



For the Strength of Women; For the Strength of Africa

Sensitizing the Kangemi Community

Kangemi GBV/HIV Working group was launched earlier in the year to address GBV and the linkage to HIV in Westland District. Working group members responding to GBV cases, have realized with concern that most cases go unreported. The ones reported are left unsolved with the survivors being left even more vulnerable and stigmatized.

A community member mobilized 40 community members including women leaders, religious leaders, youth leaders, opinion leaders, representatives from government departments, 4 members where they deliberated on how to respond and prevent GBV and HIV related cases. The members of the group had invited Kibera GBV/HIV working group members to share some learning points from their current working group.



Members of the Kangemi GBV Working Group

Kangemi GBV working group membership is dynamic with new members hence 2 days training forum was organized in collaboration with the Gender Officer Westlands which expounded GBV and HIV prevention & response, and women human rights .

In Salute of A Fallen Heroine

With utmost respect, The Late Prof. Maathai and always will be a person to Women's Empowerment was one of the first be looked up to and respected Link would like to pay women to engage in the for being one of the first homage to a heroine, a fight for the rights of women to lead the way for the mother, a women's rights women by pointing out women of Kenya to stand up activist, a tribute to the the atrocities conducted for their rights and fight for Late Professor Wangari by the previous regime. them and for that, Maathai. Professor Maathai is WE SALUTE HER!

Women's Empowerment Link

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Special points of interest:

- Gains of women in the 2010 Constitution include:
- Women can own land
- Women are full citizens and can pass it to their children and spouses
- The two thirds principle of representation in elective and appointive bodies is a democratic right.

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Dagoretti Community

Despite a slow start in responding and preventing GBV within their area after the conception of the working group, members of the Dagoretti GBV W.G have become a rejuvenated group after WEL organized with support from APHIA Plus Nairobi-Coast, a community sensitization forum for 35 community members and service providers from different sectors in Dagoretti on increasing awareness and accurate knowledge about GBV and the challenges faced in dealing with GBV prevention and response as well as promoting individual and community level action.

It is out of the awareness and knowledge gained from this community sensitization forum that a member of the Dagoretti GBV W.G rescued a 12 year old girl who had been defiled and impregnated by a cousin.

The minor who was later taken to a rescue shelter to protect her from the situation of abuse while receiving psychosocial support will always question what allegedly turned her cousin, a villain.

The case which is currently in court and awaiting a ruling was



Members of the Dagoretti GBV Working Group

pushed into the legal system by the working group members and has proved to be one successful endeavor by the Dagoretti GBV working group members.

Kibagare Community Awareness Forum

The Kangemi GBV Working Group W.G, they wanted to hold the forum area has been dealing with a lot of GBV in this said area due to the popularity of illicit brews which plays a major role in violence and unstable families.

Women's Empowerment Link with families. support from UNFPA facilitated the Kangemi GBV Working group to hold a community education forum in an area where GBV is rampant.

According to members of the GBV

The forum which constituted 73 members from the community addressed the prevention and re-

sponse to GBV and through the

same forum, 3 leaders from the

area joined the Kangemi GBV W.G. The men in the area pledged to support and protect women and girls whilst the community members made a plan to take action to deal with

cases of child prostitution & exploitation which are rampant in the area.

New Beginning for Makadara and Kamukunji

In the 2008/2009 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) preliminary results, there was an indication that domestic violence is still prevalent in Kenya with 39% of

women reporting that they have been physically or sexually assaulted by their husbands or partners during their lifetime.

In a bid to ensure the end of this malicious vice, WEL with support from APHIA Plus Nairobi-Coast has established GBV working groups in Maka-

dara and Kamukunji areas to be able to equip the service providers in these areas with the ammunition to prevent and respond to GBV.

The two areas were chosen due to the high rates of reported violence as well as a way of engaging members from the Somali community who constitute a larger number of inhabitants in these areas and are said to practice FGM at a rate of 97% (2003

K D H S report) disengage themselves from putting their women and children through this violation of their human rights.



Participants from Kamukunji engaged by WEL in the formation of a working group in the area

Training

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ective counselling skills that will enable them assist the survivors. The training engaged the trainees to increase the understanding of their personalities, how to effectively counsel children who have gone through various forms of violence and increase awareness on conflict resolution within the family and the community as a whole. The three day training especially engaged the trainees on understanding trauma; a situation that comes about from something that happened to



Shelter representatives and paralegals engaged in a psychosocial support training

the survivors or someone close to them.

The participants were also engaged on how to manage stress because by

dealing with cases from survivors, they were likely to take up the stress felt by the survivors as their own.

Kibera GBV/HIV Working Group Team Building

Working in a team can sometimes be a task in itself and so Women's Empowerment Link (WEL) with support from APHIA Plus Nairobi-Coast, organized a team building activity for the Kibera Working Group GBV/HIV team after the realization that the working group members were not working together as a team in alleviating GBV within Kibera. The team building which incorporated

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow; Learn as if you were to live forever"

Mahatma Gandhi

approximately 70 members of the Kibera GBV working group engaged the members on analyzing their achievements, the impor-

tance of working as a team, sharing of their challenges, as well as build on their strengths.

The GBV/HIV working group members were keen on the easiest and most probable way of overcoming the challenges they were facing and move on by mending the torn rifts between the network.

Gains for Women in the Constitution 2010

The Constitution of Kenya (2010) was promulgated on 27th August, 2010, bringing about the end of an era and a brighter Kenya in a legislation that promised a better nation for the people and guided by the recognition of equal rights of women and men as regards citizenship, equal rights to own property including land and right to inheritance.

sentation in elective bodies has to effectively meet a gender equity constitutional requirement, by granting both sexes equal opportunity towards conferring citizenship, Article 14 (1).

either gender in its make up Chapter 7, Article 81 (b).

Women according to the Constitution (2010) can confer citizenship on their spouses and children unlike in the old constitution where only men could confer citizenship to their foreign wives, an entrenchment of gender equity namely that no more than two thirds of members shall be from either gender in its make up Chapter 7, Article 81 (b).

The Constitution (2010) also assures that parental responsibility shall be shared between parents regardless of marital status, Article 53 (1) (e).

In the Constitution (2010), representation in elective bodies has to effectively meet a gender equity constitutional requirement, by granting both sexes equal opportunity towards conferring citizenship, Article 14 (1).

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***For the Strength of Women;
For the Strength of Africa***

ABOUT WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT LINK

Women's Empowerment Link (WEL) is a non-profit, non-artisan non-governmental women rights organization committed to empowering women and girls to realize their potential, worth and strength politically, socially and economically through advocating for opportunities that explore their potential.

WEL recognizes that the survival of women and girls is increasingly being challenged by economic dependency, illiteracy, Sexual & gender based violence (SGBV), HIV/AIDS, gender inequalities & marginalization, conflict, insensitive laws & policies which underscore WEL's purposeful programming on five key thematic areas:-

- *Women Economic Empowerment*
- *Access to Education*
- *Reproductive health and rights*
- *Sexual & Gender based violence & HIV/AIDS*
- *Transformative leadership & Governance*

WEL's Mission: *To empower women to realize, exercise their rights and freedoms, and access opportunities and privileges towards gender equality.*

WEL's Vision: *A society that is gender sensitive where women and men have equal rights and opportunities for a just society*

A Word from the Organizational Director

In its efforts to implement its five key thematic areas, WEL realizes the importance of building the capacity of her team on the ground, responsible for realizing its mission.

This has come into the limelight with the establishment of new Working Groups in areas like Kangemi, Makadara, Kamukunji and Dagoretti in the wake of rapidly increasing cases of GBV in the regions.

WEL embarks on a series of capacity building activities includ-

ing Community Awareness forums and Psychosocial trainings to help



*Mrs. Grace Mbugua,
WEL's Director*

and sense of well being. This ensures they can carry on with their lives, having a network of support every step of the way.

Having a support system for the of Gender service providers and W.G. members is also vital in providing a friendly environment for sharing their experiences and receiving advice as well as training on coping mechanisms.

This fosters productivity in the long run towards achieving our vision.

“*In the new economy, information, education, and motivation are everything.*” **Bill Clinton**