivor Centred Approaches in handling SGBV cases; Centering Survivors in the Sentencing Process; Unpacking the Sentencing Guidelines, mandatory minimums and digests on judicial pronouncements on mandatory minimums



Figure 1: Participants pose for a group photo on the 2nd day of the conference



Success Stories

MOMBASA- DIV CAUSE NO. 2 OF 2020; S.F.B v J.K.S (KADHI KILIFI COURTS)-Olendi Adv

The client was seeking an order for division of matrimonial property at a ratio of 70:30 with the Defendant. The subject property was a Plot situated at Mtaani area within Kilifi Township. Our client claimed that she contributed towards the acquisition of the property by using her personal savings and proceeds from the sale of her family property in Thika. She claimed to have built a one-bedroom house, one bedsitter, one store and a stall on the plot. The Defendant in his defence claimed that the contribution was equal as he incurred constriction expenses in maintaining the matrimonial property.

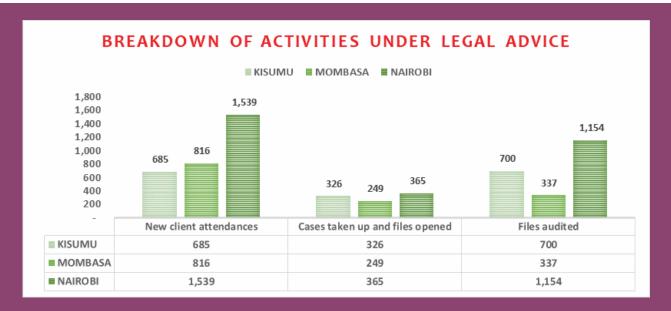
The court in determining the matter arrived at the decision that the matrimonial property acquired by both parties be divided equally after both parties failed to clearly demonstrate with evidence their contributions towards the acquisition of the property. Our client in her orders sort that if the court determines the apportionment of the property, that the Defendant be ordered to pay her share of the property or that she pays the Defendant her share of the property and if both parties are not able to buy each other share then the property to be valued and sold and each party received their apportionment. The Defendant was ordered to pay his share to the Plaintiff within 9 months' failure to which the Plaintiff will be given a further 9 months to pay off her share to the Defendant to retain the property. If both will not be able the court ordered for the property to be sold by way of public auction.

KISUMU-MCSO E060 OF 2022 REPUBLIC VS. HILLARY KURGAT KAPSABET MAGISTRATE COURT

Client came to FIDA-Kenya seeking legal assistance to watch brief in a case where her daughter was defiled. We referred the matter to our pro bono lawyer in Kapsabet who watched brief and represented the victim as the victim's counsel. The judgment was delivered on 24th July 2023 as per sec 215 of CPC, the accused person was found guilty and convicted for defiling a minor aged 12 years. The trial magistrate Hon. Irene Kabuteh sentenced the accused person to 35 years imprisonment as per sec 8(1)(3) of the SOA.

Litigation and Legal Representation

Legal representation comprises of FIDA-Kenya inhouse counsel offering legal advice, drafting pleadings and taking up cases for litigation on behalf of FIDA-Kenya clients. During this period legal aid clinics were conducted on Mondays and Tuesdays at Kisumu and Mombasa offices and on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the Nairobi Office for walk-in clients and daily for clients with scheduled appointments. The legal and senior legal counsel offered legal advice, drafted pleadings and attended court both physically and virtually for hearing and mentions as scheduled. In 2023, FIDA-Kenya offered legal advice to total of **8268**(both new and existing) clients. **70** judgements were secured through this platform



Success Stories

KISUMU MCELC 4 OF 2019-SIAYA MAGISTRATE COURT

Client M.O.O. came to FIDA-Kenya for legal assistance to evict the defendant who had trespassed into her land parcel. We filed a suit on behalf of our client who was the plaintiff and the plaintiff's prayers in the plaint were allowed in the judgment delivered on 24th August 2023 by Hon. Wambani. The defendant was given 30days to vacate the suit property.

MOMBASA F.N.M -VS – J.A.M (HIGH COURT NO.1/2022)

F approached FIDA-Kenya file division of matrimonial property upon issuance of decree absolute in her divorce matter. Upon successful conclusion of the matter at the High court in Mombasa, it was ordered that the five (5) matrimonial properties were jointly owned by the applicant and respondent and the properties be divided 50:50 per cent being their contribution towards acquisition and development of the said properties.



By Irene Ochola- Client Service Officer MEDIATION: Success Story:

Siri met Robert and they cohabited prior to formalizing their marriage 3 years later. With their 2 children, they lived happily in an upmarket estate until the happiness faded. For reasons not known to Siri, Robert started drinking and while she hoped he was simply exploring, he soon sank into very heavy drinking. Siri sought counselling several times to salvage her plagued marriage to no avail. Robert drifted into isolation, became very emotionally distant and started engaging in extramarital affairs.

Siri felt very frustrated and visited FIDA Kenya legal aid clinic in November 2021 and resorted to take the next step seeking separation from her husband and to discuss maintenance for their children. Both Siri and Robert were referred to an external mediator who pursued them with the mediation offer till September 2022.

This dedication to serve is reflective of the spirit of mediation to work on repairing relationships as well asleaving parties better than when they came in. Siri and Robert finally entered an agreement on 31 st May 2023 that is focussed on the best interest of the minors. Both parents have settled on custody with the mother while the father has full access every alternate weekend including 50% of the holiday time. In order to afford the family, the comfort they deserve, Robert has willingly moved out of their family home to facilitate this.



FIDA Kenya works collaboratively with Pro bono mediators to meet the need for dispute resolution in families and a range of contexts in society. In order to keep mediators abreast with industry updates, FIDA Kenya successfully convened a 2-day Mediation Open Day experience in October/November 2023 and engaged 21 mediators. Mediators support parties to tackle difficult concerns in pursuit of lasting solutions. A case study was fused into their debriefing session to ensure they stay sharp and true to mediation principles.





PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT:

Psychosocial support continues to be a pillar of intervention in accessing justice. Between April and May 2023, 10 survivors of GBV pursued recover during the cycle of 7 sessions. The sessions not only address emotional/psychological issues but promote peer learning in terms of economic empowerment.

Group Therapy with vulnerable populations:

FIDA Kenya had the opportunity to work Nyeri, Thika and Langata Women prisons between August and November 2023 and positively impacted the lives of 118 women. The intervention focussed on resilience building and mental wellness.

Success Story:

On the fourth and final session at Nyeri Women's Prison, we received feedback from the women prisoners as well as management on the impact of the sessions. Most outstanding one was from management through a triangulation process. It indicated that the sessions had positively influenced areas of conflict management, personal efficacy and deeper awareness of the 'self' and when to ask for help when the women need it rather than resorting to unhelpful behaviour. One officer who was present at the start but went on leave, was present on the final session. She affirmed other officers' testimony of change in attitude by their clients.

E-court Engagement Filing, Service, Virtual Court Attendance

Most courts have embraced the e-filing system further improving efficiency in filing of client matters. Court proceedings for mentions are conducted virtually for represented clients and physically for self-representing clients while hearings are a hybrid of virtual and open court. Captured below is a summary of the virtual court interactions in facilitating access to justice

| REGION | CASE FILED | E-SERVICE EFFECTED | COURTATTENDANCE |
|---------|------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| KISUMU | 28 | 36 | 51 |
| MOMBASA | 72 | 83 | 81 |
| NAIROBI | 66 | 41 | 38 |
| TOTALS | 166 | 160 | 170 |

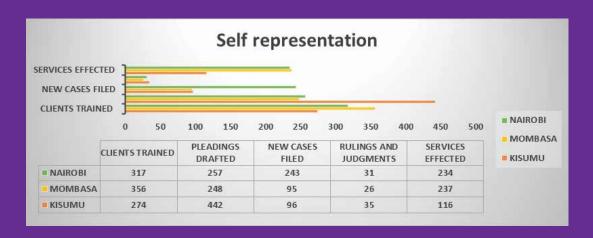
Virtual Justice Centres

FIDA-Kenya put in place contingency measures to enable our clients continue accessing justice at the Virtual Justice Centers. The centers have gone a long way in making justice more accessible to the women of Kenya as enumerated below: - 513 from our regional centers and 3180 from womens prisons. 3693 in total

| Langata prison | 2650 |
|-------------------------|------|
| Kisii prison | 104 |
| Thika prison | 312 |
| Kodiaga prison | 43 |
| Shimo la Tewa prison | 71 |

Self-representation Program

FIDA-Kenya trains women to represent themselves in court while seeking redress for violation of their rights. Celebrated as a comparatively cost-effective approach to helping poor and other women access justice that empowers FIDA- Kenya's clients to represent themselves at both formal and informal justice seeking structures as many times as their rights may be infringed. In 2023, **947** women were trained on Self-Representation and **92** judgements obtained. A breakdown is shown below







Mr. Mutika takes clients through self-representation training as they keenly listen in and AJ Nairobi team taking Self-Representation Training and Psychosocial Support at Thika Women's Prison

Self-Representation Train- A.W.K ing at FIDA Mombasa Offic- VORCE es. 2022; V

On the13th and 21st September 2023 FIDA-Kenya held a self-representation training at Nyeri women prisons where a total of 120 inmates and paralegals benefited on re- sentencing, plea bargaining, diversions, appeal and self-representation training. On 25th and 26th October 2023 self-representation training was conducted at Langata women prisons reaching 140 women. On the 29th November 2023, FIDA-Kenya conducted a self-representation training at Thika women prison, reaching 65 inmates.

Success Stories

CHARO KARISA ANTHONY versus KENNEDY ONYAN-GO OKUMU CIVIL CAUSE NO. E024 OF 2022; MOM-BASA LAW COURTS

The client was sued by the Plaintiff seeking permanent injunction restraining her from interfering with the Plaintiff's business, damages for loss of business, punitive/exemplary damages and cost of the suit. We were able to assist the client in this particular matter as the suit came after the client had sued him for child maintenance and support at the Tononoka Law Courts. The client was assisted in preparing her defence and court attendance. The Plaintiff however failed to prosecute the civil suit and the matter was dismissed in favour of our client on 3 May, 2023 and she was awarded cost of the suit

A.W.K versus C.W.K DI-VORCE CAUSE E012 OF 2022; VOI LAW COURTS

The client's former spouse initiated the divorce proceedings. The petition was served upon our client and she did not know how to respond to the petition. The client was taken through the pleadings and guided on how to respond and eventually as pre-tried on court attendance and how to address the court. We sufficiently aided the client in preparing her pleadings and explaining the courts directions that were issued upon her for her understanding. The mater proceeded and judgment was entered on 13th February, 2023. The client is now seeking further assistance in the division of matrimonial property which has been instituted by the former spouse. The matter came up on 3rd July, 2023 we are assisting the client to prepare her response and eventually legally representing her in the matter.

M.M versus S.O.M DI-VORCE CAUSE E005 OF 2022; MARIAKANI LAW COURTS

The client was seeking a divorce/separation from the defendant on grounds of adultery and desertion. The client was taken through the divorce requirements within the law and it was explained to her the various grounds that can be used to seek the court to dissolve the union. The Petition was drafted and eventually the client was prepared for trial. The matter proceeded undefended after numerous services to the Defendant. The judgement was delivered on 25 May, 2023.

KISUMU CHILDREN'S CASE NO. E078/2022

V.A.O. - VERSUS - H.O.

Client came to us for legal assistance to have the father of her child compelled to provide maintenance for their child. She was trained to represent herself in court and helped through the court process. She represented herself well and in the end the Court delivered judgement in her favour. She was given the custody of the child and the father of the child ordered to pay school fees and meet all the child's education needs. He was also ordered to pay Kshs 15,000.00 per month towards the child's maintenance.

MOMBASA: DOREEN.M. vs EMMANUEL K N KWALE E011/ 2022

Doreen filed for divorce in July 2022 against her husband of 15 years who was a tourist driver. In his reply he filed a cross petition and demanded a share of the matrimonial properties. The client was enrolled for self-representation and underwent rigorous pre-trials every time her matter came up for hearing. She finalized her case and obtained a favourable judgement and the Respondent's Cross Petition was dismissed on 7th September 2023.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT AND GROUP THERAPY

FIDA-Kenya's counsellors persist in psychologically preparing clients to navigate the legal intricacies of their cases and make well-informed decisions regarding the violations they've encountered. Additionally, these counsellors continue to provide psychosocial support to survivors, aiming to decrease conflict and promote peaceful coexistence within the community and family settings. Group therapy sessions are conducted on Thursdays and Fridays.

Success Stories

MOMBASA

W went to Mombasa high court seeking for advice after 3 years' separation with the wife due to family and religion issues. He met one of the FIDA-Kenya's external mediator Mrs. M who after hearing his story at the High Court reception where she volunteers directed the client to FIDA counsellor. His children were taken away by the in-laws in Lamu. After a lengthy narration and first session with the counsellor he agreed on contacting the wife who was difficult at first on why being called by FIDA but later agreed to come to FIDA offices. Both parties are pastors in the evangelical churches with titles around Kongowea and Vipingo and had issues between the other each other church and family interference. After the four sessions the couple were able to agree on most issues and currently living together in Junda Mshomoroni. The man said that they had gone to parents, pastors and the church bishop but the issues were never solved, the counsellor has really assisted his marriage. The sessions are still ongoing

KISUMU

Bilha (not her real name) a 25-year-old graduate got married in March 2023 and left her home to start life with her husband in Kisumu. With time she noticed this particular lady, Pamela (not her real name), who called her husband over his cell phone frequently after work and engaged him in conversations. Bilha shared her discomfort with her spouse who insisted that Pamela was his colleague. Over time Bilha became agitated, she could not hold it and so she stormed the office where her spouse worked. While at the office she was calmed down and given a hearing. Pamela felt embarrassed and reported Bilha to the police station for harassment, character assassination and defamation and harassment. During her to FIDA-Kenya, Bilha insisted she had been wronged and wanted the case to get to court. Working with the legal counsel, it was clear that Bilha was making allegations, she did not have any evidence over her allegations and that she was acting more out of emotion than reason and life experience. Her husband was not making the situation any better because he insisted on being innocent and equally embarrassed by his wife's visit to the office. Luckily, he accepted to accompany Bilha for psychosocial support and life skills coaching. After 3 sessions of guidance and counselling, Bilha wrote a letter of apology to her spouse's employers, to Pamela and took a copy to the police station. Pamela dropped the case, Bilha got her bail deposit back, and currently they are enrolled into marriage counselling.

STRATEGIC IMPACT LITIGATION (SIL)

SIL endeavors to handle unique cases that have the potential to establish new legal precedents or provide clarity on jurisprudence, thereby advancing women's rights. It also aims to enhance FIDA-Kenya's reputation as the leading advocates for women's rights in Kenya and as fearless defenders of women's rights through increased publicity. Additionally, FIDA-Kenya utilizes SIL to address gaps in legislation, aligning domestic laws with international standards, and fostering gender sensitivity within legal systems. The Deputy Executive Director successfully completed the 2nd Cohort training on Feminist Strategic Litigation in 2023 the year.

On the 10th of November 2023, FIDA-Kenya, ISLA, KELIN and Women Link Worldwide were jointly admitted as Amici in the Supreme Court of Kenya's Petition.E018 OF 2023, R vs. Joshua Gichuki Mwangi and others to address the court on State's obligations under Article 21 (1) of the Constitution and comparative lessons on the application of mandatory minimum sentences from other jurisdictions. As at the close of 2023, FIDA-Kenya 6 active Public Interest Litigation (PIL) cases.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION/MEDIATION

ADR offers a relatively efficient method for parties to peacefully settle disputes, fostering unity and mutual respect among them. This approach also enables parties to devise personalized solutions to their conflicts. To boost the utilization of ADR, FIDA-Kenya adopted various methods, including sending telephone, email, and hard copy invitations to the concerned parties. Details regarding the distribution of cases are outlined in the table provided below.



The Senior Legal Counsel at the Kisumu Office and the Vice Chair of the Board serve as members of the National Steering Committee on the Implementation of the 2020 Alternative Justice System Policy (NaS-CI-AJS). They participated in a comprehensive NASCI-AJS Meeting from August 29th to September 1st, 2023, in Eldoret to provide updates and strategize for the year 2023. Additionally, the Senior Legal Counsel at the Kisumu Office facilitated the development of the Kisumu County AJS action Plan in Nakuru on November 6th and 7th, 2023, in preparation for its official launch in 2024. During this period, two representatives from AJ Nairobi attended a post AJS Conference committee meeting on August 25th, 2023, for a conference review and to plan for the 2024 annual AJS conference.

Furthermore, the AJ team organized Capacity building forums for council of elders on Alternative Justice system milestones, challenges, and case documentation and reporting mechanisms. These forums were held on August 31st, 2013, for the Ugenya Council of Elders with 16 participants, September 27th, 2023, for the Coast Council of Elders with 22 participants, October 18th and 19th, 2023, for the Nandi Council of Elders with 19 participants, and October 27th, 2023, for the Othaya Council of Elders with 25 participants. In total, 124 clients were referred to various AJS mechanisms across the three offices

Success Stories

MOMBASA

Y came to FIDA-Kenya seeking assistance on her maintenance matter. The client was angry as she stated that the father of her three children who works at a human rights organization has failed to provide maintenance for their children. FIDA-Kenya invited her spouse for a mediation which he declined twice and on the third attempt and talking to him, he eventually accepted to come for the mediation. The session wasn't easy either as the spouse who had been accompanied by his advocate was very bitter on why he had been brought to FIDA while he's been providing for his kids: paying fees and related expenses, food, medication. After two caucuses and with the help of his advocate, he eventually calmed down and agreed to proceed with the session. From our clients claim, she wanted the spouse to cater for school transport as well but it was also noted that our client was bitter and in pain since she's not moved on with her life while the spouse has already moved on. However, the spouse agreed to it and was willing to co- parent with her.

Our client therefore had to be referred for counselling to help deal with her anger management. Our client was so happy for the assistance given by FIDA – Kenya as she's now staying happily with her children in Kwale County.

On 15th March 2023 Lena visited the legal aid clinic in distress seeking divorce and the legal team referred her to counselling sensing she was making emotional decisions. She and her husband formalized their marriage in 2011 having lived together from 2006. Their marriage was a fulfilling one as they raised their 3 children and they worked hard to invest jointly until 2015 when the man commuted all their financial proceeds under his name. Lena was broken because not only did she become his dependant, the proceeds were used to set up his other woman in business.

In counselling, she was tearful and frustrated over the betrayal. Nonetheless, the venting allowed her to embrace an open mind set to execute scheduled tasks. By her 3rd session she was adjusting her stand to the various options available to her and also enrolled in the group therapy sessions. Her greatest highlight in therapy was securing copies of land title deeds registered in both names and placing caution on them. She also managed to register a new business in her own name and initiated a buy goods payment process to stop the man raiding the cash boxes and harassing her employees. Armed with the titles, Lena is now more resilient and is ready to protect her interests. At the close of group therapy, she said "I have gained a lot of knowledge to take the next step." I have experienced healing in my heart as I have learnt how to draw my boundaries and to own my truth."

Client B came to our offices seeking for assistance on her maintenance matter. She was a victim of an arranged marriage which was conducted under Islamic law back in 2018. They lived as an extended family at her husband house facing a lot of difficulties in trying to earn a living and improve their living standards until October 2019 where her spouse travelled to Qatar for some work leaving her 4 months pregnant. Come March 2020, they were blessed with a child and due to mistreatment from the family; she left her matrimonial home and went back to her parent's house. She states that ever since the spouse travelled, he separated himself from her as well as the child and has never contributed anything towards the child's upkeep. Clients worry is that the husband wants to divorce her and remarry yet she is not ready for the divorce. Client was taken through several counseling and group therapy sessions, after which she was hopeful and gained her self-esteem and agreed on proceeding with the divorce matter. She now seeks assistance on the child's maintenance and narrates how happy she is that the spouse has decided to divorce her. Client has accepted the situation and she is now focusing on having a better life with her child. As she keeps on following up on her matter with Fida.

Thank you Fida- Kenya you have been a great help to the society especially in fighting for women and children's right. The counseling session that I have received from your office gave me more confidence and enabled me stand firm in seeking for my rights. I'm now able to assist and refer people seeking for justice.

NAIROBI

Ray and Mercy (not their real names) attended mediation on 12th October 2023. For the last one year, Mercy has endured a hostile Ray who refused to take up parental responsibility at every stop because he guestioned paternity. During mediation at FIDA Kenya he maintained this stance leading to the mediator proposing counselling to unpack the stalemate. The 30-minute therapy proved critical in turning around their mediation experience. Ray addressed his frustrations and doubts scaling his sentiments at 30% willing to support the minor and 70% doubtful of being the father. In exploration, we looked into the future. At a resentment filled journey while carrying the burden of 70% doubt and this cracked his resistance to having the DNA test. The same was later scheduled for January 2024. Meanwhile, Ray agreed to provide for all the minor's needs as he prepares for DNA. According to Mercy, 'the future now looks promising'. Both parties left in high spirits committing to engage further dialogue in favour of harmonious co-existence.



KISUMU

Mary came to FIDA-Kenya seeking to have her cousin in-law to leave land that she felt belonged to her late husband. When her cousin came for mediation, he brought a letter from the County government with orders to demolish structures that Mary was getting rent from as her only source of income. After further scrutiny, it was clear that Mary had encroached on to road reserves and had sold a bigger chunk of her portion unknowingly to a buyer and even had 3 quarters of her house sitting on her cousin in-law's land. Mary received legal education about her case and her impending predicament. FIDA-Kenya begged the other party on behalf of Mary and he agreed to sit in a mediation session. In the end, Mary's cousin accepted to help her move her structures from the road reserve, and to take a different portion owned by Mary on the family land upcountry. He further accepted to leave Mary the structures on the land in dispute for peace to prevail. Mary got reprieve and together with her cousin, they are in the process of securing and aligning the documentation of the said parcels of land

Reaching Women at Grassroot levels and Commemoration of International Days

| NO | Activity | Partner | Result | Date |
|----|--|---|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. | International widow's day | Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization (CTWOO) | Legal education, legal advice and psychosocial support provided to attendees. | June 2023 |
| 2. | Court Users Committees community forum | Kisii CUC Representatives from Diakonia and the Swedish Embassy | 52 sensitized on prevention, reporting, and responding to SGBV and GBV in Kisii County | November 2023 |
| 3. | 16 Days of Activism campaign | Kisumu, Vihiga, Nakuru Mombasa, Kilifi, and Tana River County Governments | Legal education, legal advice and psychosocial support provided to attendees. | November- December 2023 |
| 5 | | Madvocate Community- Based Organization | commitment of young people to become champions in ending SGBV within their communities | December 2023 |
| 4. | Community Dialogues/Forums/outreach | SDG-Kenya team | 100 women in Malindi, Kaloleni, and Mariakani communities sensitized on localization of SDGs | December 2023, |
| | | Nandi Women Network | 58 Nyumba Kumi heads sensitized on GBV | December 2023 |





PhotoGrid

Mtomondoni primary school outreach to culminate 16 days of activism in Mtwapa, Kilifi County



Supported by AWESOME team Mombasa held a community programme in California in Taita Taveta County

Legal aid Sensitization for young Mothers at Ziwa la Ngombe Mombasa on IWD 2023



According to the government statistics from the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) it is indicated that they are indicate that over 40 percent of women who have experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence in their lifetime. This is happening despite the robust laws that have been enacted both internationally and in the region that safeguards women's rights against sexual violence.

Gender based violence is a huge a violation on a person's basic human rights and cuts across nationality, race, class, ethnicity, and religion. They are various forms of GBV these include but are not limited to sexual violence; rape; sexual exploitation and abuse; forced prostitution; domestic violence; human trafficking; forced or early marriage; and harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation; honor killings; widow inheritance, among others. These forms of violence occur in all cultural and socio- economic backgrounds, sadly women bear the brunt of it all as society expects women to tolerate and even rationalize why women undergo Gender Based Violence.

There has been a rapid increase in the recent past on Femicide, women being the highest number of Victims and the statistics keep increasing daily this despite the laws, policies that are in place to curb the menace. According to data collected by Femicide Count Kenya, 504 women have been murdered between 2019 and 2024. On January 4, 2024, the stabbing to death of 26-year-old Starlet Wahu made headlines. This was followed by several other cases that horrified the nation. According to a 2000 report by the U.N, every year, an average of 66,000 women are violently killed globally, accounting for approximately 17% of all victims of intentional homicides. In 2022, the number of women and girls killed globally was nearly 89,000.

It is worth noting that sexual gender-based violence prevalence was attributed to conflict and elections periods but in recent times the vice has taken on a different tangent regardless of the political climate and surrounding environment the vice thrives and sadly enough the recent victims are young girls and boys. This indicates a serious social order and large opportunistic for perpetrators of the crime and a clear indication in the breakdown of the rule of law in a society something that needs serious attention.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND THE SURVIVOR CENTRED APPROACH

By Brenda Yambo

Kenya as a country has robust legislation, policy frameworks, and commitment to regional and international conventions and instruments on GBV. Some of the relevant legal instruments and Kenyan legislation relating to sexual and Gender Based Violence include: The Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) of 1979, Guidelines on Combating Sexual Violence and its Consequences in Africa-Niamey Guidelines by the African Union, The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa of 2003 (Maputo Protocol, The Convention Against Torture (CAT) of 1984: Rome Statute of 1998, Constitution of Kenya, 2010, Penal Code, Children's Act: Sexual Offences Act 2006, Criminal Procedure Code:, The Protection against Domestic Violence Act, Police Service Standing Orders (PSSO), 2017: Employment Act, Kenya's Vision 2030, Prohibition of female genital mutilation (FGM) Act 2011: It is worth noting that in recent times the fight against GBV has focused so much on justice and the perpetrator forgetting the recipient of the Violence being the victim hence encouraging a survivor-centered approach in the recent times. A survivor centered approach seeks to empower survivors by prioritizing their rights, safety, well-being, needs and wishes. It is prudent for the different stakeholders in the fight a against GBV focus more on the rights of the survivor s to ensure that survivors have access to appropriate, accessible and good quality services on health care, psychological and social support, security and legal services This basically means the survivor is given control over the decision-making process. This serves to provide space and time for the survivor to express their needs and for the organization to arrange for the relevant support.

This approach also serves to recognize that the various coping-mechanisms and healing processes are unique to everyone and further that professionals in the fight against GBV ensure a survivor's rights are respected and is treated with dignity and respect. A survivor-centered approach is a key aspect in the survivor's road to recovery and ensures the survivor is instrumental in making decisions that lead to the recovery road in the fight against GBV.

FINANCIAL STABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

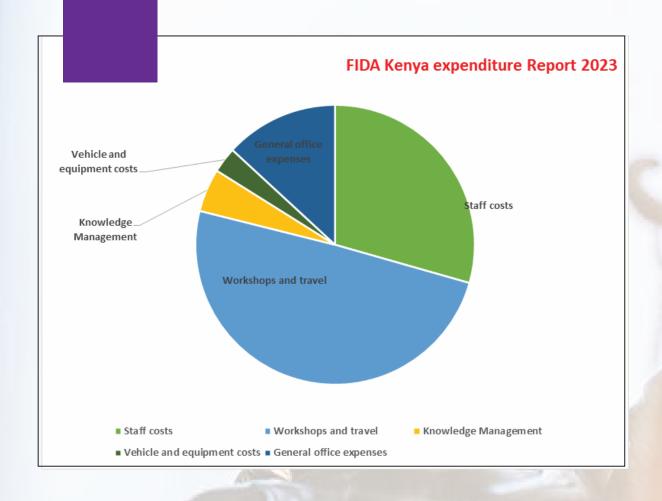
his component ensured the development and implementation of a **Financial Health and Resilience Plan and also Strengthening capacity** of finance and non-finance team members on financial management and resource mobilization.

Other achievements were not limited to:

- Fully signed Unqualified Statutory Audit by 8th March, 2023
- Annual NGO Returns done by 18th March 2023.
- FIDA Kenya secured the tax exemption certificate 5 years
- Received a management letter with only 4 findings.
- Donor reports prepared and submitted providing accountability of funds received and ensuring continued/timely disbursement of funds.
- Presentation of Financial statement 2022 at FIDA-Kenya AGM.
- Updating of the Fixed Asset register and tagging of new assets.
- Prudent management of donor funds received.
- Ensured compliance with internal control systems.
- Successfully coordinated internal audit functions (Quarter1,2&3 2023)
- Contributed to successful grant applications



Ms Nadine Metizner-The program Cordinator of the German Federal Government having a discussion with the finance team in our offices during a monitoring visit for its country's programs in October 2023



| FIDA KENYA FINANCIAL 2023 | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|--|
| Description | Amounts | | | |
| Staff costs | | | | |
| | 51,054,475 | | | |
| Workshops and travel | | | | |
| | 85,946,929 | | | |
| Knowledge Management | | | | |
| | 8,676,575 | | | |
| Vehicle and equipment costs | | | | |
| | 5,136,905 | | | |
| <u>General office expenses</u> | | | | |
| | <u>22,823,890</u> | | | |
| <u>TOTAL KES</u> | | | | |
| | <u>173,638,775</u> | | | |

IMPROVED EFFICIENCY ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN BUSINESS PROCESSES

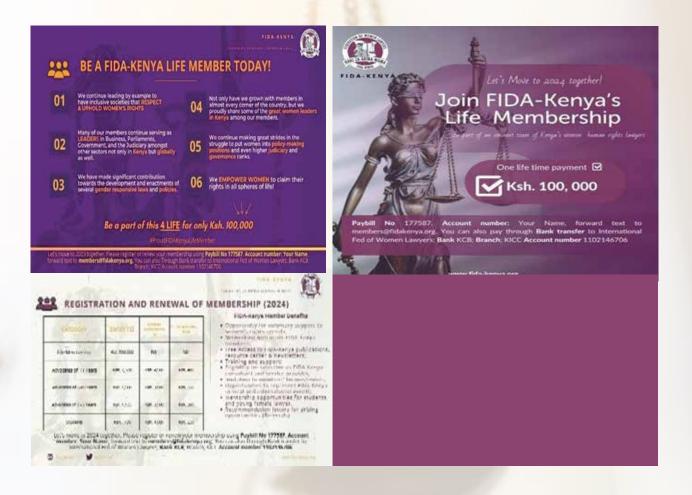
Projected Achievements include revamping and realigning the ERP system to meet various departmental needs and ensuring functional manuals are in place and updated to align with the new SP.

The Human Resources Management system and processes have improved through regular reviews, including the organizations structure(organogram), adoption on the use of technology for efficient and effective business processes at both national and regional offices

STRENGTHENED MEMBERSHIP MAN-AGEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

A Membership Recruitment, Management, and Retention Strategy that outlines new and innovative ways to attract, onboard, manage, and offer value to members was developed. Also, membership flyers were revamped. Which are currently in use.

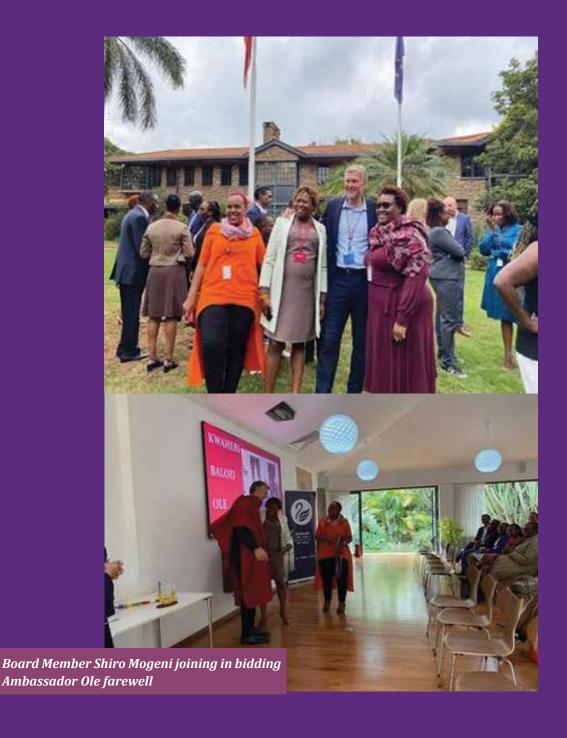
A review of the management of the membership register to institute measures to increase the payment of subscriptions linked to membership rights has also been done-There a link on the website that links the members or interested parties to the secretariat for subscription updates, status inquiries and new members inquiries as well as of 2023.



STRENGTHENED COOPERATE GOVERNANCE

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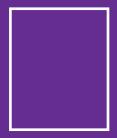
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The Philippine Embassy paid a courtesy call at our offices on 17th November

ADVANCED KNOWLEDGE OF WOMEN AND GIRLS RIGTS



2023 was abuzz with Research. This gave birth to 5 publications which added stones to the global Gender agenda slings. These were,

Gender Audit of Kilifi County development plans

This report entails a review of Kilifi County annual development plans and sector budgets. The main objective of the review was to enhance public participation in policy making decisions in annual development plans and county sector budgets.

Mapping of Women in Business

This report presents findings of a mapping survey of women owned enterprises and financial institutions that can support women and also one-year project that strived to enhance the participation and inclusion of Women in Kenya's electoral and leadership process that was implemented in Kilifi County by Kenya Federation of Lawyers (FIDA) in collaboration with SDGs

SEAIP Evaluation

This was done in attempts to gauge the projects interventions for the period it has been in existence. The program is being implemented by FIDA alongside other consortium partners including; Electoral Law and Governance Institute of Africa-ELGIA, FIDA-Kenya, the Centre for Multi-Party Democracy (CMD-Kenya) and the Kenyan Chapter of Transparency International (TI). It was in collaboration with U.S based Democracy International (DI) and supported by USAID for strategic technical support and robust learning. The report details the outcome per each objective. The evaluation also brings out issues that affected the project implementation and factors that aided the success of the project as well as the impact of the project: And the status of implementation of the 2/3rd gender rule

Hand booklet on self-representation within the criminal justice system

FIDA Kenya through the support of the Embassy of Switzerland embarked on the aim of making justice and fair trial accessible to women prisoners in Kenya through legal education, training and practice. One of the project deliverables was to develop a Self-representation hand book. The purpose of the handbook was to enhance continuous learning by the women inmates and the same was to also facilitate ease of reference as and when the women are in court. Furthermore, this played a key role in enhancing sustainable knowledge dissemination of the criminal justice system processes.

Status of Reproductive Health Rights in Kenya

FIDA Kenya's work has acknowledged that harmful practices like unsafe abortion continue to happen due to the conflict between the law and the fundamental rights of women. FIDA Kenya is implementing a project aimed at realizing 'safeguarding the constitutional rights to safe and legal abortion for girls and women in Kenya.' With a specific focus in four counties (Nairobi, Nakuru, Kisumu and Mombasa). FIDA-Kenya undertook a research on 'SRHR- A Kenyan perspective', aimed at showcasing the status of SRHR in the country, interrogating the gains and challenges made in the near future.



Scenes from the SEAIP evaluation publication launch

Other aspects under this component included strengthening of the research function to improve the quality of research produced by FIDA-Kenya by acquiring additional staff, revamping the ERP system which harbours our data base and having engagements with community learning practices,

Assessment of emerging issues and reflection on their implications for FIDA-Kenya's work as well as women's rights generally, some but not limited to, SGBV courts, Maputo celebrations, Involvement in global/regional advocacy platforms e.g. ACPHR and CSW, recognition and engagements with Key populations, The finance act: 2023: Introduction of the Housing levy, and the police reforms

Capacity building of staff to conduct research on various aspects of programmatic work Staff have been attending trainings through partnerships, Networks and linkages on various thematic areas that eventually culminate to upholding women's rights

IMPROVED DISSEMINATION OF FIDA-KENYA'S RESEARCH AND LEARNING PRODUCTS THROUGH DIVERSE PLATFORMS

Social media: Twitter page is the most frequently used platform and is one of the most followed with 41,000, followers. We have a monthly average of 40,000 tweet impressions and an average of 202 new followers monthly. The site is updated daily with interactions and partnerships with donors, as well as local and international like-minded organizations.

Facebook page is updated at least twice a day. Queries from the platform are responded to daily. It is the platform most used by members of the public seeking assistance from FIDA-Kenya. Facebook has 21,000 followers while Instagram has grown to 3, 800 followers. LinkedIn page has also been growing with at least weekly posts.



A screenshot of our LinkedIn page

A dissemination strategy for the Knowledge products is also in place, this provides a roadmap on how to distribute our IEC materials, documentations and publications. Media campaigns in terms of radio shows, webinars and twitter spaces have also been used for awareness creations and sensitization

There has also been enhanced visibility for FIDA Kenya advocacy work through the use of online spaces for instance the ILO 190 campaign and the Maputo @20 campaign that attracted the participation of 101 and 114 participants respectively. 100 IEC materials for the ILO 190 campaign including 5 short clips on the Maputo at 20 were also developed and disseminated.





Media engagements in 2023



Excellence in Programme Management.

IDA-Kenya has continuously improved evidence-based program design based on research, beneficiary feedback, stakeholder consultations,

and other mechanisms by integrating emerging issues in programming, Resource mobilization and holding review meetings at all levels.

In August the USAID donor visited Mombasa office for a project monitoring visit. In November AJ Kisumu team hosted three donor visits by DANIDA in Kisumu on 15th of November 2023, Diakonia in Kisii on the 21st of November 2023 and GIZ/CPS in Kisumu on 29th November 2023. All the four donors had an opportunity to directly interview some of the project beneficiaries and expressed great satisfaction with FIDA-Kenya's intervention.

In November 2023, FIDA-Kenya's AJ, Finance and monitoring and evaluation staff joined other implementing partners within SDG Kenya forum funding at the Grand Royal Swiss Hotel in Kisumu for the annual reporting and learning event where the FIDA team show cased the work done in Kilifi County with the support of the forum. FIDA-Kenya emerged the best team and partners were asked to benchmark with FIDA-Kenya.



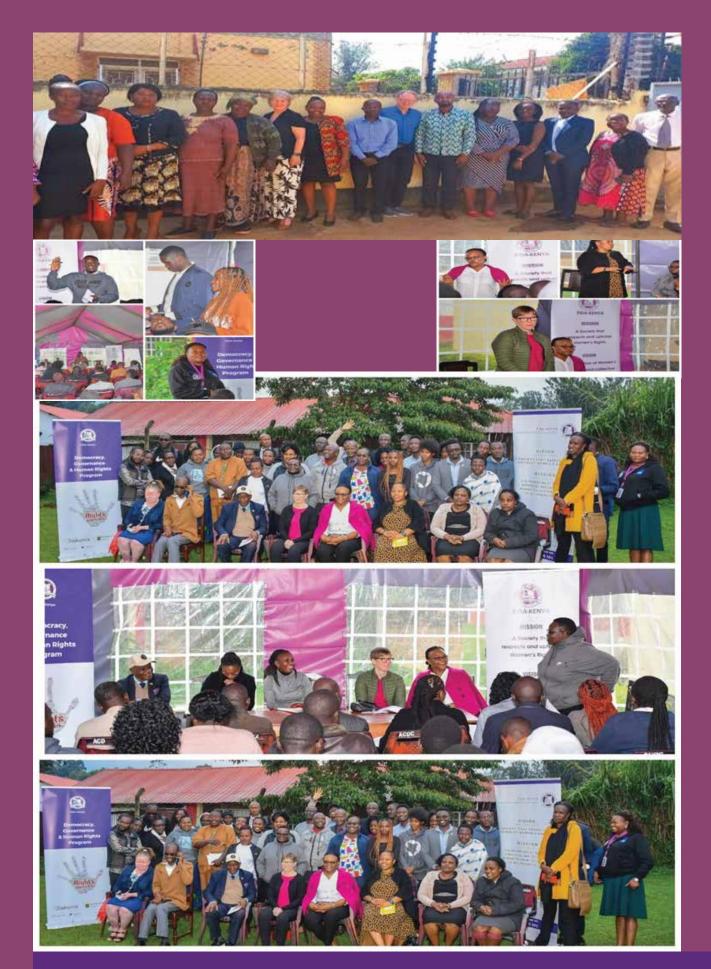


Figure 1: Kisumu Office staff, beneficiaries and the DANIDA staff and evaluators pose for a photo during the mid-term Project evaluation.

Figure 2: Kisumu Office staff, monitoring and evaluation officer and DIAKONIA staff and donors jointly conduct a field monitoring visit in Kisii



TOLL FREE REPORTS – FIDA-Kenya continued publicizing and disseminating these monthly reports on our various platforms. This information informs our programming on what matters and regions to focus on and also review on suitable interventions. Staff are privy to this information and are usually guide program implementation

- 1 toll free report July 2023.pdf
- 2 toll free August 2023.pdf
- 3 Toll free reported cases-September 2023.pdf
- 4 Toll free reported cases-October.pdf
- 5 Toll free Report-Nov2023.pdf
- 6 Toll free-Dec2023.docx.pdf

PARTICIPATORY MONITORING- In efforts to inte-

grate the M&E component in programming, Staff utilize Activity concepts, field reporting templates, client satisfaction surveys, pre and post training evaluation tools.



Some development partners also **organized M&E platforms** that enhance M&E capacity for staff. Other interventions applied included, **Conducting process evaluations** with staff. For instance, Posing Questions to staff on our involvement with community structures- male champions (good model), paralegals, media involvement etc. This has subconsciously improved programming

INCORPORATING "DOING DEVELOP-MENT DIFFERENTLY" PRINCIPLES AND APPROACHES

ome of the approaches we embraced included, maximizing on technology to carry out programming, for instance holding virtual meetings, doing webinars, facilitating hybrids (Hola and Nyeri CUCs)

Also engaging on researches that will help reduce TFGBV and adopt AI platforms in aiding in executing our services e.g. Wakili online, conducting trace surveys in order to gather feedback from our clients and also measure sustainability long after the project is long closed. **Delegating** some of our interventions for instance community outreaches and legal aid clinics to community structures- paralegals, CBOs, male champions, probono advocates etc. Not only does it encourage efficiency but also empowers these structures; borrowing lessons for new ventures and Adopting **narrative assessment** as a new method of evaluating human rights programming **and adaptive programming** that allows flexibility.



Scenes from a monitoring visit in Kitale



LAMU WOMEN ALLIANCE SUCCESS STORY



Court Users Committee Meeting



1.CUC MEMBERSHIP

Through our partnership with FIDA, we successfully campaigned on the involvement of women as part of the major stakeholders in the judicial system. As a result, Lamu Women Alliance now sits at the Court Users Committee as a vital stakeholder. Through our membership, we have given our contribution with regards to:

- Simplification of the legal process for the community members including the women for the attainment of access to justice.
- Legal aid programs for men and women.
- Prison visits especially for the female convicts.

This has changed the trajectory for access to justice in the community especially for women who have for long been vulnerable and helpless.

2. GENDER TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

By partnering with FIDA, we have been able to lobby for and take active participation in the Lamu County Gender Technical working group that has been formed with the objective of addressing and responding to gender related aspects in the County.

The composition of the working group is one that is diverse and one that brings together civil society organizations, religious leaders, government departments, law enforcers and the community at large.

This group has made it possible for the CSOs to follow up on issues to do with sexual and Gender based violence, economic empowerment for women.

- 3. Under our thematic area of Sexual & Gender based violence that we partner with FIDA, we successfully reported a defilement case, followed it through the whole medical and legal procedure and secured a conviction. This is fundamental in our advocacy since people always avoided reporting such cases for fear of:
 - Victimization
 - Societal constraints
 - Lack of trust in the legal system

However, since we secured the conviction, people have restored their faith in the justice system and have now embraced timely reporting of sexual offence incidences.

4. Collaboration with the law enforcement agencies

Through our Human Rights and sexual and gender-based violence thematic areas, we partnered with the law enforcement agency to facilitate access to justice.

We built a ramp at the Lamu Police station to ease access of the station for people living with disability.



Figure 2 Ramp at the Lamu Police station funded by Lamu Women Alliance

MEET THE TEAM

The Council offers strategic leadership and is responsible for the development and implementation of FIDA-Kenya's mission, objectives, strategies, structures and policies



Nancy Ikinu
Chairperson



Christine Kungu
Vice-Chairperson



Claris Ogangah Secretary



Cynthia Osiro Treasurer



Hellen Shiro Mogeni Member



Caroline Mboku Member



Miriam Bomett
Member



Afrophilia Agasna
Upcountry Representative



Jane Onyango
Coast Representative



Anne W. Ireri
Executive Director



Diana Watila
Deputy Executive
Director



Christabella Barasa M&E Lead



Julius Obae

Procurement Officer



Hellen Kithuka

Grants/RM Officer



Moses Okinyi
PR & Communications
Lead



Francis Kibue
Finance Manager



Jane Njeri PR Officer



Jeremy Mutika Legal Assistant



Merab Gisiora Finance Officer



Simon Njenga Legal Assistant



Susan Njeru Reception



Alice Mwende Guardette



Terry Mwongeli Senior Legal Counsel



Leticia Mwashigwa Legal Counsel



Everlyn Atieno Counselor/Client Services Officer



Samuel Gikunju Legal Assistant



Janet Philly Anyango
Senior Legal Counsel



Dennis Otieno

Legal Counsel



Lilian Jumba
Counselor/Client Services
Officer



Charles Ojwang Legal Assistant



Castrol Otwal Finance Officer



Elizabeth Gichohi W&G -Program Officer



Irene Ochola Counselor/Client Services Officer



Vivian Mwende Senior Legal Counsel



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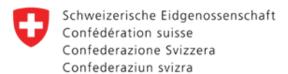


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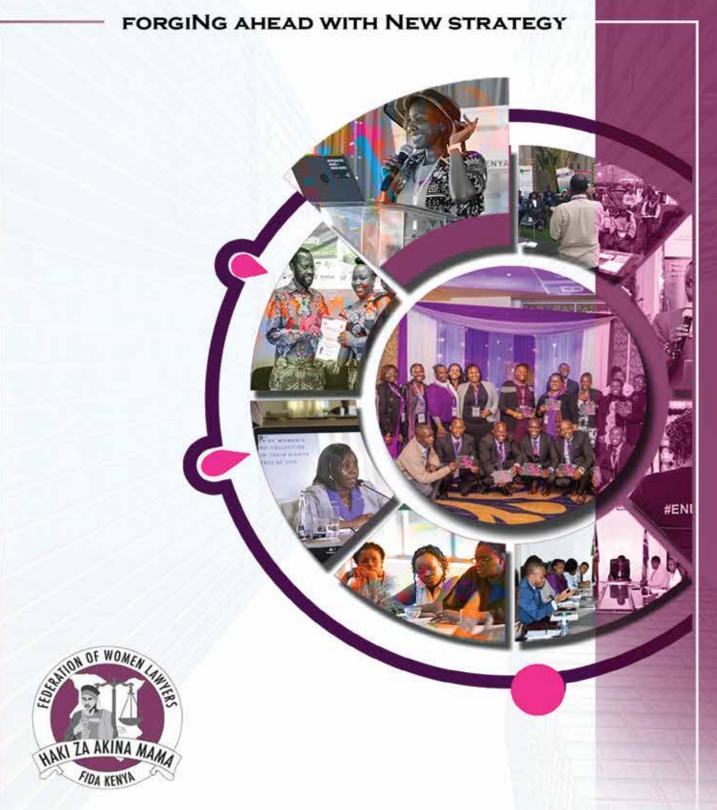












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