

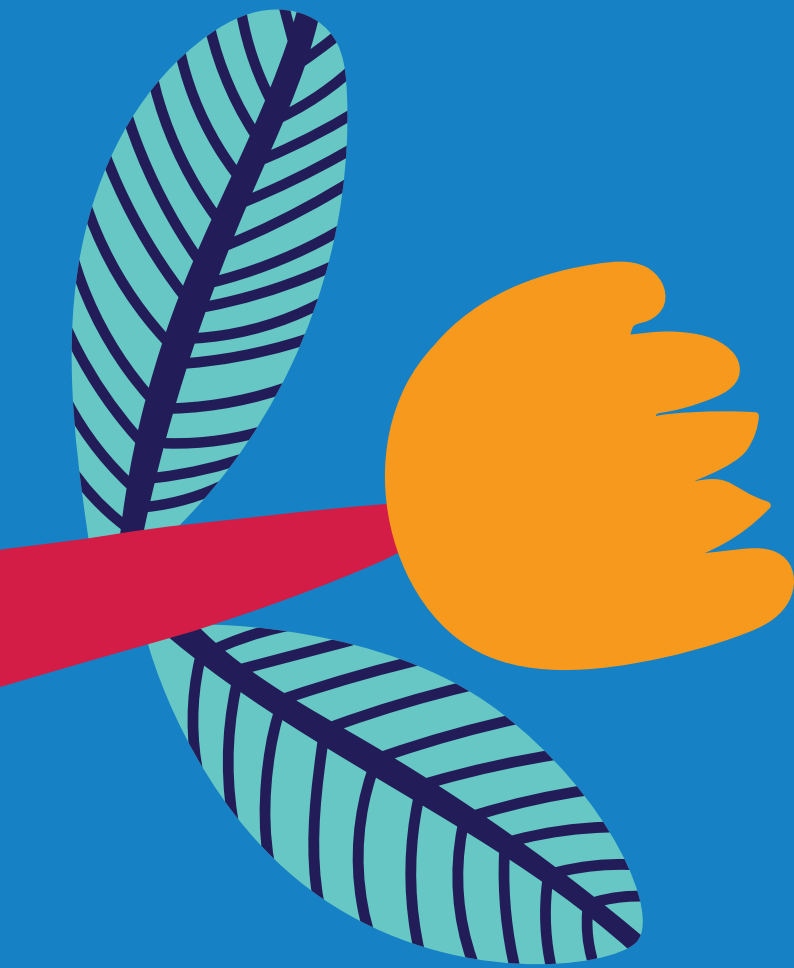
PROJECT SUMMARY

Preventing and responding to violence against women and girls with disabilities in Kenya

IMPLEMENTED BY

**WOMEN CHALLENGED
TO CHALLENGE**





About this brief: This paper presents a summary of a project implemented by the civil society organization (CSO) Women Challenged to Challenge (WCC) for three years from 2018 to 2021 through a small grant provided by the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women (UN Trust Fund). The summary has been co-created and co-authored by WCC with support from an independent external consultant. It summarizes the results of and lessons learned from the project, with the aim of contributing knowledge to the evidence base on ending violence against women and girls (VAWG), for use by other practitioners and partners. It also serves as a useful tool to inform the next stage of the project and to raise awareness of the value of continued investment in WCC and its efforts to prevent and respond to VAWG and support gender equality in Kenya.



ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION AND PROJECT

Women Challenged to Challenge



WCC, the lead implementing organization of the project, is a grass-roots women’s organization established in 2001 with the aims of providing a platform for women with disabilities and increasing awareness in the community at large regarding disability rights. Presently, WCC has over 1,300 members, who are women and girls living with disabilities, from 47 counties across Kenya. The organization has been implementing projects focused on the elimination of violence against women and girls with disabilities (WGwD) since 2014.

Project Title: Preventing and responding to violence against women and girls with disabilities in Kenya



FORMS OF VIOLENCE ADDRESSED

- Non-partner sexual, physical, psychological and emotional violence in the family
- Non-partner sexual violence in the community
- Violence against girls



IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Kibwezi Disabled Persons’ Organization (KDPO) and Twaweza Actors Group were responsible for community drama activities, and Advantage Africa was responsible for monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management.



PROJECT BUDGET

UN Trust Fund’s contribution:

\$211,987



WCC’s contribution:

\$3,800



Total:

\$215,787

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project focused on increasing the protection of WGwD from violence through increasing their own awareness and capacities to seek support, through improved responses from service providers and through higher conviction rates for perpetrators. The project significantly increased the capacities of women and girls with disabilities to recognize and react to violence. The silence regarding violence against women and girls with disabilities was broken and it began to be spoken about, including by the media. The training delivered to women enabled them to understand their rights, to know that VAWG is wrong and that they should be protected from it. They moved from silence on the subject to talking about VAWG and reporting it to local chiefs, the police, village elders or medical staff in local hospitals.

PROJECT EXPANSION THROUGH THE SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE

The Spotlight Initiative¹ is a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations, with the aim of eliminating all forms of VAWG. After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project was expanded to include activities on adapting to the pandemic situation, and this was supported by a top-up grant of \$63,242.



PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:

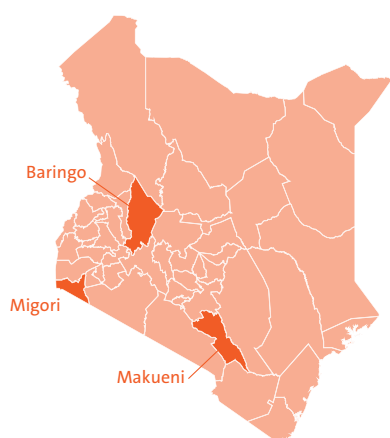
1 Sept 2018–31 Aug 2021

extended until

31 Aug 2022

due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic

PROJECT LOCATIONS, BENEFICIARIES AND AGENTS OF CHANGE



The project was implemented in three counties: **Migori**, **Baringo** (in the town Kabarnet) and **Makueni** (in the town Makindu). These counties were selected due to previously established good cooperation with local CSOs working with people with disabilities in each location, and the ethnic diversity of the communities, which allowed comparative project evaluations and learning.

Primary project beneficiaries/ agents of change:

PLANNED	ACTUAL
90 WGwD	120 WGwD

Secondary project beneficiaries/ agents of change:

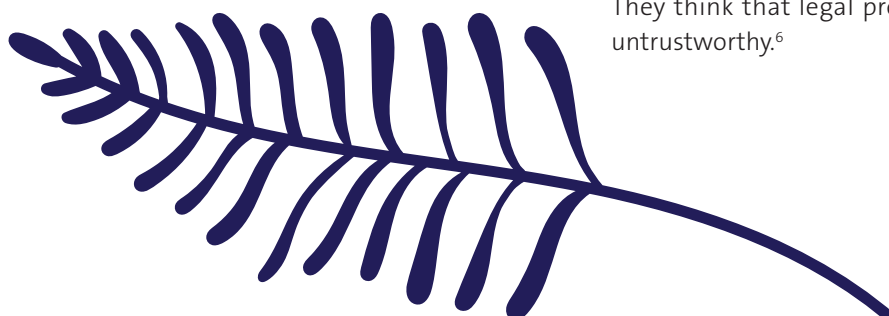
PLANNED	ACTUAL
22 members of community-based groups	90 members of community-based groups
29 service providers / duty bearers	36 service providers / duty bearers
6000 general public	1200 general public
	+ over 2 million estimated to have been reached through radio broadcasts and print media

Country context

Discrimination, stigma and violence against WGwD are widespread in Kenya and deeply rooted in community beliefs, as revealed by research conducted independently by implementing partners WCC and Advantage Africa.² The research on the social, cultural and institutional factors that contribute to sexual violence against WGwD showed that over 90 per cent of individual interviewees and 100 per cent of focus group participants believed that attitudes and beliefs about disability within their communities in western and eastern Kenya were overwhelmingly negative. Attitudes are still strongly influenced by harmful traditional beliefs and misconceptions about the causes and nature of disability,³ and about what roles and rights people with disabilities can have in society. In many cases, people with disabilities are denied their rights and are subject to exclusion and rights violations. The families of people with disabilities are also subject to discrimination and stigma.

Although there are no prevalence studies on violence against WGwD in Kenya, it can be assumed that, in line with global trends, WGwD are more likely to experience forms of gender-based violence.⁴ Research from communities in Kenya,⁵ including some of the project communities (Migori County), revealed that the forms of violence WGwD experience are diverse, but the most severe are sexual and physical violence. Women and girls with intellectual disabilities are at the highest level of risk, followed by blind women and girls, deaf women and girls and women and girls with physical disabilities. Perpetrators of violence against WGwD are mostly people known and trusted by WGwD, such as their husbands, family members, neighbours or friends.

Professionals in education and health care, the police and the judicial services are often poorly equipped to provide support, and welfare facilities are often inaccessible to people with disabilities. Survivors of violence, their families and the wider community do not trust the authorities, especially the police service. They think that legal processes are prolonged and untrustworthy.⁶



Project background

As a grass-roots women's organization established two decades ago with the aim of organizing, coordinating and empowering women and girls with disabilities and promoting their rights, WCC started to pay particular attention to gender-based violence against WGwD in 2014. Its initial research on violence against WGwD, conducted in 2014 across eight counties in Kenya, showed how severe and diverse the forms of violence against WGwD in Kenya were, and how profound its causes and consequences in a context marked by a lack of adequate prevention and protection services. Further work in the communities revealed many gaps in prevention and protection, including service

Theory of change

Starting from the key challenges identified – such as low awareness and lack of self-confidence among women and girls with disabilities, making them unlikely to report violence; poor service provision; and unfavourable norms and attitudes in communities – the project was initially designed to achieve two outcomes: to empower women and girls to report violence and become more proactive in requiring accountable services for protection, and to increase the capacities of service providers and change the attitudes of community members. This multi-pronged approach was intended to reduce violence against WGwD and create a more favourable social and institutional environment in which WGwD could fully exercise their rights and were better protected from gender-based violence.

During the second year of implementation, the COVID-19 pandemic brought significant contextual changes, marked by lockdowns and travel restrictions and also a socioeconomic crisis that increased frustrations and tensions within families and, consequently, the risk of violence against WGwD. As a result, the theory of change was modified, and the project adjusted to the new circumstances by adding a third outcome. This outcome was related to the increased capacities of implementing organizations to adjust to the new context and their ability to deliver new support interventions, such as aid delivery, or adjust planned ones to include new delivery methodologies to support beneficiaries and enable the achievement of the intended results in the new circumstances.

providers' lack of skills and capacities to communicate with survivors of violence, especially deaf people and people with intellectual disabilities; a lack of gender desks in police stations to receive reports and effectively deal with the abuse cases reported to them; and an inadequate number of trained staff and a lack of supplies and facilities for post-rape care and for identifying sexual offenders against WGwD. The findings also made it clear that WGwD did not have sufficient knowledge about their rights and lacked the power to successfully address the violence they experience. These findings guided the design of the project implemented with support of the UN Trust Fund.

These outcomes were to be achieved through different intervention strategies. Work with WGwD and parents of girls with disabilities was organized through training workshops on knowledge and empowerment and then training. Work with duty bearers and professionals from institutions responsible for gender-based violence prevention and protection was organized in the form of training sessions on prevention and response, while awareness-raising among broader audiences in targeted local communities was delivered first through interactive community dramas and later, owing to COVID-19 restrictions, through social and traditional media (mainly radio). The interventions focused on achieving the third outcome, which included relief delivery, assessment of the consequences of COVID-19 for WGwD, and new, remotely delivered information and other support.

The project's theory of change was as follows:

if WGwD and family members have increased knowledge and awareness of their rights and the available services, reporting mechanisms and structures,

and if community members have increased knowledge of violence against WGwD, their rights and how to prevent and respond to violence,

and if duty bearers and service providers have increased understanding and capacities to provide safe and adequate response and care to WGwD who are survivors of violence,

then violence against WGwD will be reduced and WGwD will be empowered and have improved access to essential services.

INTERVENTION ALIGNED WITH THE ECOLOGICAL MODEL



PERSONAL LEVEL

awareness and attitude change among WGwD regarding their rights, available services, reporting mechanisms and structures



COMMUNITY LEVEL

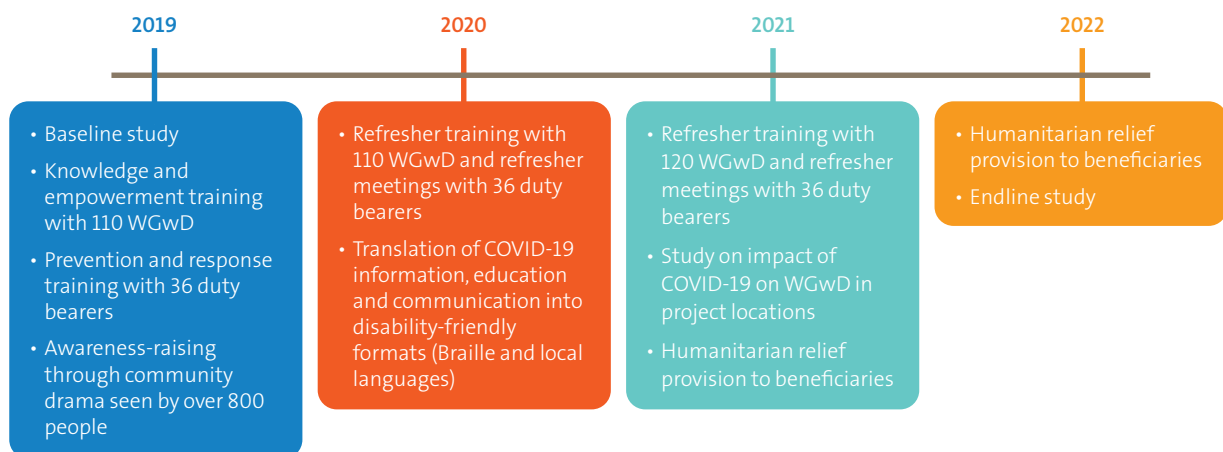
increased understanding of issues concerning social norms and violence, leading to changes in attitudes and behaviour towards WGwD



SOCIETAL LEVEL

multisectoral service providers have enhanced capacity to provide improved access to quality services to WGwD/survivors of violence

Timeline with key milestones



Refresher training for duty bearers in Migori.
Credit: WCC

PROJECT INTERVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Knowledge and empowerment workshops

The understanding of strategies to prevent and respond to violence and knowledge levels among beneficiary WGwD at baseline were found to be extremely low: the majority (73 per cent) of the 44 participating women and girls estimated themselves to be “somewhat knowledgeable”, 12 per cent reported that they had a little knowledge, 12 per cent reported that they had very little or no knowledge and only 3 per cent considered themselves “very knowledgeable” about VAWG. However, the authors of the baseline study concluded (based on the responses to other questions) that the level of knowledge was even lower and that respondents in fact “didn’t know what they didn’t know”. For example, the general terms associated with the topic, such as “gender-based violence”, “violence against women” and “gender norms/equality” were not commonly known, much less understood. Therefore, the starting point for the workshop was to introduce these concepts in simple ways using local languages and examples.

Workshop sessions were organized around topics such as social norms, power structures, types of VAWG, institutional settings and social contexts in the targeted communities. There was a particular

focus on the interplay between disability and gender, which generates specific forms of vulnerabilities. The workshops also dealt with topics such as perpetrators, legal frameworks concerning VAWG in Kenya and duties of service providers. Empowerment training resulted not only in higher awareness among WGwD (for example, 94 per cent of 111 women and girls said that after the workshop they knew exactly what to do in cases of VAWG), but also in initiatives to self-organize advocacy groups increased the reporting of cases of violence against WGwD in communities.

Facilitators also put the issues in the context of other development issues that the participants had heard about, such as health and sanitation, income generation, disability rights and the right to employment. In the course of the workshops, participants clearly demonstrated that they were beginning to better understand the issues, were learning from each other and the facilitators, and were gaining confidence and building solidarity. Once they had a better understanding of violence against WGwD, the women and girls started to talk about their own numerous experiences, their dissatisfaction and the injustice of what was happening in their own communities.

“

Workshop sessions were organized around topics such as social norms, power structures, types of VAWG, institutional settings and social contexts in the targeted communities.

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Refresher training for beneficiaries in Migori.
Credit: WCC

TRAINING CURRICULUM



This was a two-day training course with a combination of presentations, group work, question and answer sessions, and bonding activities. The main sessions were:

- introduction and setting the atmosphere
- social norms and gender norms
- relationships and gendered power structures in society
- procedures in case of violence
- rights of women and girls in relation to violence
- strategies to prevent VAWG
- support for victims/survivors of violence
- disability mainstreaming (community and household)
- holding service providers accountable

Training facilitators were provided with detailed guides.

Prevention and Response training

These training sessions were specifically tailored to duty bearers and formal service providers in targeted communities. This included diverse stakeholders, such as faith leaders, village elders, leaders of disabled people's organizations, representatives of women's groups, health workers, social service providers, teachers, the police, probation workers and members of the judiciary. Training sessions (using the same training curriculum as above) were designed to increase their capacities for

stronger, mutually supportive intervention in cases of violence against WGwD. The sessions increased their knowledge of topics such as the rights of women and girls with disabilities regarding violence, barriers to justice, strategies to prevent violence against WGwD, forms of support to 9 victims of violence among WGwD, and the importance of and methods for coordination with other duty bearers and service providers.



Refresher training for women with disabilities in Kibwezi, Makeni County. Credit: Vera Robi, WCC

Strategies for addressing challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic had a strong impact on project implementation. The project partners organized a survey to monitor the impact of the pandemic on the lives of WGwD in three project locations, and adjusted the project implementation to new circumstances marked by lockdowns and deterioration in the living conditions of WGwD and their families. As revealed by the survey, the pandemic had strong negative effects on WGwD. They were more severely disadvantaged by the pandemic than other groups in the targeted communities. They faced a dramatic loss of income due to lockdown restrictions, with many reporting that they could not afford for their children. The fear and hardship also caused deterioration in their mental well-being, with many respondents reporting extreme stress and anxiety. Respondents reported that VAWG had increased in these circumstances.⁷

There was also an impact on project implementation, and the number of activities was reduced: refresher workshops with WGwD could not be organized in all counties, professionals from institutions for protection were difficult to reach and engage with, and lockdowns and travel restrictions suspended activities involving direct contact with local populations. The implementing organizations managed to adapt to the new circumstances and to continue with adjusted implementation in the third year. The adaptation strategies included the following.

- Training implementing teams to work in new environments by using digital technologies and remote forms of work.
- Expanding the project intervention to include activities appropriate for a crisis context, such as relief delivery to beneficiaries, to help them to maintain their livelihoods, continue to participate in project activities and preserve their newly acquired power to react to violence they or other WGwD experienced.
- Changing the ways in which project activities were implemented, for example changing channels of communication between partners, moving meetings to online formats and providing counselling for WGwD online or by phone rather than face to face. Laptops, mobile phones and internet routers were provided to increase the capacities of implementing partners to continue to work in online and remote modes.

It was striking to note that the very process of bringing marginalized women together to discuss the issue of violence was a strong driver of their empowerment and solidarity. They expressed appreciation that this “hidden issue” had been “brought out into the open” and they felt that they had been given permission to voice their experiences and opinions in a safe setting. The expert facilitators gave validation to their feelings and observations. It was also noticeable that the women took strength from each other, and the more assertive group members provided a lead for others to become more assertive and confident in airing their views and becoming more confident.

Excerpt from the WCC monitoring report

- Adapting direct awareness-raising activities, for example by using online workshops for work with WGwD, and social media and traditional media (mainly radio) in activities targeting broader audiences. Local facilitators were very important for keeping in contact with duty bearers in targeted communities during lockdowns and travel restrictions. They managed to continue the activities in these new circumstances, whether this involved gathering in smaller groups in line with measures restricting gatherings or contacting duty bearers by phone. However, organizing online workshops with WGwD was a particularly difficult challenge, as many communities have poor internet connections and beneficiaries do not always have the required skills or access to the internet and digital equipment. However, despite these difficulties, the programme activities were implemented, with some delays and additional effort.



Guardian receiving food in Kibwezi, Makueni County.
Credit: WCC

REACHING COMMUNITIES WITH AWARENESS-RAISING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Local radio was identified as an effective means in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic of reaching the three project regions with reliable information about preventing and responding to violence. Implementing partners booked broadcast slots for discussion/phone-in programmes about violence against WGwD with Milambo FM in Migori County, Alpha Radio in Baringo County and Musyi FM in Makueni County. The broadcasts used both local languages and Kiswahili. Listenership numbers for these stations show that an estimated 2.4 million people may have been reached through these broadcasts.

Monitoring activities showed that the radio broadcasts were effective in reaching women and girls and prompting communication with local partners, which led to action. In one example, after hearing the radio broadcasts, a woman contacted a partner organization in Migori County about her husband's abuse of a child, which swiftly resulted in his arrest. The girl was brought to hospital for medical care and was then placed in the care of her aunt.

In addition to radio coverage, the project also raised awareness of violence against WGwD through the print media, including articles in the *Daily Nation*, which is the most circulated newspaper in Kenya, selling 170,000 copies daily.

Project results

MONITORING AND EVALUATION



The monitoring and evaluation framework for the project included the following.

- **The monitoring, evaluation and learning systems were designed**, and staff and community partners were trained to perform their roles in line with their responsibilities in that system.
- **A baseline survey** was conducted at the beginning of project implementation in all three communities targeted by the activities. The survey was implemented through focus group discussions with women with disabilities and members of community, and individual interviews with duty bearers. Focus group discussions with women with disabilities included 10 women of different ages and types of disability (physical disabilities, deaf women, blind women, women with albinism and women with intellectual disabilities) in each location. Focus group discussions with members of the communities included 10 adults of different ages and socioeconomic backgrounds in each community, with balanced gender representation. For duty bearers, the interviews were conducted with seven interviewees in each project location: police officers, chiefs, faith leaders, clinical officers (doctors), women's representatives, village elders and members of the judiciary (court case officers).
- **Regular project implementation monitoring every six months** was implemented with the aim of establishing the degree to which the expected results were being achieved.
- **Annual reviews of monitoring data and project progress** were included in refresher training.
- **A survey on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on women with disabilities in Kenya** was undertaken, with the aim of determining the impacts of the pandemic on the lives of women with disabilities in the three project locations and providing evidence for adjustments to the project based on the new situation of women with disabilities.
- **An endline survey** was implemented with the aim of measuring changes induced by the project interventions.

Results achieved

PROJECT GOALS: *WGwD who are engaged in the project are well equipped to prevent and respond to violence against them, and all WGwD in the three project locations of Migori County, Kabarnet and Kibwezi in Kenya experience improved responses from service providers when violence occurs, by August 2021.*

→ As a result of the project, WGwD increased their reporting of VAWG, whether this was violence to which they were directly exposed or violence against other women and girls in their communities, including women without disabilities. A total of 120 women and girls with disabilities participating in the project reported cases of violence to the authorities (the police, village elders or other duty bearers). In 80 per cent of these cases, victims were WGwD; in the remaining 20 per cent of cases, victims were women or girls without disabilities.

→ Duty bearers became more responsive to violence against WGwD. They reported to the endline survey that they had supported 45 WGwD who were victims of violence and had apprehended or contributed to the apprehension (by reporting to the police) of 55 perpetrators of VAWG. At the end of the project, 20 perpetrators were processed through the courts and 11 were sentenced.

OUTCOME 1: WGwD are empowered and organized to prevent and respond to violence against them, to work with service providers and hold them to account, and to access justice in the three project locations, by August 2021

- A total of 120 WGwD with disabilities from three counties were empowered through knowledge and empowerment workshops, and during monitoring workshops they shared the feeling that their knowledge of violence against WGwD and the rights and obligations of duty bearers and service providers had significantly increased.
- In some places (for example, in Kabarnet), women work together when following up on reported cases of violence. Women are also more knowledgeable about their right to request proper protection services; although they noted that the attitudes

of service providers towards them had improved, they pointed to persisting barriers to accessing services. All 11 women interviewed for the purpose of monitoring mentioned police officers as the greatest barrier to justice because of corruption, which is still widespread. In some cases, perpetrators bribe the authorities to avoid arrest or to be released. In other cases, parents or guardians of victims of violence agree to settle the case out of court and, in return, they receive financial compensation. Sometimes, even health workers will ask for money to appear in court and provide professional opinions/forensic evidence on the case.

CASE STUDIES



During the Kibwezi refresher workshop, Julie, who is a visually impaired woman, told the group about a situation that occurred in her village. She became aware that a man was regularly getting drunk, going home and beating his wife. She decided to approach the village elder and inform him of this as a result of the knowledge and awareness she had gained from the project training. Confident that he was following the right course of action, the village elder reported the man to the police. The perpetrator was taken to court and given a three-year sentence. The outcome of the case gives a clear message to the wider community that this type of violence is not tolerated.

Freda is the mother of a seventeen-year-old girl, Ruth, who has severe cerebral palsy. Freda says:

When Ruth was born my husband was not happy. Because she was disabled, he did not accept her, in fact he neglected her. When I tried to talk to him it caused arguments between us, and then he became violent towards me. He used to beat me. I didn't know what to do, but, in the end, I had to leave and take my daughter away so that I could look after her properly. I never knew if I had done the right thing because in this community a woman is supposed to obey her husband. But during the training I came to learn that I actually have rights, I actually felt empowered. I learned that it is not allowed for a man to beat a woman, even if she is his wife. The training taught me that leaving him was allowed and knowing that has actually given me much peace.

(Names have been changed to protect confidentiality.)

OUTCOME 2: WGwD experience improved attitudes, protection and multisectoral responses from local service providers and the community at large in the three project locations, by August 2021

- The capacities of 36 duty bearers and service providers from three counties were increased through basic and refresher prevention and response training.
- Service providers follow up on cases of violence against WGwD with more enthusiasm and more effectively. However, according to monitoring reports, the police need further capacity building. Multisectoral work has improved, and duty bearers reported that they were cooperating more with each other. Health-care providers from Migori County have formed a group that meets regularly to discuss issues faced by people with disabilities.
- The awareness-raising of the wider audience of targeted communities achieved good results with a community drama, which was seen by over 800 people, and, later, during the pandemic, with radio broadcasts in which WGwD participated and shared their experiences, advocating for better protection.
- An animated video “Disability Friendly Services” explaining the importance of services for WGwD and modes of improved access to them was produced in English and Kiswahili.⁸

SCREENCAP OF THE “DISABILITY FRIENDLY SERVICES” YOUTUBE VIDEO



What is it like for a woman or girl with disabilities to use your services?

“

The animated video “Disability Friendly Services” was produced in English and Swahili. The video explains the importance of services for WGwDs and modes of improved access.

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THE CAPACITIES OF

36 DUTY BEARERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

FROM THREE COUNTIES WERE INCREASED THROUGH TRAINING

OUTCOME 3: WCC and implementing partners (KDPO, Baringo County and Migori County) are institutionally strengthened to sustainably respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises, while maintaining or adapting existing interventions to ending VAWG, with a focus on the most vulnerable women and girls.

- The activities implemented under the Spotlight Initiative in response to the COVID-19 pandemic reached 150 families of WGwD, delivering immediate relief, food and hygiene packages. Based on an average family size of six, it is estimated that this intervention had a positive impact on at least 660 people.
- The resilience of WCC and implementing partners to the pandemic was improved by increasing their knowledge of COVID-19 and its potential impacts through virtual forums; providing protective equipment, such as sanitizers and masks, to partner organizations and field coordinators; and providing phone and internet credit to coordinators so that they could reach out to WGwD, provide them with information about the pandemic and support them to continue participating in project activities through online modes of interaction.

SELF-CARE AND CORE FUNDING



Women's rights defenders and feminist activists dedicated to advancing women's rights have been at the forefront of the struggle to end VAWG for decades, often at the expense of their physical and mental well-being and risking their lives. These individuals are at the heart of women-led women's rights organizations and CSOs worldwide, dedicated to promoting gender equality and ending all forms of VAWG. Supporting them is supporting the movements they lead.

In addition, sustainable social change and programmes aimed at ending VAWG require long-term project interventions and sustained financial commitment from donors. However, these organizations struggle to access funding from international donors, and their work has yet to be fully recognized and properly funded by their respective national governments. Supporting them is supporting their existence.

Mindful of its influence in bridging this funding gap, and in recognition of the extraordinary work these CSOs carry out with very few resources, the UN Trust Fund decided to introduce two new budget lines for small grants in its budget requirements in 2019: one budget line for self-care costs⁹ of up to \$2,000, and another for "core" funding¹⁰ of up to 7 per cent of the total amount allocated to direct project activities.

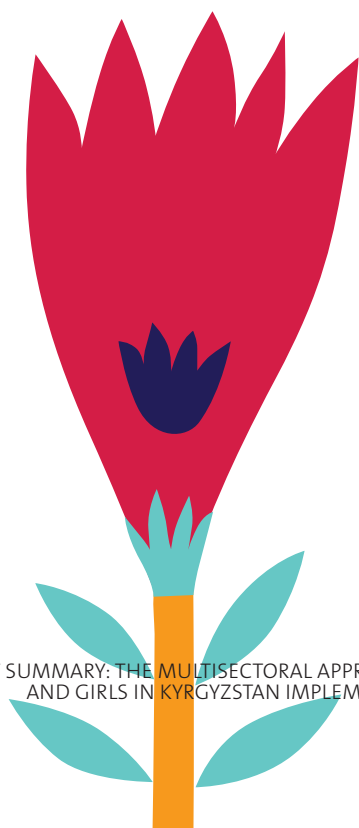
WCC used the self-care funding to provide mobility aid such as motorized wheelchairs to its staff and to organize project review meetings.

**120
WOMEN
AND GIRLS**

WITH DISABILITIES DIRECTLY BENEFITED FROM
THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE INTERVENTION

LESSONS LEARNED

- **The baseline survey was important, as it provided detailed information enabling the choice of the most appropriate strategies for intervention and methods of delivery that could effectively lead to achieving the planned results.** The curriculum of the knowledge and empowerment workshops was significantly changed to include more basic information about gender-based violence, forms of violence, perpetrators and the rights of people with disabilities than had been planned before obtaining the baseline study results.
- **The role of coordinators and paralegals (people with basic legal training) is of particular value for achieving an effective impact on local communities.** Coordinators who are members of local organizations working with people with disabilities are very successful in mobilizing WGwD because of their broader engagement with people with disabilities and also their roles as disability champions who conduct work on key disability matters in local communities (improved rights, accessibility, etc.). Similarly, the role of paralegals is crucial to increasing the awareness of WGwD and other community members of legal provisions related to disability rights and VAWG protection.
- **Overall, very systematic and thorough monitoring and evaluation during implementation enabled a high degree of effectiveness of and good responsiveness to the changing circumstances.**
- **While some accessibility prerequisites were planned in the original project design – such as use of sign-language interpreters, personal assistants for women and girls with intellectual disability – during the project’s implementation, it became clear that other accessibility tools should be used, such as Braille and large print for women and girls with visual impairments.** Planning the use of various accessibility tools is difficult, as the exact number of beneficiaries with different types of disability cannot be known in advance, yet doing so is crucial to allocating adequate funds.
- **The timing of some activities that required the engagement of professionals was not optimal, as they were occupied with administrative duties and had other commitments.** Therefore, in future, more careful planning with government stakeholders is required to help to ensure their effective engagement in project activities.
- **Greater involvement of the media was required, particularly after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The increased use of communication media and their involvement in project activities will be more carefully planned in future activities.**
- **Digital communication channels can also be used in “normal times”.** For example, the virtual forum for WCC staff and project partners, with the guidance of Advantage Africa, showed that it can be cost-effective to use digital technology and remote meetings as a regular mode of work. The telephone survey that was conducted to explore the impact of COVID-19 on WGwD in the three project counties also proved to be cheaper than a face-to-face survey, and telephone surveys could be used more in the future.



WHAT'S NEXT?

- Continuous work with the DPO mobilizers, coordinators and paralegals to ensure further education and sensitization of the population regarding violence against WGwD and their rights to protection in their communities. Some of the training of paralegals will be conducted by WWC partners that specialize in legal matters.
- New funds have been secured and WCC will continue with the knowledge and empowerment training and community drama in Makueni County and Baringo County.
- Information and telephone support will continue to be provided to WGwD.
- There were requests to establish community drama groups in Migori County and Baringo County, so WCC will assist these local partners in doing so, together with the drama group in Makueni County.
- In future, the training courses provided to duty bearers and service providers will be extended to journalists and media practitioners, who will be trained on the issue of violence against WGwD.
- WCC will continue to assist WGwD in different regions to establish their own groups and to be active in preventing and responding to violence against WGwD. According to the project plan, this activity will be expanded to include an additional 17 counties by 2026.
- More information and educational materials will be produced to be distributed in communities to increase awareness of violence against WGwD and their rights to protection.



FURTHER INFORMATION

This brief was co-authored by **Marija Babovic**, an independent external consultant, in collaboration with WCC Director **Ms. Jane Kihungi**, Programme Manager **Ms. Jackline Wangeci**, Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Manager **Rob Aley**.

For more information on WCC: <http://www.wcc.or.ke>

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About the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women:

The United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, managed by UN Women on behalf of the United Nations system, is the only global grant-making mechanism dedicated to eradicating all forms of violence against women and girls. Since its establishment in 1996 by United Nations General Assembly [Resolution 50/166](#), the UN Trust Fund has awarded \$198 million to 609 initiatives in 140 countries and territories. For more information, visit the [UN Trust Fund website](#) or [Learning Hub](#). To give feedback on this product, please contact the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women at untf-evaw@unwomen.org

About the UN Trust Fund small grants modality

Small grants are currently provided to organizations managing annual operational budgets below \$200,000 and eligible for a UN Trust Fund grant of up to \$150,000. This modality was introduced in 2014 to build the capacity of small organizations, with a specific focus on small women's organizations. The proportion of the UN Trust Fund portfolio allocated through small grants at the time of publication was 34 per cent. Small grants include a higher proportion of flexible funding (for core costs) and a dedicated budget for self-care, which sets the modality apart from the general grant allocation. The [UN Trust Fund's Strategic Plan 2021–2025](#) makes a commitment to focusing grant selection on women's rights organizations, women- and girl-led organizations, and organizations with local and community reach. The small grants modality is a key mechanism for achieving this. Organizations receiving small grants are eligible for support in producing a final, external evaluation and/or (from 2021) support to co-create and produce a knowledge product summarizing the results and lessons of the project. The methodology for co-creation includes focus group discussions and interviews with the organizations involved, desk reviews of project documents, baseline and endline surveys and monitoring reports, and co-drafting and co-editing the brief.

ENDNOTES

- 1 More information on the Spotlight Initiative can be found at <https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/#:~:text=The%20Spotlight%20Initiative%20is%20a,violations%20in%20our%20world%20today>.
- 2 International Foundation of Applied Disability Research, KDPO and Advantage Africa (2016), *An Assessment of the Social, Cultural and Institutional Factors that Contribute to the Sexual Abuse of Persons with Disabilities in East Africa*. Available at <https://www.advantageafrica.org/file/advantage-africa-full-research-report-sexual-abuse-of-persons-with-disabilities-pdf>.
- 3 The majority of research respondents stated that, in their community, it is strongly believed that disability is caused by a curse placed on the family, and responsibility is usually placed on the mother's side of the family, placing additional social pressure on women (International Foundation of Applied Disability Research, KDPO and Advantage Africa (2016), *An Assessment of the Social, Cultural and Institutional Factors that Contribute to the Sexual Abuse of Persons with Disabilities in East Africa*. Available at <https://www.advantageafrica.org/file/advantage-africa-full-research-report-sexual-abuse-of-persons-with-disabilities-pdf>).
- 4 For information on the higher prevalence of gender-based violence against WGwD, see, for example, Hughes, K., and others (2012), "Prevalence and risk of violence against adults with disabilities: a systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies", *The Lancet*, vol. 379, pp. 1621–1629; and UNFPA (2019), *Violence against Women Living with Disabilities in South-East and Eastern Europe*. Available at https://eeca.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/vaw_living_with_disabilities_in_se_and_eastern_europe.pdf.
- 5 Ajwang' Aloo, C. (2014), *Study on Gender Based Violence against Women and Girls With Disabilities in Kenya*, WCC. Available at <https://namati.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/WCC-GBV-Study-Report.pdf>.
- 6 International Foundation of Applied Disability Research, KDPO and Advantage Africa (2016), *An Assessment of the Social, Cultural and Institutional Factors that Contribute to the Sexual Abuse of Persons with Disabilities in East Africa*. Available at <https://www.advantageafrica.org/file/advantage-africa-full-research-report-sexual-abuse-of-persons-with-disabilities-pdf>.
- 7 Advantage Africa (2021), *Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on Women with Disabilities – Kenya: Survey Findings Report*. Available at: <https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/i2i-covid19-survey-accessible.pdf>
- 8 The video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kcYW5LnzXQ>.
- 9 Funds to cover self-care costs can be used for a variety of expenses by the organization, for example to respond to issues such as staff burnout and vicarious trauma and to promote overall staff well-being and collective care.
- 10 Core funding (also referred to as 'unrestricted funding') is flexible funding that can be used for general operations. Core funding should contribute to the realization of an organization's mission and vision and should help to support the social change processes that the organization is committed to.



