

SULUHISHO

NEWSLETTER



**Inspiring communities to
act against Gender Based
Violence**

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Changing You, Transforming All!

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Addressing GBV through the community mobilization approach



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Meet Irene Wanjiku and Samuel Mugure; a couple who called it quits after 22 years of marriage. There's was an experience of an ending anguish and contempt that stood in the way of the way of the rights of their children and more so education of their 13 year old daughter. After months of feuding, they agreed to solve their feud out of Court through CREAW mediation services

Addressing GBV through the community mobilization approach

Family institutions serve as basis for communal structures yet the scourge of violence between men and women as a result of inequality cultured by the gendered norms seems to tear down structures that build the communities. In the wake of the scourge, women and girls are mostly affected.

It is a tale that Catherine Wangui knows too well; in the wake of the 2007-08-post election violence her cousin was sexually assaulted and their property destroyed leaving them with no house to shelter.

Seeing her cousin go through the rape ordeal and not having

the capacity to help opened her eyes to the issues of gender based violence (GBV) and its severity. Her resolve was to find solutions to what was ailing the communities living in Laini Saba village in Kibra.

In Kibra the cases of rape and domestic violence seems to be rampant. Communities must be educated to rise above such norms with adverse effects on women and girls. Violence is never a way of life but a catastrophe.

Wangui.

“In Kibra the cases of rape and domestic violence seems to be rampant. Communities must be educated to rise above such crimes with adverse effects on women and girls. Violence is never a way of life but a catastrophe,” says Wangui.

Statistics from the UN Women indicates that an estimated 35 percent of women worldwide have experienced either

physical or sexual violence perpetrated by an intimate partner or known partners at some points in their lives. Such cases not only affect the health and safety of women and girls but also lead to loss of lives.

The 2014 Kenya Demographic Health Survey defines gender based violence as any physical, sexual or psychological violence that occurs within the family or general community.

Today, Wangui is one of the benevolent anti-GBV champions who uses the SASA Model (community centered approach on behavior change) to sensitize and mobilize communities into action in addressing gender based violence from the household level to the communities.

The SASA! approach implemented in four faces; Start, Awareness, Support and Action aims to inspire, enable and structure effective community mobilization to prevent violence against women and HIV/AIDs. It questions the cultural norms surrounding GBV and ultimately works towards preventing gender based violence and its connection to prevalence of HIV/ AIDS.

The program is being implemented by CREAM in partnership with the Embassy of Finland and additional support from the Jewish World Service (AJWS). Much of the work entails working directly with community activists to create awareness, challenge the attitudes, behaviours and cultural practices that negatively impact women and girls around five villages of Kibra. The villages include: Lindi, Laini Saba, Makina Kianda and Gatwekera.

"It is important that GBV issues are addressed at the grassroots level where power is the root cause of negative social norms, attitudes and cultures that negatively affect relations between men and women," explains Aggrey Okan'ga, a community activist from Lindi Village.

Okan'ga notes, "even though the knowledge on GBV exists among people living in Kibra, it is yet to translate into change in attitudes and behaviours of communities. Instead, communities choose to normalize early marriages, domestic violence and child exploitations as common and acceptable practice. The more reason, why we need to sustain the momentum in educating communities to stem such practices."

Like Wangui, Okan'ga also underwent the capacity building trainings that were supported by CREAM. To acquire the tittles community activists come mentors trained annually and armed with tools that help them to engage communities in conversations that seek to change not just their knowledge but also their attitudes, skills and behaviours which are replicated in what they say and in their actions.

The SASA model works with a network of community activists who are well known in the community and the work that they do. They are regarded as community leaders hence act as the key points of referral on GBV cases across the five villages where the program is being implemented.

To influence change, Okan'ga has been engaging community opinion shapers like chiefs, village elders, religious leaders, women leaders and the youth in community discussions to challenge power imbalances in the family units.

"As activist we reach at least 300 community members per village through the forums. The meetings are structured in such a way that we reach the participants either in their formal or informal settings. Our discussions are normally held in the market place, sports grounds, churches, mosques, schools, and other 'spaces where small groups of people meet and engage in 'small talk' on current affairs and things that they are unhappy about," explains Okan'ga

"As result of the engagement with the community the number of refferal form the community has improved. We get calls from families in distress, mothers whose children have been affected by sexual violence or those who have marital concerns regarding custody of children."

**Pauline Aroko
CREAW Case Officer in
Kibra.**



She says the case officers are often called upon to mediate on family feuds and support the warring groups to come to an amicable agreement especially on the care and protection of their children.

"We have also been able to create a good working relationship with the GBV service providers that has efficiently improved the referral system and aided the efficiency in the follow-up of cases and the provision of services to the GBV survivors," Aroko explains.

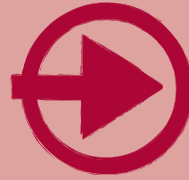


Community forums on Gender Based Violence in Olympic, Kibra

START

The Start phase is about “fostering the Power Within ourselves.”

Power *within* is the strength that arises from within ourselves when we recognize abuses of power and our own power to start a positive process of change. This understanding compels us to demonstrate the benefits of change and facilitate community-wide support for change.



AWARENESS

The Awareness phase is about “understanding men’s use of Power Over women.”

Power *over* is the power that one person or group uses to control another person or group. This control might be used directly in forms of violence, such as physical violence or intimidation. It could also be used indirectly, such as through the social beliefs and practices that position men as superior to women. Using one’s power over another is an injustice. Fostering a balance of power between women and men benefits everyone.



SUPPORT

The Support phase is about “joining Power With others to give support.”

Power *with* is the power felt when two or more people join together to do something that they could not have done alone. Power with includes supporting those in need, those trying to change and those speaking out. It means offering to join power with anyone for positive ends and for creating a sense of support in the community. Power with also includes asking for help and support.



ACTION

The Action phase is about “using our Power To create positive change.”

Power *to* is the belief, energy and actions that individuals and groups use to create change. It is the power felt when individuals are able to enjoy the full spectrum of human rights. Power to is the freedom experienced by women and men when free to achieve their full potential, no longer bound by norms that accept men’s power over women.



SASA! is a Kiswahili word that means now. Now is the time to prevent violence against women and its connection to HIV/AIDS. **SASA!** is also about rethinking power—your power, my power, the power we can have together. We have the power to learn and become aware, to support others, to create change for safer, healthier relationships and communities. We have the power to prevent violence against women and HIV infection.



Preventing Violence Against Women and HIV

Support groups empowering survivors of domestic violence

When Jeria Nyaboke got married in 2013, nothing could have prepared her for what awaited her.

At the age of 21, her hope was a happy ending but this was not to be; months into the marriage, her joy began to dwindle and her smile was soon wearing out as her union began to tumble. The man she took as a provider and protector turned against her.

“Every night he would come home drunk and with no food to put on the table. He would beat me up and leave me for the dead,” recalls Nyaboke.

Over time her self-esteem went down and she became isolated from friends and the neighbours. Her situation became even worse when she got pregnant with her first child.

“I was very sickly and unable to do the menial jobs to support my needs. I would go hungry for days with no one to turn to. I could not bear the pain and the bruises all over my body. In so many days I contemplated suicide thinking that it would ease my struggle,” narrates Nyaboke.

The husband who was a construction worker spent all his pay on liquor and would return home days after his money was finished. “We were unable to pay rent because he would spend all the money in liquor dens. We kept on moving from one house to the other but no landlord wanted us in the place without pay,” Nyaboke explains.

When she gave birth to her son; now two years old, Nyaboke moved out of her matrimonial home and relocated to her rural home. At home she would do laundry for villagers and work in construction sites to support her son.

It was not long before she gathered enough bus fare back to Nairobi. Her hope was to rebuild her marriage but all hopes were again dashed; her husband had married another woman within three months of their separation.

“I was again stranded and with nowhere to go. I felt completely worthless and blamed myself that my life was an eggshell and in complete shamble. I thought he would have changed his way of life but I was wrong,” says Nyaboke with as tears rolled down her face.

Like Nyaboke, many women have had to bear the brunt of drunk and abusive partners who exposes their lives to devastating medical problems and at



times death resulting from the injuries sustained during domestic squabbles.

Her life however changed for the better when she joined a support group for the survivors of domestic violence supported by the Center for Rights, Education and Awareness (CREAW) in five villages of Kibra.

“Coming to a support group and listening to all other women narrates their experiences made me realize I am not alone. Knowing that there are other women who have gone through worse experiences and have managed to cope made me realize that silence is never an option when it comes to domestic violence,” she says.

“My individual sessions with CREAW counselor gives me the courage to confront my emotions and build a life outside” says Nyaboke who still join the other women on support group sessions in Kianda area on a monthly basis.

Today Nyaboke sells vegetables and tomatoes to eke a living. Though separated from the husband she had lived it for two and a half years, her hope is to see her only child grow healthily in a conflict free environment.

Through the SASA! Approach a community mobilization initiative auspiced under the Access to Justice Program, CREAW brings the survivors of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) together in support groups to empower them prevention and response to GBV through an improved family relationship as a result of balanced power relationships in family units.

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“The support groups provides a forum for the survivors to express themselves on SGBV issues. The platform targets women who are the mostly susceptible to GBV,”

Faith Ayieta, Counselling Psychologist

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Couple's Mediation Story

Meet Irene Wanjiku and Samuel Mugure; a couple who called it quit after 22 years of marriage. There's was an experience of an ending anguish and contempt that stood in the way of the rights of their children and more so education of their 13 year old daughter. After months of feuding, they agreed to solve their feud out of Court through CREAMW mediation services

What circumstances led to you to mediation?

Wanjiku: My husband and I separated 3 years ago. We had been married for 22 years and had five children; four of which are adults and are already married. I was left with our 13-years-old daughter who is now in her first year of high school. When my husband moved out in 2015, it was extremely upsetting for all of us and we decided that he would never be part of our life again. We cut all means of communication and engagement with him.

Samuel: When I moved out I was bitter and my emotions ran high. My children were not talking to me anymore. I was pained and did not know what to do. I did not want to cause more conflict so I decided to also cut them off from my life. Over the years, the distance between my family and I grew even bigger, there were more frictions and my children denounced me as their father and would not want anything to do with me.

What actions did you take as parents to end the family feuding?

Wanjiku: When our 13-year-old daughter graduated from primary school in 2017, I had no means to support her through to high school. I reached out to Samuel but he was adamant to engage with me; he

did not pick my calls. As days grew for the Form One admissions, I was worried that our daughter would miss out. I was desperate; there was a need for a truce for the sake of our children. The thought of going to Court criss-crossed my mind but I had no idea where to start from and how much it would cost me. Again time was not on my side. I approached our area chiefs who tried to mediate on our issues three consecutive times but it failed. That is when I heard of CREAMW and decided to approach them.

Samuel: I felt like the Chief was leaning on one side. He was not neutral and did not want to hear my side of the story and so I walked out of the sessions. When I got a demand letter from CREAMW, I also thought I would go through the same experiences. At first I did not heed to the call, but after various calls from CREAMW I agreed to the discussions. Deep down, I wanted peace between my children and I despite our differences as a couple.

What was the mediation process like for you both?

Wanjiku: CREAMW officers were so approachable and warmly. They were willing to support us reach an amicable solution. Initially I had a one-on-one meeting with our mediator and explained our issues but he called for both of us in one sitting. The first one did not bare any fruit and so the mediator reached

out to both of us separately then there was a third meeting that brought us together.

Samuel: Seeing how we had progressed in our conversations, I was confident that we would finally agree on issues. Beyond that, all the further meetings were together allowing for an open talk and exchange of ideas how we could co-share our responsibility to our daughter. There were issues of her upkeep and maintenance but first we had to agree on her education. The mediator supported us in agreeing how to share the responsibility. I wanted a boarding school that I could afford which my wife agreed to. A month later, we both took our daughter to school. It was a joyous moment; my wife also agreed to visit our rural home, which was nearer to the school which she had not done in years.



(Above) George Nyakundi of CREAM interacts with Samuel and Irene after a successful mediation process.



Samuel and Irene after a successful mediation process.

What can other couple learn from your experience?

Wanjiku: It was not an easy process but I am happy we resolved our issues. Though we are separated our key interest now is for the benefit of our younger child. I am at peace knowing that my daughter's needs are well catered for and my family is at peace again.

Samuel: Initially I did not care whether the matter proceeded to court but now that I understand the benefits of a mutual agreement when it comes to our children, I appreciate the need for the out of court resolution. Mediation processes brings a sense of relief and open avenue to dialogue and we incurred no costs. The court processes would however be long and tedious.



Irene and Samuel pose for the Cameras after a successful mediation session at CREAM offices in Kibra



Male engagement in tackling sexual violence against children

It is Thursday afternoon and men in their 20's and 30's from Kianda village in Kibra have gathered in circles at Saint Lukes Othodox Church grounds engaging in chitchats. For a moment you would think the chitchats are political issues but no; they are here to talk about a sensitive matter that is dear to the community. It is an afternoon packed with talks on role of men in preventing and addressing gender based violence at the household and community level.

Claps and cheers ring in the air as they take turns to contribute in the discussions. Key to note is the enthusiasm to gain knowledge and create solutions to rape, defilement and domestic violence issues that have bedevilled the informal settlement of Kibra.

Leading the forum is Samuel Owiwa who is keen to ignite conversations that mirrors the everyday household lifestyle. In Kianda, the settlements are constructed in shack structures, most of which are closely compacted. The dwellers are exposed to hardship, insecurity and hazards from living in squalid and overcrowded conditions.

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“Men must understand their roles to their wives and daughters. We ought to provide and protect them from any harm and the retrogressive gendered norms and practices that inhibits on their growth and wellbeing,”

Owiwa

”

He notes that the cases of rape and defilement have been so rampant in the recent days depicting a society that has been bewildered by moral decay. Kibra is one of the areas mapped out as a key hotspot area for sexual offenses against women and girls.

52% of the cases reported between 2015 - 2017 at CREAM Kibera Offices were on violations against women and girls. They include rape, defilement and domestic violence.

"There are so many brew dens operating in the area till the wee hours of the night. Here you find 12 years olds working as bar maids and prostitutes. They become easy targets of revellers and drunkards who exploits them for sexual favours," notes Brian.

It is a tale that George seems to be conversant with, "I have been to a local bar where the operator always come with a two year old daughter to work. When she is serving customers her attention shifts from the child exposing her to predators," narrates Caleb Ochieng who is also a resident of Kianda village.

To stem such acts, Ochieng advises on the need to educate such parents on the need to pay keen attention to safety and health of their children. He

notes: "Such issues not only affects the wellbeing of children but also the harmony of households."

The forum also sought to create awareness on the existing laws that addresses sexual offenses more so against women and children. Issues such as defilement and rape. Under Kenyan laws, defilement of children 11 years and below attracts a life sentence.

"We need to sustain the momentum in sensitizing the community on sexual offenses against children and other forms of GBV. We are parents and are equally responsible for the wellbeing of each and every child," "We have to reach out to children in school as well and create avenues through which they can report the violations done to them in and around schools,"

Through a community mobilization approach dubbed SASA!, CREAM has been working with community activists to create awareness and mobilize households into action towards addressing the sporadic cases of gender based violence in Kibra. The program aims at challenging the imbalanced power relations between men and women and encourages people to openly talk about GBV and ultimately take preventive actions.



Male engagement forum in Kianda, Kibra



Male engagement forum on sexual offences against children

Mother recount on son's path to justice on sodomy case

"It was on Friday August 28, 2017 when I got back from work and found Dan laying down the floor. He was unusually quite and was not engaging in any talks with any of his siblings. Normally he would run over me with bubbly smiles and continuously talk of how his day at school went. This time, he was sad, depressed and dispirited.

"When I asked the siblings they stated that he probably did not want to shower and that is why he has been frowning. I insisted to know from him why he had not showered like the rest. He hesitated but finally mumbled some words. All I heard was 'mom am in pain.'

"His eyes were red and swollen with tears. He was in shock and gasping in fear. When I told him to sit up he asked; 'Would you beat me if I stood up?'

I asked, why I would beat you for no reason?

Seeing that I was calm, he gained the courage to speak up. "Dan narrated how the neighbor called him to his house and sent him to buy airtime at a shop that was

down the flat. When he came back he again sent him to buy Kangumu (Hard-Cake) before he could allow him into the house.

"In all, Dan did not realize that the neighbor was preying on him. He even inquired if I was back from work. When informed I was not around, he proceeded to actualize his evil plan. He offered him Kangumu to eat. While at it, he grabbed him and forcefully removed his cloths and sodomized him.

He screamed through the ordeal but his mouth was blocked to muffle the screams. None of his siblings in their house could hear his cry.

"After he took Dan's clothes and wiped himself and chased him away warning that if he told anyone he would kill him. Dan hurriedly wore his clothes and left.

"At this point I wanted to scream for the world to hear what a beast my neighbor was. I could not imagine that this would happen to someone so dear to me. I was disgusted and wanted to make the world know the perpetrator but first I had to let justice take its

course. I did not want to scare him away before the law caught up with him.

"My first point of action was to look for the caretaker who was manning the flat where we reside. The caretaker remembered that Dan had bought airtime and Kangumu from his shop. He said the man in question was a friend of the neighbour and was new to the premises.

"The caretaker accompanied me to the neighbours house to confront the perpetrator. They however hesitated to open the door forcing the caretaker to knock off the door and an altercation ensued.

"As the fracas were ongoing I dashed out unnoticed to report the incident to the nearby Kitengela police station. Minutes later I arrived with the police but a huge crowd had already gathered outside making it difficult to access the premises.

"At this point word was all over the streets that my son had been sodomized. The crowd was baying for the blood of the perpetrator. They wanted the police to move with speed and arrest him or let them have their way and lynch him. There were only two policemen and the crowd was overwhelming, more officers were called in and they shot in the air to disperse the crowd after which they made their way to arrest the perpetrator.

"I was relieved but I knew it was not yet over. The next procedure was to take my son to the Nairobi Women Hospital in Kitengela. The results turned out positive for sodomy; his anus had been ruptured and had to undergo a surgery to correct the situation.

"When I got back from the Hospital a neighbour informed me about CREAM and how they provide free legal aid to the survivors of gender based violence. The next day I set out their offices in Kibra.

"Meeting CREAM officers was very helpful, I got the much needed support to push through the ordeal. When the case was coming up in court for the first time in Kajiado, CREAM officers were on standby to offer their support."

"At that point, my son was still traumatized, he stammered through his testimony in court and did not want to speak or get close to any man. All was set for the hearing of the case.

"Through it all, my son could not eat solid food, for a week he survived on milk and was experiencing pain passing stool. The Court process was draining as well; it was difficult to afford bus fare to courts every time but am thankful CREAM supported me all through.

"After a month and a half, justice came knocking. The perpetrator was found guilty of the offense and sentenced to life imprisonment. I was relieved and thankful. I thought cases like mine would take years to come to a close.

"I have since transferred Dan to another school and he continues to undergo psycho-social therapy to help him gain a sense of life and deal with the feelings of guilt and shame from the abuse."

Highlights of the 2017 16 Days of Activism

As the world marked 16 Days of Activism; a day set aside to galvanize actions to end gender based violence (GBV) against women and girls globally, CREAM organized several activities geared towards creating social awareness on the ills of GBV, providing legal aid services and held a national survivors conference with an aim to create awareness on GBV in Kenya.

The 2017 16 Days of Activism was marked under the

theme “Leave No One Behind: End Violence against Women and Girls” aimed at reaching every part of the community and bringing people together to take action to end GBV.



National Survivors Conference

CREAW convened national survivor's conference at Safari Park Hotel. This was an opportunity for survivors to share their experiences of dealing with GBV and to meet other stakeholders in the referral system and pathway.



Legal Aid Services

Cognizant of the fact that most survivors of GBV cannot afford legal aid services, CREAM held legal aid clinics Nairobi County. These were strategically placed in bus stops, markets and public places to attract many beneficiaries. Some of the venues included Undugu grounds Kibra, Kenya National Archives and Uhuru Park .The platforms provided, member of the public an opportunity to receive free advice from legal experts on GBV, child custody and maintenance. Alternative Dispute Resolution methodologies were also provided such as mediation services. Further information as also shared using edutainment- where GBV messages were disseminated through dance, skits and notations. CREAM also incorporated a dance routine whose message was around the various forms of GBV as an education tool.



Media Campaigns

Using Social Media, CREAM, shared videos, photos and posts on Face Book and Twitter to sensitize Kenyans in those spaces on the issue of cyber bullying and online sexual harassment that has been rampant in the recent years. Using the #LeaveNoOneBehind, CREAM

hosted a twitter chat alongside other organizations to spread the messages on social media. Aside from that, CREAM also participated in radio shows themed around GBV.



Fitness Bootcamp

CREAW strives to ensure that we all lead healthy and happy lives. As such, CREAM organized a fitness boot camp and trainings in Nairobi's City Park Grounds. Fitness experts were at hand to provide tips on some of the best ways to keeping fit, eating healthy, different routines and exercises as using music to heal the

soul, body and mind. In addition, women across age groups received strength training as well as defense training that may come handy one of this days when in a difficult physical situation! Kudos to those who joined and made the event memorable!

Fighting Inequality

Centre for Rights Education and Awareness joined other actors to mark the Equality Week which in Kenya which was held under the banner of #UsawaFestival held in Dandora.

The Festival aimed at highlighting issues of inequality that impedes on the growth of young people. These were also highlighted on Social Media messaging around issues of inequality.





Legal Aid

Counselling and legal aid components are filling a critical gap in services at the community. CREAM provides GBV survivors with psycho-social counseling and advice on a wide range of issues ranging from domestic violence, rape and defilement, to family neglect. When requested by the survivor, case managers/counsellors usually provide couples counseling and counseling of the perpetrator(s) in the attempt to resolve problems in the family, and, prevent further abuse creating harmonious living.

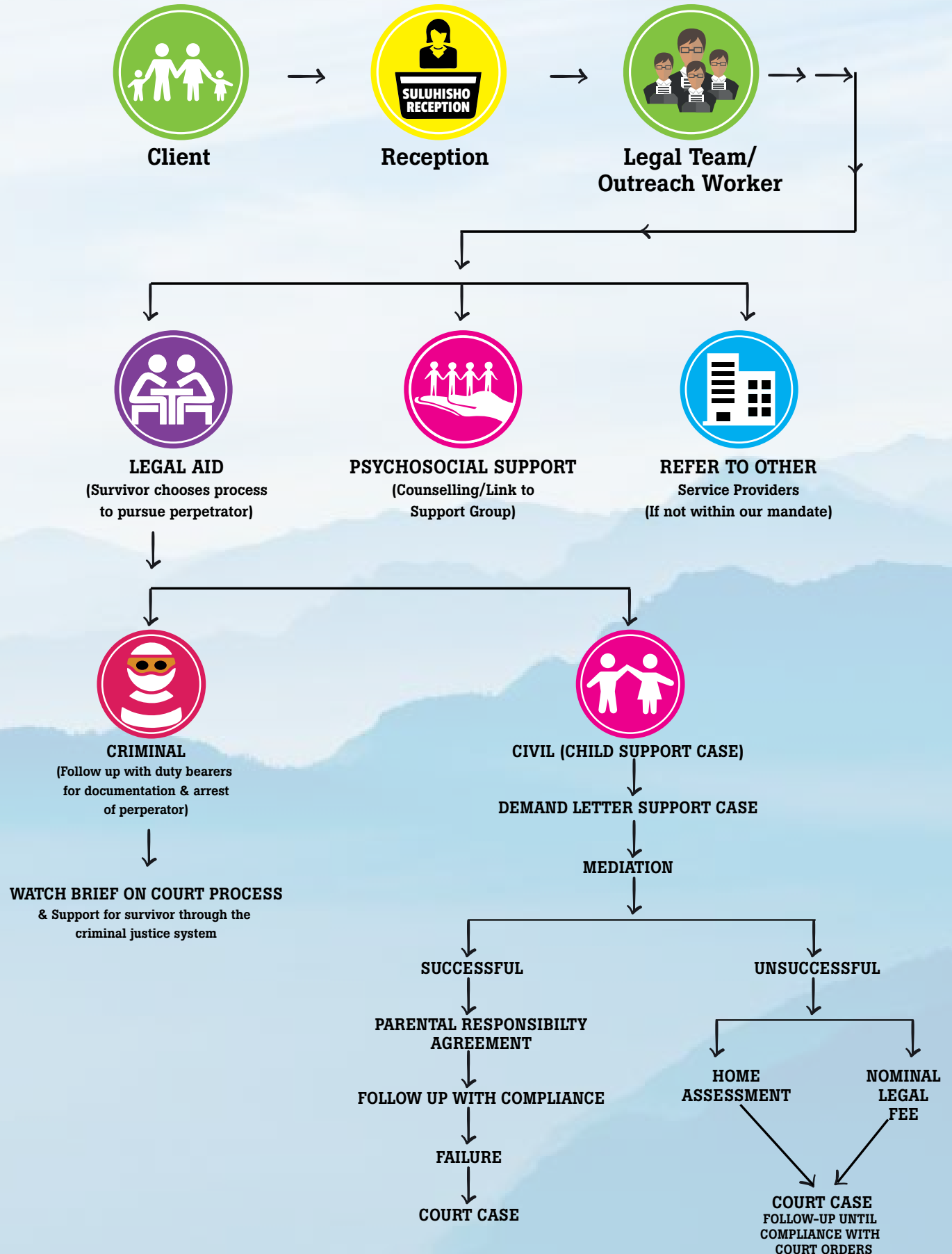
In addition to providing legal advice and referrals, the legal component provide vital legal support activities, such as following up the status of court cases; liaising with the courts and criminal justice system; and providing court preparation and support to survivors testifying in court. In Kibera community, these types of services were not easily available to GBV survivors prior to CREAM.

CREAW has had a positive impact on survivors. Not

only GBV survivors in the region access the service from CREAM but from other regions such as Mathare, Dandora and other parts of Nairobi. Those who have received services from CREAM, their lives have changed and they feel they are no longer victims but empowered survivors.

"I am free, happy and self-sustainable; if it was not of this organization I would be dead. I had gone through a lot in my family, when I heard of CREAM's support from other survivors who were supported by CREAM, I visited them and that step changed my life completely. Since that time I am living well with my family. I will always refer people to CREAM, I have already referred 5 people, since I received the services in the past six months."

CLIENT INTAKE FLOW



"It was important that we had a GBV working group in Kibra to make our efforts in sustaining the war against GBV more authentic and realistic. Working together helps us understand what each partner does and the roles that they play in the whole referral system within Kibra,"

Jesse Ithae – Assistant County Commissioner based in Kibra.

Building synergies to address gender based violence

Gender Based Violence (GBV) remains a major impediment to the empowerment and growth of many women and girls living in the informal settlements.

It is a vice that poses serious health challenges and at times lead to the loss of life. The repercussion to which are not only felt at the household level but by the entire community as well.

The Kenya Demographic Health Survey 2014 shows that 45% of women and 44% of men age 15-49 have experienced physical violence since the age of 15 and 20% and 12% respectively have experienced physical violence within the 12 months prior to the survey.

It is against this backdrop that stakeholders who include state and non-state actors in Kibra established a GBV Working Group aimed at strengthening the referral system for an improved GBV service provision.

“It was important that we had a GBV working group in Kibra to make our efforts in sustaining the war against GBV more authentic and realistic. Working together helps us understand what each partner does and the roles that they play in the whole referral system within Kibra,” said Jesse Ithae, the Assistant County Commissioner based in Kibra.

Ithae who is the chair of the GBV working group said that the network has made it easy for communities and people working from across sectors to access critical stakeholder like the police, local administration structures, medical practitioners and the judiciary who are all incorporated in the working group.

On February 14th the consortium of stakeholders met for a second time to discuss the existing gaps and challenges that impedes on the prevention and response to GBV across the 14 villages of Kibra. The consortium to which CREAM is a member is keen on ensuring that a synergy is created within the network to forge a collaborative approach towards addressing the norms and practices that promotes violence against women and girls.

The group noted that there were no standardized safe shelters or halfway homes for the survivors of GBV within Kibra. This poses a challenge to the safety of survivors and exposes them to repeated abuse and continued psychosocial trauma.

“We get survivors who are older people and many a times they never want to go back to their homes. At times we end up sending them to the wards as we look for shelters to transfer them. It is a challenge putting someone who is not sick in the wards. It is a bit easier getting shelters for children in children homes as opposed to survivors who are over 18 years,”

said Juliet Maina who represented Mbagathi District Hospital in the consortium.

The consortium also observed that GBV cases sometimes take years to be determined in Court making it difficult for the survivors to follow through the court proceedings to conclusion.

“It is critical that we walk with the survivors through the court process to ensure that justice is served. The police and the judiciary need to create strong links to fast-track GBV case,” noted Getrude Kinyua.

Due to the gendered norms and practices, which inculcate the patriarchal system and place men as the head of families and communities, men shy away from reporting the vices or harm done to them by women for fear of being ridiculed. As such, most cases affecting the conservative Muslim communities go unreported.

“Because of stigma, so many issues are not talked about especially issues of GBV and HIV/AIDs. Many cases of GBV are settled out of court at the family level. When it comes to GBV, the pulpit shy away from such matters; they view them as embarrassing cases and would not want them to come out to the limelight.” Explained Fatma Afisi of the Nubian Rights Forum.

To address the issues, the group proposes a strengthened referral network where all systems work together to stem GBV.

“Proper documentation of GBV cases aids in the success of the cases. It also help to generate data for an effective programing around GBV,” said Charles Ogutu who also noted the need to strengthen the capacity of the various stakeholders on the documentation processes which will go in hand to strengthen the cases when they get to court.

The group also proposed a heightened campaign against GBV through print and electronic media including social media networks to improve the knowledge of communities on GBV issues and how to create local led solutions.



Didan speaks on the gaps and challenges that exist within the GBV Referral system in Kibra



Assistant County Commissioner Kibra Jesse Ithae addresses the GBV working group forum in Kibera.

Women petition Inspector General of Police on the KNH rape allegations



In the wake of rape allegations against nursing mothers at the Kenyatta National Referral hospital, women took to the streets to protest the slow manner in the process of investigations.

During the protests the women petitioned the Inspector General of the Police, Joseph Boinet to speed up investigations on the alleged sexual violence against the nursing mothers and bring perpetrators to book.

"KNH is an institution in a position of authority and trust and therefore owes a duty of care to its patients. It therefore follows that the administration should have systems and structures that protects vulnerable patients and responds to any acts or omissions that breach the duty of care," read the petition.

The concerned women of Kenya said that it was insensitive and unethical for the hospital administration to casually deny the claims of sexual assault as no survivor had come forward to report any of such cases.

"It is not enough for the Cabinet Secretary of Health Cleopa Mailu to order for investigations without himself visiting the hospital to ascertain the veracity of the allegations and satisfy himself that all the measures are being taken by the hospital to secure the safety of patients and ensure full cooperation of hospital staff in bringing forward evidence concerning the allegations," said the women.

The women observed that the acts complained about at the Kenyatta National Hospital are of grave criminal offenses and therefore should not be solely left to the hospital administration and the Ministry to deal with.



Gender Based Violence statistics

GBV Response

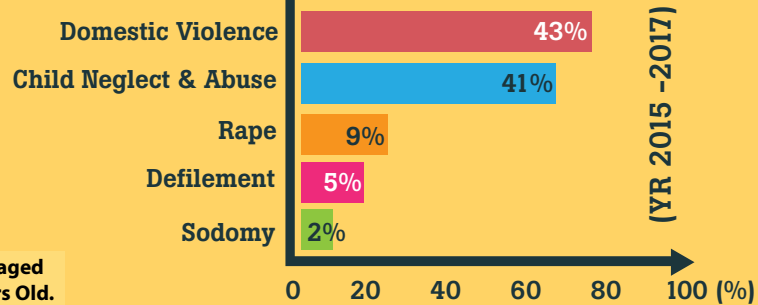
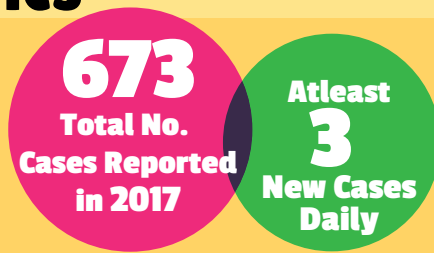
In 2017 52% of the reported cases were survivors of criminal cases, 45% of whom were survivors of Domestic Violence.



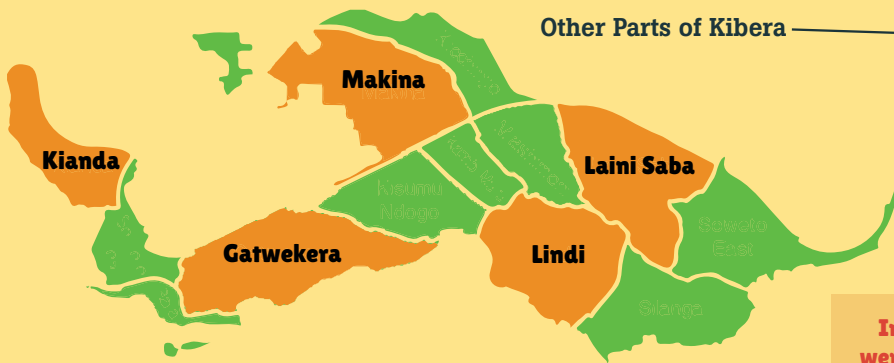
9 in 10

Survivors of Domestic Violence were women and girls.

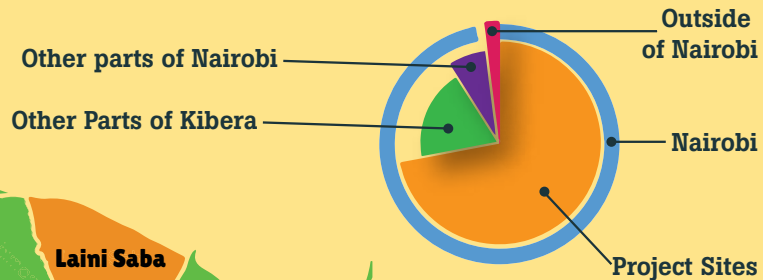
In 2015-2017 57% of Domestic Violence Survivors were aged between 27-49 Years old while 39% were aged 19-26 Years Old.



Case Origins



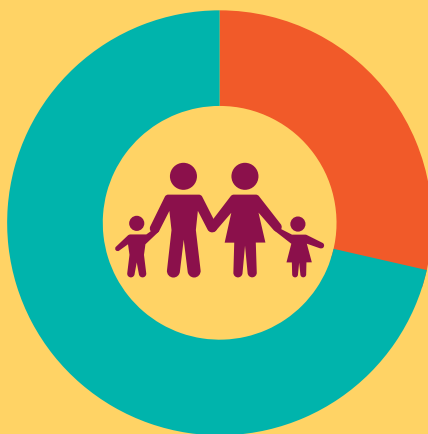
Map of Kibera Community Villages



In 2017, 72% of Cases reported were from the 5 Villages, 19% from other Villages in Kibera, 7% were reported from outside Kibera and 2% Outside Nairobi County.

Legal Aid Services

Mediation Services

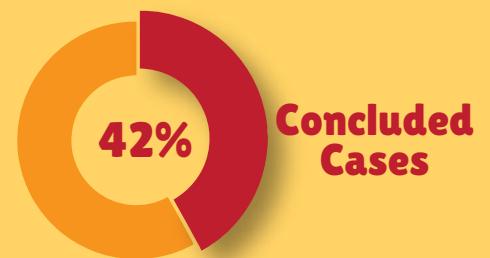


2 in 5
Child Care
Protection



41%
Parental
Agreement

Court Representation 2017



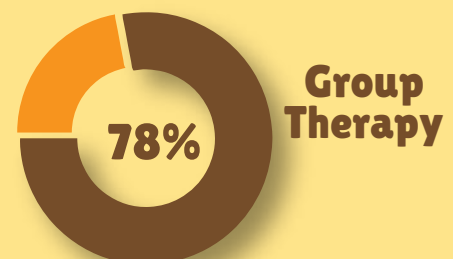
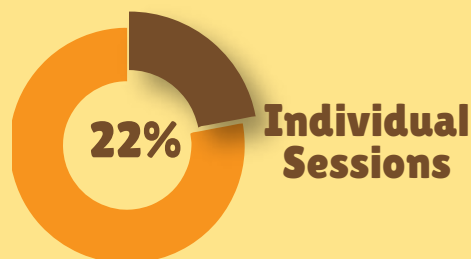
Legal Aid Outreaches

285

Psychosocial Support 2017



People Reached



GBV Prevention

Community Forums



344 Community Forums held in Kibera

Community Forums



10,308 Total No. Participants

To Champion, expand and actualise women rights

Main Office (Nairobi)

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Meru County Office

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Isiolo County Offices

ADS offices along LMD road opposite rural training
institute Isiolo town.

Narok County Offices

Anglican Church, along Prison Rd, Narok County

Social Media



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