



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**REPORT OF  
THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP  
ON  
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) INCLUDING  
FEMICIDE**

*Chairperson*

**Hon. Lady Justice (Rtd.) Dr. Nancy Baraza, PhD**  
Former Deputy Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya

*Presented to:*

**His Excellency Hon. William Samoei Ruto, PhD., C.G.H.**  
President of the Republic of Kenya and  
Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces

November, 2025



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## REPUBLIC OF KENYA

### TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE INCLUDING FEMICIDE

**His Excellency**  
**Hon. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, CGH**  
**President of the Republic of Kenya and**  
**Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces**  
**State House,**  
**NAIROBI**

**Your Excellency,**

### TRANSMITTAL OF THE REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) INCLUDING FEMICIDE

In exercise of the powers conferred upon you by the Constitution and the laws of the Republic as the Head of State and Government, Your Excellency established the Technical Working Group on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Including Femicide, as published in Gazette Notice No. 109 of 10th January, 2025.

The mandate of the Technical Working Group, as set out in the Terms of Reference, included the following: Identifying the trends and causes of GBV and Femicide; Analyzing the adequacy of the current legal and policy frameworks; Evaluating resource allocation, training levels, and operational effectiveness in managing prevention, response, support and investigations related to cases on GBV and Femicide; Examining the role of social media coverage in GBV and Femicide, including its influence on public perception, awareness, and policy-making; Identifying psychological issues related to the commission of crimes associated with GBV and Femicide; and Establishing socioeconomic challenges contributing and exacerbating to the commission of GBV and Femicide. Additionally, Your Excellency, the Group was charged with proposing actionable recommendations to address the issues and preparing and submitting a report to Your Excellency.

Your Excellency, in executing the above mandate, the Technical Working Group conducted background research, held extensive consultations, carried out public and in-camera hearings

across all the Forty -Seven (47) Counties, held sessions with GBV survivors and focused groups, visited various state and non-state institutions that respond to GBV including femicide, received oral and written expert submissions, called for and received written Memoranda. The discharge of our mandate was guided by both national laws and policies, and the applicable international legal instruments.

Your Excellency, we now have the honor to submit the Report. Contained therein are the findings and actionable recommendations that we propose to serve as a roadmap for strengthened prevention and more response mechanisms against GBV, including Femicide, and to inform the development of an integrated national strategy to eliminate the affront to the fundamental rights and freedoms as guaranteed by the Constitution.

We express our most profound gratitude for the trust Your Excellency bestowed upon us in serving the nation of Kenya.

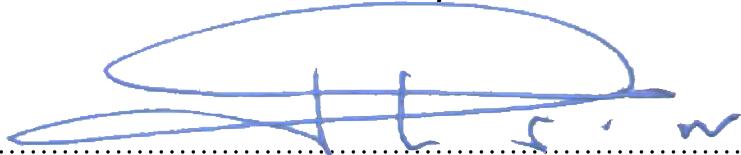
Kindly accept, Sir., the assurances of our highest regard.

Yours sincerely,

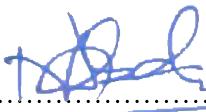


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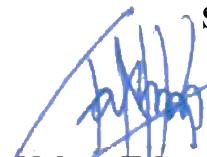
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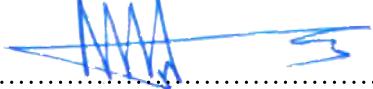
  
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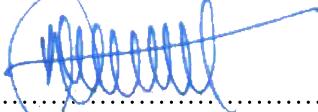
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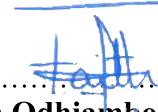
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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our sincere appreciation to His Excellency the President for the commendable leadership and untiring commitment demonstrated in addressing the pressing national concern on GBV, including Femicide. We express our profound gratitude to him for establishing the Technical Working Group and most graciously appointing us to its membership, thereby entrusting us with the execution of this mandate, so consequential for the present generation and for posterity.

We are grateful to Ms Anne Wangombe, CBS- the Principal Secretary for Gender and Affirmative Action, Chairperson of the Principal Secretaries' Oversight Committee, for her very kind guidance, coordination, and support throughout the process. We further extend our utmost gratitude to the Principal Secretaries' Oversight Committee, whose wise counsel and periodic review of our progress informed our focus and enriched our fact-finding and the report.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Dr. Raymond V. Omollo, PhD., CBS, the Principal Secretary for Internal Security and National Administration, whose unwavering logistical support enabled the Technical Working Group (TWG) to function optimally. The dedication and professionalism of the Secretariat were instrumental in fulfilling our mandate.

We acknowledge with deep appreciation the invaluable contributions of the Honourable the Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya, the Hon. Lady Justice Martha Koome, E.G.H., the University Professors, Directorate of Criminal Investigations and the National Forensic Laboratory, DCI Homicide and Femicide Division, members of Parliament, National Government and County Government Officers, GBV survivors, members of the public, civil society organisations, community-based groups, legal practitioners, religious and cultural leaders, healthcare professionals, mental health practitioners, whose perspectives enriched the development of this report.

Special thanks go to the legal, medical, social work, academic, research, and data experts whose technical inputs anchored the recommendations in evidence-based, practical solutions.

Finally, we commend all members of the Technical Working Group, the Secretariat and the Technical Resource Persons for their dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to justice, dignity, and the protection of vulnerable populations. This report reflects the nation's shared resolve to end GBV and femicide in Kenya and to advance a society free from violence and discrimination.



## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

ACHPR	African Charter on Human and People's Rights
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
DCI	Directorate of Criminal Investigations
DHS	Demographic and Health Surveys
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FHOK	Family Health Options Kenya
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GIS	Geographic Information System
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCS	International Classification of Crime for Statistics Purposes
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
KDHS	Kenya Demographic and Health Survey
KHRC	Kenya Human Rights Commission
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KNCHR	Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
NACADA	National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse
NCAJ	National Commission on Administrative Justice
NCPD	National Council for Population & Development
NCRC	National Crime Research Centre
NGBVRC	National Gender Based Violence and Recovery Centre
NGAAF	National Government Affirmative Action Fund
NGAO	National Government Administration Officers
NGEC	National Gender and Equality Commission
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NGSWG	National Gender Sector Working Group
NPS	National Police Service
ODPP	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

PRC	Post Rape Care
PWDs	People with Disabilities
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SOA	Sexual Offences Act
SOPs	Standards Operating Procedures
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research
TFGBV	Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence
TWG	Technical Working Group
UDHR	Universal Declaration on Human Rights
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund Activities
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organisation

## OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

<b>Defilement:</b>	Sexual intercourse with a child under 18 years, regardless of whether they appeared to consent. Consent is legally invalid due to the victim's age.
<b>Emotional Violence:</b>	Behaviour that intentionally undermines a person's self-esteem, emotional well-being, or sense of worth through verbal abuse, humiliation and neglect.
<b>Psychological Violence:</b>	Use of threats, intimidation, isolation, or manipulation to control a person's thoughts, behaviour, or sense of reality, often resulting in mental distress.
<b>Rape:</b>	Sexual intercourse with a person without their consent, or where consent is obtained through force, intimidation, false pretence, or incapacity
<b>Survivor:</b>	A person who has overcome the trauma of violence through the complete cycle of psychosocial support.
<b>Victim:</b>	A person who has recently experienced GBV or is currently experiencing the abuse. It's often used in legal settings.
<b>Femicide:</b>	Femicide refers to the killing of women and girls by men because of their gender.
<b>Gender Based Violence (GBV):</b>	GBV encompasses harmful acts committed against someone's will because of socially constructed differences between genders. Also, it refers to violence directed against a person because of his or her gender and expectations of his or her role in a society or culture.
<b>Policare:</b>	A multisectoral approach by the National Police Service for prevention and response to SGBV. Police + cares = POLICARE.
<b>Referral Pathway:</b>	This is a mechanism that safely link survivors to important services such as health, psychosocial support, safety, legal aid among others.
<b>Nyumba Kumi:</b>	A strategy of anchoring community policing at the household level. The household could comprise a residential court, an estate, and block of houses, a Manyatta, a street, a gated community, a village or a Bulla.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the last few months, public attention has been drawn to a notable escalation of cases of gender-based violence (GBV), including femicide. The incidents occur despite a progressive constitutional and legal framework that provides for gender equality and parity of treatment. The country continues to grapple with weak implementation, low accountability, and entrenched patriarchal norms. Survivors encounter systemic and social barriers in accessing justice, protection, and recovery services. Femicide remains unrecognised as a stand-alone offence under the law, and most cases are either underreported, mishandled, or settled informally at the family or community level, undermining justice and reinforcing impunity. The increasing number of incidents led to a public outcry, prompting His Excellency the President, in due execution of the role of the State to protect the sanctity of life of every person within the Republic, to implement measures, including establishing the Technical Working Group on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) including Femicide.

The Technical Working Group was mandated to provide a national platform for collective analysis, policy review, and strategic recommendations. In executing this mandate, the Group adopted a participatory approach, engaging stakeholders across all 47 counties through town halls, X (formerly Twitter) Spaces, university dialogues and written submissions. It reviewed both local and applicable international frameworks, including the Constitution, the Penal Code, the Sexual Offences Act, and international human rights instruments.

On concluding the exercise, the Group identified the following key issues and gaps:

### **1. Legal Invisibility of Femicide and Neglected Forms of GBV**

Kenya lacks a clear legal definition or stand-alone offence of femicide, leading to inconsistent case handling and the inability to collect meaningful data for prevention, response and accountability. And while gender-based physical violence and sexual violence receive public and policy attention, other pervasive forms of gender-based violence such as economic, psychological, and online abuse are often unidentified or at times overlooked. Vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, men, and boys, face compounded invisibility in GBV discourse and response mechanisms.

### **2. Inaccessible, Fragmented and Culturally Disconnected Support Systems**

Survivors encounter slow, retraumatising justice processes and unco-ordinated, trauma-insensitive services particularly at the community level, where frontline responders such as law enforcement and health workers often lack appropriate training. Harmful cultural practices including early childhood marriage, widow cleansing, and beading continue unabated, often rationalised as cultural rites despite years of awareness campaigns. Technology is also being misused to entrench practices like the medicalisation of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Additionally, emerging forms of GBV are inadequately

addressed in existing legal and policy frameworks, and where provisions exist, implementation and enforcement remain weak.

### **3. Family and Community-Level Obstruction of Justice**

Families and community actors, who should play a critical role in protecting survivors, often obstruct justice by informally resolving GBV including femicide cases through clan elders or traditional systems. These processes frequently involve coercion, victim-blaming, and the silencing of survivors especially where bride price, family honour, or kinship ties are involved. This undermines formal legal processes and perpetuates impunity.

### **4. Harmful Use of Social Media and Lack of Digital Accountability**

While social media has been a powerful tool for awareness-raising, it has also become a space for victim-blaming and shaming, misinformation, and the circulation of graphic content that retraumatises survivors and families. The absence of digital ethics guidelines and low digital literacy have normalized online gender-based violence and contributed to a culture of desensitization and impunity.

### **5. Ineffective Community Dispute Resolution Mechanisms**

Informal justice systems such as *Nyumba Kumi* and chiefs' *barazas* are frequently the first point of contact in GBV cases but are not legally empowered or adequately trained to handle criminal offences such as femicide. In many instances, these forums prioritise reconciliation or compensation over justice, allowing perpetrators to evade accountability and perpetuating cycles of violence.

### **6. Poor Data Collection and Knowledge Management**

There is no centralised, disaggregated, or publicly accessible national data system on GBV and femicide. The lack of real-time, reliable, and gender-sensitive data undermines efforts to detect patterns, respond to emerging threats, evaluate interventions, and develop evidence-based policy solutions.

### **7. Chronic Underfunding and Fragmented Coordination**

GBV prevention and response efforts suffer from severe underfunding and poor coordination, both at the national and county levels. Critical services are often donor-dependent, leaving them vulnerable to geopolitical shifts. County governments typically lack dedicated budgets, trained personnel, and referral infrastructure to sustain localised and timely interventions.

These are some of the recommendations made by the TWG:

#### **1. High Level Interventions**

- (i) **Mandatory installation of security surveillance** including Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) in all short stay rentals, lodgings and commercial accommodation facilities to enhance security and prevent GBV incidents.
- (ii) Enact legislation on **citizen responsibility** to mandate public reporting of GBV incidents and impose penalties for non-reporting.

- (iii) Amend the Penal Code to **define and codify femicide as a distinct offence** from murder. The amendment should not only define femicide but also provide for the clear elements of femicide.
- (iv) His Excellency the President to declare Gender-Based Violence (GBV) including Femicide as a **national crisis** to be given high level attention and priority, emergency resources allocation and public attention.
- (v) The Head of State and Government to lead the launch of a **national awareness and mobilization campaign** on GBV and femicide to challenge harmful norms and encourage public reporting.
- (vi) Establish and operationalize a **GBV Fund** comprising the Government, Development Partners, Private sector, and Philanthropists.
- (vii) Establish a **multi-sectoral co-ordination framework** for the implementation of the recommendations anchored on the Presidency.

## 2. Legal and Policy Reform

- (a) Amend the Penal Code to define and codify femicide as a distinct offence from murder. The amendment should not only define femicide but also provide for the clear elements of femicide.
- (b) Ratify key international treaties, including the AU Protocol on Ending Violence Against Women, and ILO Conventions 189 and 190.
- (c) Amend the Sexual Offences Act, 2006 to include a provision that denies victims of gender-based violence the right to withdraw their cases once prosecution has ensued.
- (d) Amend the Sexual Offences Act, 2006 to provide for a timeline for the hearing and determination of any gender- based violence, including femicide. A timeline of six (6) months is proposed; this will mitigate witness fatigue, backlog of gender-based violence and related cases, and further ensure that justice is done.
- (e) Amend the Sexual Offences Act, 2006 to include chemical castration for both male and female child sex offenders.
- (f) Amend the Political Parties Act and the Elections Act to address gender-based violence in political processes and the electioneering period.
- (g) Amend the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act to completely criminalise medicalisation of FGM.
- (h) Criminalise interference in GBV cases, including family- or clan-led settlements and the coercion of survivors to withdraw complaints.
- (i) Amend Prevention Against Domestic Violence Act, 2015 (PADV) to provide co-ordination framework for GBV including femicide.

### **3. Family and Community Accountability**

- (a) Launch nationwide public education campaigns focused on transforming harmful gender norms, with special attention to family-level awareness and parental responsibilities.
- (b) Develop programs to build survivor-sensitive support systems within families, including trauma counselling, training in legal rights and responsibilities and creating awareness on referral pathways and reporting obligations.
- (c) Penalise families or community actors who obstruct justice by engaging in extrajudicial settlements or concealing crimes.
- (d) Introduce positive parenting and non-violent conflict resolution modules in school curricula and community outreach efforts.

### **4. Strengthen Dispute Resolution Systems**

- (a) Professionalise community-based structures (e.g. *Nyumba Kumi*, village elders, chiefs) through mandatory training on prevention and response that is survivor-centred.
- (b) Develop and Mandate Standardised Training Curricula: Implement a national curriculum on GBV response and prevention for all relevant sectors, health, police, judiciary, education, and social services, with refresher courses and continuous professional development. These should be both at the entry level and in-service courses.
- (c) Establish clear referral protocols to police, health, and judicial services.
- (d) Legislate mandatory handling of criminal GBV or femicide cases by the Judiciary.
- (e) Embed paralegals and legal aid providers in informal justice settings to prevent case diversion and monitor community-level processes.

### **5. Social Media Governance and Public Discourse**

- (a) Work with social media platforms to:
  - (i) Enforce survivor-sensitive content guidelines.
  - (ii) Promote accurate and ethical storytelling through verified accounts.
  - (iii) Remove harmful content and misinformation.
- (b) Establish a GBV Digital Ethics Code to guide responsible journalism and online commentary.
- (c) Use social media as a proactive tool by:
  - (i) Partnering with youth-led and survivor-led organizations for education campaigns.
  - (ii) Building real-time reporting and alert systems linked to toll-free hotlines and One-Stop GBV Centres.
- (d) Training journalists, influencers, and bloggers in trauma-informed and ethical reporting.

### **6. Data and Knowledge Management**

- (a) Develop a Gender Based Violence Management Information Systems.

- (b) Commission a National Survey on Gender Based Violence, including femicide.
- (c) Establish a National GBV and Femicide Observatory.
- (d) Maintain a Femicide Dashboard to monitor trends, enable early warnings, and guide prevention efforts.
- (e) Standardise reporting requirements for all health facilities, police stations, and courts.
- (f) Implement data privacy and protection protocols to ensure ethical and secure handling of survivor information.

## **7. Survivor-Centred Support and Reintegration**

- (a) Operationalise One-Stop GBV Recovery Centres in all counties, offering integrated legal, medical, psychosocial, and shelter services.
- (b) Expand mental health and trauma recovery programs, including for children and families of femicide victims.
- (c) Introduce economic empowerment programs and emergency safety nets to support survivors in breaking dependency cycles and rebuilding livelihoods.

## **8. Resourcing and Financing**

- (a) Create a National GBV and Femicide Response Fund, drawing contributions from government, development partners, the private sector, and philanthropists.
- (b) Operationalize the Victim Protection Act, 2014 to allow for a proportion of fines from criminal convictions to be appropriated to a Victim Protection Fund to finance long-term survivor services and rehabilitation.
- (c) Institutionalise gender-responsive budgeting at national and county levels, with mandatory and transparent GBV budget lines.
- (d) Incentivise partnerships with media houses, telecoms, and tech companies to support public interest messaging, hotline services, and reporting tools.

The normalisation of gender-based violence, including femicide, is a direct threat to constitutional rights, community cohesion, and national development. Addressing this crisis demands more than reforms on paper. It requires transformative action across sectors, anchored in law, financed with intent, data-driven, family-conscious, digitally responsible, and rooted in dignity for survivors. For a full set of proposed interventions, please refer to each chapter, which provides additional detailed findings and recommendations.

## OVERVIEW OF THE REPORT

**Chapter One** of the report elucidates the background and rationale for action by contextualising the rising cases of GBV, including femicide, as a grave national crisis with far-reaching social, legal, and developmental implications and by explaining the establishment of the Technical Working Group (TWG) as a decisive, coordinated, evidence-based, and survivor-centred government response.

**Chapter Two** of the report acknowledges that GBV, including femicide, is a deeply rooted and persistent challenge across societies. It discusses the global and regional context of this vice; it explains that according to WHO one in three women has experienced violence, mostly emanating from their intimate partners. In Kenya, the 2022 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey reveals that 34% of women, relative to 27% of men, have experienced physical violence since age 15 in Kenya. Notably, the chapter appreciates that women aged 30–44 years are the most affected. Uniquely, it highlights that the counties with the highest prevalence of GBV, including femicide include Nairobi, Meru, and Nakuru. The chapter also sounds an alarm on the rising cases of technology-facilitated GBV (TFGBV), including cyberstalking, online harassment, non-consensual distribution of intimate images, digital surveillance, the creation and spread of gendered deepfakes, and hate speech targeting women and girls.

**Chapter Three** examines the family as both a cornerstone of society and a primary site of GBV and femicide. It explains how the home has become a site of hidden violence, with practices such as child marriage and FGM, the normalisation of informal dispute settlement, family obstruction of justice, and economic disinheritance exacerbating women's and children's vulnerability. The chapter recommends legal reform, prohibition of out-of-court settlements, economic empowerment, positive parenting programs, male engagement, and community and faith-based interventions to re-centre the family as a place of protection.

**Chapter Four** explores the legal, policy, and institutional frameworks concerning GBV, including femicide. It maps international and regional instruments establishing state obligations towards the elimination of GBV, including femicide. They include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), 1948, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 1979, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), 1989, United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW), 1993 and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) amongst many others. At the regional level, the chapter appreciates the place of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, which addresses women's rights and gender-based violence. Importantly, the chapter recommends the ratification of ILO Convention No. 189 on decent work for domestic workers and ILO Convention No. 190 on

eliminating violence and harassment in the workplace. The chapter also calls for the ratification of the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU-CEVAWG 2025), which recognizes femicide as a distinct crime. The chapter also recommends the amendment of multiple legislation, including the Sexual Offences Act, the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act, the Political Parties Act, the Elections Act, and the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) in order to provide better safeguards against GBV, including femicide.

**Chapter Five** focuses on the prevention of GBV, including femicide. It acknowledges that this vice results in an annual loss of KSh. 46 billion to the nation's economy. It highlights the role of the different duty bearers in addressing this vice, *inter alia*, the State Department for Gender Affairs, Anti-FGM Board, NGEC, NPS, Judiciary, County Governments, CSOs and development partners. The chapter advocates for sustained nationwide awareness, curriculum integration of gender/sex education, abolition of ADR in GBV cases, stricter bail/bond terms, reclassification of femicide as a national crisis, and county-level scaling of promising initiatives.

**Chapter Six** addresses response and support services relating to GBV, including femicide. It stresses that this vice requires robust, coordinated response and support mechanisms to protect victims and survivors, ensure justice, and rehabilitate affected communities. It adds that the complex nature of GBV and femicide necessitates a multi-sectoral approach, varying across regions and shaped by legal frameworks, social and cultural norms, and resource availability. It recommends, *inter alia*, the need to improve access to mental health services; mainstream disability inclusion in GBV interventions; address male victims of GBV; tackle technology-facilitated GBV; support socio-economic empowerment for at-risk groups; reduce the cost of P3 forms; establish a gender budget for sensitization, and institute alternative rites of passage.

**Chapter Seven** underscores the central place data and knowledge management hold in addressing GBV, including femicide. The Chapter acknowledges that though Kenya has many organizations with data systems, the data is disjointed, siloed, and therefore lacks a coordinating body (system). The organizations include the Ministry of Health, the National Police Service, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), and the Judiciary. The chapter acknowledges that data and knowledge management face multiple challenges, including, *inter alia*, the lack of a comprehensive national database and underreporting. To cure this, it calls for the establishment of, *inter alia*, a Gender Based Violence Management Information System and a National government GBV helpline

**Chapter Eight** analyses social media framing of GBV and femicide. It recognizes digital spaces as both sites of harm through, *inter alia*, victim-blaming and misinformation. It also appreciates social media as a powerful mobilisation tool through, i.e. the #MyDressMyChoice, #StopFemicideKE online campaigns. The chapter recommends, *inter alia*, digital protections,

fact-checking, improved digital literacy, and regulatory measures to harness online advocacy and to protect survivors.

**Chapter Nine** addresses resource allocation, training levels and operational effectiveness, documenting chronic underfunding, donor dependence, uneven county budgeting, fragmented and urban-centred training that lacks trauma-informed approaches, and weak multi-sector coordination; drawing from national and international best practice, it calls for sustainable financing (including a GBV Fund), standardized nationwide training, binding inter-agency coordination mechanisms and strengthened operational capacity to deliver a survivor-centred, accountable system.

**Chapter Ten** provides for a conclusion and summary of recommendations as collated from preceding chapters, while **Chapter Eleven** is the Table showing casing **Implementation Matrix** of the recommendations classified into legal, regulatory and administrative actions. The Matrix further assigns each activity/recommendation to a duty bearer with proposed timelines. This will serve as a guide to the various State Actors obligated to give effect to this report in so far as identifying priority areas and partner agencies to implement the recommendations.

# CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 BACKGROUND

The rising cases of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in the country, with increased killings of women and girls, invoked nationwide outcry for action to end the menace. In addressing these concerns, the Head of State and Government established the Technical Working Group on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Including Femicide, *vide* Kenya Gazette Notice Number 109 of 10th January, 2025. The cases, many of which occurred at the level of the family, which is the basic unit of society and the necessary basis of social order as noted under Article 45 of the Constitution, grossly undermined the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution: Article 26 (Right to Life); Article 27 (Equality and Freedom from Discrimination); Article 28 (Human Dignity); Article 29 (Freedom and Security of the Person;) and Article 48 (Access to Justice). While the legal protections are set out in law, their impact is yet to be fully reflected in practice.

Accordingly, the Technical Working Group was mandated to assess, review, and recommend actionable measures to strengthen the policy, legal and institutional response to GBV, including femicide in the country. The recommendations relate to the prevention, investigation, and prosecution mechanisms, and the provision of survivor support in GBV and femicide cases. The Technical Working Group was appointed for a term of Ninety (90) days. However, the term was extended *vide* Gazette Notice No 5047 of 25th April, 2025 and Gazette Notice No 7729 of 13th June, 2025, to enable the Group to comprehensively execute the mandate.

## 1.2 Conceptualizing GBV including femicide

The phrase ‘Gender-Based Violence (GBV) including femicide’ is widely used but lacks a uniform definition across legal, social-cultural, academic, and policy domains. Three key interpretations of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) come out. First, is its construction as men’s violence against women and girls, rooted in structural gender inequality (Graaff, 2021). Second, is the use of violence by men to police gender norms, affecting women, some men, and children, particularly through homophobia and sexual abuse (Connell, 2005). Third, is its conceptualisation as any violence against any individual based on socially assigned gender roles, affecting all genders (UNHCR, 2003).

Femicide, though increasingly recognised, also receives inconsistent definitions across jurisdictions and cultures and is sometimes limited to intimate partner killings, and at other times expanded to include culturally motivated or misogynistic murders (Walby, 2023). Its depoliticization in media and legal systems obscures its roots in systemic gender inequality.

A clear and contextually grounded understanding of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including femicide is essential for the design and implementation of effective prevention and response

strategies (Swemmer, 2021). While definitions may vary across legal, cultural, and policy contexts, widely accepted formulations exist to guide discourse and action.

For purposes of this report, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is taken as any act of violence that results in physical, sexual, economic, or psychological harm or suffering to women, girls, men, and boys, as well as threats of such acts, coercion, or the arbitrary deprivation of liberty. Femicide is defined as the intentional killing of women or girls because of their gender. It is a gender-based crime, often involving extreme violence, and includes cases such as intimate partner killings, honour killings, dowry-related killings, and targeted murders linked to gender discrimination or misogyny. Femicide is, therefore, a distinct form of homicide requiring specific attention in prevention and response measures.

Globally, GBV has been acknowledged worldwide as a violation of basic human rights. Research reveals that it has health burdens, intergenerational effects, and demographic consequences (United Nations 2006). In Kenya, it is a deeply entrenched issue, cutting across age, class, region, and cultures. It manifests in various forms, physical, sexual, emotional, economic, and structural and continues to escalate, with alarming spikes in reported femicide cases. The impacts are far-reaching, from individual trauma and loss of life to broken families, economic burdens, and erosion of national development gains. Despite a relatively progressive legal and policy environment, implementation remains weak, and justice for survivors is often delayed or denied. Programmatic efforts by both state and non-state actors have gained momentum, including the formation of awareness campaigns, and the establishment of rescue centres. Yet, challenges persist due to fragmented systems, cultural resistance, and limited resources. This Chapter provides the introduction, including the background, global and national trends in GBV and femicide, sector performance, the methodology used, and an overview of the report structure.

### **1.3 Global, Regional, and National Prevention and Response to GBV, Including Femicide.**

GBV, including femicide, poses serious risks to basic human rights, including the rights to life, health, bodily integrity, and autonomy which cuts across culture, class, race, gender, and geographical boundaries. It is imperative to bring out the state of GBV from a global, regional and national perspective to appreciate the crises and efforts made to address it from the highest to the most local level. This section discusses the prevention and responses to GBV including femicide from a global, African, and Kenyan context.

#### **1.3.1 Global Context**

Efforts to address, prevent and respond to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including femicide, are anchored in a robust body of international, regional and domestic instruments. At the global level, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (UN Women, 1979) and its General Recommendations 19 and 35, the 1993 UN

Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, (Assembly, 2025) and the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action (Declaration, 1995) mandate state action on GBV prevention, protection, prosecution, and survivor support (UN CEDAW, 1992; UNGA, 1993; UN Women, 1995).

Gender equality forums such as the Beijing Platform for Action and subsequent national and international review processes also provided a platform for dialogue, accountability, and advocacy on women's rights and gender-based violence (GBV). Through Kenya's participation in these forums, critical gaps in GBV prevention and response were identified, leading to the enactment of several pieces of legislation which, alongside Kenya's commitments under regional and international instruments, obligated the government to address and respond to GBV and related offences.

The Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 5.2, call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls in both public and private spheres (Fund, 2015). Monitoring mechanisms such as the CEDAW Committee, Universal Periodic Review (UPR), and Special Rapporteurs enhance state accountability in upholding human rights as well as addressing violence against women. The UN Women's Global Database and Femicide Watch support data-driven action and transparency for state and non-state actors addressing GBV (UN Women, 2022).

### **1.3.2 Regional Context**

At the regional level, Forty- Four (44) African States including Kenya, ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) 2003. The Maputo Protocol is a comprehensive framework for women rights and expressly provides for protection against all forms of GBV (AUC 2023). Further the African Union 10-Year Action Plan on GBV (2021–2030) and tools such as the African Gender Scorecard have strengthened preventive and responsive capacities. Nonetheless, implementation remains uneven, with limited investment in prevention programming, underdeveloped data systems, and weak enforcement of protective laws (Equality Now, 2023). Under Article 2(5), 2(6) and 21(3) of the Constitution, once ratified, these international and regional instruments effectively become law and place an obligation upon the state to enforce them.

It is important to note that Kenya ratified the Maputo Protocol with reservations to Article 14(2)(c), which provides for access to safe abortion in cases of sexual assault, rape, incest, or when the pregnancy endangers the health or life of the woman or foetus citing incompatibility with its domestic laws at the time. While the Constitution allows abortion under limited circumstances, access remains restrictive, and the reservation continues to limit full implementation of women's reproductive rights envisaged in the Protocol.

A key milestone for Africa is the adoption of the African Union Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls (AU-CEVAWG) by the member states in its 38th Ordinary Session in February 2025 (Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.865(XXXV)). Even though, not in force by virtue of the lack of requisite signatures of member states, is worthy of ratification by all, Kenya included. This convention is critical as it calls for unified and urgent response from all African Union member states to address the systemic inequalities that sustain violence against women and girls in public and private spheres. It takes cognizance that GBV including femicide requires a coordinated response, with a focus on providing integrated services for victims and survivors.

### **1.3.3 National Framework for addressing GBV including Femicide**

At the national level, a comprehensive response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including Femicide, requires coordinated interventions across all arms of government, relevant independent institutions, non-state actors as well as the citizens. These efforts encompass legislative frameworks, judicial mechanisms, executive action, and oversight by constitutional commissions. However, persistent gaps undermine the effectiveness of these responses.

#### **(a) Legislative Response**

Kenya has enacted several laws to address GBV, including the Sexual Offences Act (Cap. 63A), which criminalizes various forms of sexual violence and sets out penalties and protective measures. The Protection Against Domestic Violence Act (Cap. 151), which provides for protective orders and redress for survivors of domestic violence. Provisions under the Penal Code (Cap. 63), Children Act (Cap. 141), Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act (Cap. 62B), and Employment Act (Cap. 226), which address aspects of abuse and discrimination. The Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act (Cap. 79C) has legislated against several forms of technology-facilitated GBV. These efforts by the State demonstrate a clear intention to address GBV including femicide. Despite these efforts, there are notable gaps in harmonisation, implementation, and enforcement of existing laws. Furthermore, there is a lack of a comprehensive legal definition and recognition of femicide as a distinct offence.

#### **(b) Judicial Response**

Judiciary has progressively addressed GBV including Femicide with decided cases that have contributed to development of jurisprudence especially in respect to sexual violence and domestic abuse by embodying progressive interpretation of rights. It has developed practice directions on the conduct of GBV related cases and established specialised SGBV Courts to ensure speedy disposal of SGBV cases as well as safeguard the dignity of the victims and survivors. Whilst Judiciary has not expressly rendered judgment on Femicide, recent decided cases of murder of women by their male counterparts signify a step towards addressing gender-based murder.

### **(c) Executive Response**

The executive arm of government has provided state commitment and policy guidance in addressing GBV including femicide. At the Presidential level, declarations and commitments have been made to end GBV, including Kenya's pledge under the Generation Equality Forum. The establishment of the Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action, (currently the Ministry for Gender, Culture and Children Services) and the various relevant state departments and agencies which have developed and implemented policies such as the National Policy on Gender and Development (2019) and the National Strategy on Prevention and Response to GBV (2020–2024) among others.

### **(d) County Governments**

The devolved system of government places responsibility on county governments to aid in the coordination, prevention, and response of GBV. This has been effected through GBV county policies, community engagement, strengthening support and response systems through establishment of shelters as well as medical services to victims and survivors. Despite the political will, the county government interventions have been plagued by systemic and resource challenges.

### **(e) Constitutional Commissions and Independent Offices**

Several oversight bodies play a critical role:

- (i) The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) monitors compliance with gender equality and inclusion mandates.
- (ii) The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) addresses human rights violations, including those related to GBV.
- (iii) The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) is mandated to prosecute GBV cases and has developed a SGBV Prosecution Manual. While these institutions have made notable contributions, their impact is often curtailed by limited institutional capacity, political interference, and inadequate survivor protection mechanisms.

## **1.4 Rationale for the Formation of the Technical Working Group on GBV Including Femicide**

Despite the progressive legal, policy, and institutional frameworks in the foregoing discussion, gender-based violence (GBV) including femicide continues to escalate. National and county-level data show a worrying rise in reported cases. Notably, psychological abuse, economic violence, and online forms of GBV among others remain underreported due to stigma, normalisation, and weak institutional recognition. These trends expose critical systemic gaps as follows:

- (i) Fragmented definitions of GBV, including femicide across laws, policies, and programs;
- (ii) Divergent stakeholder interpretations of GBV, including femicide that are often disconnected from survivor realities;
- (iii) Inadequate and siloed data systems that hamper coordinated action;
- (iv) Limited investment in community-based and upstream preventive mechanisms;
- (v) Deep-rooted cultural, economic, and political factors sustain cycles of violence.

Social media has emerged as a double-edged tool, amplifying awareness, survivor voices, and solidarity efforts on one hand, and on the other, facilitating cyber harassment and the digital spread of misogyny, which, exacerbates GBV, including femicide. Its growing influence demands more integrated digital safety and communication strategies in prevention and response efforts.

## **1.5 Establishment of Technical Working Group**

Given the complex and evolving nature of GBV and femicide and the legal and developmental obligation to act, it was imperative to adopt a comprehensive, intersectional, and inclusive response. Such action must be sustained, rooted in local realities, and guided by the needs of survivors, victims, and stakeholders involved in both existing and emerging prevention and support mechanisms. To that end, it behoved the cabinet to consider and approve the establishment of a Technical Working Group on the Prevention of GBV, including Femicide, in December 2025. This Technical Working Group was formally gazetted in January 2025 and chaired by former Deputy Chief Justice Nancy Baraza.

The TWG was tasked with analysing trends, hotspots, root causes, and systemic gaps in Kenya's response to GBV, including femicide, and proposing actionable, survivor-centered solutions within 90 days. Inaugurated on January 28, 2025, the establishment of the Technical Working Group marked a significant shift towards elevating GBV, including femicide, as an urgent national priority. The current momentum gives the people of Kenya the confidence that the government is aware of the plight of survivors and is entirely on board in driving comprehensive reforms, unifying national efforts, and institutionalising survivor-centred, data-driven, and accountable responses towards GBV, including femicide, across the country.

## **1.6 Methodology**

The Technical Working Group adopted a multi-method, participatory, and gender-responsive approach to fulfil its mandate. The methodology was structured around the thematic objectives derived from the Terms of Reference and sought to integrate qualitative and quantitative evidence, legal analysis, and community voices. The selected methodology ensured that the study was inclusive, rigorous, and grounded in evidence, capturing the multifaceted realities of

GBV and femicide across Kenya. Further, and in compliance with Articles 10, 118, and 232 of the Constitution, the TWG facilitated public participation in all 47 counties.

These forums provided a platform for citizens to share their experiences and policy suggestions, significantly enriching the study findings. This methodological framework served as the foundation for collecting, analysing, and validating evidence to support the TWG's final recommendations. It ensured that the study was grounded in the lived realities of Kenyans, guided by data, and responsive to the diverse and intersectional nature of GBV and femicide.

## **CHAPTER TWO: SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS ON GBV INCLUDING FEMICIDE, IN KENYA**

### **2.1 Introduction**

Gender-based violence (GBV), including its most extreme manifestation, femicide remains a deeply rooted and persistent challenge across societies. This Chapter presents a situational analysis of GBV including femicide in Kenya. It covers global, regional, and national contexts, stakeholder perspectives, causes, implementation structures, emerging trends, and impacts of GBV including femicide on individuals and the society.

### **2.2 Global and Regional Context**

According to WHO (2021) one in three women have experienced violence, mostly emanating from their intimate partners. The UNODC and UN Women (2024) reported that around 51,110 women and girls were killed by intimate partners or family members in 2023 as compared 48,800 victims in 2022. These figures reflect that GBV, including femicide is a worldwide crisis that is more often than not rooted in patriarchal norms and gender inequalities. Some of the contributing factors to GBV, including femicide have been identified as cultural justifications, economic dependency, weak legal systems, and conflict-related violence (UN Women, 2021; Amnesty International, 2023)

Africa had the highest rate of intimate partner/family-related femicides, with 2.8 victims per 100,000 women (UNODC & UN Women, 2022). The AU has and several other studies have indicated that 40–60% of women in some countries have faced violence (African Union & UN Women, 2023). South Africa stands out as the country with the highest rate of GBV in Africa in 2022, it reported over 1,000 femicide cases (South African Police Service, 2022). GBV, including femicide, has been attributed to harmful cultural practices, stigma, and poor survivor support with underreporting hindering effective response.

There are emerging trends of violence that have received little or no attention within the global and regional spheres. These include digital violence and intersectional discrimination against persons with disabilities, the ageing population, children, youth, and men as well as indigenous people remain poorly addressed. Limited attention to these forms of violence has resulted in the lack of disaggregated data which impedes targeted prevention and accountability measures. Strengthening legal systems, improving data collection, and addressing structural gender inequality are essential for progress.

### **2.3 National Context**

#### **2.3.1 Prevalence of GBV**

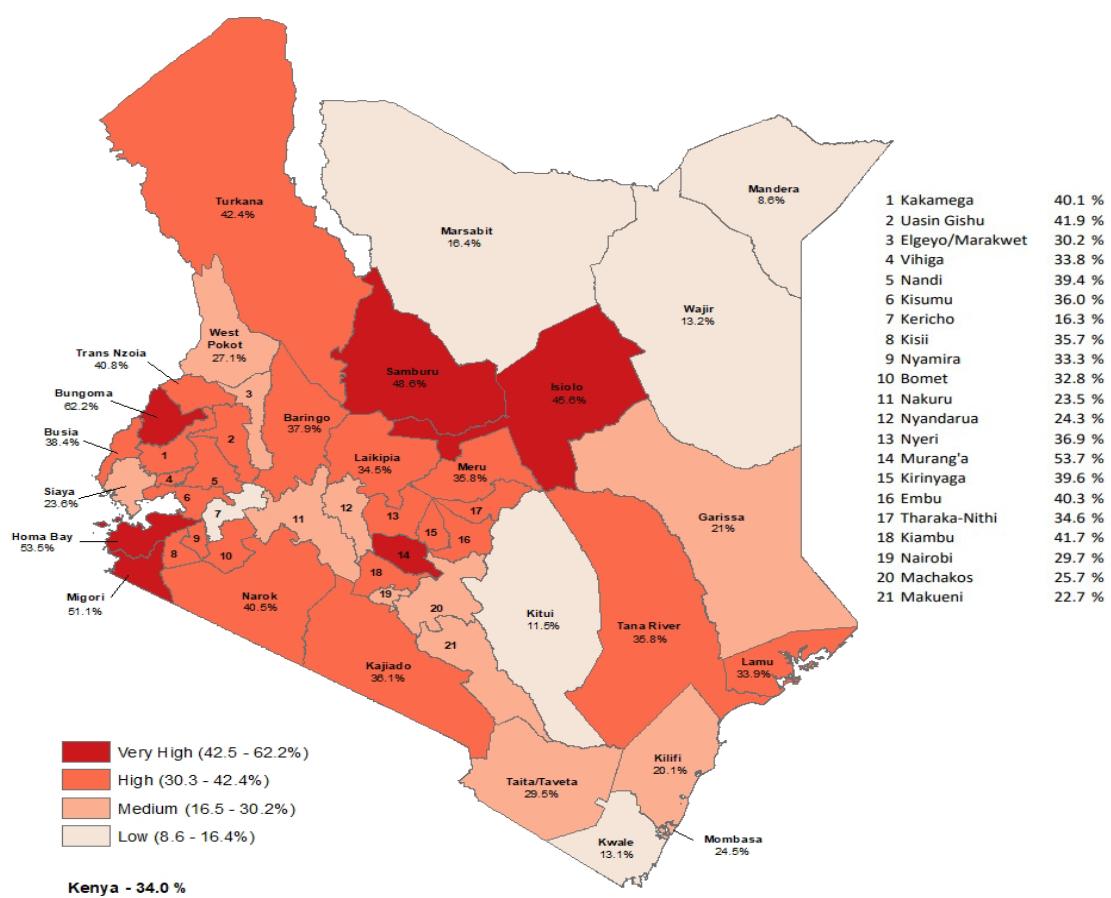
The 2022 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey reveals that 34% of women, relative to 27% of men, have experienced physical violence since age 15 in Kenya. The percentage of women

who have ever experienced physical violence since age 15 is most prevalent in Bungoma (62%), Murang'a (54%), Homa Bay (54%), and Migori counties (51%) as shown in Map 2.1.

Additionally, 13% of women have experienced sexual violence at some point in their lives, with men reporting a lower figure of 7%.

### Map 2.1: Experience of Physical Violence by County

Percentage of women age 15–49 who have ever experienced physical violence since age 15 in Kenya by county.



### 2.3.2 Perpetrators of Gender Based Violence

The most common perpetrators of physical violence among women who have ever been married or have ever had an intimate partner are their current husband/intimate partner (54%), followed by a former husband/intimate partner (34%).

The most frequently reported perpetrators of sexual violence among women who have ever been married or have ever had an intimate partner is the current husband/intimate partner (71%), followed by former husband/intimate partner (19%). Among men, the majority of

perpetrators of sexual violence are current wife/ intimate partner (63%), followed by former wife/intimate partner (32%). (2022 KDHS).

### 2.3.3 Prevalence of Femicide in Kenya

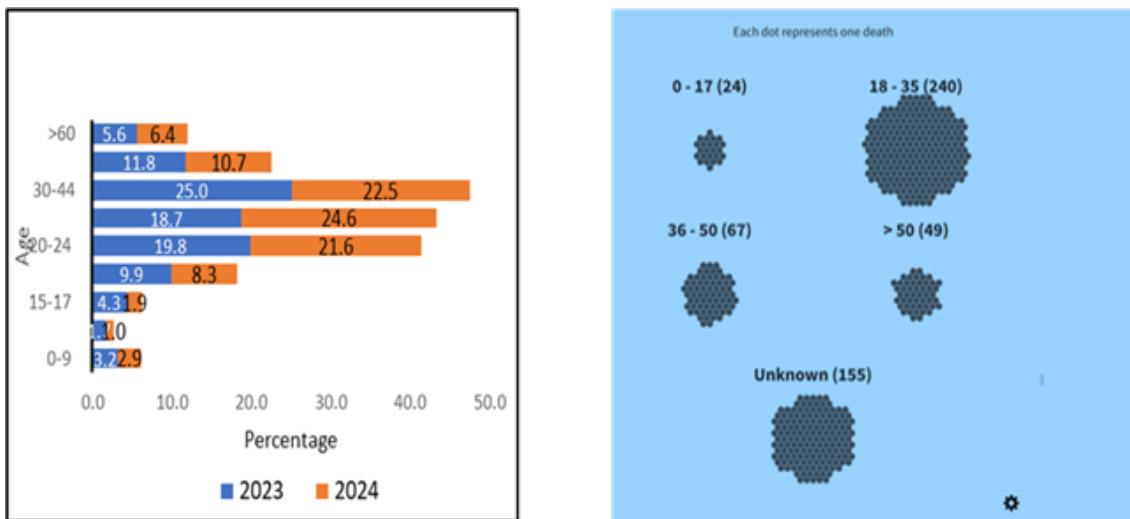
To enhance the effectiveness of prevention, response, and accountability efforts at national, regional, and global levels on femicide, The International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCSP) provides a typology that clarifies, quantify, and contextualise femicide. This typology includes: (a) Relationship between the victim and the perpetrator; (b) Context (e.g., intimate partner, family, criminal culture); (c) Motive (gender-related or otherwise); (d) Method of killing and institutional response. Following this cue, we synthesised available data across as shown in table 2 below;

**Table 1: ICCSP typology for femicide**

Typology	Ingredients
Geographic	Country and county level
Demographic	Victim and perpetrator age, and education level
Perpetrator Typology	Relationship to victim (intimate partner, family member, stranger)
Motivation and Context:	Intimate partner conflict, land disputes, cultural practices (e.g., FGM)
Means of killing	Drowning, burning, stabbing, blunt force trauma

Over the 2022-24 period, a total of 1,639 cases involving the killing of women were recorded between 2022 and 2024 (NPS, 2025). This represents a 10% rise in reported femicide between 2022 and 2024. A key concern is that these cases have not been officially tracked or classified under a specific femicide indicator. Instead, they have been broadly captured under general homicide statistics, which obscures the gendered nature of these killings and limits targeted policy and programmatic responses.

**Analysis by age** for the years 2023 and 2024 NPS report reveals that women aged 30–44 years were the most affected. Cases among adolescent girls aged 15–17 had a 4% increase, highlighting growing risks for teenage girls. While cases among children aged 0–10 years and young adolescents (10–14 years) appear lower in number, the mere presence of femicide in these age groups is deeply concerning. This compares to the Africa Data Hub report, indicating that women aged 18-35 years were most affected, at 59%, from January 2016 to December 2024 (Figure 1). Women aged between 20-44 years in the NPS report are the most affected due to their likelihood of being in intimate relationships or marriages, where intimate partner violence (IPV) is a leading cause of femicide.



**Figure 1: Age disaggregation of NPS data 2023-2024**

**Source:** Africa Data Hub 2016-2024

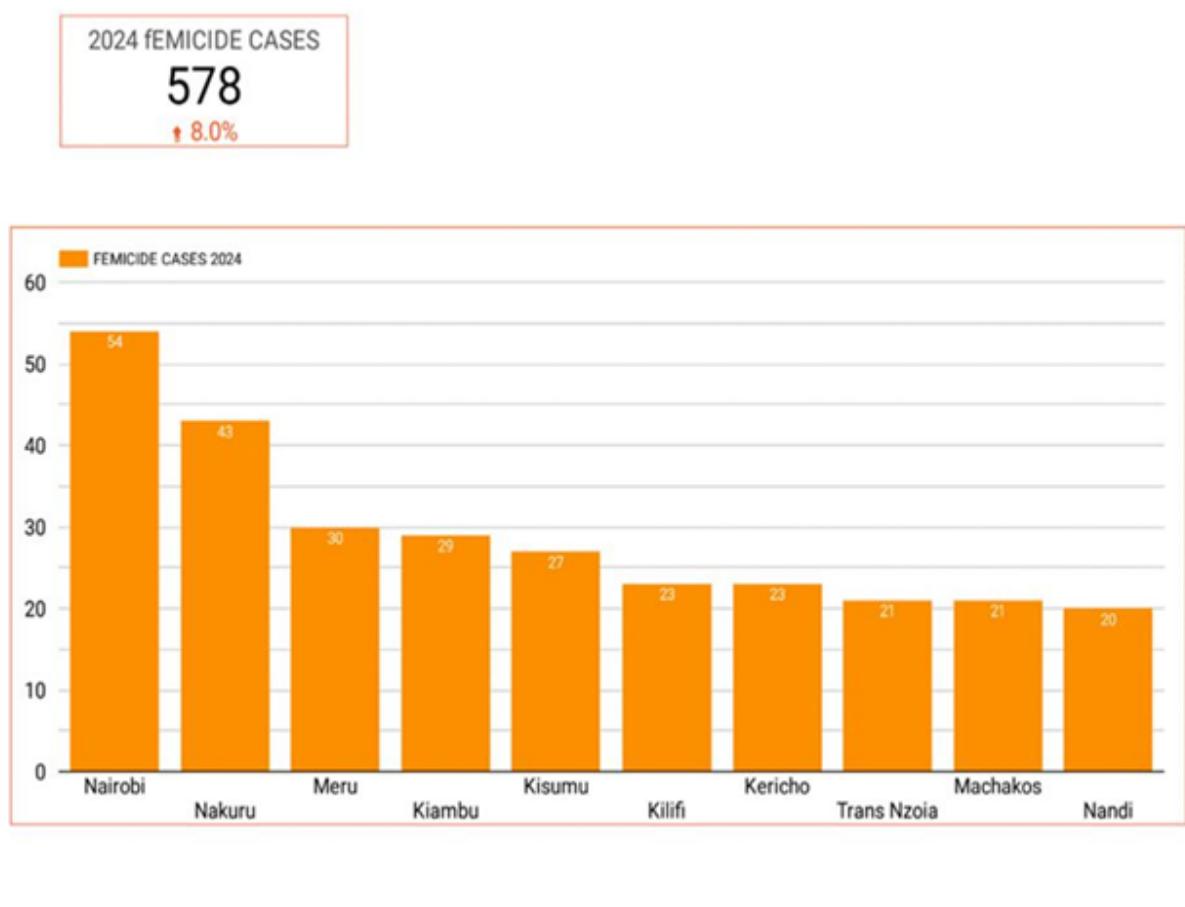
The **age distribution of perpetrators** reveals that the majority of femicide cases are committed by young adults aged 18–35, who account for a significant 66% of all reported cases. This age group represents the highest risk demographic and points to a concerning pattern of increased involvement in acts of gender-based violence among younger males. Although perpetrators below 18 years represent only 3%, their involvement is still alarming and indicates the early onset of harmful gender norms and behaviours. These findings underscore the urgent need for age-specific prevention strategies, particularly focusing on young men.

**The Relationship of the perpetrator to the femicide victim** highlights that husbands are the most common perpetrators of intimate partner violence at 40.15%, suggesting that the home remains the most dangerous place for women and girls in terms of the risk of lethal victimization. The data shows that in 77% of cases, killings were committed by a person known by the victim. This data reinforces the alarming reality that women are most at risk of violence from people known to them. On the other hand, strangers or individuals with unknown relationships to the victims constitute 22.5%, underscoring the presence of random or opportunistic violence.

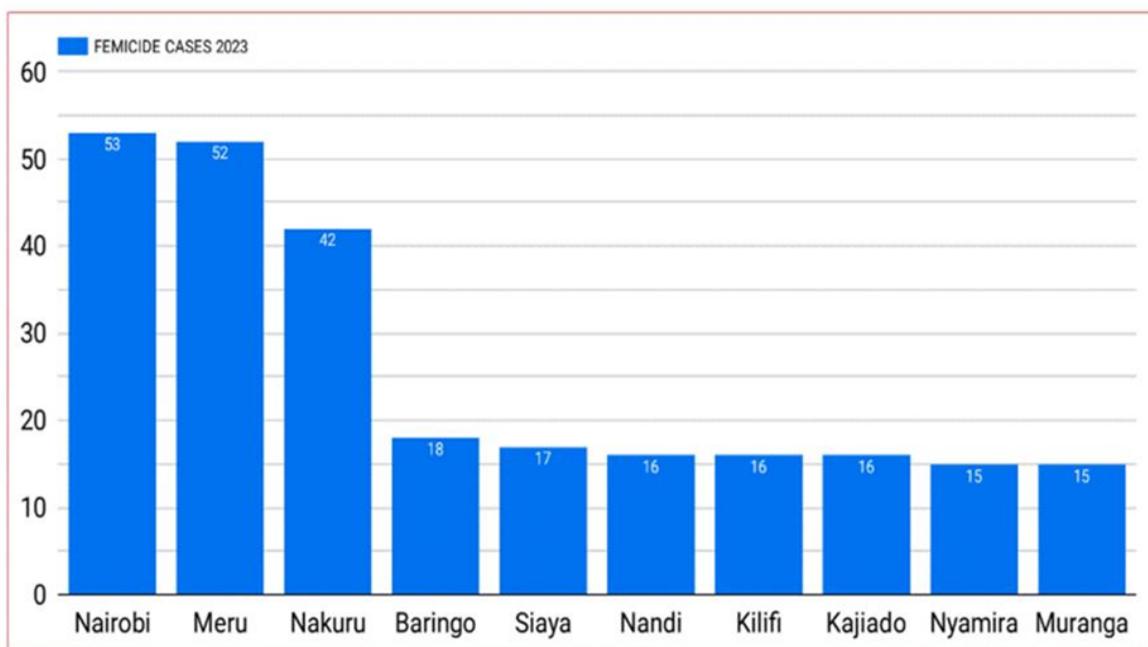
**Femicide cases by counties in Kenya** show that those with the highest number of cases reported include Nairobi (53), Meru (52), and Nakuru (42), accounting for femicide cases reported nationally. Out of the total 578 cases, the Counties contributing the most cases included Nairobi County, at 54, followed by Nakuru (43), Meru (30), and Kiambu (29). Some counties reported no cases of femicide in the police records, which included Garissa, Lamu, and Mandera. The high number of femicide cases reported in Nairobi, Meru, and Nakuru counties in 2023 and 2024 can be attributed to socio-cultural dynamics and varying levels of institutional capacity.

According to data from Africa Data Hub, there were 677 reported cases of femicide in Kenya from 2016 to 2024. The statistics reveal a trend of grave concern – there were 53 cases recorded in 2022, which increased to 82 cases in 2023, and surged further to 127 in 2024. This represents a significant rise in reported cases over the past three years, with an increase rate of 20.2% from 2022 to 2023 and an alarming rise of 48.5% from 2023 to 2024. (Africa Data Hub). On the other hand, the National Police Service reported that there were 535 cases of femicide in 2023 and 578 cases in 2024. (National Police Service).

It is, therefore, apparent that different data sources have huge disparities in terms of prevalence and/or incidents reported despite collecting data on femicide cases and reporting in the same year. This provides an opportunity for national conversation on the need to harmonize and integrate a database for data collection on GBV, including femicide, and their reporting to address the non-uniformity.



*Figure 2: 2024 femicide cases in Kenya*



**Figure 3: 2023 femicide cases in Kenya**

#### 2.3.4 Identifiable Hotspots for GBV including Femicide in Kenya

In as much as Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including femicide, is prevalent across Kenya, certain counties and localities emerge as hotspots due to unique situational and demographic vulnerabilities. These hotspots can be broadly categorized into situational and demographic clusters, each influenced by local cultural practices, economic conditions, institutional weaknesses, and social dynamics.

##### (a) Geographic Hotspots

These are locations where physical environment, socio-economic challenges, and weak enforcement mechanisms converge to increase risks of GBV, including Femicide. Emerging concerns are also noted in certain communities where married women voluntarily undergo FGM to maintain cultural status, and where boys are increasingly becoming victims or perpetrators of violence due to perceived neglect in empowerment interventions.

###### i. Informal Urban Settlements

Informal urban settlements are characterized by overcrowding, insecurity, poverty, and weak policing. Cases of rape, intimate partner violence, and child abuse are prevalent.

Vulnerable groups in these informal urban areas face significant physical violence, especially in cases where disputes arise over the terms of engagement with clients. In domestic settings, violence is often triggered by seemingly minor issues, for example, a husband resorting to physical assault simply because the wife did not prepare the meal he desired.

During stakeholder engagement in Kakamega County, a key informant highlights below how Shinyalu and Mumias East are major hotspots for gender-based violence (GBV). The most reported forms of violence in these areas include physical assault, often rooted in deeply entrenched gender norms and expectations.

*“One particularly disturbing manifestation is the public undressing of women in market centres or towns, typically triggered by disapproval of their attire.” (KII -Kakamega).*

These accounts illustrate how normalised and pervasive physical violence is in certain parts of the county making them hotspots for violence.

ii. Rural-Urban Contrast.

Most femicide cases are linked to romantic relationships, social isolation, and online dating. Many cases involve women in their twenties and thirties being murdered by intimate partners. For instance, in Garissa County, a key informant narrates how high defilement cases are, most of which emanate from rural parts of the county rather than Garissa town.

*“Grassroots organizations have taken up over 70 such defilement cases, indicating both the severity and frequency of the issue. While fewer rape and defilement incidents are reported in urban Garissa, cases of murder are more common in these areas. ”(KII – Garissa)*

This contrast highlights a rural-urban divide in the nature of violence experienced within the county.

iii. Coastal Counties

Longstanding hotspots for child sex tourism, exploitation of adolescent girls, and trafficking networks targeting girls from poor households. The counties of Kwale and Mombasa, Kilifi, Lamu and Malindi recorded high incidence of sex tourism as illustrated below. In Ukunda and Msambweni, a resident drew a strong link between the region’s poverty levels and its positioning as a tourist hub, noting how this intersection increases the risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against women and girls.

**(b) Situational Hotspots**

These are spaces where daily activities place women and girls at heightened risk, often due to poor security, infrastructure, or the normalization of predatory behaviour.

The data from Uasin- Gishu shows that physical violence surges during harvesting seasons, likely due to heightened economic stress, labour exploitation, or domestic conflicts over resources and roles. These situational pressures create fertile ground for violence to erupt within households and communities as narrated to the TWG during engagement with stakeholders as follows,

*“When harvest time comes, we witness a lot of physical violence compared to when we are planting.” (Survivor- Uasin Gishu)*

This scenario illustrates a situational hotspot for GBV and femicide due to the predictable spikes in violence tied to seasonal and institutional rhythms.

Increased cases of defilement reported during school openings and closures point to a worrying pattern. Children are more vulnerable during transitional periods when they are unsupervised or idle. This trend highlights institutional lapses in child protection and the urgent need for targeted safeguards during these high-risk times as highlighted by a KII from Kakamega County below,

*“Between January and April 2025 alone, 380 cases of sexual violence and 92 cases of physical violence have been reported. The early arrival increases their exposure to risks, including sexual violence, as they may wait unsupervised in unsafe environments such as isolated areas near the school or on their way there. (KII - Kakamega)*

The gap between policy and practice on official school hours inadvertently heightens vulnerability of school going children to various forms of GBV underscoring the need for better protection measures during these vulnerable periods.

These narratives from Uasin-Gishu and Kakamega point to situational GBV hotspots, where specific times and social conditions increase risk of the likelihood of GBV. This demands targeted preventive and protective measures.

#### Public Transport as enabler of GBV

Public Service Motor Vehicle Operators (*Matatus*) and Public Service Motorcyclists (*bodaboda riders*) become fertile sites of sexual harassment and assault, especially during early morning and late-night hours. Most school going children use public transport creating enabling ground for GBV including femicide. In Kajiado County, boda boda riders were reported to exploit school girls, taking advantage of their reliance on motorcycle taxis for transportation as narrated by a survivor below,

*“These boda boda riders sometimes use gifts, money, or favours to coerce or manipulate vulnerable girls into exploitative or abusive relationships. This exploitation contributes to increased cases of teenage pregnancies and school dropouts.”. (Survivor-Kajiado)*

This accounts not only reflect the predisposition of girls using public transport to school but also exposes the existing challenges in child protection, poverty, and gender-based violence in the region.

### Marketplaces and entertainment Spots

Women working in night shifts, vendors in markets or bar attendants or women and girls attending funeral vigils are often harassed or sexually assaulted. This was recounted by a KII from Vihiga as follows:

*"Whenever there is a disco matanga, we almost always see a spike in violence especially against women, girls, and even sodomy of young boys. These gatherings often turn into hotspots for sexual and physical abuse, fuelled by alcohol, drugs, and lack of supervision. It has become a serious concern for our community." (KII- Vihiga)*

### Learning Institutions

Learning institutions have become sites of sexual harassment and grooming by teachers, caretakers, or older male peers. Reporting mechanisms within these institutions are often weak or biased. Lecturers in colleges or universities blackmail lady students into submission for sexual advances in exchange for good grades in units (sex for marks) as narrated by a survivor as follows:

*"If you refuse their advances and have a boyfriend and the lecturer spots or notices him, this boyfriend will also end up being harassed/victimised by the lecturer so that they can leave the girl alone. This situation therefore may eventually end up a physical/emotional violence case or a femicide one." (Survivor- Siaya)*

The account above shows how sex for marks in higher institutions of learning such as colleges and universities is prevalent where young female students get victimized academically for not acceding to sexual advances from lecturers/tutors.

Cases of defilement of minors in primary and secondary schools are becoming common not only by teachers but also support staff including school drivers. These cases are hardly reported as victims are either coerced into silence or victim blamed.

### **(c) Demographic Hotspots**

These refer to population groups facing systemic neglect or social stigma, resulting in invisibility and impunity when abuse occurs. These hotspots are shaped by specific population groups or traditions. In counties such as Kisii, Narok, and Samburu, GBV manifests primarily through harmful cultural practices like Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and child marriage, affecting young girls. In contrast, counties like Vihiga, Kakamega, and Busia report high levels of sexual violence and incest, often occurring within extended family settings and remaining unreported due to stigma or customary conflict resolution.

### Adolescent girls out of school

Vulnerable to rape, transactional sex, and early marriage, especially in poverty-affected households or during periods of crisis. This demography is at a heightened risk of GBV

including sexual violence and emotional and psychological abuse was recounted by a survivor from Nyeri below,

*“Sanitary towels are no longer issued to girls in schools by the government hence creating avenues for them being lured in the guise of support by men.” (Survivor-Nyeri)*

Persons with mental and health problems are also predisposed to GBV as illustrated by a Key informant from Machakos County below,

*“Persons with psychosocial disorders (e.g., bipolar, depression, schizophrenia), and women suffering postpartum depression, and persons with epilepsy face heightened risk of GBV, often ignored by the community.” (KII – Machakos County)*

#### Women and girls with disabilities

This demography face isolation, communication barriers, and dependency, which abusers exploit since the likelihood of the victims reporting is hindered. A resident from Homabay county illustrates the plight of women and girls with disability and their predisposition to GBV in all forms as captured below,

*“Persons with disabilities but especially women and girls are also affected by GBV. The disability often hinders reporting and makes offenders get away with the violence.” (Resident – Homabay)*

#### Older women

Older women are targeted in witchcraft accusations, which can lead to community-sanctioned violence or murder. This is prevalent where illness, misfortune, or unexplained deaths are blamed on elderly women. As was the case reported by a KII as follows,

*“On 18th of February this year a femicide case linked to witchcraft accusations was reported in Badassa.” (KII- Marsabit)*

TWG received similar reports from a key informant who lamented the increasing cases of older women being targets of GBV including femicide due to their compounded invisibility and ageing discourse as reported below,

*“Older women remain acutely vulnerable to gender-based violence including femicide... we have witnessed lynching of elderly women often under the guise of witchcraft accusations when the motivation is to get hold of their land.” KII-Kisii County)*

Widowhood, loss of peers, or living alone increases older women's vulnerability to violence, especially in rural or peri-urban areas as recounted by a stakeholder during public engagement in Kilifi County as recounted by a relative of a victim from Chonyi below,

*“Elderly women are targeted with witchcraft accusations that lead to femicide. In Ganze, multiple cases were reported of elderly women being killed after being branded witches.*

*One of them was my grandmother. These killings are often ignored or handled informally. If she's old and lives alone, it's easy to call her a witch and burn her house."*  
*(Victim's relative- Kilifi)*

In rural and marginalised areas, where awareness and legal protections are often limited, older women's vulnerability is intensified by harmful cultural practices. Such practices expose older women to heightened physical, psychological, and social harm, while systemic neglect continues to silence their experiences and exclude them from policy and protection frameworks.

Across these hotspots, the lack of coordination among actors, poor data sharing between the police and healthcare providers, and weak psychosocial support services further aggravate the situation. These patterns emphasize the need for tailored, location-specific interventions that address both the cultural and structural roots of GBV and femicide. Identifying GBV including femicide hotspots alongside an understanding of their prevalence is crucial for developing targeted and locally relevant interventions as it reveals where violence is most concentrated. This supports more effective resource allocation, risk mitigation, and monitoring of impact.

## **2.4. Understanding of GBV, including femicide**

GBV is a multifaceted issue and thrives on deeply embedded cultural, social, and structural roots. While GBV manifests in many forms, it can be categorized into three typologies to better understand its patterns and impact: the most commonly reported forms, the least reported forms, and emerging forms. The most commonly reported include physical and sexual violence, particularly intimate partner violence, which continues to dominate global statistics (World Health Organization, 2013). In contrast, some forms such as emotional abuse, economic violence, and marital rape and violence against men remain underreported either due to cultural stigma, lack of legal protection, and normalization within societies (UN Women, 2020). Emerging forms of GBV, including cyber violence, online sexual harassment, and technologically facilitated abuse, have intensified with increased digital connectivity and gaining attention as new dimensions of violence against women and girls (UNFPA, 2020).

Categorising GBV this way highlights the need for nuanced prevention and response strategies that address both entrenched and evolving threats to gender equality and human dignity.

### **2.4.1 Commonly Known Forms of Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**

Gender-based violence manifests in various forms, deeply affecting the physical, emotional, economic, and social well-being of individuals, particularly women and girls.

Physical Violence is the most visible form of GBV and involves the intentional use of force such as slapping, hitting, choking, burning, or the use of weapons to cause bodily harm. While it often occurs in domestic settings, it can also happen in public spaces or institutions.

Sexual Violence on the hand comes in second in terms of most reported form. It encompasses acts like rape, sexual assault, defilement, forced prostitution, and sexual exploitation. It often involves coercion, threats, or abuse of power. During public engagement the TWG established that sexual harassment was a common form of GBV yet underreported. It includes unwanted sexual advances, inappropriate comments, and non-consensual physical contact. These are frequently experienced in learning institutions, workplaces, and public areas.

Harmful Traditional Practices also constitute GBV, as they perpetuate control, subjugation, and harm to women and girls. The TWG during its stakeholder engagements found these forms of GBV to commonly occur though often not reported due to fear of victimisation and normalisation as culture. They include;

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) where there are partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons, often carried out in childhood. It stems from harmful norms around purity and marriageability and severely violates a girl's bodily autonomy and health.

Child, Early, and Forced Marriage (CEFM) entails marrying off persons under 18 or without their full, informed consent and has the effect of abruptly ending a girl's childhood, disrupts their education, and entrenches gender inequality.

Widow Cleansing and Wife Inheritance entails widows being forced to undergo sexual rituals or be inherited by a male relative of their deceased husband. These practices strip women of dignity, agency, and the right to grieve and rebuild their lives on their own terms.

Beading is another form of harmful cultural practice found in some pastoralist communities where young girls are symbolically booked for sexual relations by older men through beaded ornamentation. This leads to early pregnancies and dropping out of school.

Fertility Testing where newly married women may be subjected to invasive tests to prove fertility, usually without consent. These practices reinforce the belief that a woman's value lies solely in childbearing and often blame women for infertility.

Psychological and Emotional Violence refers to non-physical abuse that includes verbal insults, threats, coercive control, intimidation, and humiliation. Though invisible, the impact on mental health and a survivor's sense of self-worth can be devastating and long-lasting.

Economic Violence involves the control or denial of access to financial resources, employment, education, or property. Abusers may withhold earnings, prevent a partner from working, or deny them access to inheritance or assets, particularly in patriarchal or rural settings.

#### **2.4.2 Overlooked Forms of GBV**

While physical and sexual violence are the most visible forms of gender-based violence (GBV) in Kenya, other manifestations often remain overlooked, underreported, or socially accepted as shown in Appendix 2. These include economic violence, psychological abuse, digital and

cyber violence, and harmful cultural practices such as forced and child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), and widow disinheritance. Economic and emotional abuse commonly experienced in intimate relationships are rarely treated with the same seriousness as physical assault, despite their long-term impacts on mental health and autonomy (KNBS, 2023).

#### **2.4.3 Emerging trends in GBV, including femicide**

While traditional forms such as physical, sexual, and psychological abuse continue to afflict many, new and increasingly complex forms of GBV are emerging. These developments reflect not only the changing nature of society, technology, and communication, but also reveal systemic gaps in legal frameworks, data collection, and service provision. These new trends include:

##### **(a) Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV)**

One of the most concerning emerging trends is technology-facilitated GBV (TFGBV). This includes cyberstalking, online harassment, non-consensual distribution of intimate images, digital surveillance, the creation and spread of gendered deepfakes, and hate speech targeting women and girls. These forms of violence are especially prevalent against women in public life politicians, journalists, activists, and content creators who are disproportionately targeted for their visibility and outspoken advocacy (CREAW, 2022).

The anonymity and impunity afforded by digital platforms amplify these harms, especially in the context of weak enforcement of Kenya's cybercrime laws and limited digital literacy among law enforcement personnel. Despite their frequency and psychological impact, many of these incidents go unreported, unprosecuted, and unaddressed in GBV programming and policy.

##### **(b) Femicide and the Normalization of Extreme Violence**

Femicide is another alarming manifestation of GBV. In Kenya, femicide often occurs within the context of intimate partner or familial violence. These killings are frequently preceded by extended patterns of coercive control, threats, and abuse.

However, systemic failures, such as the absence of a legal definition of the offence of femicide and inadequate victim protection measures, allow such cases to go unpunished (UN Women, 2022). The normalization of these deaths contributes to a culture of silence, trivialization, and impunity.

Apart from the emergence of new forms of GBV, several other key trends are emerging in Kenya that reflect both evolving risks and growing efforts in prevention and response of GBV including femicide. These include:

### **(c) Increased Reporting and Public Awareness**

Over the past decade, Kenya has witnessed a marked increase in public awareness and reporting of GBV including femicide cases. This trend is driven by broader social media coverage, civil society advocacy, and national campaigns such as the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV. Among women and men who have ever experienced any physical or sexual violence: 42% of women and 29% of men sought help to stop violence; 17% of women and 13% of men never sought help but told someone; and 42% of women and 58% of men never sought help and never told anyone (2022 KDHS). Nevertheless, stigma, fear of reprisal, and weak protection systems continue to inhibit many victims particularly in rural and marginalized communities from coming forward.

### **(d) Feminist and Youth-led Mobilization**

There is a growing wave of feminist, youth-led activism across Kenya that is challenging the culture of silence surrounding GBV. Campaigns such as #StopFemicideKE, #JusticeFor (with specific victim names), and #EndGBV are using digital tools to organize protests, influence public discourse, and pressure state actors to action. These movements have been instrumental in shifting public attitudes, especially among younger populations, and in holding institutions accountable for GBV prevention and response (CREAW, 2022).

### **(e) Policy and Legislative Reforms**

The Government of Kenya has taken important steps toward strengthening its legal and policy frameworks to address GBV. Notable among these is the 2022 launch of the National Policy on the Prevention and Response to GBV, which provides a comprehensive approach to survivor protection and multisectoral coordination (Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action, 2022).

### **(f) Integration of GBV in Humanitarian and Crisis Response**

In regions affected by conflict, climate-induced displacement, and humanitarian emergencies such as in parts of northern Kenya, GBV has become increasingly prevalent. Humanitarian actors are now integrating GBV risk mitigation and survivor response services into emergency response plans. This represents a shift toward recognizing the compounded vulnerabilities women and girls face in crisis settings and ensuring their protection in humanitarian programming (United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA] Kenya, 2023).

### **(g) Digital Innovations for GBV Response**

Technology is also being used to support survivors and improve reporting mechanisms. Digital tools such as mobile apps, SMS-based hotlines, and online portals like Spot It, Stop It have created safe and anonymous channels for survivors to seek help. These tools offer timely reporting, referral to essential services, and real-time data collection for policy planning.

However, access disparities in rural areas and among low-income populations must be addressed to ensure equitable digital justice.

#### **(h) Persistent Data Gaps and the Call for Inclusive Evidence**

Despite increased attention to GBV, Kenya continues to face significant data gaps. Most official statistics lack disaggregation by age, disability, sexual orientation, and location, making it difficult to capture the full extent of GBV including femicide, especially among vulnerable groups such as women with disabilities, children and the elderly (National Gender and Equality Commission [NGEC], 2016). Without reliable data, programming remains limited in scope, and many survivors remain invisible in national GBV response systems.

### **2.5 Views from Stakeholders on GBV, including Femicide**

Legal and policy frameworks provide structured definitions of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) including femicide often emphasising physical, sexual, and psychological harm. These “textbook” definitions fall short of capturing the complex, culturally mediated, and context-specific ways in which violence is experienced and understood in everyday life.

GBV not only manifests in forms such as physical violence but also in economic deprivation, cyber harassment, marital rape, harmful cultural rites, and emotional abuse, often normalized or excluded from formal definitions (FIDA Kenya). This disconnect leads to gaps in reporting, prevention, and support, particularly for survivors whose experiences fall outside the scope of institutional recognition. To address this, it is critical to examine GBV including femicide through the lens of lived experiences, as captured in community-level narratives and stakeholder consultations carried out by the TWG across counties.

Stakeholder consultations and community engagements carried out by the TWG across all counties in Kenya revealed that Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including femicide, is understood in fragmented and context-specific ways. These understandings are shaped by factors such as geography, social norms, generational experiences, education levels, and access to justice systems.

#### **2.5.1 Narrow Conception of GBV**

Across counties, GBV is understood from a narrow lens of physical and sexual violence, directed against women and girls. Other forms such as emotional, psychological, economic abuse, cyber harassment, and institutional violence against both women and men remain overlooked, normalized or not understood as forms of GBV. A survivor from Mombasa exemplifies this narrow understanding of GBV as captured below,

*“GBV is physical abuse like beating women and children... but also things like drugging men with food or drinks.” (Survivor- Mombasa)*

The reduction of GBV to only acts that cause physical injury limit access to justice for those suffering silent, ongoing harm in their homes or relationships or even in public spaces. It also leads to underreporting of other forms of GBV such as economic deprivation and emotional or psychological abuses leaving this outside the ambit of prevention and response mechanisms.

This narrow understanding of GBV is reflected in the caseload handled by SGBV courts, where the majority of cases involve physical and sexual violence. As shown in Table 2, other forms of GBV such as psychological, economic, or structural violence are not represented yet throughout stakeholder engagements, the TWG received accounts of these forms of violence. This inadequacy highlights the limited scope of current definitions, understanding and its impact on reporting.

**Table 2: Overall SGBV Caseload Statistics for Courts (2022-2025)**

Case type	Filed Cases	Resolved Cases
Assault	133	58
Defilement	8071	4474
Grievous harm	17712	13869
Incest	326	238
Indecent/unnatural acts	575	480
Kidnapping and abduction	89	88
Rape	1029	647
Sexual assault	211	159
<b>All Case Types</b>	<b>28146</b>	<b>20013</b>

**Source: The Kenyan Judiciary's Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) strategy 2023-2030**

Further, the TWG established another aspect of narrow understanding of GBV which only focuses on violence against women and girls. This limited view overlooks the experiences of vulnerable populations such as men and boys, persons with disabilities, children, and young people. The key informant below illustrated the growing phenomenon of violence against men and boys indicating that GBV is not just limited to women and girls,

*“We are not only dealing with femicide, cases of androcide are also emerging. Young men are being sodomized, reports of sodomy have increased. Alarmingly, defilement is now happening more within homes than outside.” (KII- Trans Nzoia County)*

Consequently, this narrow and gendered exclusion of other vulnerable groups and the specific forms of GBV they face are often minimized, overlooked, or entirely unrecognized. This explains the inadequate prevention strategies, fragmented or inappropriate service responses,

and the continued marginalization of already at-risk populations. Without targeted interventions, these groups remain invisible in national statistics, under-protected by law, and underserved by support systems ultimately reinforcing cycles of violence and deepening existing inequalities.

The TWG also found that many stakeholders understood and often excused certain forms of GBV as cultural practices. Acts such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), widow cleansing, beading, and wife inheritance are carried out under the guise of tradition and communal duty, masking their true nature as violations of the rights and bodily autonomy of women and girls. Despite being outlawed, these practices remain deeply rooted in some communities due to their cultural significance, as illustrated by a key Informant from Baringo County below,

*“Child marriages and FGM is part of culture and traditions. This year so far, we have recorded 41 cases from rape, defilement, and FGM to early marriage.” (KII- Baringo)*

These cultural practices have normalised GBV making victims shy away from reporting as it would be going against culture and tradition, as illustrated below by a survivor from Kwale County,

*“In our culture, marrying off a girl early is not abuse, it is protecting her from shame.” (Survivor- Kwale)*

Such views unfortunately, reflect the wider understanding of GBV within several communities that the TWG engaged. Viewing GBV, including femicide as a legitimate expression of patriarchal or cultural authority creates an enabling environment GBV including femicide, to thrive and undermines survivors' rights, obstructing efforts to shift societal attitudes and norms needed to end GBV.

## **2.5.2 Urban-Rural Realities**

The TWG also established that there was a clear urban-rural divide between how GBV including femicide, is experienced and understood. In urban areas, while cultural practices were less prevalent, women reported facing economic coercion, emotional abuse, cyber harassment, and workplace-based sexual violence.

A key informant illustrates this reality as follows,

*“Our office keeps receiving more reports of sexual harassment and exploitation, particularly from women who make up 60% of the workforce in the companies and industries here. They are vulnerable to various forms of abuse, including coerced sexual favours tied to job security or advancement.” (KII-Kiambu County)*

The excerpt above reflects a growing recognition of more nuanced forms of GBV, such as workplace harassment. This awareness may be attributed to increased public education,

targeted advocacy, and the availability of better reporting and redress mechanisms, which have made it easier for individuals to identify and report such incidents.

In rural and marginalised areas, where cultural beliefs are deeply rooted and access to the justice system is limited, violence is often seen as normal or handled through traditional methods. These methods usually focus on financial compensation or peaceful settlements, which discourages survivors from reporting the abuse. In parts of Mandera and Garissa, the Maslaha system undermines formal justice processes, especially for women and girls. This is illustrated below by a survivor from Garissa,

*“The justice system is slow, pushing us to rely on the Maslaha system, a traditional mechanism that often lets perpetrators walk free. Survivors rarely get feedback from this courts, and instead, cases are settled through compensation, sometimes up to Ksh 400,000. But in reality, the Maslaha system ends up covering up GBV cases and seriously undermines justice for survivors.” (Survivor- Garissa)*

The rural-urban divide in understanding GBV including femicide impacts how violence is perceived, reported, and addressed. There is a need to bridge this gap by implementing localized, culturally sensitive approaches that expand awareness, strengthen access to services, and ensure that GBV including femicide prevention and response efforts are inclusive and effective across all settings.

### **2.5.3 Educational and Generational Differences in Perception**

The TWG established that survivors with limited education were most likely unaware of their rights, thus less likely to identify non-physical forms of violence. Older populations particularly in rural and marginalised areas, often internalize GBV as culturally acceptable, framing it as discipline or tradition.

In Migori County, the TWG established that cultural practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), child marriage, and wife inheritance continue among the less educated and elderly despite being illegal.

*“If you refuse to be inherited after a spouse’s death, you often face isolation, economic loss or even be killed.” (Survivor- Migori)*

Younger, educated people especially those in urban areas showed a better understanding of the different forms of GBV and were able to speak about them clearly. For example, a university student from Kakamega shared her experience of facing online harassment after she spoke out on gender issues.

*“I reported to the police and the university. They said it was simple cyberbullying. They didn’t understand that it was some form of gender-based violence. Not even my parents understood this as a form of GBV.” (Survivor - Kakamega)*

Despite the challenges the student faced in seeking justice such as victim-blaming and society's tendency to overlook emerging forms of GBV, her experience highlights how education levels and generational perspectives can influence how people understand and recognize both traditional and new forms of GBV.

#### **2.5.4 Overlooked and Excluded Forms of GBV and Femicide**

Gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide continue to be urgent human rights and public health concerns in Kenya. While women and girls are disproportionately affected, there is growing awareness of the need for an inclusive, gender-responsive approach that also recognizes the experiences of men and boys and other marginalised groups as captured in the sentiments of a youth leader from Laikipia County as follows,

*"In Laikipia, boys are not just perpetrators, they're also victims of GBV. Most of us feel left out by all the girl-focused empowerment programs. That frustration builds up and sometimes turns into violence or drug abuse. And it's not just us, older women in our communities suffer too, but no one talks about their pain. Their abuse is ignored like it doesn't matter." (FGD- Laikipia County)*

The public also showed a widespread failure to recognize less visible but equally harmful forms of GBV stemming from a lack of awareness. These include economic violence which entails controlling financial resources), psychological abuse, and institutional discrimination and even femicide.

In Turkana County, the case of a woman, who died from suspicious blunt force trauma, illustrates the complete lack of awareness about femicide itself. During public engagement when local women's groups attempted to explain the term and its significance, community leaders resisted, stating as follows,

*"Femicide was "not our word" and that women's deaths are simply unfortunate incidents or personal misfortunes." (Elder- Turkana)*

This exclusion and lack of awareness on what constitutes femicide for instance distorts national statistics and leads to inadequate protective measures.

#### **2.5.5 Shifting Responsibility and Victim Blaming**

Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including femicide, is understood, interpreted and responded to through a lens of victim-blaming, where survivors especially women and girls are held partially or wholly responsible for the violence they experience.

In some field locations, survivors expressed fears of being shunned or "dishonouring" their families, deterring them from seeking help as illustrated in the verbatim reporting by a stakeholder during public engagement in Tana River County as follows,

*“People here see violence against women as a form of discipline or "correction, it is not as a crime. It is common to hear survivors being blamed for provoking their husbands and being discouraged from reporting abuse.” (Survivor- Tana River)*

This removes attention away from systemic gender inequality and the perpetrators' accountability, reinforcing harmful stereotypes about women's behaviour, dress, or choices. Survivors and communities experience GBV including femicide in diverse and complex ways. These lived realities show the need for broad, inclusive, and locally relevant definitions of GBV including femicide coupled with a shared understanding which is key in guiding effective prevention and response interventions.

### **2.5.6 Pattern of Concern and Gendered Motives in Femicide**

A reported case involving a woman who was gang-raped and murdered by men allegedly sent by her estranged husband illustrates the deeply gendered nature of femicide in Kenya. Such cases are rarely random; they reflect patterns of violence marked by sexual assault, torture, and often dismemberment acts intended to exert control, punish, and dehumanize.

A key informant from Mombasa reported to the TWG as follows:

*“Femicide may not be clearly defined in our laws, but we know it when we see it...like the case of a woman who was brutally beaten and gang raped by men sent by her estranged husband. That is femicide in action.” (KII -Mombasa County*

These patterns point to femicide as a systemic, gender-based crime, not merely individual acts of violence, underscoring the need for legal recognition, gender-sensitive investigations, and data systems that capture these dynamics.

Key informant interviews with the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) confirm this disturbing trend in GBV and femicide investigations as captured below,

*“Many femicide cases stem from seemingly minor interpersonal conflicts that escalate into lethal violence disputes that might otherwise have been resolved through communication. Outgoing young women, especially students in institutions of higher learning, appear to be particularly vulnerable. We have also noted the gruesome patterns that these cases take, including dismembered body parts.” (KII – DCI)*

The nature of femicide was further illustrated by a case from Kirinyaga, where the Office of the Assistant County Commissioner reported the following during the TWG visit:

*“We have active femicide cases in court, a 36-year-old raped and killed, a 23-year-old dumped in a septic tank after assault in March 2025, and another where a woman was murdered and thrown into a rice canal by her husband after discovering his sexual orientation. You can see the pattern ... these aren't just killings; there's a deliberate effort to conceal the crime.”(KII- Kirinyaga)*

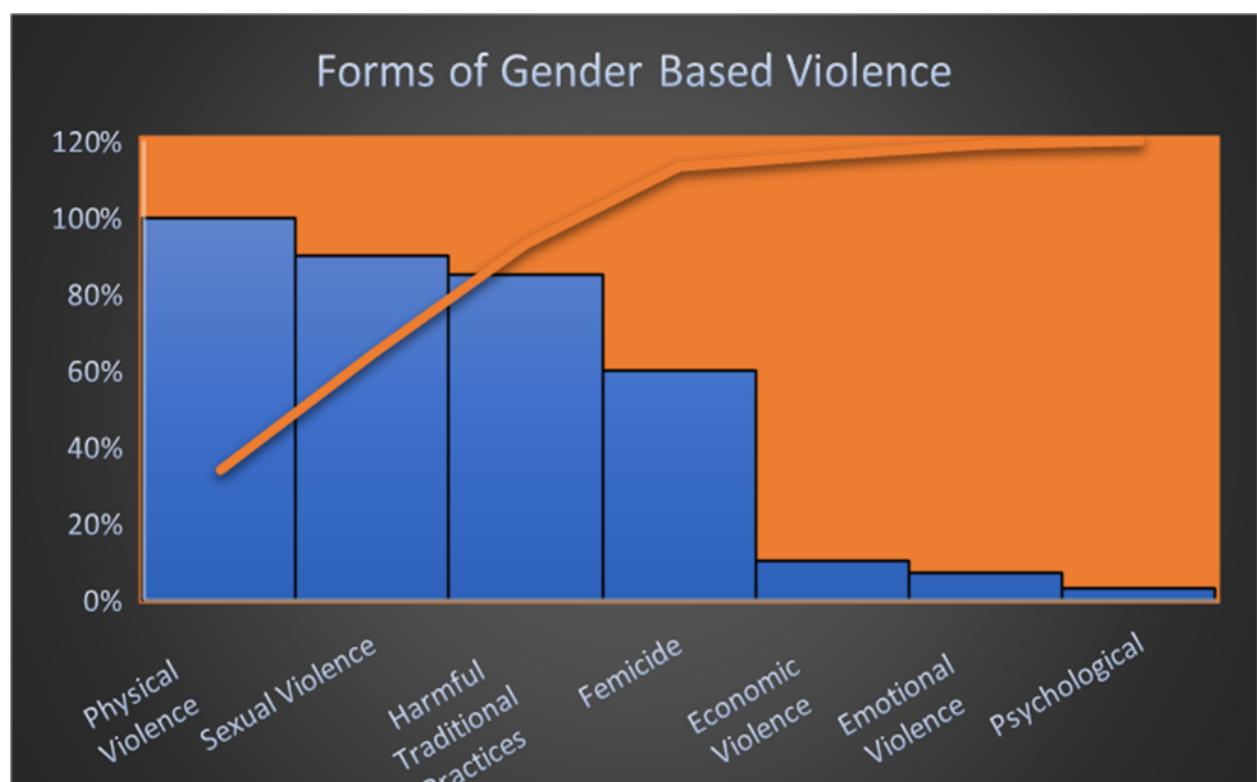
Although men may account for a higher number of homicide victims overall, femicide is fundamentally different in its motivation and manifestation. These killings are often driven by entrenched gender power imbalances and the desire to exert control over women's bodies and lives. Unlike other homicides, femicide is frequently preceded by patterns of intimate partner violence, coercion, and threats, reflecting deep-rooted societal norms that devalue women and entrench male dominance.

The killing of women is often marked by extreme brutality, such as dismemberment and the use of excessive force signals a deliberate display of power and punishment. Such acts serve as grim reminders of the unequal power relations that enable, excuse, condone and perpetuate violence against women.

## 2.6 Causes of GBV including femicide

Gender-based violence (GBV) including femicide in Kenya is shaped by a complex interplay of social, economic, legal, and cultural factors. Understanding these root causes and contributing dynamics is essential for designing effective interventions. This section unpacks the systemic issues and entrenched beliefs that sustain violence, while leaving space for the integration of field-based narratives that reflect lived experiences.

The graph below presents the causes of GBV as identified by stakeholders in the field, categorised using the PESTEL model. It highlights the factors most strongly associated with driving GBV, including femicide.



*Figure 4: Causes of GBV*

From the graph, socio-cultural, economic, and political factors ranked first, second, and third respectively as the leading causes of GBV, including femicide. In contrast, legal, environmental, and technological factors were identified as the least attributed causes. These factors are discussed in detail below, drawing on insights and perspectives shared by stakeholders in the field.

### **2.6.1 Political Factors**

Political factors cause GBV including femicide by enabling impunity, weak systems, and harmful social norms. Weak governance and accountability significantly hinder the prevention and response to GBV. This is evident in the lack of political will to enforce existing laws or allocate sufficient funding for survivor support programs creating a culture of lack of accountability for perpetrators and providing a fertile ground for GBV including femicide to thrive.

National action plans are frequently delayed or underfunded, and poor coordination between national and county governments results in fragmented, ineffective responses that fail to protect women and girls adequately.

Insecurity poses an even greater risk, particularly in escalating incidents of gender-based violence (GBV). A women's rights activist from Kakamega raised concerns about insecurity being a key driver of GBV, citing cases where due to lawlessness and impunity, criminal gangs are terrorizing women and girls, as captured below,

*"GBV including femicide perpetrated by existing notorious gangs such as Jeshi Jinga, 42 brothers and #23 whose membership terrorize locals especially women and girls."*  
*(KII- Kakamega)*

Elections in Kenya have historically been flashpoints for systemic GBV, particularly sexual violence used as intimidation or revenge. Survivors rarely receive justice, and perpetrators often linked to political or security forces act with impunity.

A survivor from Kibra recounting experiences during the 2007/08 post-election violence and lack of redress,

*"I was raped by men I knew; they explicitly threatened me on ethnic grounds. "* (Survivor- Nairobi)

In regions experiencing conflict or state fragility such as border areas and refugee settlements the risk of GBV intensifies. Women and girls in these settings are disproportionately exposed to sexual violence, sometimes at the hands of armed groups or security personnel. The collapse of law enforcement and community support systems further leaves survivors vulnerable, while access to justice and healthcare remains severely limited, complicating the path to reporting abuse or accessing support.

## 2.6.2 Economic Factors

Economic hardship plays a dual role in exposing women to GBV and limiting their ability to escape abusive situations. Widespread poverty and economic dependence on male partners often force women to remain in violent relationships due to a lack of financial alternatives. In some cases, femicide has been linked to tensions arising when women seek financial independence, challenging entrenched power dynamics. Additionally, women and girls are compelled to engage in transactional relationships where men treat them as their subjects and most times leading to femicide (*kula fare*).

During public participation in Ukunda and Msambweni, stakeholders drew a strong link between the region's poverty levels and its positioning as a tourist hub, noting how this intersection increases the risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against women and girls. Foreigners groom vulnerable and poor girls by presenting financial assistance as benevolence. This manipulation exploits their economic hardship and entrenches harmful gendered power imbalances making them susceptible to GBV including femicide.

The issue of economic vulnerability, once commonly associated with the well-known "fish for sex" phenomenon, has now taken on new forms. A stakeholder from Migori County recounted the emergence of a similarly troubling practice referred to as "soil for sex," where economically desperate girls in gold mining areas are coerced into exchanging sex for access to gold-rich soil.

*"Many of our girls are trapped by poverty and desperation. In the gold mining areas, there's something we now call 'soil for sex' where girls are forced to exchange their bodies just to access gold-rich soil to make a living. It's heartbreaking. Most of these are from single-headed households with no alternatives. In rural areas, where poverty is high, literacy is low, and GBV support services are almost non-existent, the situation is even worse." (Key Informant- Migori)*

This disturbing trend highlights the deepening intersection of poverty, gender inequality, and exploitation in resource-dependent communities and how it exacerbates sex for security as form of GBV.

Economic violence also manifests as a deliberate control mechanism. Abusers may withhold money, land, or dowry, sabotage their partner's employment or education opportunities, or deny access to inheritance and productive assets particularly in rural contexts thereby maintaining dominance and restricting women's autonomy.

During stakeholder engagement with the public in Taita Taveta County, it was reported that denial of finances or the ability to eke a living was common though dismissed as a form of GBV as captured below;

*“Women are married early ...any attempts to engage in economic activities are met with violence. They cannot live these marriages because that is not treated as a GBV issue, though it severely impacts women’s safety and dignity.” (KII- Taita Taveta)*

### **2.6.3 Social and Cultural Factors**

Patriarchal structures and gender inequality underpin many of the social norms that sustain GBV in Kenya. Cultural beliefs that assert male superiority and entitlement over women’s bodies and decisions reinforce the normalization of violence. This patriarchal socialisation is amplified through culture among the young boys upon initiation ceremonies as reported verbatim by a stakeholder from Bungoma County as follows,

*“During initiation, young men are taught to undermine women .... they end up growing and following these teachings. Quotes such as “Wewe sasa ni mwanaume” gets into their heads together with the reverence that follows, creating a patriarchal society.”*

These norms normalize violence as a disciplinary or corrective tool within intimate and familial relationships.

The diminished respect for life, combined with a growing sense of entitlement towards women’s bodies and choices, fuels act of extreme aggression leading to GBV and even femicide.

Practices such as bride price and forced wife inheritance reduce women to property and severely limit their agency. Harmful traditional and religious norms also contribute to the persistence of GBV. Rituals such as female genital mutilation, widow cleansing, and child marriage continue to harm women and girls.

Some religious teachings promote submission and silence, especially within marriage, discouraging survivors from speaking out. One survivor from Kasarani testified that when she reported her abuse to the pastor, they told her to endure and keep the marriage. This is captured verbatim below,

*“I went to my Pastor and told her I was being beaten and denied money. She told me to pray and forgive him. That I was to endure for the sake of the marriage.” (Survivor – Kasarani)*

Still on religion, a rise in cults and coercive religious or spiritual groups significantly drive GBV including femicide against women and girls due to their hierarchical structures, enforced obedience, and manipulation of belief systems. A key informant from Kiambu County illustrates this issue of spiritual sects as follows;

*“We've seen a rise in spiritual sects and cults here in Kiambu that tear families apart. These groups often spread false prophecies that create mistrust and tension within households, sometimes even leading to violence. (KII - Kiambu County)*

The social stigma surrounding GBV further silences survivors. Victims are frequently blamed for the violence they experience, accused of provoking it, or subjected to shame by their families and communities especially in cases involving sexual violence. Fear of reputational damage or retaliation prevents many from reporting abuse, enabling perpetrators to act with impunity and continue the violence.

#### **2.6.4 Technological Factors**

The digital age has introduced new forms of GBV, particularly targeting young women and women in public life. Online platforms have become spaces for cyberbullying, non-consensual sharing of intimate images, and stalking as illustrated by an officer from the DCI as follows,

*“There is widespread use of digital platforms to stalk or lure victims,” (KII- Nairobi)*

The TWG established during Key Informant interviews that law enforcement for TFGBV face delays due to uncooperative telecoms and limited capacity. With current legislation such as the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act (2018) and the Data Protection Act (2019) lacking gender-specific provisions and clear investigative protocols to deal with TFGBV.

An elder from Makueni, speaking during public engagement, noted that despite its advantages, technology has weakened interpersonal bonds within families and between couples contributing to GBV within intimate partner relations as shared below:

*“Hizi simu zinapunguza mapenzi...zinachangia kwa dhuluma za kijinsia.” (FGD – Makueni)*

Women in leadership or activism often face gendered disinformation campaigns aimed at undermining their credibility as illustrated by a young Member of County Assembly (MCA) aspirant in 2022 who recounted being followed home, having her posters torn, and enduring online mockery as illustrated below,

*“When I reported the incidents to a local government officer, I was told to “toughen up” because it was part of political competition.” (Survivor - Kisumu)*

The above case highlights how technology contributes to the rise in GBV cases and how existing institutions often fail to recognize and address these emerging forms of violence allowing digital perpetrators to act with impunity.

#### **2.6.5 Environmental Factors**

Environmental displacement, whether due to climate change or conflict, exacerbates the risk of GBV. In the wake of droughts, floods, or conflict, women and girls often end up in overcrowded camps or temporary shelters where protective structures are lacking. These crises also heighten household stress and resource scarcity, which can escalate tensions and contribute to intimate partner violence. The breakdown of community-based protection mechanisms in such settings leave survivors particularly vulnerable.

## 2.6.6 Legal and Institutional Factors

Kenya's legal and institutional frameworks through robust fall short in fully addressing GBV. The law still does not recognize certain forms of violence such as marital rape leaving many survivors without legal recourse. For those in rural areas or living in poverty, legal aid is often inaccessible, further entrenching inequality in access to justice.

Institutional failures also contribute to a culture of impunity. Survivors frequently encounter slow, insensitive police responses, which can lead to the withdrawal of cases. Services meant to support them are often trauma-insensitive, compounding the harm.

Retraumatized of survivors through insensitive handling of their cases by the criminal justice system from police, prosecutors and to the courts as demonstrated below by the verbatim quote of a GBV survivor from Homabay County;

*“There is a concern over the capacity of the legal justice system and the police to handle gender-based violence (GBV) cases fairly and effectively. I encountered police harassment when reporting at gender desks. Others whom I found there were also treated the same way and we felt discouraged to pursue justice. That is one reason why GBV cases are rarely reported, and those reported are often withdrawn due to insufficient evidence, victim intimidation, and corruption” (Survivor – Homabay).*

Low conviction rates, often due to poor investigations or inadequate witness protection, reinforce a sense of hopelessness and fear among survivors, deterring them from seeking justice.

## Other Exacerbating Factors of GBV Including Femicide in Kenya

While patriarchal norms, economic inequality, and legal failings are central drivers of GBV and femicide, several contextual and emerging factors are compounding the risks, particularly for women and girls. These factors often intersect and deepen vulnerability, demanding a coordinated, multisectoral response.

Border regions face increased risks of human trafficking, arms smuggling, and sexual exploitation, especially of young women and girls. Weak border enforcement and impunity worsen the situation, allowing GBV to thrive under the guise of employment or migration opportunities. Women and girls in Busia, Migori, Kwale and Mombasa were reported to be vulnerable to sexual exploitation and trafficking, often under the guise of job offers. This was occasioned by weak law enforcement at the borders. Below is a testimony from Mombasa County of a survivor trafficked across borders under the guise of employment,

*“I know a number of children trafficked to and from Tanzania and Somalia. Passports of known sex offenders (even those marked as such in the U.S.) still go unflagged at Kenyan entry points. Due to poverty and economic desperation, I was lured into trafficking under the promise of jobs in Saudi.” (Survivor – Mombasa)*

The breakdown of family structures due to separation, migration, orphanhood, or child-headed households has eroded protective environments. Poor parental guidance and lack of open dialogue about gender norms normalize violence, while the nuclearization of families has weakened traditional support systems. Blended families often expose children, especially girls, to sexual abuse by step-relatives, with cases frequently unreported due to stigma or fear. In Bungoma, Vihiga and Trans-Nzoia Counties stakeholders voiced concerns of sexual and physical abuses of children by their step fathers.

Alcohol, drug abuse, and gambling often prevalent in low-income or culturally permissive settings significantly contribute to GBV and femicide. These behaviours, especially among unemployed or distressed men, fuel aggression in households as reported in the counties of Embu, Muranga, Kisumu, Nairobi and Mombasa. Notably, limited mental health and rehabilitation services leave both survivors and perpetrators without adequate support.

## **2.7 Impacts of GBV, including Femicide**

This section critically explores the impacts of GBV, including femicide across multiple levels and through micro and macro lenses. These impacts transcend the immediate GBV survivor or femicide victim's dependents, permeating through families, communities, institutions, economies, and societies at large.

### **2.7.1 Micro-Level Impacts**

#### **(a) Individual and Interpersonal Consequences**

Survivors of GBV often suffer physical injuries, chronic health complications, psychological trauma, and loss of income-generating opportunities.

A key informant account illustrates how mental health issues, including PTSD, depression, and suicidal tendencies, are common with survivors as follows,

*“A teenage girl from Kipini who survived rape attempted suicide after being shamed by her family and schoolmates.” (KII- Tana River)*

Femicide leaves dependents, especially children traumatized, orphaned and exposed to heightened vulnerability (WHO, 2021). Emotional distress, stigmatization, and intergenerational trauma are common outcomes among both survivors and relatives of femicide victims (UNODC, 2019).

#### **(b) Household Strain**

At the household level, GBV including femicide contributes to economic insecurity, family breakdown, and reduced educational outcomes for children, particularly girls. Families of femicide victims frequently bear funeral expenses, custody battles, and psychosocial

instability, creating a ripple effect of disempowerment (CREAW, 2023). The account below from a survivor in Nyeri County paints a picture of how GBV contributes to household strain;

*“Victims are not able to carry their daily duties because of assault. A case in point is a lady here in Nyeri whose limbs were cut off by the husband and she is not able perform normal duties that require the hands” (Survivor- Nyeri).*

### **2.7.2. Meso-Level Impacts**

#### **(a) Community and Social Disruption**

GBV and femicide destabilize community cohesion, diminish trust in local leadership and justice systems, and reinforce cycles of silence and impunity. In communities where violence is normalized, bystanders and witnesses experience a breakdown in social norms and moral injury with children who experience such violence perpetuating it in subsequent relations as recounted by a key informant from Makueni County below,

*“GBV and Femicide in this county has led to issues such as homelessness for the survivors, child neglect, and erosion of family values. Such children are likely to perpetuate the same violence they witnessed... it’s a vicious cycle...” (KII- Makueni)*

#### **(b) Burn out for Service Providers**

Health facilities, police stations, and justice systems are overwhelmed by cases of GBV, often without the requisite training or resources to offer survivor-centered services. Service providers also experience significant emotional and psychological strain due to constant exposure to distressing GBV cases. In the absence of psychosocial support systems, many are unable to offer effective, compassionate services to survivors. A key informant from Mombasa County shared with the TWG how handling GBV cases takes a heavy emotional toll on officers, often leaving them overwhelmed and unsupported,

*“Investigators often report mental breakdowns, exposure to explicit content daily, and even being prescribed psychiatric medication. I recall reviewing a video of a virgin being raped while the abuser mocked the victim. That case has traumatised me including others who were present with me up to date.” (KII- Mombasa),*

This institutional strain reduces service quality and deters survivors from reporting, reinforcing a vicious cycle.

Further GBV and femicide and the inaction due to weak enforcement of laws leads to erosion of trust in public institutions like the justice system as demonstrated by a survivor from Nairobi below,

*“This repeated incidents of GBV without justice have contributed to distrust within the community here. This mistrust extends to law enforcement and judicial systems. We take matters into our own hands instead.” (Survivor- Nairobi).*

### **2.7.3. Macro-Level Impacts**

#### **(a) National Economic Costs**

GBV drains public resources through increased healthcare costs, lost productivity, law enforcement expenditures, and judicial system congestion as explained below,

*“GBV has contributed to an increase in maternal mortality, especially among teenage mothers who face higher health risks and limited access to quality maternal care here in Turkana putting a strain on scarce resources. We have to choose between treatment and other basic needs.” (FGD- Turkana)*

#### **(b) Policy and Governance Implications**

Persistently high rates of GBV including femicide expose state failures in fulfilling constitutional and international human rights obligations, undermining the legitimacy of public institutions. Additionally, poor data systems on GBV hinder effective policy planning and resource allocation.

### **2.7.4. Global Implications**

#### **(a) Transnational Norms and Development Goals**

GBV and femicide undermine progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions. The normalization of violence against women in one part of the world reinforces global tolerance and slows international accountability (Fund, 2015).

*“In undermining development visions and goals, high levels of GBV make it difficult to achieve gender equality, good health and education, all of which are key components of sustainable development. This also erodes trust in local justice systems, especially when perpetrators go unpunished.” (KII – Samburu)*

#### **(b) Migration and Displacement**

GBV, including femicide threats, is a leading driver of internal displacement and cross-border migration among women and girls. This places strain on humanitarian systems and disrupts development trajectories (UNHCR, 2022).

Understanding the impacts of gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide through a multidimensional lens from individual (micro) to institutional and societal (macro) levels is essential for designing comprehensive prevention and response strategies. These impacts extend beyond the direct survivor, affecting families, communities, institutions, and future generations. Therefore, effective responses must be integrated and multi-sectoral, addressing

both the immediate and long-term consequences of violence. A holistic approach ensures that interventions not only provide immediate relief but also promote transformative justice and collective healing (UN Women, 2021; World Health Organization, 2021; European Institute for Gender Equality [EIGE], 2020).

## **CHAPTER THREE: THE FAMILY IN THE CONTEXT OF GBV INCLUDING FEMICIDE IN KENYA**

### **3.1 Introduction**

The family unit is widely recognized as a fundamental building block of a nation, providing basic support and structure to its members, and contributing to the well-being of society. Every country needs a family because without a family, a country is incomplete. Families provide crucial economic, emotional, and social support, especially at an early stage of life in educating and preparing children for participation in society. Based on the roles, the family is seen a refuge for its members where their safety and well-being are guaranteed. The family is the first unit where behaviour is learned by children and its adult members. Thus, love shared in a family is reflected in the character of an individual.

While traditionally viewed as a source of protection and support, the family is increasingly becoming a site of hidden violence, particularly for women, girls, and children. This supports the adage assertion that the family is the most violent group in society, and the home is the most violent place (Del Martin 1976). In Kenya and many parts of Africa, the home assumed to be a sanctuary, is increasingly becoming the most dangerous place for women and girls. Femicide statistics, rising reports of incest and defilement, and the normalization of informal dispute settlements all point to a crisis of safety within the family unit. Consequently, this makes the family a key ally, in combating violence in all its facets.

The family is often idealized as a unit of care, protection and socialization. It is also within the family unit that many forms of gender-based violence (GBV) including intimate partner violence, psychological abuse, sexual violence, economic control, and even femicide, frequently occur. As the primary social institution, the family holds cultural and normative power that can both reinforce and obscure harmful gender hierarchies. Women and girls often bear the brunt of these abuses due to deeply entrenched patriarchal norms that justify male dominance and female subordination within domestic settings (UN Women, 2021). Understanding the role of the family in both perpetuating and preventing GBV, including femicide, is critical to developing holistic, sustainable interventions at every level of society.

### **3.2 Globally**

Globally, the family is a leading site of violence against women and girls. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), one in three women worldwide has experienced physical or sexual violence in her lifetime, most often by an intimate partner (WHO, 2021). In 2021 alone, an estimated 45,000 women and girls were killed by family members or intimate partners, underscoring the deadly risks women and girls face in their own homes (UNODC & UN Women, 2022). Femicide is often a culmination of sustained emotional, physical, and economic abuse.

The global community has responded through instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG Target 5.2 explicitly calls for the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including within the private sphere. However, implementation gaps persist, particularly where legal systems fail to recognize certain forms of familial abuse or lack effective enforcement mechanisms.

### **3.3 Regionally**

In Africa, GBV within the family is compounded by legal pluralism, cultural practices, and economic inequalities. Article 18 of the African Charter on People Human and People's Rights proclaims the family as the natural unit and basis of society and obligates the state to take care of its physical health and moral. It imposes duty upon the state to eliminate discrimination against women and ensure protection for women and children. In accordance with international norms. Such obligations include protection from GBV including femicide to guarantee the physical health and wellbeing as well as morals within the family. The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) commits member states to protect women from all forms of violence, including those occurring within the family. Despite this, intimate partner violence and femicide remain pervasive in many African societies, often underreported due to stigma, lack of awareness, and limited access to justice systems (African Union, 2003).

Customary norms around bride wealth, male headship, and women's submissiveness contribute to the normalization of violence within families. In some contexts, a woman reporting her husband's abuse is viewed as undermining the family unit, further discouraging disclosure or intervention (Mutahi & Ruto, 2021). Meanwhile, civil society and women's rights movements across the continent are increasingly mobilising to challenge harmful patriarchal norms and demand accountability.

### **3.4 Nationally**

#### **3.4.1 Context of GBV including femicide**

In Kenya, the family remains both a source of support and a primary site of gendered harm. Data from the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) 2022 shows that 34% of ever-married women aged 15–49 have experienced physical violence from a spouse or partner (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics [KNBS], 2023). A significant number of femicide cases reported in the country occur within domestic settings, typically following patterns of intimate partner violence.

Several legal instruments in Kenya address GBV in the family, including the Protection Against Domestic Violence Act (2015) and provisions in the Penal Code. However, challenges in enforcement, victim protection, and survivor-centred services persist. The patriarchal

structure of many Kenyan households continues to normalize the control of women through coercive means such as financial deprivation, emotional abuse, and physical threats (Federation of Women Lawyers [FIDA] Kenya, 2017).

Cases of married women being disinherited upon the death of their spouses, evicted from matrimonial homes, or denied custody of children after separation highlight how economic violence remains embedded in family systems.

Additionally, harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and early marriage are still perpetuated in some communities as rites of passage or mechanisms for controlling female sexuality (UNICEF, 2021). These practices have lifelong psychological and physical consequences for survivors and increase the risk of subsequent abuse within marriage or domestic settings.

The recent public outcry against femicide in Kenya has drawn attention to the role of the family in both concealing and perpetuating abuse. Many femicide cases as reported in the media involve women and girls who had previously sought help or reported threats, but received inadequate institutional support. The absence of a legal definition of femicide and a dedicated policy framework to prevent gender-related killings reflects a significant gap in Kenya's legal response.

Efforts by feminist movements such as **#StopFemicideKE** and partnerships with government agencies have brought visibility to the issue, demanding legislative reform, survivor protection mechanisms, and gender-sensitive policing (CREAW, 2022). There is also increasing advocacy for the integration of GBV prevention and response in family counselling, religious teachings, and community dispute resolution systems.

### **3.4.2 National Trends in Kenya**

In Kenya, the statistics are equally alarming. According to the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) 2022, 16 per cent of women and 10 per cent of men reported experiencing physical violence in the previous 12 months, while 34 per cent of women and 27 per cent of men have faced physical violence since the age of 15. These figures represent disrupted lives, derailed futures, and weakened communities.

As a site of violence and harm, studies in Kenya consistently show that majority of GBV incidents, including intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual assault, and femicide, occur within familial or domestic settings. This is borne out by the dearth of information gathered from participants during the public participation exercise by the TWG in all counties of Kenya.

The Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) and police records submitted by the department of police to the TWG during the stakeholder engagements affirm that women more than men are most at risk of violence from intimate partners, close relatives, or family acquaintances. Information from the police and the national crime research center to the TWG

also confirm that femicide cases frequently involve husbands, boyfriends, fathers, or brothers as perpetrators.

According to the National Gender Sector Working Group (2024), 60% of femicide cases occur in domestic spaces. Between January and March 2025 alone, 129 women were killed, with 50% linked to domestic relationships and 60% of perpetrators identified as family members (NPS & NCRC). According to the Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Kenya, over 40% of incest cases in Kisii in 2023 were never reported to the police, while 70% of reported cases were later withdrawn due to family pressure or compensation agreements. Further, in Kisii, Bomet, and parts of Nyanza, defilement and incest cases are often resolved through informal negotiations or out-of-court settlements, frequently involving monetary compensation or dowry exchanges. This leads to survivors being denied justice and further stigmatised.

### **3.4.3 Common Forms of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Committed by Family Members Across Kenyan Counties**

As observed above, family members are the main perpetrators of GBV. The most common forms of GBV reported within the family set up include:

- (a) Emotional and psychological abuse – This includes patterns of manipulation, coercive control, verbal intimidation, and threats, often aimed at undermining a person's self-worth or autonomy.
- (b) Economic abuse – Survivors report experiences such as the denial of access to financial resources, restriction from employment, and deliberate creation of forced economic dependency within the family structure.
- (c) Child marriage – Particularly prevalent in counties such as Kajiado, Narok, and parts of West Pokot, early and forced marriages continue to be reported as a form of GBV that deprives girls of their rights to education, autonomy, and bodily integrity.
- (d) Sexual abuse – Cases involving incest, defilement, sodomy and rape by relatives and even workers within the home remain a deeply concerning issue, with many survivors facing barriers to reporting due to stigma, family pressure, or threats.
- (e) Physical violence – This includes intimate partner violence, spousal battery, and the use of corporal punishment, often normalized within households but carrying long-term physical and psychological harm.

### **3.4.4 GBV including Femicide Hotspots in Kenya: County-Level Trends**

In Murang'a County, local civil society organisations and gender desks reported to the TWG that indicates that 64% of GBV cases in 2023 were domestic in nature. Further, 31% of reported female homicides were linked to intimate or familial relationships. In Kwale County, the situation mirrors similar concerns with views of the participants in the county showing that

between 2022 and 2024, GBV reports rose by 23%. Most of these cases stemmed from economic dependency, harmful cultural norms, and lack of effective support services.

Recent data and community reports highlight alarming trends in the prevalence and handling of GBV, including femicide across several counties in Kenya. These patterns reflect deeply rooted cultural practices, gaps in law enforcement, and systemic failures in community protection mechanisms. Mapping these hotspots offers critical insight into where targeted interventions are most urgently needed.

Kisii County has emerged as a major concern, with reports indicating that up to 70% of incest cases are withdrawn due to pressure from family members. This trend underscores the strong influence of customary conflict resolution and a culture of silence that prioritizes family reputation over justice for survivors.

Kwale County recorded a 23% increase in reported GBV cases between 2022 and 2024, suggesting both a rise in incidents and potentially improved awareness or willingness to report. However, services remain overstretched, and informal settlements in the county lack consistent survivor support mechanisms.

In Murang'a County, 64% of GBV cases are reported as domestic in nature, pointing to widespread intimate partner violence within family settings. Economic stress and alcohol abuse are cited as contributing factors, compounded by limited access to shelters and psychosocial services.

Kajiado and Narok Counties continue to report high rates of child marriage, particularly among Maasai communities. Despite ongoing advocacy, entrenched cultural norms and low school retention among girls perpetuate this harmful practice.

Kilifi and Bomet Counties stand out for the prevalence of livestock-based compensation practices in settling sexual abuse and GBV cases. Survivors are often pressured to accept cows or goats as restitution, bypassing legal procedures and denying them justice.

These county-specific trends highlight the need for context-sensitive GBV prevention and response strategies, including legislative enforcement, community re-education, and resource allocation that reflect local dynamics.

### **3.5 The Impact of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide on Families and Households in Kenya**

Gender-based violence (GBV), including femicide, has far-reaching consequences that ripple across families and households, leading to social, economic, and developmental setbacks. When families fail to protect survivors, especially the most vulnerable, the cumulative effect is not only individual trauma but a systemic disruption of societal progress. These impacts include the following:

- (a) Educational disruption. In 2023, the Ministry of Education reported that over 21,000 schoolgirls dropped out due to early pregnancy, a significant portion of which resulted from sexual abuse within family or neighbourhood contexts. Counties such as Kilifi, Homa Bay, Bungoma, and Narok recorded the highest dropout rates (Ministry of Education, 2023). This problem is not unique to Kenya.
- (b) Teen pregnancies present another outcome of GBV at the household level. According to the 2022 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS), one in five girls aged 15–19 has already begun childbearing. Community health workers in regions such as Migori and Siaya have noted that many of these pregnancies are a result of abuse perpetrated by relatives or trusted family acquaintances.
- (c) Economical loss. A joint study by UN Women and the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) estimated that Kenya loses KES 46 billion annually due to GBV-related health expenses, loss of productivity, and legal proceedings (UN Women & NGEC, 2021). These losses are particularly acute in Kenya where women and girls play a central role in the informal economy and in unpaid care work. Households, especially female-headed, experience diminished economic resilience, increased medical burdens, and often, the complete breakdown of economic security when a mother or daughter is harmed or killed.
- (d) GBV including femicide perpetuates cycles of vulnerability. Girls who drop out of school due to abuse are significantly less likely to return to formal education or access stable employment. Many become economically dependent or are pushed into early marriages. At the same time, boys who witness violence in the household or are themselves neglected often internalise harmful gender norms or resort to violence themselves, fuelling a generational cycle of abuse and inequality.

These compounded effects place immense pressure not only on the affected families but also on national systems of health, education, and justice. Unless urgent action is taken to restore the protective and nurturing function of the family, Kenya risks generational setbacks in gender equality, economic development, and social cohesion.

### **3.6 Views from Stakeholders on the family**

#### **3.6.1 Families Often Obstruct Justice**

Public sentiment strongly points to families playing a harmful role in covering up GBV cases. Many protect perpetrators, especially when they are relatives by avoiding police reports to preserve family reputation.

During a public engagement in Murang'a County, a relative of a femicide victim shared a heart-wrenching account, translated from Swahili below, describing how her sister's repeated pleas

for help were ignored both by relatives who urged her to endure the abuse for the sake of the family.

*“A few weeks later, my sister was found dead, and the husband had fled. If only my family and the police had taken her cries seriously, her life could have been saved. (Relative of a Femicide Victim - Murang'a).*

Victims are often pressured to remain silent, withdraw cases, or "forgive" the abuser. Elders and civil society actors report that families fear public shame more than they value justice or the survivor's wellbeing.

### **3.6.2 Broken Family Structures and Moral Decay**

GBV is linked to broken homes, poor parenting, and the weakening of extended family support systems. Community members state that children from stepfamilies or single-parent homes are more vulnerable. Field findings revealed that children in blended families, particularly where women are remarried, face increased vulnerability to sexual abuse, including defilement, sodomy and rape. In several reported cases, the children of the second wife were targeted by male members of the household, sometimes including stepfathers or older step-siblings as observed by this key informant from Embu County below;

*“These step-children become easy targets for abuse, especially in families where there is little oversight or emotional connection.” (KII- Embu County).* At the same time, there is concern about the loss of traditional family values like respect, protection, and collective care. Violence, infidelity, and lack of discipline are now normalized in many households. Practices like denying girls inheritance or favouring boys further entrench gender inequality.

### **3.6.3 Harmful Cultural and Religious Practices**

Informal settlements of GBV cases through cultural rituals like *kuchinja mbuzi* or *maslaha* are still widespread, especially in Western and North Eastern Kenya. Families accept compensation (e.g., goats or cash) rather than pursue legal justice, leaving survivors without redress. Additionally, some religious teachings stress forgiveness and discourage women from leaving abusive marriages, while others silence survivors or excommunicate them for speaking out.

### **3.6.4 Emotional and Psychological Harm**

Verbal abuse, emotional neglect, and hatred within homes are cited as major triggers of trauma, especially for children. These experiences sometimes lead to incest, long-term psychological harm, or femicide. Survivors struggle with deep stigma and self-blame, which is reinforced by family members who silence them instead of offering support.

### **3.6.5 Economic Stress, Poverty, and Inequality**

Financial dependence on male partners and the overall poverty of households makes it difficult for women and girls to escape abuse. Families sometimes settle cases informally due to economic desperation. In many poor areas like Kisii, Turkana, and Mombasa, families cannot afford legal aid, shelter, or even transportation to report violence. Lack of education support and harmful practices like marrying off girls to ease economic burden also increase vulnerability.

### **3.6.6 Absence, Addiction, and Mental Health**

Public views express concern over the growing number of parents struggling with alcoholism, drug use, gambling or untreated mental health issues.

A key informant in the health sector from Isiolo county recounts below how mental issues were contributing to GBV in the family.

*“The situation looks very bad...addiction and psychological issues do contribute to GBV as they impair one ‘s judgement to act rationally in the face of conflict.” (KII- Isiolo)*

Further, the issue of gambling and betting was singled out in Kitui County as an exacerbating cause of GBV including femicide as narrated below;

*“Gambling, betting and alcohol abuse lead to domestic conflict and fuel most of the gender-based violence. Men after losing become violent to their wives and even children.” (Survivor - Kitui).*

These factors often lead to neglect or violence in the home. In many urban slums and rural counties, children are left unsupervised due to parental migration for work.

In Bungoma County, stakeholders recounted how women leave their homes going to work as house helps in Saudi Arabia and Middle East countries (christened by locals as “Arab Migration” as well as Nairobi thus leaving their children with their fathers, who often than not turn to female children for sexual satisfaction. Relatives also take advantage of the vacuum which leads to cases of rape/defilement. Such environments increase the risk of abuse sometimes by caregivers, relatives, or neighbours.

### **3.6.7 Impact on Children and Family Life**

Children are seen as “collateral damage” in violent households. They witness trauma, suffer abuse themselves, or are left without stable caregivers. GBV disrupts family unity and creates cycles of trauma, loveless homes, or child-headed households. Many in the public now call for families to be re-centred as places of safety, care, and accountability.

### **3.7 Key challenges**

The family has become a double-edged sword for its members. Some days it becomes a minefield of chaos, comfort, and the magic in between, and these are the pitfalls that present challenges or confusion in addressing GBV including femicide. Several challenges were identified within the family sphere that influenced tackling GBV. These challenges buttress the views collected from the communities during the public participation undertaken by the TWG:

- (a) Inadequate information on available support services for survivors and their families.
- (b) Community orientation and way of life such as pastoralists/nomadic lifestyles – example, in Tana River, Kajiado – find it difficult to respond to GBV including Femicide incidences because the communities keep moving in search of pasture and water making it difficult to access medical services and investigations.
- (c) Normalization of violence within the family context especially when anchored on cultural practices such as FGM, early marriage, beading, defilement, incest and rape that is deemed communally acceptable.
- (d) Majority of victims/survivors do not report cases due to backlash, stigma, discrimination, victimization, religion-based inequalities, power imbalances this situation is made worse by the absence of an effective social reintegration policy for victims of GBV makes it difficult for them to return to their families after staying in shelters.
- (e) Use of alternative and traditional dispute resolution mechanisms that demean the value of life and more so for the women and girls by condoning abuse and violence against them in the guise of culture. Furthermore, perpetrators face very weak sanctions in a process that has no regard for the victim or survivor.

### **3.8 Recommendations**

Family can play a crucial role in combating GBV, including femicide, by providing early intervention, support for survivors, and challenging harmful social norms. It can be a first line of defence by recognizing signs of abuse, providing safe spaces for reporting, and encouraging reporting to relevant authorities. Therefore, as Kenya's first social institution, the family must be at the centre of the national strategy to prevent and respond to GBV and femicide. Through legal reform, cultural transformation, economic empowerment, and sustained public education, families can become sanctuaries of safety, care, and justice rather than spaces of violence and silence.

To effectively address GBV including femicide, interventions at the family level are essential. Some of these include:

- (a) Provide material and human resources for sustained awareness campaigns against GBV in family setup with specific focus on the evolving nature of the family, roles and responsibilities within the family unit.
- (b) Conduct intensive public campaigns designed to challenge entrenched cultural beliefs and dismantle stereotypes surrounding gender-based violence, integrating educational programs into schools and community centres with involvement of men and boys in these discussions, advocating for respectful relationships and the rejection of toxic masculinity.
- (c) Establish and implement policies for shelters and social focusing on reintegration of survivors back into the community.
- (d) Secure government commitment to ensure school retention and continuity for victims of defilement.
- (e) Enhance the interoperability of different reporting lines through centralized management of information to enhance coordinated alerts and response.
- (f) Criminalize Out-of-Court Settlements in GBV Cases- Amend national laws to explicitly prohibit the informal or customary resolution of criminal GBV including femicide and sexual offences to curb impunity and uphold survivors' rights to justice.
- (g) Train Community Leaders to Uphold the Law-Provide targeted legal literacy training to chiefs, assistant chiefs, faith leaders, and elders to ensure GBV cases are reported to the police and not handled informally.
- (h) Scale Up the Positive Parenting Programme (Triple P)-Expand this evidence-based parenting program through county social services to equip families with tools on non-violent discipline, gender equality, and communication.
- (i) Increase County Budget Allocations for Child Protection -Advocate for increased funding for child protection services especially in high-GBV counties such as Kilifi, Kisii, Turkana, Nairobi, and Homa Bay to enhance prevention, rescue, and response services.
- (j) Strengthen Enforcement of GBV-Related Laws at Community Level-Integrate enforcement of the Children Act (2022), Protection Against Domestic Violence Act (2015), and Social Protection Policy (2011) into community policing and local administrative structures, with public accountability mechanisms.
- (k) Implement Community-Based Family Life Education-Roll out structured education programs focusing on non-violence, gender equality, and family wellbeing through schools, religious institutions, and community centres.
- (l) Link Household Economic Empowerment to Social Protection-Expand conditional cash transfers and livelihood support for vulnerable families, especially female - headed

households, to reduce dependence on abusive relationships and incentivize positive behaviour change.

- (m) Equip Community-Based Family Support Structures -Train and equip *Nyumba Kumi* elders, CHWs, and administrators to detect and refer GBV cases appropriately. Provide legal literacy materials and reporting tools aligned with national protection frameworks.
- (n) Institutionalize Family-Based Male Engagement Programs -Support creation of fatherhood groups, mentorship circles, and boys' clubs embedded in local and cultural settings to promote respectful masculinities and healthy family dynamics.
- (o) Use Digital Tools to Disseminate GBV Prevention Information -Leverage mobile phones, SMS, and social media platforms to deliver tips on healthy relationships, reporting mechanisms, and survivor stories directly to families.
- (p) Amend the Protection Against Domestic Violence Act to explicitly recognise and criminalise marital rape, strengthen whistleblowing mechanisms for community reporting, and provide guidelines for police on protection orders. It should also cover dating relationships and economic abuse.
- (q) Introduce a Temporary Safety Notice (TSN), issued by GBV Response Units, to bar alleged perpetrators from returning to the survivor's residence for up to 14 days, allowing time to pursue a protection order.

## CHAPTER FOUR: LEGAL, POLICY, AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

### 4.1 Introduction

The integrity of the human body is one of the salient components in the enjoyment of the right to life. As part of the Bill of Rights enshrined in the Kenyan Constitution, the State has a duty to ensure that this right is upheld and protected. This also means that it has an obligation to create the necessary institutions and pass laws to fulfil this responsibility to its people. In this respect, Kenya has enacted several pieces of legislation and established institutions that are mandated to uphold, secure and protect the right to bodily integrity. This Chapter interrogates the effectiveness of existing legal, policy, and institutional frameworks in Kenya addressing GBV, including femicide. It identifies existing gaps and makes actionable recommendations based on research, public views as well as structured engagement with relevant and key stakeholders addressing gender-based violence, including femicide in the country.

### 4.2 Global and Regional Legal Framework

Gender-based violence (GBV) is recognized globally as a serious violation of human rights and a significant obstacle to achieving gender equality, development, and peace. International frameworks addressing GBV provide a comprehensive foundation for understanding, preventing, and responding to violence against women and girls. They also set standards for holding states accountable for non-compliance with their obligations under the treaties or convention.

These frameworks, established through multilateral treaties, conventions, and declarations, articulate states' obligations to protect survivors, promote gender justice, and eliminate all forms of violence rooted in discrimination and unequal power relations, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), 1948, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 1979, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), 1989, United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW), 1993 and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) amongst many others.

At the regional level, Africa has developed robust legal and policy frameworks that complement global efforts to address gender-based violence (GBV) and advance women's rights. These regional instruments are grounded in Africa's unique socio-political realities and provide targeted commitments for state parties to eliminate violence against women and girls in all its forms, and include Maputo Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) which addresses the women rights and gender-based violence. The Protocol was ratified in Kenya in 2010.

African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) ratified in 1992, emphasizes the rights to dignity, life, and physical and psychological integrity (Articles 4 and 5). While gender neutrality limits its specificity, these rights are applicable in addressing the systemic and individualized harms resulting from GBV and femicide. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) ratified in 2000, commits to protecting children from abuse and harmful practices. The Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004) reflects Africa's continental commitment to eliminating gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide and affirms political will at the highest level to promote gender equality and ensure accountability in addressing systemic violence.

#### **4.3 National Legal Framework**

Seven key legislations form the bedrock for addressing gender-based violence, including femicide in Kenya. The pieces of legislation have been quite instrumental and progressive over the past years. However, the legislation has not yet been fully implemented owing to a myriad of reasons that have been observed, as captured in **Table 7 in Appendix 1**.

#### **4.4 Institutional Framework on GBV including Femicide.**

Kenya has adopted a multisectoral approach in addressing gender-based violence including femicide. This framework that involves various national, county, state and non-state actors is designed to prevent, respond to, and mitigate the impact of GBV including femicide.

##### **(a) State Department for Gender Affairs and Affirmative Action**

It coordinates national efforts to prevent and respond to GBV, including inter-agency collaboration, policy formulation, capacity building, and public awareness and is responsible for ensuring gender mainstreaming in all public and private sectors. Unfortunately, the weak coordination and monitoring mechanism resulted from being under-resourced in terms of budget and technical persons. Absence of linkage between the state department and the counties in terms of oversight and monitoring of the implementation of gender and related policies.

##### **(b) Ministry of Health (MOH)**

Health facilities are equipped to handle cases of sexual violence, including the provision of post-rape care. Not all medical facilities are equipped to comprehensively handle victims of GBV.

##### **(c) The Judiciary**

The Judiciary has established specialized courts, such as the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Courts, to expedite the hearing and determination of SGBV cases. These courts are designed to provide a more sensitive and efficient legal process for survivors.

It is evident that Kenya is not short of laws and institutions to address GBV including femicide. However, femicide is an emerging issue in Kenyan society and with little legal and institutional attention that has allowed it to mutate into the monster it has become. Hence the need to bridge the gap and find a way to effectively address and prosecute femicide offenders.

**(d) The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC)**

NGEC is mandated to promote gender equality and ensure freedom from discrimination for all people, especially those in special interest groups who include women, persons with disabilities, children, youth, older members of society, and marginalized communities. Despite carrying such a heavy responsibility there is a weak oversight mechanism and monitoring on matters of gender with an ever-growing need for clarity between the role of NGEC and State Department of Gender.

**(e) The National Police Service (NPS)**

As part of its mandate, the NPS has established many initiatives to deal with gender-based violence. These initiatives include the gender desks, Policare, among others. Despite operating under a rich legal framework, the National Police Service face implementational and systemic challenges that affect the implementation of their initiatives.

**(f) The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP)**

The ODPP plays a critical role in the prosecution of SGBV cases. It has established specialized units to handle sexual and gender-based violence cases, ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice. Inconsistency in practice in the prosecution of GBV and related cases. Weak coordination and communication mechanisms with investigators that impede the effective prosecution of GBV and related cases.

**(g) The National Government Administration Officers (NGAO)**

The National Government Administrative Officers (NGAO) play a crucial role in tackling sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) including femicide in Kenya. Their responsibilities are diverse, and their presence at the grassroots level allows them to engage directly with communities, prevent violence, raise awareness, facilitate reporting, coordinate multi-agency efforts, enforce laws, and provide support to survivors. Despite their presence at the grassroots level as part of the security mechanism, the cases of gender-based violence are still on the increase.

**(h) Government Chemist**

The Government Chemist Department is a specialized forensic and scientific institution established as a public laboratory under the Ministry of Health offering forensic support of law enforcement, public health, and regulatory compliance. The department operates national and regional forensic laboratories, including in Nairobi, Mombasa, and Kisumu. The three

laboratories are overwhelmed in the processing of evidence necessary for supporting the prosecution of SGBV cases. The laboratories are under-resourced in terms of staff as well as necessary reagents, causing delays in analysing evidence required for investigation and prosecution of GBV and related cases.

**(i) The National Crime Research Centre (NCRC)**

The NCRC conducts research on crime trends, including SGBV and femicide, to inform policy and program development. It provides data and analysis that are critical for evidence-based interventions. This institution faces Capacity constraints that inhibit its ability to undertake research.

**(j) The National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF)**

This fund was established to support inclusive development for the vulnerable and marginalized groups within society. Proper management and handling of these funds would ensure targeted community-based projects that will help mitigate gender-based violence, including femicide.

**(k) County Governments**

The County Governments are established to provide several public services that align with GBV interventions including prevention, response and recovery. The County Government Act actualises Chapter Eleven of the Constitution for the delivery of functions, including culture, coordinating the participation of communities in local governance, trade development and regulation, health services, control of drugs and pornography, and the production sector services including agriculture, livestock and fisheries. The county governments have an elaborate planning, statistics and budgeting framework and a civic engagement duty that should be enhanced to prevent and protect the citizens from GBV.

**4.5 Gender-Responsive Justice Reforms (2022–2024)**

The Gender-Responsive Justice Reforms (2022–2024) in Kenya aim to create a justice system that is more inclusive, equitable, and attuned to the needs of women, girls, and marginalised communities, especially survivors of gender-based violence. These reforms focus on strengthening laws against GBV, expanding access to justice through survivor-friendly courts and procedures, training key justice and health officials on gender-sensitive approaches, improving coordination across institutions, and increasing resources for prevention and support. Aligned with national and global commitments like the Generation Equality Forum, the initiative works to ensure that justice in Kenya is timely, trauma-informed, and centred on dignity for all.

The reforms mostly within the judiciary have realised the following:

- (a) Launch of the STAJ SGBV Strategy (2023–2030) in June 2023 to institutionalize a trauma-informed, survivor-centred justice system, in line with people-centred justice approaches (Judiciary of Kenya, 2023).
- (b) Establishment and Expansion of Gender Justice Courts in twelve pilot sites with the intention of establishing one Gender Justice Court in every county. The roll-out shall be data-driven, targeting counties with high SGBV prevalence (CREAW, 2024; Judiciary of Kenya, 2023).
- (c) Automation of the Convicted Sexual Offenders Register which was done in June 2023, in compliance with the provisions of the Sexual Offences Act (2006). This is to ensure that Kenya has a database of all sex offenders. It also improves transparency, tracking, and accountability for all stakeholders (FIDA-Kenya, 2023).
- (d) Definition of SGBV Case typologies for the SGBV Courts. The resulting guidelines are shaping survivor-responsive court procedures and facilitating consistency across jurisdictions (Judiciary of Kenya, 2023).
- (e) Collaboration under bilateral and multilateral agreements and Kenya's national development plans, organizations such as UN Women, UNFPA, USAID, and GIZ support technical capacity, provide funding, and assist in monitoring implementation of GBV policies. They also facilitate South-South learning, innovations in data collection (such as GBV Information Management Systems), and national surveys that influence policy direction.

#### **4.6 Best Practices**

This section highlights the best practices gathered from around the world that have addressed GBV including femicide that Kenya can replicate. In engaging with the legal, policy and institutional frameworks, Kenya not only reinforces its commitment to addressing GBV including femicide but also seeks to integrate global best practices into its local context. It is against this backdrop that comparison is made with other jurisdictions to establish best practices that Kenya can replicate and ultimately creating a safe environment free from GBV including femicide.

The following is an analysis of Kenya's framework in comparison to other jurisdictions:

##### **4.6.1 Specialized GBV Courts and Specialized Police Units**

Kenya has adopted several best practices in addressing GBV, including femicide cases. Some of the best practices already in force are the specialised GBV courts, as seen in South Africa and India.

Legal reforms have also been undertaken over the past years, but there are still gaps in the implementation and monitoring of these reforms. The Integrated Protection Measures against

GBV, as implemented in Spain, can serve as a learning area for the integration of response and support services for victims.

In Kenya, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Courts are designed to handle cases of violence against women and other gender minorities. The purpose of these courts is to improve access to Justice for Victims. We note that this aligns with the best practices of jurisdictions such as Spain. Nonetheless, we propose a special unit similar to the ones in South Africa, specifically tasked and trained in GBV and femicide to replace the special Gender desks seen at the Kenya National Police.

#### **4.6.2 Legal Framework Addressing Femicide**

Kenya does not have any legal provisions addressing femicide. At a global scale, Mexico became the first Latin American country to legislate against femicide (General Law on Women's Access to a Life Free from Violence (2007)); it defines the killing of a woman based on gender, including intimate partner violence, and mandates special investigation procedures for femicides. Similarly, in Malta, the Prevention and combating of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and for related matters law, (2021) provides for measures to address GBV and femicide. In 2022, Cyprus introduced an amendment to the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence Law (2021), defining femicide and criminalizing femicide, reflective of its commitment to combat GBV in line with the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention).

In comparison Kenya's Penal Code, Cap. 63 criminalises murder, but does not recognize femicide as a distinctive form of gender-based violence neither is there a legislation addressing it. The lack of a specific femicide law or formal recognition of femicide as a distinct crime is a gap, unlike other jurisdictions like Mexico, Malta and Cyprus, where femicide is explicitly recognized and addressed. Best practices from Mexico, Spain (Organic Law 1/2004), and South Africa (National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Act, 2024) highlight the importance of a clear legal definitions, strong enforcement, public awareness, and the need for a comprehensive approach to address the prevention and prosecution of GBV, including femicide.

#### **4.7 Institutional strengthening**

The institutional and legal gains have led to the success of programs at both the national and grassroots levels. County governments have localized national frameworks through County GBV policy and law for some Action Plans, aligning responses with the principles of devolution. They also have gender-based violence networks that comprise of state and non-state actors on matters of GBV at county level. The counties have made strides in addressing

GBV including femicide in their localities which serve as best practices that can be emulated at national level. Some of the practices are highlighted here:

#### **4.7.1 Kwale County**

In 2023, Kwale County enacted the SGBV Prevention and Protection Act, establishing a legal and institutional framework to address sexual and gender-based violence. Key provisions included the formation of SGBV Working Groups, the establishment of safe houses, and the development of referral systems. Additionally, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) manual was launched to guide the handling of GBV cases. However, despite these progressive measures, enforcement remains weak, facilities are inadequate, and police capacity to respond effectively is still limited.

#### **4.7.2 Makueni County: Holistic Support & Safe Houses**

Makueni County is the first county to develop and operationalize a GBV Recovery Center at Wote using County resources to provide survivors with secure, temporary accommodation that keeps them out of police stations or unsafe environments. Furthermore, the County is planning to establish six state-run GBV safe houses, one each in Kilome, Mbooni, Makueni, Kibwezi West, Kibwezi, and Kaiti sub-counties,

### **4.8 Challenges and Gaps in Legal, Policy, and Institutional Framework on GBV, including Femicide in Kenya**

Challenges have plagued the implementation of gender-based violence, including femicide interventions. Some of the challenges that have been identified through desktop review, as well as discussions from the public participation, include the absence of legal provisions critical for advancing comprehensive protection for vulnerable populations, especially in the workplace. Part of this can be attributed to Kenya's failure to ratify ILO Convention No. 189 on decent work for domestic workers and ILO Convention No. 190 on eliminating violence and harassment in the workplace. There is also a need to ratify the African Union Convent on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU-CEVAWG 2025) which recognizes femicide as a distinct crime. The Convention has a comprehensive framework for the prevention and elimination all forms of violence against women and girls across Africa and advocates for coordinated responses and provision of integrated services to victims and survivors. Without ratification, these frameworks remain non-binding, limiting the ability to address GBV in informal and domestic work settings where women are particularly vulnerable.

#### **(a) Weak enforcement of existing legislation**

While Kenya has progressive laws such as the Sexual Offences Act (2006), the Protection Against Domestic Violence Act (2015), the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act (2011), and the Children Act (2022), legal enforcement is inconsistent and sometimes

unprofessional. The absence of a proper monitoring and evaluation system of the implementation of these laws also contributes to weak enforcement.

**(b) Fragmented Policy Implementation and Institutional Mandates**

While Kenya has national strategies such as the National Policy on the Eradication of FGM (2019) and the National GBV Policy (2014, under review), implementation is fragmented across government ministries and agencies, with overlapping or unclear mandates. Lack of coordination leads to duplication of efforts, inefficient use of resources, and uneven service provision, disjointedness, and compartmentalization.

**(c) Lack of Binding Legal Framework on Femicide**

Kenya does not have a legal framework that defines, tracks, and prosecutes femicide as a distinct crime. Femicide is often prosecuted under general homicide laws without recognizing the unique gender attributes of this offence. This gap limits the prevention, which fails to address structural causes of gender-based killings, including intimate partner violence and dowry-related abuse.

**(d) Delayed Review and Updating of Policies**

Many GBV-related policies and action plans are outdated or not reviewed in line with evolving legal standards, evidence, and international obligations. For example, the National GBV Policy (2014) has been under review for several years without finalization. Stalled policy reviews hamper the introduction of progressive reforms and leave gaps in alignment with global best practices, such as survivor-centred justice and trauma-informed approaches.

Significant strides in legislating against GBV yet critical gaps persist in the legal and policy framework, particularly in enforcement, coordination, and alignment with international standards. Bridging these gaps requires robust legal reform, expedited ratification of international treaties, institutional alignment, and increased political will to ensure that laws on paper translate into real-world protection and justice for all survivors.

## **4.9 Recommendations**

To effectively address the persistent gaps in legal and policy instruments relating to gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide in Kenya, a coordinated and multisectoral approach is required. The following reforms are proposed to ensure a survivor-centred, accountable, and evidence-driven national response.

### **4.9.1. Policy and Legal interventions should entail:**

(a) Consider developing and enacting the following bills:

- **Equality and Equity Bill** to provide a comprehensive legal framework to address the root causes of gender-based violence (GBV) and Femicide by promoting structural transformation towards a just and inclusive society.
- **Culture and National Heritage Bill** to focus primarily on the positive culture and identification of and addressing retrogressive cultural practices and generally give effect to chapter Three of the Constitution.

- (b) Kenya to ratify the AU Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls which also provides for the offence of femicide.
- (c) Kenya to ratify ILO C189 and C190 which relate to elimination of violence and harassment in the workplace, especially for domestic workers including immigrants. To this end, the Employment Act and the Labour Institution Act should be amended to introduce these provisions for the protection of domestic workers as well as migrant workers.
- (d) At a national level, there should be clear legislative provision for the offence of femicide. A definition of the offence of femicide should be included in the Penal Code, Cap 63 of the Laws of Kenya to mean an intentional killing with a gender-related motivation and it should be distinguished from the offence of murder.
- (e) Secondly, femicide should be treated as aggravated murder, and the death penalty should be applied to it. Further, the defence of intoxication or crime of passion should not be availed to this offence because it undermines accountability, trivialises the harm suffered by the victim, and risks promoting impunity for serious acts of violence, contrary to modern legal standards that emphasize full responsibility for criminal conduct, especially in cases involving gender-based violence.
- (f) All national Policies on gender-based violence should be reviewed with a view of aligning them to the current national realities. This should include strategies and interventions that address femicide.
- (g) Develop legislation known as the Citizen Responsibility Act that buttresses citizen responsibility in addressing gender-based violence. This responsibility should include, but not be limited to, reporting, awareness, and testifying, among others.

**Consider making the following amendments:**

- (h) Amend the Sexual Offences Act 2006 to include a provision that denies victims of gender-based violence the right to withdraw their cases once prosecution has ensued.
- (i) Amend the Sexual Offences Act 2006 to provide for a timeline for the hearing and determination of any gender- based violence, including femicide. A timeline of six (6) months is proposed; this will mitigate witness fatigue, backlog of gender-based violence and related cases, and further ensure that justice is done.

- (j) Amend the Sexual Offences Act 2006 to include chemical castration for both male and female child defilers and defilers of PWDs.
- (k) Further amend and/or introduce new sections in the Sexual Offences Act to include the following:
  - Mandatory Minimum Sentencing (Section 3–24); Introduce strict, non-discretionary minimum sentences for aggravated sexual offences and repeat offenders.
  - Introduce new section criminalizing femicide as the intentional killing of a woman based on her gender, including intimate partner femicide.
  - Expand definitions to explicitly criminalize revenge porn, sextortion, doxing, and cyber harassment with sexual intent.
  - Provide for mandatory psychosocial support, anonymity of survivors during proceedings, and in-camera hearings in all GBV-related trials.
  - Impose a duty to report GBV cases by professionals (e.g., health workers, teachers), with clear protection from retaliation.
  - Strengthen the enforcement of existing laws to enable police to enter into domestic resident with or without warrant for the purposes of arresting perpetrator and rescuing the victim of violence.
  - Establish a national sex offender registry and a notification system for repeat GBV offenders for the purpose of making it accessible to the public.
  - Provide for mandatory compensation to survivors from offenders or the State, especially in cases of sexual violence and femicide.
- (l) Amend the Political Parties Act and the Elections Act to address gender-based violence in political processes as well as the electioneering period.
- (m) Amend the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act to completely criminalize medicalisation of FGM.
- (n) Develop a Parenting Policy to guide child upbringing and promote family environments that prevent GBV. This policy should outline best practices for teaching gender equality, non-violence, and respect, delivered through community workshops and school programs. By equipping parents with skills to nurture responsible children, the county can foster long-term cultural change, reducing GBV incidence and supporting survivor-friendly communities.
- (o) Amend the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA):
  - to provide for the GBV Fund. Under section 2 Add definition of “Gender-Based Violence Fund”. Add a new section (18C) to be named Gender Based Violence Fund.

- To provide for Gender Responsive Budgeting Regulations to ensure sufficient resource allocation to address all gender equality and equity programmes.

(p) Review PADV Act to:

- provide for registration and management of GBV shelters/ safe houses in the country
- Establish a funding framework for construction and recurrent expenditure of GBV shelters/ safe houses.
- provide for the establishment of Gender Sector working Committees at National and County level.

#### **4.9.2 Institutional Interventions should include:**

- (a) Standardise the prosecution processes for gender-based violence and related cases and establish a multisectoral functional monitoring framework to ensure compliance.
- (b) Enhance the coordination structure between the national and county governments to undertake civic awareness on matters of gender-based violence at the county level, and strengthen citizen responsibility at the county level.
- (c) Implement the community policing structure to have a strong bottom-up approach with a clear linkage through the county and national government. This can be done by embedding the *Nyumba Kumi* community policing structure in the proposed legislation on citizen responsibility. Providing resources, such as communication tools and referral networks, will enable these groups to act as first responders, ensuring cases are reported promptly and survivors are connected to services. This community-based approach will strengthen local accountability and support networks.
- (d) Strengthen and scale up the operations of the National Legal Aid Service for service provision to the vulnerable, especially children in conflict with the law in gender-based violence and related matters.
- (e) Create a Multi-Agency Committee at the Deputy President Office to be in charge of implementing the recommendations of the TWG Report in close consultation with the Ministry in charge of Gender Affairs.
- (f) Restore GBV Prevention and Response; as well as Gender Mainstreaming as Key Performance Targets for MDACs.
- (g) Strengthen the deployment of Gender Focal Points Officers across all public sectors by establishing GBV Prevention Units.

#### **4.9.3 Multisectoral interventions should include:**

- (a) A National GBV and Femicide Observatory should be established to manage data collection, analysis, and publication. The observatory should compile disaggregated data

by age, disability, location, and perpetrator type using standardized formats across police, health, judiciary, and civil society actors. Key actors here include the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), the State Department for Gender, Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), and the Ministry of Health.

- (b) A GBV and Femicide Scorecard should be introduced to annually track the performance of national and county governments, the judiciary, police, and employers. This accountability tool should be made public and led by NGEC, with inputs from the Auditor General and civil society watchdogs.
- (c) Amend the County Governments Act no. 17 of 2012 to task governors to provide an annual report to the county assembly on measures taken to address gender-based violence within their counties.
- (d) Enact the religious organization bill to include the duty to address GBV within the religious circles. Include an umbrella body to regulate the religious organizations and ensure compliance and monitoring of GBV and related matters.
- (e) National Action Plan for Non- State actors - Implement the gender-responsive budgeting model as part of the measures to allocate funds to gender based activities.
- (f) Establish and operationalize a GBV fund comprising Government, Development Partners, Private sector and philanthropists.

## CHAPTER FIVE: PREVENTION OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE INCLUDING FEMICIDE

### 5.1 Introduction

Prevention of Gender Based Violence including femicide is critical for the health, economic wellbeing and respect for human rights in Kenya. It is projected that the economy loses approximately KSh. 46 billion annually that is equivalent to 1.1% of the GDP to medical expenses, productivity losses and transactional costs due to GBV (NGEC, 2016). At household level, the financial burden of GBV shifts expenditure that could have been used on essentials like education and food to legal expenses and medical bills. A deliberate focus on prevention measures is paramount to ensure safety of women, girls, men and boys. This Chapter presents a situational analysis of the global, regional, and national contexts, stakeholders' perspectives, best practices, opportunities, challenges, and recommendations on prevention of GBV, including femicide.

### 5.3 Global and Regional Preventive Measures

Globally, preventive measures for Gender Based Violence (GBV), including femicide, are underpinned by key international frameworks such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 5, which targets the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls (UN Women, 2020; United Nations, 1979). Multilateral initiatives such as the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative aim to address GBV through legislative reform, community mobilization, and survivor services (European Union & United Nations, 2019). Other strategies include campaigns like the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence and programs such as “Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces,” which promote preventive action in urban environments (UN Women, 2017).

There is growing emphasis on gender-transformative approaches involving men and boys, particularly through programs like *MenEngage*, which aim to challenge harmful norms and power dynamics within communities (Ellsberg et al., 2015). In parallel, states are investing in survivor-centred, trauma-informed justice responses, and integrated service delivery through “one-stop centres” (UNFPA, 2021). Moreover, improved data systems such as national femicide observatories and GBV dashboards have been advocated for to track and address emerging trends in violence (UNODC, 2021).

In Africa, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) obligates State Parties to eliminate GBV and harmful practices against women and girls (African Union, 2003). National Action Plans under the Women, Peace and Security agenda (UNSCR 1325) also guide country-level prevention and

protection strategies. Regional initiatives such as the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage and localized rights education programs like Tostan in West Africa have demonstrated tangible shifts in attitudes and behaviours (Tostan, 2018; African Union, 2014). In East Africa, community-based interventions such as *SASA!* have shown effectiveness in reducing intimate partner violence by addressing power imbalances at household and community levels (Abramsky et al., 2016). Use of digital tools such as mobile reporting platforms and SMS-based awareness campaigns has expanded access to information and support, especially in remote or underserved areas (GSMA, 2020). These global and regional efforts signal a shared recognition that the prevention of GBV and femicide must be multifaceted, simultaneously addressing legal, social, economic, and cultural determinants.

#### **5.4 Nationally**

State and non-state actors have intensified preventive measures focused on awareness creation, education, and communication. These interventions aim to promote zero tolerance towards GBV and femicide. Some of the key players involved in prevention of GBV, including Femicide are:

##### **(a) State Department for Gender Affairs and Affirmative Action**

The State Department is mandated by the Executive Order Number 1 of 2025 to coordinate all stakeholders and implement efforts towards elimination of GBV including femicide. Additional functions include tracking, monitoring and reporting of all incidences of GBV including femicide. The co-ordination of stakeholders is undertaken through the Gender Sector Working Groups at both national and county level.

During the period 2023-2027, the State Department intents to implement the following preventive strategies:

1. Strengthen coordination of stakeholders on prevention and response to GBV.
2. Enhance the capacity of duty bearers and right holders on the elimination of GBV, FGM and other harmful practices.
3. Strengthen legal and policy frameworks to eliminate GBV, FGM and other harmful practices.
4. Accelerate the implementation of Generation Equality Forum commitments.
5. Support survivors of GBV, FGM and other harmful practices.

According to the 2022 KDHS, the percentage of women who experienced physical violence in the 12 months before the survey declined between 2008–09 and 2022, from 24% to 16%. The percentage of men who have experienced physical violence in the 12 months before the survey declined slightly from 12% in 2014 to 10% in 2022. This indicates the programmatic effectiveness in the fight against GBV and other harmful practices.

However, the State Department for Gender, Culture and Children Services continues to face challenges that include: inadequate financial and human resources to support implementation of gender programmes; inadequate sex disaggregated data to inform evidence-based programming; emerging forms of GBV including technology facilitated violence; and strong harmful cultural practices and beliefs that hinder the fight against Gender-Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation.

**(b) Anti Female Genital Mutilation Board**

Anti-Female Genital Mutilation Board was established by the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act, 2011. The mandates of the Board broadly cover eradication of Female Genital Mutilation and its related social and psychological impact and the development of policies and strategies to be employed to contain the practice. Specific functions include; developing and reviewing the national policy and strategy on Anti-FGM; building the capacity of stakeholders to act as agents of change, promoting change of attitude on FGM issues, promoting collaboration and partnerships with stakeholders on anti-FGM and tracking implementation of Anti-FGM policies and programmes. Its prevention efforts are undercut by the persistence of medicalised and cross-border FGM. Social tolerance of these practices and the weak enforcement of the FGM Act continue to enable GBV under the guise of tradition, especially in remote areas.

**(c) National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC)**

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) is a Constitutional Commission established by the National Gender and Equality Act. (No. 15 of 2011) pursuant to Article 59 (4) & (5) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. The Commission's mandate is to promote gender equality and freedom from discrimination for all people in Kenya with a focus on Special Interest Groups, which include: women, children, youth, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), older members of society, minorities and marginalized groups. In execution of her mandate, the Commission is hampered by some challenges that include limited financial resources; and inadequate human resources, especially in technical areas, which affects effective implementation of planned programmes; and limited enforcement powers to fully achieve its mandate.

**(d) Ministry of Interior and National Administration**

The Ministry of Interior and National Administration derives its mandate from the Executive Order No. 1 of 2025. Functions of the Ministry are: co-ordination of national government services in counties, policy on internal security, oversight over all internal security affairs, national cohesion and integration, training of security personnel, peace building and conflict management, border management (both marine and terrestrial), disaster and emergency response co-ordination, food relief management and humanitarian emergency response,

proclamation of public holidays, crime research management, the coordination of public benefit institutions, registration of NGOs and management of small arms and weapons.

The Ministry plays a key role in prevention of GBV including femicide, however, it is constrained by inadequate capacity of its officers to address GBV prevention, limited financial resources and limited accountability by duty bearers.

#### **(e) National Police Service (NPS)**

The NPS Act, 2011 and the Constitution of Kenya recognizes the significant role security agencies play in promoting public safety, law and order. According to the NPS Act, 2011, Part 111(24, 27 and 35) the NPS is mandated to primarily undertake the following functions: Protection of life and property; provision of assistance to the public when in need; maintenance of law and order; preservation of peace; prevention and detection of crime; apprehension of offenders; investigation of crimes; collection of criminal intelligence; conduct forensic analysis; maintenance of criminal records; receiving and investigating complaints; provision of border patrol and border security; provision of specialised stock theft prevention services; protection of government property, vital installations and strategic points; coordinating with complementing government agencies in conflict management and peace building; rendering of support to other government agencies in enforcement of administrative functions and the exercise of lawful duties; fostering relationship with international police agencies; enforcement of all laws and regulations in which it is charged; and performance of any other duties that may be prescribed by the Inspector General or any other written law from time to time.

The National Police Service (NPS) plays a critical role in preventing gender-based violence (GBV) through proactive and responsive measures. The NPS has established specialized gender desks in approximately 50% of police stations to handle GBV cases with sensitivity, ensuring confidentiality and survivor-centered support. The NPS also conducts awareness campaigns, such as those targeting school children, to educate communities on recognizing and reporting abuse. Additionally, NPS trains officers on evidence collection, case documentation, and survivor interaction to enhance justice delivery. However, the NPS is constrained by resource constraints and cultural stigmas associated with reporting of cases at Police Stations.

#### **(f) Judiciary**

The Judiciary plays a significant role in prevention of GBV by ensuring access to justice, upholding legal frameworks, and promoting survivor-centred adjudication. Its major role is to interpret and apply laws such as the Constitution of Kenya, the Protection Against Domestic Violence Act, and the Sexual Offences Act, to deliver fair and timely rulings to hold perpetrators accountable and deter future violations. Through specialized courts and gender desks, it facilitates accessible reporting and adjudication of GBV cases, prioritizing survivor safety and confidentiality. The Judiciary also engages in public education to raise awareness

about legal protections and collaborates with stakeholders to strengthen policy implementation. The Judiciary is constrained in prevention of GBV by limited resources, inadequate training on GBV including femicide and delays in case adjudication due to backlog and understaffing.

### **(g) County Governments**

County Governments in Kenya are mandated to prevent GBV through implementation of National and county specific laws and policies on GBV. They are critical in co-ordination of multiple stakeholders through the County Gender Sector Working Groups on GBV and FGM. They also support the operationalization of Gender Based Violence Recovery Centres (GBVRCs) to provide survivors with medical care, psychosocial support and legal aid. Additionally, counties engage in conducting community sensitization campaigns, collecting GBV data, and promoting gender equality to address cultural norms that perpetuate violence. The counties are hampered by limited resources and inconsistent implementation of GBV programmes due to heavy dependency on fluctuating donor support.

### **(h) Non-State Actors**

Non-state actors, including NGOs, Community Based Organizations, and Civil Society Organizations, play a vital role in prevention of GBV including femicide by complementing government efforts with grassroots initiatives and advocacy. Some organizations provide essential services such as legal aid, psychosocial support, and safe shelters for survivors, while also running awareness campaigns to challenge cultural norms and stigma that perpetuate violence.

They engage in capacity-building, training community leaders and paralegals to promote gender equality and monitor GBV cases, and advocate for stronger policy implementation, such as the Sexual Offences Act and Protection Against Domestic Violence Act. Through partnerships with county governments and international donors, non-state actors establish helplines, conduct data-driven research, and mobilize communities to prevent femicide and GBV, fostering a multi-stakeholder approach to create safer, more equitable environments across Kenya. However, CSOs are facing a shrinking civic space, funding insecurity, and exclusion from formal policy processes.

### **(i) Development Partners**

Development partners, including international organizations, donors, and bilateral agencies engage in prevention of GBV including femicide by providing financial, technical, and strategic support to bolster national efforts. Some development Partners support establishment of GBV recovery centres, train law enforcement and judicial officers on survivor-centered approaches, and support community-based organizations in delivering legal aid, psychosocial services, and awareness campaigns.

They facilitate policy advocacy by collaborating with the government to strengthen legal, policy and institutional frameworks. They also support data collection for evidence-based interventions and capacity building to promote gender equality, and address root causes of violence, contributing to sustainable prevention strategies and safer communities across Kenya. However, donor-driven approaches may lack cultural grounding or alignment with local realities. Additionally, weak coordination of donor support has led to duplication of efforts and concentration in some regions in the country.

## **5.5 Stakeholder Views on Prevention of Gender Based Violence Including Femicide**

### **(a) Create awareness at the community level**

Among the issues that cut across the Country on prevention, the public emphasized the need for widespread education and outreach within communities to inform people about what constitutes GBV, its harmful effects, and the importance of preventing it. This could involve campaigns, public forums, and local initiatives that encourage open discussions and challenge societal norms that perpetuate violence. The goal is to ensure that individuals are knowledgeable about GBV, understand their role in preventing it, and are empowered to take action against it.

### **(b) Integrate gender issues and sex education into the syllabus**

Members of the public highlighted the need for the preventative strategy to be entrenched on formal education. By incorporating comprehensive gender issues and sex education into school curricula, young people can learn about healthy relationships, consent, gender equality, and respectful communication from an early age. This approach aims to challenge harmful stereotypes, promote empathy, and equip future generations with the knowledge and skills to prevent GBV before it occurs.

### **(c) The public lacks awareness of where or how to report GBV**

This identifies a critical gap in the current system that hinders prevention efforts. If the public is unaware of the proper channels, resources, or procedures for reporting GBV incidents, victims and witnesses may not seek help or justice. Addressing this requires clear and accessible communication about reporting mechanisms, including police stations, toll-free lines, and support organisations, to ensure that individuals know exactly where to turn when GBV occurs or is witnessed.

### **(d) Harmonized Prevention Efforts Against Gender Based Violence**

A fragmented approach to the efforts aimed at dealing with cases of prevention of GBV-related cases necessitate a harmonised strategy involving various key structures and stakeholders. This integrated effort sees national government entities, such as the National Gender and Equality

Commission (NGEC) and relevant ministries, setting overarching policies and guidelines for GBV prevention.

Complementing this, county governments, through the County Government Policy on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (2017), the County Sector Working Group and other relevant grassroot fora can be instrumental in localising prevention efforts by addressing specific community needs, cultural contexts, challenging harmful norms, and promoting respectful relationships at the grassroots.

Furthermore, other stakeholders, such as civil society organisations, NGOs, and community-based groups, actively contribute to prevention by delivering grassroots awareness programs, advocating for policy changes, and providing essential support services that often serve as the first line of defence in preventing further violence. Coordination mechanisms are central to this harmonization, ensuring that the collective efforts of all actors are strategically aligned, resources are efficiently utilised, and prevention initiatives are comprehensive and mutually reinforcing across all levels and sectors, ultimately building a unified front against GBV.

**(e) Enhance capacity building for duty bearers and community-based organisations (CBOs) at the local level.**

Educating these key community leaders and frontline responders empowers them to be more effective in awareness creation, early intervention, and spearhead prevention efforts within their respective communities.

**(f) Inclusion and involvement of Men and Boys**

An inclusive, gender-responsive approach that actively engages men and boys is paramount for effective GBV prevention. This strategy is vital as it systematically challenges harmful patriarchal norms and rigid gender roles that often fuel violence. By involving men and boys, prevention initiatives can promote healthier masculinities, encouraging them to question and dismantle the very structures that perpetuate GBV. This not only transforms them into active allies in combating violence but also helps to destigmatize the issue for all, including male victims, fostering a collective societal commitment to safety and equality.

**(g) Inadequate funding of key players in GBV prevention**

A consistent and resounding call from stakeholder engagements across Kenya regarding the prevention of GBV and femicide emphasizes the critical need for adequate funding and equipping of all institutions and individuals involved in these efforts, right down to the grassroots level. It is widely acknowledged that while policies and intentions are in place, the practical implementation falters without the necessary resources. For instance, the village elder, often the first point of contact for survivors in rural areas, plays a pivotal yet largely unequipped role. These elders, who are crucial in conflict resolution and initial reporting, often lack formal

training in GBV protocols, understanding of the legal frameworks, or even basic communication tools.

## **5.6 Best Practices on Prevention of GBV**

### **5.6.1 GBV prevention strategies in FIJI**

Despite having some of the highest rates of violence against women in the world, has emerged as a leader in the Pacific region by developing a comprehensive National Action Plan (NAP) to prevent violence against all women and girls (2023-2028). This NAP is the first of its kind in the Pacific and the second globally, after Australia, demonstrating a strong commitment to addressing GBV through a multi-faceted approach. Key best practices from Fiji's approach include:

#### **i. National Action Plan (NAP):**

Fiji's NAP is a long-term commitment (two five-year plans) that aims to engage all sectors of society in creating a safer country for women and girls. It emphasises an inclusive approach that acknowledges the diversity of experiences, identities, and lived realities of all women and girls, including those with disabilities, diverse sexual orientations, and those living in urban, rural, and maritime locations. The NAP employs five key strategies to address violence comprehensively

- (a) Transformative public education and social norm change.
- (b) Strengthening of equal and respectful relationships.
- (c) Survivor-centred services for survivors of violence.
- (d) Coordinated legal protection for survivors of violence.
- (e) Fostering a gender-equitable society.

The development of the NAP involved extensive national consultations, reaching over 2,500 diverse women, men, and youth across Fiji's four divisions. This "national *talanoa* process" ensured the prevention strategy was informed by society, increasing knowledge and awareness of the root causes of violence. The NAP is designed to be evidence-based and includes a rigorous Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to measure its impact through core outcome indicators.

#### **ii. Legal Framework and Support Services**

Fiji has advanced its legal framework to protect against violence, resourced national Domestic Violence and Child Helplines, and established the National Service Delivery Protocol for Responding to Cases of GBV.

#### **iii. Engaging Men and Boys**

Recognising the importance of addressing the root causes of violence, Fiji, along with other Pacific nations, developed "The Warwick Principles." These principles provide best practices for engaging men and boys in preventing violence against women and girls, emphasising accountability to the women's movement, a human-rights-based approach, inclusivity, and gender transformative outcomes.

#### **iv. Addressing GBV in Humanitarian Settings**

Fiji also demonstrates emerging practices in integrating GBV considerations into humanitarian preparedness, especially for large-scale disasters. This includes analysing GBV risks in assessments, prepositioning resources, conducting GBV training, and involving women and at-risk groups in all assessment processes.

#### **5.6.2 Kenya's County Government initiatives on prevention of GBV**

Several county governments have taken proactive steps to prevent gender-based violence (GBV) through locally driven strategies that combine policy development, community engagement, institutional training, and digital innovation.

- a) Nakuru County has emerged as a leader in integrating technology into GBV prevention efforts. In May 2025, the county launched a digital GBV information and reporting system designed to track cases in real time, support survivors through referrals to legal, psychosocial, and medical services, and equip decision-makers with data for targeted interventions.
- b) Nyeri County has made strides in mainstreaming GBV prevention through its Gender and Development Policy (2021–2025). The policy embeds prevention strategies across county programming and emphasizes the training of community GBV champions. Over 40 such champions have been trained to date, with a particular focus on engaging men and boys in behaviour-change campaigns. A technical working group meets quarterly to coordinate efforts and monitor progress.
- c) In Kilifi County, the government adopted an Anti-GBV Policy for the period 2024–2028, which lays out a comprehensive framework addressing prevention, accountability, survivor support, and multisectoral collaboration. Kilifi has also initiated robust community outreach campaigns in partnership with organizations like FIDA Kenya and the Kenya Red Cross to raise awareness about GBV, legal rights, and evidence preservation. Plans are also underway to establish a county rescue center for survivors.
- d) Kisumu County has implemented a Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Policy that establishes steering committees and technical working groups to oversee GBV interventions. The policy mandates budget allocation for GBV programming and promotes public education campaigns, particularly those that challenge stigma and increase male involvement in prevention efforts.

- e) In Turkana County, the local government has integrated GBV awareness into public events such as the annual 16 Days of Activism. These events are held in places like Kakuma and focus on rallying the community under themes such as "Unite; Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children." In early 2025, the county also trained health officials on GBV policy frameworks and harmonized operating procedures to align with national health guidelines. This recognizes the need to have GBV interventions in humanitarian environments.
- f) Nairobi County, in partnership with organizations such as the Gender Violence Recovery Centre (GVRC) and JICA, has prioritized the capacity building of county officials. Training sessions have covered GBV case management and shelter operations. The county is also developing a safe house for survivors and has strengthened its technical working groups and grassroots outreach efforts to prevent GBV.
- g) Finally, Homa Bay County, through a collaboration with KELIN, launched a training program for police officers in early 2023. This program aimed to enhance their understanding of GBV-related laws and improve multi-sectoral collaboration to boost both prevention and response.

Notably, these counties implementing GBV prevention strategies have emerging common themes; need for collaboration and coordination with various actors, community engagement, capacity building for duty bearers and leveraging technology to address GBV. County-level GBV policies provide a structural framework for coordinated action, while community engagement strategies such as educational campaigns and GBV champion programs play a crucial role in shifting societal norms. Institutional strengthening through training for health workers, law enforcement, and county officials is improving service delivery.

These county-level initiatives not only reflect Kenya's commitment to localized GBV prevention but also offer promising models that can be scaled and replicated across the country. There is great potential to build a national framework rooted in shared learning, strengthened data systems, and sustained community involvement.

## **5.7 Challenges affecting prevention of GBV**

Several interconnected factors hinder the prevention of GBV including femicide. The factors identified range from deeply ingrained societal gender stereotypes and cultural norms which normalize violence, social stigma surrounding GBV and failure to address the root causes, weak legal enforcement, limited resources, lack of political will, insufficient infrastructure, inequality, and discrimination among many others discussed in this section.

### **(a) Failure to Address personal issues resulting to GBV**

Many individuals and families in Kenya fail to recognise or address the underlying issues that contribute to GBV. This can include unresolved conflicts, communication breakdowns,

unaddressed trauma, mental health issues, substance abuse, or deep-seated behavioural patterns within relationships. Without open dialogue, professional help, or self-reflection, these foundational problems fester and often escalate into various forms of violence.

**(b) Relationship Failures**

The breakdown of healthy relationship dynamics is a significant precursor to GBV. This includes a lack of mutual respect, trust, empathy, and effective communication. When relationships are characterised by power imbalances, control, jealousy, or infidelity, they create fertile ground for violence. The inability of partners to navigate disagreements constructively often leads to emotional, verbal, or physical abuse as a means of control or expression of frustration.

**(c) Family/Intimate Partner Violence**

GBV often occurs within the confines of family structures and intimate relationships, making it particularly complex to address since this is a private space that the State cannot come into unless invited. This includes domestic violence perpetrated by spouses, partners, or other family members. The intimacy and privacy of these relationships can make it difficult for victims to seek help or for external interventions to be effective, as perpetrators may exert significant control and isolation.

**(d) Parental/Partner Conflicts Contributing to GBV**

Conflicts between parents or intimate partners, even if not directly involving physical violence, can create an environment that fosters GBV. Children exposed to persistent parental strife or violence in the home are more likely to internalise these behaviours, either as victims or perpetrators in their future relationships. Such conflicts also normalise abusive dynamics within the family unit, making it harder to break cycles of violence.

**(e) Harmful Cultural Values/Norms**

Deeply ingrained cultural values and norms in many Kenyan communities perpetuate GBV. These include patriarchal beliefs that assign women a subordinate status, traditions that normalise wife-beating as a form of "discipline," and practices that prioritise family honour over individual safety. Such norms create an environment where violence is tolerated, excused, or even encouraged, making it difficult to challenge and change.

**(f) Community/Neighbours Not Reporting and Normalizing Violence**

A significant challenge is the collective silence and normalisation of violence within communities. Neighbours and community members may witness GBV but fail to report it due to fear of reprisal, a belief that it is a "private family matter," or a general apathy towards the issue. This collective inaction allows violence to continue unchecked and sends a message to victims that their suffering is not a community concern.

### **(g) Patriarchal structures in Society**

Patriarchal structures, where men hold primary power and authority in society and families, are a fundamental driver of GBV. These norms manifest in unequal access to resources, decision-making power, and opportunities for women. They reinforce the idea that men have a right to control women, contributing to attitudes that enable violence and hinder women's empowerment.

### **(h) Lack of Information and Education**

Insufficient awareness and education about what constitute GBV, its impacts, and available support systems pose a significant barrier. Many individuals, both victims and perpetrators, may not recognise certain behaviours as abusive or may lack knowledge about legal protections and reporting mechanisms. This ignorance perpetuates cycles of violence and prevents timely intervention.

### **(i) Victim Blaming**

The pervasive culture of victim blaming places responsibility for violence on the survivor rather than the perpetrator. Questions like "What were you wearing?" or "Why didn't you leave?" deflect accountability from the abuser and shame the victim, making them less likely to report incidents or seek help due to fear of judgment and re-victimisation.

### **(j) Lack of Basic Facilities Leading to Dependency**

Economic disempowerment and the lack of basic facilities (such as safe housing, economic opportunities, and social support networks) can trap victims in abusive relationships. Women, in particular, may remain in violent situations due to financial dependency on their abusers, fear of homelessness, or lack of resources to support themselves and their children independently.

### **(k) Traditional Settlement of Cases**

In many Kenyan communities, traditional dispute resolution mechanisms, such as *Masla* in Somali communities or *Kipkaa* in Kalenjin settings, are often prioritized over formal legal processes for GBV cases. While these systems aim for reconciliation, they frequently disadvantage victims, normalize violence, and focus on compensation (e.g., livestock, money) rather than accountability for the perpetrator or addressing the root causes of violence. This undermines the formal justice system and perpetuates impunity.

### **(l) Weak Legal Systems to Handle GBV Issues**

Despite progressive laws, the legal system in Kenya often exhibits significant weaknesses in addressing GBV cases. This includes slow judicial processes, insufficient resources, limited training for legal professionals on the specifics of GBV, and a general lack of sensitivity

towards survivors. These systemic failures can result in prolonged suffering for victims, case dismissals, or lenient sentencing for perpetrators.

**(m) Normalisation of Violence as "Chastisement"**

A dangerous societal perception in some parts of Kenya is the normalisation of violence, particularly against women and children, as a legitimate form of "chastisement" or discipline. This belief is often rooted in cultural or religious misinterpretations that grant authority figures (husbands, parents) the right to use physical force, which blurs the lines between discipline and abuse and hinders the recognition of violence as a crime.

**(n) Lack of Coordination in the Sectors Involved**

Effective GBV response requires seamless coordination among various sectors: health, police, judiciary, social services, and civil society organizations. In Kenya, there is often a lack of integrated referral pathways, information sharing, and joint planning, leading to fragmented services, re-traumatization of survivors who have to recount their experiences multiple times, and an overall inefficient response system.

**(o) Poor/Failed Parenting – Dysfunctional Families**

Duty Bearers Failing in Their Duty: Frontline duty bearers, such as police officers, health workers, and social welfare officers, sometimes fail to fulfil their roles in responding to GBV cases. This can manifest as insensitivity, scepticism towards victims, demanding bribes, mishandling evidence, or simply lacking the necessary training and resources to provide appropriate support. Such failures erode public trust and deter victims from seeking help.

**(p) Evidence Tampering and Corruption**

Corruption within the justice system, including instances of evidence tampering, bribery, and witness intimidation, severely compromises the ability to successfully prosecute GBV cases. This leads to perpetrators escaping justice, further perpetuating impunity and discouraging victims from coming forward, as they lose faith in the system's ability to deliver justice.

**(q) Inadequate Funding for Specialized Courts**

The absence of adequate funding for the establishment and functioning of specialized GBV courts is a significant impediment. Such courts would be equipped with trained personnel, victim support services, and expedited procedures to handle sensitive GBV cases efficiently and with the necessary care. Without dedicated funding, these cases often languish in general courts, leading to delays and re-traumatization.

**(r) Enhancement of Bail and Bond for Perpetrators in GBV-related Cases**

The granting of lenient bail and bond terms for alleged GBV perpetrators is a major challenge. This allows perpetrators to return to their communities, potentially intimidating or further

harming victims and witnesses, or tampering with evidence. It also sends a message that GBV is not taken seriously by the justice system, undermining efforts to deter future offences and ensure victim safety.

## **5.8 Existing Opportunities for GBV Prevention**

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a common challenge across the globe, undermining the safety, dignity, and rights of women, girls, and other vulnerable groups. While much attention has been given to the impacts and consequences of GBV, it is equally important to explore and strengthen opportunities for prevention. Existing frameworks, community-based initiatives, legal reforms, and multi-sectoral partnerships present critical entry points for proactive action. This discussion highlights the key opportunities currently available to prevent GBV, emphasizing scalable practices, emerging innovations, and the role of policy, education, and grassroots engagement in fostering safer, more equitable societies.

### **(a) Political Factors**

**Government Initiatives:** Government has policies and programs that address gender inequality and violence which create opportunities for increased funding, resources, and support for prevention and intervention efforts.

### **(b) Economic Factors**

**Economic Empowerment:** The government has made provision for women's socio-economic empowerment by establishing the women enterprise fund, the affirmative action fund and AGPO which they can access for development. Providing women with economic opportunities, such as access to finance, entrepreneurship training, and job markets, can reduce their dependence on partners and make them less vulnerable to violence.

### **(c) Social Factors**

The state and non-state actors work closely in conducting public education and awareness creation that challenges gender stereotypes and harmful practices. The initiatives are targeted at a societal attitudinal shift towards gender equality and respect for fundamental rights freedoms of citizens that promote prevention strategies.

### **(d) Technological Factors**

Technological advancement, availability of the equipment and soft wares are critical for dissemination of information in real time. Utilising Technology for Prevention through Online platforms, apps, and other technological tools have been used to raise awareness, provide information, and connect survivors with resources.

### **(e) Environmental Factors**

Scanning broader environmental issues and its linkages to GBV has helped in understanding how climate change impacts gender dynamics and violence. This has created opportunities to develop climate-sensitive programs that support vulnerable populations during flooding, drought and landslides to prevent GBV incidences.

### **(f) Legal Factors**

Strengthening legal protections by undertaking legislative amendments to protect everyone from violations. Amendments to laws, improved enforcement mechanisms, and accessible justice systems can create opportunities for survivors to seek redress and protection from violence.

## **5.9 Recommendations**

Effective GBV prevention requires a multifaceted approach that address prevention, mitigation and response strategies simultaneously as discussed in this section.

### **5.9.1 Roll out a Nationwide, Gender-Inclusive Awareness Campaign**

Kenya should launch a sustained, well-resourced nationwide public awareness and sensitization campaign on GBV, mirroring the comprehensive and successful model of the HIV/AIDS campaign. Social media can be a great tool for disseminating information on GBV and femicide prevention besides the mainstream media and other modes of communication to intensify the campaigns. This campaign, ideally spanning at least one year and continuously reinforced, should employ gender-inclusive messaging that targets men, women, boys, and girls. It should aim to:

- (a) Educate the public on all forms of GBV, including femicide, its root causes, and devastating impacts.
- (b) Challenge harmful cultural norms, patriarchal attitudes, and gender stereotypes.
- (c) Promote positive masculinity, healthy relationships, and respect for human rights.
- (d) Inform communities about legal provisions, reporting mechanisms, and available support services for survivors.
- (e) Encourage bystander intervention and community accountability for GBV.

### **5.9.2 Abolish Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in GBV Cases**

Traditional and informal justice mechanisms, often referred to as "Kangaroo Courts" or forms of ADR like *Masla* in Somali communities or *Kipkaa* in Kalenjin setups among others, should be explicitly prohibited and actively discouraged in all cases related to Gender-Based Violence. While ADR can be beneficial for other civil disputes, GBV cases involve fundamental human rights violations and criminal offenses where the victim's safety and perpetrator accountability

are paramount. These traditional systems often normalize violence, pressure victims into reconciliation, offer inadequate remedies, and fail to secure justice, thereby perpetuating cycles of abuse. Formal legal channels must be the primary recourse for GBV survivors, ensuring due process, perpetrator accountability, and victim protection.

### **5.9.3. Integrate GBV Issues into the Education Curriculum**

To foster a generation that is knowledgeable about and committed to ending Gender-Based Violence, it is crucial to integrate GBV issues into the national curriculum starting from lower primary school grades through secondary tertiary education and institutions of higher learning. This would involve:

- (a) Age-Appropriate Content: Developing age-appropriate educational materials that cover topics such as healthy relationships, consent, gender equality, human rights, recognizing different forms of abuse, reporting mechanisms, and available support services.
- (b) Teacher Training: Providing comprehensive training for teachers to equip them with the knowledge, skills, and sensitivity required to deliver these lessons effectively and create a safe space for discussion.
- (c) Challenging Norms: Encouraging critical thinking about harmful gender stereotypes, patriarchal norms, and cultural practices that perpetuate violence.
- (d) Promoting Empathy and Respect: Cultivating empathy, respect for diversity, and non-violent conflict resolution skills among students.
- (e) Engaging Parents and Communities: Facilitating parental and community engagement programs to reinforce lessons learned in school and create a supportive environment at home and in the wider community. By embedding GBV education early and consistently, society can cultivate a deeper understanding of the issue, promote respectful interactions, and empower future generations to challenge violence, ultimately leading to a significant reduction in GBV cases.

### **5.9.4 Enhance Bond and Bail Terms to Deter Perpetrators**

To effectively deter perpetrators of GBV, judicial discretion regarding bail and bond terms for GBV-related offenses must be reviewed and strengthened. Courts should impose stricter bail conditions and higher bond amounts, particularly in cases involving repeat offenders, serious bodily harm, or femicide. The primary consideration should be the safety of the survivor and the community, as well as ensuring that the accused does not tamper with evidence or intimidate witnesses. This measure aims to send a clear message that GBV is a grave offense that will be met with serious consequences, thus reducing the likelihood of perpetrators re-offending while out on bail.

### **5.9.5 Reclassify Gender (Femicide) Issues as a National Crisis**

Femicide and other severe forms of GBV should be officially recognized and treated as a national crisis rather than solely a social or gender concern. This reclassification necessitates the duty bearers to play a central and proactive role in prevention, reporting, and response efforts. Leveraging NGAO's extensive grassroots presence and authority would facilitate quicker response times, enhance coordination with law enforcement, improve data collection on GBV incidents at the local level, and integrate GBV prevention into broader community safety and security agendas

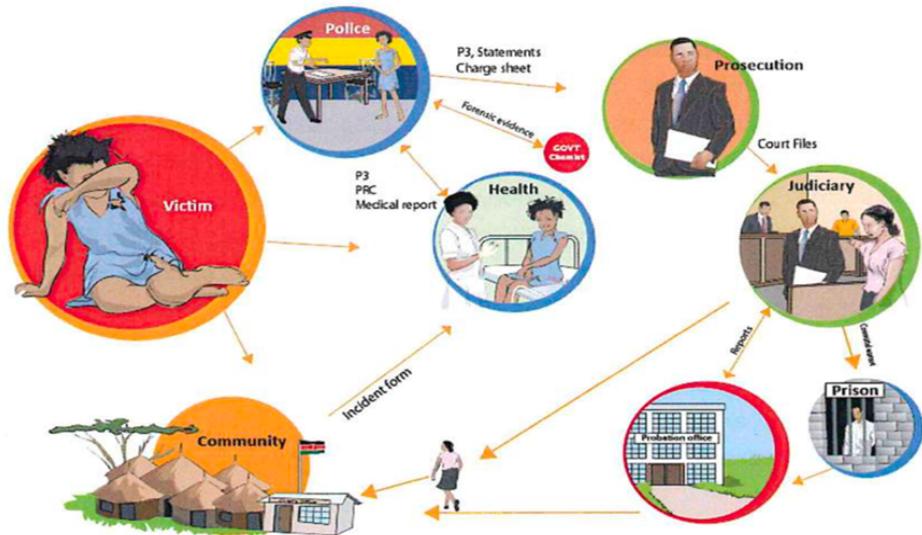
## CHAPTER SIX: RESPONSE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

### 6.1 Introduction

Addressing GBV including femicide requires robust, coordinated response and support mechanisms to protect victims and survivors, ensure justice, and rehabilitate affected communities. The complex nature of GBV and femicide necessitates a multi-sectoral approach, varying across regions and shaped by legal frameworks, social and cultural norms, and resource availability. Response and support services manifest differently across the globe. Several countries have enacted laws, policies, regulations and development frameworks aimed at strengthening of systems, structures and mechanisms for GBV response/support (i.e. service delivery) to ensure the availability, accessibility, usability, responsiveness and accountability of such services across the entire referral pathway (administration of justice, Health and social welfare sub-sectors). The effectiveness of these systems often depends on the political will, judicial structures, and societal attitudes. The community similarly plays a central role in the support and response.

Effective response and support in GBV are continuous processes that do not end with the initial intervention. In context GBV, "support" encompasses the services and resources provided to victims/survivors to aid their recovery, regain autonomy, rebuild their lives, and restore their dignity. This support is essential for both immediate safety/relief (short-term) and long-term well-being. Key components include emotional and psychological care; safe spaces and shelters; legal aid and advocacy; health services; economic empowerment; peer support and empowerment groups; community support networks; and education and awareness.

Response services follow a defined referral pathway, beginning after the violation occurs. First responders often family, community members, or religious leaders should connect the victim/survivor with immediate institutional support (e.g., police, local authorities, or health facilities). Subsequent steps involve rescue operations, investigation, and prosecution. Survivors of GBV require integration into comprehensive services encompassing legal, medical, economic, psychological, and safety support, extended to their families where appropriate. Similarly, families bereaved by femicide need comprehensive support to not only deal with the trauma but also the loss of a loved one.



**Figure 5: The Referral Pathway indicating how GBV survivors access services**

The National Guidelines on Prevention and Management of Gender- Based Violence provides a comprehensive referral pathway outlining the continuum of care for GBV survivors, as indicated in the diagram above.

## CURRENT RESPONSE AND SUPPORT STATUS

### 6.2. Community Response

Communities in Kenya play a critical role in both perpetuating and addressing GBV including femicide. Social norms, cultural beliefs, and economic factors significantly influence how survivors and perpetrators are treated, often creating barriers to justice and support. Many survivors including their families remain unaware of their rights and the services available to them, while stigma and fear of social exclusion discourage survivors from reporting cases or seeking help. This is compounded by the persistent stigma attached to reporting GBV including Femicide. Social cultural norms including patriarchy prioritize reconciliation over prescribed justice system mechanisms, leaving out survivors, especially those who face economic insecurity.

The use of ADR like mediation, family councils, traditional courts or religious arbitration to address GBV including severe crime like Femicide often severely disempowers survivors and their families and undermines justice. While ADR has a place in resolving certain civil disputes, its application to criminal acts of GBV, including Femicide, is fundamentally flawed and harmful.

It shifts the focus from perpetrator accountability and survivor safety/justice to private compromise and community harmony, often as the expense of the most vulnerable. This disempowers survivors and bereaved families by silencing them, denying them legal protections and rights, trivializing their trauma or loss, reinforcing harmful power structures

and perpetuating a culture of impunity for GBV. Efforts should focus on strengthening and making formal justice systems more accessible, survivor centred and effective rather than diverting severe crimes like GBV and Femicide into inappropriate ADR channels. True justice requires state accountability.

### **6.2.1 Key Challenges and Gaps**

- (a) Key challenges in responding to GBV and femicide, as highlighted during the plenary discussions, include the lack of standardized and co-ordinated documentation processes. The use of multiple forms such as the P3 and ORC forms without harmonization creates confusion and inconsistencies in reporting. Participants noted the absence of a unified system for documenting victims, leading to duplication and data fragmentation.
- (b) Additionally, poor coordination among service providers hampers timely response and case follow-up. The lack of a centralized tracking system further undermines efforts to monitor case progress, ensure accountability, and deliver survivor-centred support across the justice and health sectors.
- (c) Trivialisation of the GBV crimes by treating severe GBV or femicide as a “dispute” to be mediated fundamentally minimizes its gravity and respect for human life. It frames horrific violence as a misunderstanding or quarrel, not a violation which is in nature and attracting punitive measures.

*“GBV in the community has been normalized such as wife beating and even reports are not taken seriously when you report them at the police station. Comments such as “hiyo ni mambo ya nyumbani mmalizie huko ama hiyo hatuingili” are commented by the police therefore discourages reporting.*

- (d) Underplaying power imbalance - In GBV, the power imbalance is extreme. Survivors (or bereaved families) are often traumatized, intimidated, economically dependent, and socially isolated. They cannot negotiate "fairly" with their abuser or the abuser's family.
- (e) ADR processes often prioritize "harmony" and "reconciliation" over truth-telling and accountability, this silences survivors and their families. Survivors and families are coerced and put under immense pressure by community leaders, members of extended family or even the perpetrators family to accept settlements (sometimes unfavourable), forgive prematurely, or remain silent about the details to "move on." Their need for justice and public acknowledgment is suppressed. ·

*“Unapata unaitwa na wazee wa Kijiji ata sa zingine chief yuko hapo mnaambiwa vitu kama hizi (sexual violence/incest) hazifai kutoka nje ya familia”*

This therefore leads to various negotiations that are made which interferes with prosecution of cases which are later withdrawn from court. The process itself can be retraumatizing, forcing interaction with the abuser or their representatives.

- (f) Lack of accountability for perpetrators - ADR typically results in non-punitive outcomes (apologies, compensation, promises to stop). This avoids criminal prosecution, jail time, and public registration of the offense. Perpetrators face no real consequences, reinforcing impunity and enabling re-offending.
- (g) Deprivation of legal rights and protection - ADR bypasses formal legal systems, denying survivors/families access to vital protections like restraining orders, state-funded support services, professional counselling, and the right to see the perpetrator held accountable by society (the state).
- (h) Focus on compensation over justice - Settlements often centre on material compensation ("blood money"). While families facing economic hardship may feel compelled to accept, this reduces a life or severe trauma to a financial transaction, denying the intrinsic value of justice and the need for societal condemnation.
- (i) Reinforcing harmful norms - Using ADR for GBV/femicide reinforces the dangerous notion that violence against women and girls is a private family matter, not a serious public crime requiring state intervention. It perpetuates patriarchal control and undermines efforts to establish gender equality and safety.
- (j) Denying closure and truth - For families of femicide victims, ADR prevents a full public investigation and trial, which are crucial for uncovering the truth, understanding what happened, and achieving a sense of societal condemnation and closure. Private settlements bury the truth.
- (k) Undermining deterrence - When severe crimes like femicide are resolved privately without state punishment, it sends a message to potential perpetrators that they may avoid serious consequences, weakening the deterrent effect of the law.

### **6.3 Faith Based Organizations**

Faith-based organizations (FBOs) in Kenya are involved in addressing GBV and femicide through advocacy, counselling, community education, and support services.

- (a) FBOs provide counselling and psychological support to survivors of GBV and femicide, as well as to perpetrators in some cases (Musembi et al, 2022). In addition to supporting survivors, some FBOs also offer counselling to perpetrators of GBV rehabilitating perpetrators through counselling and behaviour change programs (Nkaabu, 2019). These programs aim to address the underlying issues that contribute to violent behaviour, such as anger management problems, substance abuse, and toxic masculinity.

- (b) FBOs are instrumental in providing information and support to survivors of GBV, particularly in areas where government services were inaccessible. This included distributing educational materials, organizing community meetings, and using church networks to raise awareness about GBV. Empowerment initiatives are key to helping survivors regain control. Programs such as vocational training, financial literacy workshops, and micro-credit schemes build economic self-reliance, while tailored counselling and peer support groups address the psychological impacts of violence.
- (c) The flipside of faith-based organizations is the misinterpretation of religious teachings to perpetrate GBV early marriages, sodomy, stopping/derail efforts to seek justice for victims/survivors, skewed religious teachings

### **6.3.1 Key Challenges and Gaps**

- (a) Religious teachers' utilisation of religious teachings and authority to manipulate and exploit vulnerable congregants emotionally, psychologically, and even sexually.
- (b) Where violations are done by members of the faith and, more so the religious teachers, a lot of effort is put into shielding GBV perpetrators from facing the consequences of their actions.
- (c) Religious institutions encourage resolution of GBV violations amongst their faithful through informal alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.
- (d) Lack of an accountability mechanism or framework as there is no definite way to hold any religious leaders accountable for their actions, and more so when it comes to concealment of GBV violations or when they undertake mediation of GBV and related cases.

### **6.4 Non-Governmental Organizations**

Non-governmental organizations, including community-based groups complement the formal services by government agencies by offering essential psychosocial support and empowerment programs. These organizations provide counselling, facilitate peer support groups, and deliver vocational training and financial literacy workshops that help survivors regain independence. Organisations such as the Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Kenya, the Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW), and various local women's rights groups not only provide counselling and peer support but also empower survivors through vocational training and economic initiatives. Although these initiatives are vital, they often suffer from inconsistent funding and a lack of integration with government-led programs. Strengthening collaboration between NGOs and public institutions enhances the reach of these support mechanisms (UN Women, 2024)

### **6.5 Health Sector Response**

The health sector has various response models for GBV survivors which include;

(a) **One-Stop Shop:** The National Police Service (NPS) of Kenya is in the process of establishing a one-stop centre for survivors of GBV to strengthen its response. This centre will offer integrated services such as legal, psychosocial, and health support, providing comprehensive assistance under one roof (Muiruri, 2023). This holistic model includes medical examinations, psychological counselling, legal aid, police assistance, and social welfare support. Co-ordination will be enhanced through close collaboration with key stakeholders, such as the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) and a multi-sectoral committee that facilitates regular information sharing and collaboration (Onditi & Odera, 2021).

(b) **GBV Recovery Centres:** These are centres established to offer specialized medical and psycho-social support services to the victims. Some public hospitals, such as Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH), Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH), and select county hospitals, have dedicated GBV Recovery Centres (EnableMe, 2024). But these remain limited in number and geographic coverage. However, there are privately owned GBV recovery centres spread across the country. Inconsistent training and knowledge among law enforcers lead to varied quality of responses across different regions (Bwikizo, 2021). Additionally, many survivors are unaware of the resources available, such as hotlines, which hinders timely access to support.

### 6.5.1 Psycho-Social Response and Support

GBV survivors often experience severe psychological trauma that requires immediate and long-term mental health interventions. Community-based psycho-social support – Consists of peer support groups, hotline counselling (e.g., 1195 GBV helpline), and safe houses that offer critical support mechanisms.

(a) Counselling and Therapy services – These are often provided by government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including gender recovery centres and crisis response teams.

(b) Rehabilitation Centres – GBV survivors who are substance and drug abusers are encouraged to seek services from rehabilitation centres.

### 6.5.2 Law Enforcement Response

(a) Effective investigation is important in ensuring that cases of GBV and femicide are thoroughly addressed. Modern investigative practices now call for an integrated approach that blends traditional on-scene procedures with cutting-edge digital technologies.

For instance, police officers are increasingly equipped with body-worn cameras and mobile reporting applications that facilitate real-time data capture and enhance the accuracy of crime scene documentation. This digital integration minimizes delays, preserves the integrity of evidence, and supports seamless communication between investigators and

forensic experts. Recent research highlights that such innovations not only bolster the quality of investigations but also improve the likelihood of successful prosecutions (Makena, Masiga & Ngare, 2025).

Crime scene management hinders the effectiveness of investigations. Inadequate documentation is a frequent issue, as failing to record essential details about the crime scene can compromise the investigation and lead to incomplete or inaccurate evidence. Contamination of evidence is another significant problem, often caused by allowing unauthorized personnel to enter the scene or not using proper protective equipment, (Ndung'u & Kariuki, 2021). Additionally, improper chain of custody can raise questions about the integrity of the evidence, affecting the prosecution of the case.

(b) Kenya has very few forensic experts. This has contributed to the rise of many parallel and poor-quality approaches, (Shako & Kalsi, 2019). When police respond to GBV and Femicide incidents, securing the crime scene is a crucial step in preserving evidence and ensuring a proper investigation. All physical evidence must be carefully collected and documented, using gloves and other protective equipment to minimize contamination (Bundi, 2016).

## **6.6 Stakeholder Viewers on Challenges in Response and Support Services.**

### **(a) Inadequate Resources for Gender Desks**

Gender desks and departments suffer from chronic underfunding and insufficient staffing, severely hampering their ability to provide effective support to GBV survivors. These desks, often located within police stations, lack essential resources such as trained personnel, private spaces for survivor consultations, and access to basic supplies like reporting forms or referral directories. This scarcity forces officers to handle cases with limited tools, leading to delays, mismanagement, or incomplete follow-ups. The lack of investment also discourages survivors from seeking help, as they perceive these desks as ineffective or unresponsive, further entrenching distrust in formal systems.

### **(b) Corruption and Evidence Tampering**

Corruption within police and judicial systems, coupled with frequent evidence tampering, creates significant barriers to justice for GBV survivors. Bribes to dismiss cases or destroy evidence are common, undermining the integrity of investigations and prosecutions. This misconduct not only prevents survivors from receiving justice but also emboldens perpetrators, who exploit these weaknesses to evade accountability. The resulting impunity perpetuates a cycle of violence, as survivors and communities lose faith in the institutions meant to protect them, often opting for silence or informal resolutions instead.

### **(c) Slow Judicial Processes**

Prolonged judicial processes delay justice, discouraging survivors from pursuing legal action and eroding trust in the legal system. GBV cases often languish in courts for months or years due to backlogs, insufficient judicial staff, and procedural inefficiencies. This delay compounds survivors' trauma, as they are forced to relive their experiences repeatedly during extended trials. Many survivors drop cases out of frustration or fear of retaliation, while perpetrators exploit these delays to intimidate victims or manipulate outcomes, further weakening the pursuit of justice.

**(d) Lack of Survivor-Centred Services**

Support services frequently fail to prioritize survivors' emotional, psychological, and practical needs, hindering recovery and reducing confidence in available systems. Many services lack training in trauma-informed care, leading to insensitive handling of cases that can retraumatize survivors. The absence of comprehensive support, such as counselling, legal aid, or medical care, leaves survivors feeling abandoned. Additionally, poor coordination between health, justice, and security sectors creates gaps in service delivery, forcing survivors to navigate fragmented systems without adequate guidance or follow-up.

**(e) Stigma and Case Withdrawals**

Social stigma surrounding GBV discourages reporting and often leads to discrimination against survivors, while informal mediation practices result in case withdrawals that undermine justice. Communities frequently blame survivors, subjecting them to shame or ostracism, which deters them from seeking help. Informal mechanisms, such as family or elder-led mediations, prioritize reconciliation over accountability, pressuring survivors to accept settlements like monetary compensation or apologies. These practices deny survivors justice and reinforce harmful norms that tolerate violence, perpetuating GBV within the community.

**(f) Exclusion of Male Victims and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)**

Male victims and PWDs are consistently overlooked in GBV interventions, severely limiting their access to support services. Interventions predominantly focus on female survivors, leaving male victims without tailored resources or safe spaces to report abuse. Similarly, PWDs face physical and attitudinal barriers, such as inaccessible facilities or lack of sign language interpreters, which exclude them from services. This exclusion marginalizes these groups, denying them protection and support, and reinforces the misconception that GBV primarily affects women, ignoring the diverse needs of all survivors.

**(g) Weak Informal Mechanisms**

Informal systems, such as kangaroo courts led by village elders, often prioritize mediation over justice, failing to adequately support GBV survivors. These mechanisms typically

favour quick resolutions, such as in-kind settlements or family agreements, which overlook survivors' rights and needs. Such practices undermine formal legal processes, as they lack authority to enforce accountability or provide meaningful remedies. Survivors are often coerced into accepting these outcomes, which can perpetuate violence by shielding perpetrators and normalizing GBV within the community.

**(h) Lack of Centralized Data**

The absence of a centralized data system hinders effective tracking and management of GBV cases, weakening response efforts across the county. Without a unified database, agencies struggle to monitor case progress, identify trends, or allocate resources efficiently. This fragmentation leads to duplicated efforts, missed opportunities for intervention, and inconsistent reporting, making it difficult to assess the true scale of GBV or evaluate the impact of existing services. The lack of reliable data also hampers advocacy for increased funding and policy reforms, perpetuating systemic gaps.

**(i) Poor Co-ordination Among Duty Bearers**

The lack of effective coordination among agencies and actors addressing GBV, such as health, security, and justice sectors, significantly hampers response efforts. For instance, medical staff often receive short-notice court summons from police, disrupting their ability to testify effectively. This disjointed approach leads to miscommunication, delayed interventions, and inconsistent service delivery, leaving survivors navigating a fragmented system with inadequate support. The absence of a cohesive multi-sectoral framework further complicates case management, reducing the overall impact of GBV interventions.

**(j) Limited Capacity of Health, Security, and Justice Sectors**

Insufficient personnel, resources, and equipment in the health, security, and justice sectors undermine the county's ability to respond to GBV cases effectively. Police gender desks and health facilities lack trained staff and essential tools, such as forensic kits or private consultation spaces, to handle cases sensitively. Courts face staffing shortages and logistical challenges, slowing down case resolutions. One of the challenges of investigation was voiced by a key informant from Taita Taveta County who pointed out that there is only one pathologist in Mombasa who also serves Taita County as illustrated below,

*"There are challenges in investigation and prosecution such as late presentation of evidence in court for cases where evidence collection is time sensitive. We have only one pathologist in Mombasa who also services Taita County." (KII- Taita Taveta)*

This limited capacity results in incomplete investigations, inadequate medical care, and delayed justice, discouraging survivors from engaging with formal systems.

**(k) Inadequate GBV Shelters and Recovery Centres**

The county has insufficient shelters, safe spaces, and gender violence recovery centres to meet survivors' needs. Existing facilities, such as the Hope Centre at Homa Bay Referral Hospital, are in poor condition, with outdated infrastructure and understaffed teams. These limitations restrict survivors' access to safe accommodation, medical care, and psychosocial support, particularly for those fleeing immediate danger. The lack of adequately resourced centres forces many survivors to remain in unsafe environments, increasing their vulnerability to further violence.

**(l) Low Awareness of Laws, Policies, and Support Services**

Many community members are unaware of existing GBV laws, policies, and support services, leading to underreporting and underutilization of available resources. Survivors often do not know their rights or where to seek help, while perpetrators exploit this ignorance to evade accountability. The lack of widespread sensitization campaigns perpetuates myths and misconceptions about GBV, further entrenching harmful cultural norms and reducing community engagement with formal response mechanisms.

**(m) Weak Witness Protection and Evidence Custody**

Inadequate witness protection mechanisms and poor custody of GBV evidence discourage reporting and undermine case outcomes. Witnesses face intimidation or lack resources to attend court, while evidence is often mishandled or lost due to weak chain-of-custody protocols. These issues lead to case dismissals, recanted testimonies, and low conviction rates, eroding survivors' trust in the justice system and allowing perpetrators to act with impunity.

**(n) Misconception of GBV as Female-Centric**

The widespread misconception that GBV primarily affects women excludes male survivors from support services and programs. Men face stigma and victimization when reporting abuse, discouraging them from seeking help. This gender bias limits the inclusivity of interventions, ignoring the psychological and physical violence men experience. The lack of male-focused programs further marginalizes these survivors, perpetuating a cycle of silence and unaddressed trauma.

**(o) Poverty and Economic Dependency**

High poverty levels and economic dependency, particularly among women, prevent survivors from reporting GBV due to reliance on perpetrators for survival. Women often endure abuse to secure economic stability for themselves and their children, fearing that reporting will lead to loss of income or family support. This economic vulnerability is exacerbated by practices like "sex for fish" (*Jaboya*), which expose women and girls to exploitation and violence, further complicating access to justice and support services.

### **(p) Inadequate Data on GBV and Teenage Pregnancies**

The lack of comprehensive data linking GBV to outcomes like teenage pregnancies hinders targeted interventions. Without clear data, agencies struggle to identify high-risk groups, allocate resources effectively, or measure the impact of programs. This gap in evidence-based information limits the county's ability to address root causes of GBV, such as early marriages or incest, and weakens advocacy for policy reforms and funding to support survivors.

### **(q) Interference by Informal/Alternative Conflict Resolution**

The widespread use of the cultural alternative dispute resolution mechanism, known as *Kip-kaa* or *maslaha*, significantly undermines formal GBV response efforts. This non-legitimate platform allows perpetrators and victims' families to negotiate out-of-court settlements, often prioritizing reconciliation over justice. Such interventions bypass legal accountability, discourage survivors from pursuing formal justice, and reinforce cultural norms that tolerate GBV.

A survivor from Wajir narrates how these informal systems undermine justice and the law below,

*"GBV is often treated as private matter with femicide silenced due to stigma and the use of the informal maslaha system to solve these cases. Even though they resolve cases without encouraging GBV they apply cultural and religious practices and abandon legal mechanisms like the Sexual Offences Act." (KII-Wajir)*

The reliance on *Kip-kaa* and *maslaha* particularly in rural areas, creates a parallel system that weakens the authority of police and courts, complicating efforts to ensure survivor-centered outcomes.

### **(r) Plea-Bargaining of Cases**

The practice of pre-bargaining, where GBV cases are settled informally before reaching formal judicial processes, poses a unique challenge. In 2024, at least 46 cases were resolved through such mechanisms, often involving negotiations that favour perpetrators and disadvantage survivors. These pre-bargained settlements, facilitated by community or family pressures, reduce the number of cases reaching courts, limiting legal recourse for survivors. This practice perpetuates impunity, as perpetrators face minimal consequences, while survivors are denied access to justice and support services.

### **(s) Economic Violence Linked to Patriarchal Norms**

Economic violence, rooted in the patriarchal structure of the community, exacerbates GBV by depriving women of financial autonomy. Practices such as disinheritance and succession inequalities leave women economically vulnerable, forcing them to endure abuse to

maintain access to resources. This form of violence is distinct in Bomet, where cultural attitudes equating women to children justify economic control by male relatives. The resulting dependency hinders survivors' ability to report abuse or access support services, as they fear losing economic stability.

**(t) Heavy Presence of Second-Generation Alcohol**

The rampant consumption of second-generation alcohol, a potent and affordable illicit brew, fuels GBV by impairing perpetrators' judgment and providing an excuse for violent behaviour. This issue is particularly pronounced in Bomet's cosmopolitan areas, where alcohol availability is high. The substance's stupefying effects contribute to repeated offenses, as perpetrators evade accountability by claiming intoxication. The prevalence of this alcohol strains response systems, as law enforcement struggles to address both the violence and the underlying substance abuse.

**(u) Lack of Sustainable Financial Strategies for GBV Programs**

GBV programs in Migori face significant risks of discontinuation due to the absence of sustainable financial strategies. Many interventions rely on short-term funding from non-governmental organizations or limited government budgets, which are insufficient to maintain critical services like health care, legal aid, or safe houses. This financial instability disrupts service continuity, leaving survivors without consistent access to support and undermining long-term efforts to address GBV. The lack of dedicated, renewable funding sources hampers the scaling of effective programs, particularly in rural areas where needs are greatest.

**(v) Cross-Border Escape of Perpetrators**

The proximity of Migori to Tanzania, coupled with porous borders, allows perpetrators to flee across the border to evade justice, complicating response efforts. This cross-border movement, often into neighbouring countries or across Lake Victoria, enables offenders to escape arrest and prosecution, leaving cases unresolved. The challenge is exacerbated by limited cross-border law enforcement collaboration, which hinders tracking and extradition. As a result, survivors are denied justice, and perpetrators operate with impunity, perpetuating GBV cycles in border communities.

**(w) Absence of Advanced Mapping Systems for GBV Hotspots**

The lack of advanced mapping systems to identify GBV hotspots hinders targeted interventions in Migori. Without precise data on high-risk areas, such as Kuria West, Kuria East, and Uriuri, resources are allocated inefficiently, and prevention efforts miss critical communities. This gap in spatial analysis limits the ability to deploy services like mobile clinics or police patrols effectively, leaving rural and marginalized populations

underserved. The absence of such systems also complicates monitoring and evaluation, reducing the impact of response strategies.

**(x) Families Protecting Perpetrators**

Families in Migori often shield perpetrators who are kin, suppressing victims' voices to protect the family's public image. This practice, driven by cultural loyalty and fear of social stigma, prevents survivors from reporting abuse or pursuing justice. Families may pressure victims to remain silent or resolve cases through informal means, such as kangaroo courts, which prioritize family reputation over survivor rights. This dynamic undermines formal response systems, as cases are either unreported or withdrawn, allowing perpetrators to evade accountability.

**(y) Inadequate Sentencing for Offenders**

Sentences for GBV-related offenses, such as defilement, illicit liquor brewing, and cannabis trafficking, are often not commensurate with the severity of the crimes. Lenient penalties fail to deter perpetrators, who view the consequences as minimal, leading to repeated offenses. This issue is compounded by judicial inefficiencies, such as poor case management, which weaken convictions. Inadequate sentencing erodes survivor trust in the justice system and discourages reporting, as communities perceive legal recourse as ineffective.

**(z) Disappearance of Child Victims from School**

Child victims of GBV in Migori frequently disappear from school after abuse, making it difficult to pursue legal cases. This disappearance, often due to stigma, family relocation, or fear of retaliation, disrupts case continuity, as victims become inaccessible to authorities. The lack of mechanisms to track or support these children hinders evidence collection and witness testimony, leading to case dismissals. This challenge leaves child survivors without justice and increases their vulnerability to further abuse.

**(aa) Lack of Accountability Across the Referral Pathway**

The absence of accountability mechanisms across the GBV referral pathway in Kisii leads to inconsistent service delivery. Stakeholders, including health providers, police, and community organizations, operate without clear oversight, resulting in gaps in case follow-up and survivor support. This lack of accountability causes confusion, delays, and re-traumatization for survivors, who struggle to navigate a disjointed system. It also undermines trust in response services, discouraging reporting and engagement.

**(bb) Delays Due to Case Adjournment and Weak Evidence Custody**

Frequent adjournments of GBV cases, coupled with weak chain-of-custody for forensic evidence, result in significant delays and acquittals. Adjournments occur due to absent

accused persons, recanting witnesses, or administrative inefficiencies, prolonging survivor trauma. Poor evidence management, such as mishandling forensic samples, weakens cases, leading to dismissals. These judicial challenges erode confidence in the justice system and allow perpetrators to evade accountability.

**(cc) Insufficient Funding for Essential Services**

Limited funding for critical GBV services, such as medical care, psychological support, and legal aid, restricts survivor access to comprehensive care. Budget constraints lead to understaffed facilities, inadequate supplies, and suspended programs, particularly in rural areas. This funding shortfall hampers the expansion of shelters, training for service providers, and awareness campaigns, leaving survivors with fragmented support and increasing their vulnerability to further harm.

**(dd) Lack of Centralized Gender Data Management System**

The absence of a centralized Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) results in fragmented data collection across stakeholders. Each actor maintains separate records, which are often incomplete or incompatible, hindering consolidation and analysis. This lack of a unified platform limits the ability to track cases, identify trends, or allocate resources effectively, weakening response strategies and policy advocacy for GBV interventions.

**(ee) Limited Rehabilitation Programs for Perpetrators**

The lack of evidence-based rehabilitation programs for GBV perpetrators in Kisii allows repeat offenses to persist. Without structured interventions, such as counselling or behavioural therapy, perpetrators are released without addressing underlying issues, increasing the risk of recidivism. This gap in rehabilitation undermines prevention efforts, as communities remain exposed to ongoing violence, and survivors face continued threats from unreformed offenders.

**(ff) Complexities in Accessing P3 and PRC Forms**

Survivors face delays, confusion, re-traumatization, and charges when accessing and filling out P3 (police medical examination) and PRC (Post-Rape Care) forms. The process is bureaucratic, requiring multiple visits to health facilities or police stations, and often involves costs that deter poor survivors. Inadequate guidance and insensitive handling by untrained staff exacerbate survivor distress, reducing the likelihood of completing these critical steps for legal action.

## **6.7 Recommendations**

### **6.7.1 Strengthen Law Enforcement & Judiciary Capacity**

- (a) Establish specialized GBV police units within the National Police Service beyond gender desks to exclusively handle GBV including Femicide cases, ensuring a focused and trauma informed approach. This will further ensure that the unit is readily available to respond to such cases promptly and effectively.
- (b) Forensic Evidence Management: Invest in adequate forensic services, including sufficient DNA laboratories and trained personnel, to improve evidence collection and analysis. Further, establish an independent GBV Forensic Lab Unit to deal with cases of GBV including femicide to ensure timely, effective and unbiased access to forensic services to all key players.

### **6.7.2 Victim Support & Awareness Programs**

- (a) Community Collaboration/Engagement: Increase community involvement to gather input on solutions to combat GBV including femicide, ensuring culturally relevant and effective interventions.
- (b) Child Protection: There is a need to strengthen the child protection systems in schools. Students and teachers should be constantly educated and made aware about child rights in violence cases. This should also extend to the community level.
- (c) Establish a survivor fund that will cater towards ensuring that victims of GBV including femicide receive compensation and where appropriate, have access to reparation funds that will facilitate them to sustain their livelihoods beyond the violations that they have suffered.

### **6.7.3 Legislative Reforms & Policy Enhancements**

Relook at the revised P3 form for GBV and mitigate existing gaps in filing the form that are contributing to evidentiary loopholes. The form should be simplified to enhance uptake without compromising on the quality of evidence.

### **6.7.4 Addressing Systemic Issues**

Digitalize investigation and prosecution: Minimize paperwork and interviews that can re-traumatize survivors, streamlining the reporting and support process. There is need to simplify and digitalize the process of reporting, documentation and handling of GBV information. This will ensure that the information is easily stored and conveyed to the next person or institution.

### **6.7.5 Addressing Gaps in Service Provision**

- (a) Emergency Response: Improve the timeliness and effectiveness of emergency response to GBV cases, particularly during crises like floods, clashes, and electoral violence.

- (b) Cost of Treatment: Address the cost of GBV treatment, including medical and psycho-social support, to ensure access for all survivors. Such costs should be minimal at the very least or be made free of charge. The Social Health Insurance Fund should include a clear cost policy on GBV medical costs that are both a direct violation and a consequence of GBV.
- (c) Mental Health Services: Increase the availability of trained mental health professionals, particularly in rural areas, to provide adequate psycho-social support to survivors.
- (d) Referral Pathways: Strengthening referral pathways through a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach is essential for effective GBV response. Establishing clear protocols among local administration, police, health services, judiciary, prosecutors, and paralegals will ensure timely case handovers and seamless access to medical, legal, and psychosocial support. Regular stakeholder coordination will enhance accountability, reduce delays, and prioritize survivors' well-being through a trusted and integrated support system.

#### **6.7.6 Digital Tools in response and preservation of evidence**

##### **(a) Adopt Advanced Digital Tools**

Equip police units with technologies such as body-worn cameras, predictive policing software, facial recognition, digital forensic tools, and mobile data terminals to enhance investigations and response times.

##### **(b) Implement Comprehensive Training**

Provide continuous training for all personnel on the use, maintenance, and ethical application of digital tools to ensure effective and responsible usage.

##### **(c) Establish Clear Data Privacy Policies**

Develop and enforce transparent policies on data privacy and usage to protect individuals' rights and build public trust in law enforcement.

##### **(d) Conduct Regular Audits and Reviews**

Institute routine assessments of digital tools to evaluate their effectiveness, address ethical concerns, and guide improvements.

#### **6.7.8 Recommendations for Strengthening Response and Support Services**

##### **(a) Improve Access to Mental Health Services**

Expanding mental health services, including counselling and psychosocial support, is essential to address trauma and depression among GBV survivors. The Government should establish community-based counselling centres staffed by trained professionals and integrate mental

health support into existing health facilities. Partnerships with local organizations can also provide peer support groups for survivors, promoting healing and resilience. These services should be affordable, accessible, and stigma-free to encourage uptake among diverse populations.

**(b) Mainstream disability inclusion in GBV Interventions**

GBV response services must be tailored to meet the specific needs of PWDs, ensuring accessibility and inclusion. Facilities should be physically accessible, with ramps and braille resources, and staff trained in sign language or other communication methods. Outreach programs should target PWD communities to raise awareness about available services and encourage reporting. By addressing these barriers, the county can ensure PWDs receive equitable protection and support, reducing their vulnerability to GBV.

**(c) Address Male Victims of GBV**

Targeted interventions are needed to support male victims of GBV, addressing their currently neglected needs within existing frameworks. Dedicated reporting channels and counselling services for men should be established to create safe spaces for disclosure. Public awareness campaigns should challenge stereotypes that dismiss male victimization, encouraging men to seek help without stigma. These efforts will ensure a more inclusive response to GBV, recognizing the diverse experiences of all survivors.

**(d) Tackle Technology-Facilitated GBV**

Mechanisms must be developed to support victims of technology-facilitated GBV, such as cyberbullying and online abuse. The county should train law enforcement to investigate digital GBV cases and establish helplines for victims to report online harassment. Partnerships with tech platforms can facilitate the removal of harmful content and protect survivors' privacy. Public education on digital safety will also empower individuals to prevent and respond to online violence, addressing this emerging form of GBV.

**(e) Enhance Witness Protection and Evidence Management**

Establishing robust witness protection mechanisms and improving evidence custody protocols are vital to strengthen judicial outcomes. Safe transport and financial support for witnesses can ensure court attendance, while secure evidence storage systems can prevent tampering. These measures will boost survivor confidence, increase conviction rates, and deter perpetrators by demonstrating a commitment to accountability.

**(f) Support Socio-Economic Empowerment for At-Risk Groups**

Mapping and empowering individuals at high risk of GBV, such as women and girls in poverty, through socio-economic programs can reduce vulnerability. Initiatives like vocational training,

microfinance, and provision of essentials (e.g., sanitary pads) can decrease economic dependency and exploitation, such as “sex for fish.” These efforts will enable survivors to report abuse without fear of economic repercussions, enhancing access to justice and support.

**(g) Reduce the Cost of P3 Forms**

Provision of P3 forms, which is the primary legal document for medical evidence of GBV, is essential to make justice accessible to poor survivors. Charging for it, deters rural survivors from obtaining this critical document, thus hindering the ability of survivor/victims to pursue legal action. Waiving P3 form fees, particularly for low-income survivors, will remove financial barriers, encourage reporting and enable more cases to proceed to court. This measure will enhance access to justice and support services for marginalized communities.

**(h) Establish a Gender Budget for Sensitization**

Creating a dedicated gender budget to fund public sensitization on GBV and femicide will amplify awareness efforts. This budget should support campaigns in vernacular languages, targeting rural and illiterate populations to ensure comprehension of GBV repercussions and available services. Funding can also support training for community leaders and gender champions, equipping them to advocate for survivors and challenge harmful norms. A well-resourced sensitization program will strengthen community engagement and improve uptake of response services.

**(i) Institute Alternative Rites of Passage**

Developing alternative rites of passage for boys and girls, incorporating training on societal values, can prevent GBV by instilling respect and gender equality early on. These programs should replace harmful traditional practices, such as those reinforcing patriarchal norms, with ceremonies that emphasize responsibility and non-violence. Training during these rites can address GBV risks, such as early marriage, and empower youth to reject violent behaviours. This long-term strategy will foster cultural change and support community-driven prevention efforts.

**(j) Establish Comprehensive GBVRC in all Counties**

Creating integrated one-stop centres in every county, where survivors can access medical care, legal assistance, psychological support, and reintegration services in a single location, is essential. These centres should be equipped with trained staff, forensic tools, and trauma-informed protocols to provide holistic care. By centralizing services, the county can reduce survivor re-traumatization, streamline case management, and improve access to support, particularly for rural communities with limited resources.

### **(k) Promote Post-Effect Support for Survivors**

Implementing post-effect support programs, including counselling, legal aid, vocational training, and rescue centres, is vital to aid survivor recovery and reintegration. These programs should focus on empowering survivors economically and emotionally, reducing dependency and stigma. Rescue centres will provide long-term safety for those at risk of retaliation, while vocational training can foster financial independence, enabling survivors to rebuild their lives and access justice without fear.

### **(l) Integrate Gender-Sensitive Dispute Resolution**

Adopting a gender-sensitive approach to dispute resolution, replacing informal mechanisms like kangaroo courts, will ensure women's voices are heard and disparities addressed. This approach should involve trained mediators who prioritize survivor rights and legal accountability over reconciliation. Curbing gender biases in resolutions will promote justice, reduce case withdrawals, and strengthen formal response pathways for GBV survivors.

### **(m) Establish Forensic Specimen Analysis Laboratories**

Creating forensic specimen analysis laboratories at the county level will strengthen evidence collection for GBV cases. These labs should be equipped to process samples like DNA or toxicology reports, ensuring accurate and timely evidence for prosecutions. By reducing reliance on distant facilities, the county can minimize evidence mishandling, expedite cases, and increase conviction rates, enhancing justice for survivors.

### **(n) Compel duty bearer when needed to Testify in Court**

Requiring chiefs to testify in court as primary responders in GBV cases will strengthen litigation. Chiefs, as community leaders, often have first-hand knowledge of incidents, making their testimony crucial for case progression. Mandating their involvement will ensure accountability, reduce case dismissals due to absent witnesses, and reinforce the link between community and formal justice systems.

The analysis on response and support accorded to survivors of GBV and victims of femicide carried out above confirms that GBV including femicide is a global challenge. It elucidates that different jurisdictions have come up with circumstance-unique methods of addressing this vice. Notably, common mechanisms of addressing this vice are apparent across the various jurisdictions, i.e. the availability of legal aid to victims and survivors and the availability of one-stop shop centres as a referral pathway. Importantly, the research underscores the global multi-faceted approach between state and non-state actors at addressing this issue. Prominently, the research confirms the need to strengthen the mandate of all duty bearers across the criminal justice chain to effectively combat GBV including femicide

## **CHAPTER SEVEN: DATA AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT**

### **7.1 Introduction**

Data and knowledge management are critical in addressing Gender Based Violence, including Femicide, by providing accurate data on its prevalence, causes, and effects. This data is essential for understanding trends and hotspots to inform targeted interventions, evaluate the effectiveness of gender programmes, and make evidence-based decisions, as well as raise public awareness and strengthen response mechanisms.

Over the years, several state and non-state actors have attempted to set up data and knowledge management systems to transform how GBV including femicide, is addressed in Kenya. These systems usually rely on administrative data sources and periodic surveys to highlight the prevalence of GBV, including femicide. The difference between the actual prevalence and incidence of GBV including femicide, reveals a data gap worth filling.

The TWG was required to identify trends, hotspots and causes contributing to GBV, including Femicide. It was additionally tasked to provide actionable recommendations on prevention, investigation, prosecution and survivor support mechanisms in GBV and Femicide cases.

This Chapter presents a situational analysis of the global, regional, and national contexts, stakeholders' perspectives, best practices, opportunities, challenges, and recommendations on data and knowledge management on GBV, including femicide.

### **7.2 Global Context**

#### **7.2.1 Global Data and Knowledge Management Systems on GBV**

Globally, data and knowledge management systems for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) have undergone continual improvement, particularly in countries that have invested in robust administrative models. In Europe, countries such as Spain, Croatia, and the United Kingdom have developed an integrated reporting system that encompasses law enforcement, healthcare, and social services. Spain's VioGén system, for example, links the police force and judicial authorities to track and measure GBV cases thus enabling preemptive initiatives (European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), 2023). Croatia has implemented an interdisciplinary approach that ensures GBV data is collected across various sectors, allowing for more comprehensive analysis and informed policy adjustments (Council of Europe, 2022).

In Canada, the Federal Government joins forces with the provinces and territories to collect GBV data through the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics. The General Social Survey on Victimization provides regular insights into the extent and nature of GBV, enabling legislators to develop tailored solutions (Statistics Canada, 2023). The United Kingdom operates Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs), which facilitate the real-time sharing of data among agencies working with victims of GBV, ensuring the

implementation of decisive and effective measures (Home Office, 2022). These systems work on account of integrating multiple data sources, prioritizing the victim's confidentiality, and provide an interconnected response to GBV.

In the United States, there is no single national GBVIS; however, several states have developed their systems. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) provides detailed data on intimate partner violence and sexual violence at a national level. Additionally, organizations such as the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) collect data on GBV through various surveys. Though all these efforts have improved the understanding of GBV prevalence, differences exist between states in terms of funds allocation to address GBV.

In Africa, countries such as South Africa, Nigeria, and Uganda have been working to improve GBV data management despite structural obstacles. South Africa's Department of Justice and Constitutional Development administers a GBV centralized database center that collects real-time data through helplines and case reporting systems (South African Government, 2023). Nigeria, through the National GBV Dashboard, consolidates data from health facilities, police reports, and NGOs to provide real-time GBV analytics (United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), 2023). Uganda, on the other hand, has developed a National GBV Database to mainstream reporting, though underreporting remains a substantial issue (UN Women, 2022).

### **7.2.2 Global Data and Knowledge Management Systems on Femicide**

The emergence and subsequent rise in femicide cases has prompted various countries to develop customized data management systems for tracking cases and identifying trends. Several states have significantly expanded their data and knowledge management systems as follows:

- (a) In Europe, Spain has one of the most modern femicide data collection mechanisms and a system for tracking femicide cases through REDFAM (National Registry of Femicides, with a dedicated gender-based violence observatory that compiles judicial, police, and social service records (EIGE, 2023).
- (b) Croatia has integrated femicide tracking into its comprehensive GBV data collection, employing a multi-stakeholder approach that involves the judiciary, police, and civil society (Council of Europe, 2022).
- (c) The UK records femicide cases separately under its Domestic Homicide Review framework, ensuring an in-depth look at each case for policy improvements (Home Office, 2022).
- (d) Australia has a National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) where the Australian Institute of Criminology manages the system to collect data on femicides across Australia, including the gender of the victim and the perpetrator (Schröttle, M., et. al, 2021).

- (e) Canada's data management system on femicide is championed by the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability (CFOJA), which tracks cases and analyzes trends to identify risk factors (Statistics Canada, 2023).
- (f) In South Africa, the government has put femicide data collection at the forefront due to its rising and dreadful numbers, with programs such as the National Strategic Plan on GBV and Femicide providing real-time reporting mechanisms (South African Government, 2023).
- (g) Nigeria and Uganda, while improving their GBV data management, still face challenges in classifying femicide data, as cases often go unreported or are reported under general homicide statistics (UN Women, 2022).

### **7.3 National Context**

Data and knowledge management in Kenya on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) including Femicide, is defined by a blend of manual and digital systems across various sectors. Several government Ministries and Agencies, Independent Commissions and Civil Society Organisations, oversee GBV-related data with efforts to improve compatibility, accuracy, and access. Though we have many organizations with data systems, the data is disjointed, siloed and therefore lacks a coordinating body (system).

Kenya has various organizations that collect, store, and analyse GBV data; these establishments have duties ranging from the health, legal, education, security, and social sectors. The institutions and their data management systems include:

#### **7.3.1 Ministry of Health**

The Kenya Health Management Information System (KHMIS) is a digital framework designed to transform health data management in Kenya. The goal of the system is to enhance healthcare delivery through timely, data-driven decisions, digitizing health records for improved accessibility and efficiency as well as supporting universal health coverage. The system is critical in collection, storing, analyzing and use of health data for evidence-based decision making. The system faces several challenges that include inadequate infrastructure, unreliable internet connectivity, limited access to hardware in rural health facilities, inconsistent data entry and interoperability challenges due to fragmented systems and lack of standardization across the sectors.

#### **7.3.2 National Police Service**

The National Police Service Management Information System (NPSMIS) was established to digitize police data management. Currently, the data collection is captured in a manual register in police stations and P3 forms which are official medical reports required for legal action and

are usually stored physically at police stations. Additionally, the NPS has a Crime Management System (CMS) which is a database tracking police-reported crimes, including GBV cases and the Sexual Offences Register. The system has shortcomings that include inadequate ICT infrastructure, limited officer training, and inconsistent data quality. The NPSMIS is also affected by interoperability thus limiting its ability to track and respond to GBV effectively.

### **7.3.3 Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP)**

The *Uadilifu* Case Management System under the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is designed to digitize and streamline prosecution processes in handling criminal cases including GBV. It has features that enable customizable workflows, automated notifications, and secure data management to reduce case backlogs and improve coordination with systems like the National Police Service Management Information System (NPSMIS). However, the system has challenges that include inadequate ICT infrastructure, limited training for prosecutors, inconsistent data quality, and interoperability issues with other justice sector systems. Due to the systemic challenges, ODPP utilizes Prosecution Diaries and Daily Court Returns (DCRT) to track GBV-related prosecutions and convictions.

### **7.3.4 Judiciary**

The Integrated Court Management System (ICMS) is part of the e-filing and case tracking framework by the Judiciary. It supports the adjudication of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases through specialized Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Courts. The ICMS include tools like the cause list portal and data tracking dashboard to enhance case management by digitizing filings, improving access to court schedules, and identifying GBV hotspots for strategic interventions. However, challenges such as inadequate ICT infrastructure in rural areas, limited sex disaggregated data, and insufficient training hinder effective case resolution. Coordination with systems like the National Police Service Management Information System (NPSMIS) and the ODPP's *Uadifu* System is limited by interoperability issues thereby contributing to delays and underreporting of GBV cases.

## **7.4 Sources of Data**

The major sources of data on Gender Based Violence including Femicide in Kenya include:

### **7.4.1 National Surveys**

The Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) is the main source of data on GBV in Kenya. It is a national survey designed to collect data on population and health indicators in Kenya. The survey has been conducted within a five-year period since 1989. It provides information on various aspects, including Gender Based Violence, women empowerment, Female Genital Mutilation, fertility, family planning, maternal and child health as well as on nutrition. The survey primarily focuses on women aged 15-49 years and men aged 15-54 years,

as these ranges cover the reproductive and economically active populations most relevant to its indicators. This age restriction, combined with limited indicators, constrains the survey's ability to capture GBV prevalence across all age groups, particularly among younger adolescents or the elderly, and in specific settings like schools.

#### **7.4.2 Administrative Sources**

Data on GBV including femicide is administratively collected routinely by Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Counties (MDACs) as part of their operational and administrative functions. The Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services operates a National GBV toll free helpline (1195) that offers first line psychological support and referrals for survivors. Through this process, all cases are documented. The Ministry of Health takes lead in promoting good health and well-being of Kenyans by ensuring access to quality, affordable and equitable healthcare services. Other government agencies that have data on GBV are National Police Service, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Judiciary, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Interior and National Administration. Additionally, some county governments have documented data on GBV including femicide. There are limitations with administrative data sources which include: inconsistent data quality issues due to manual entry errors, incomplete records, and lack of interoperability between systems.

#### **7.4.3 Alternative Sources**

This is data collected by non-state actors for their programmatic interventions. In Kenya, several non-state actors are involved in data collection on GBV including femicide. Some of these organisations include Civil Society Organizations, Faith Based Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations and Private Sector. This data is primarily collected through community-based surveys and helplines thus providing granular data absent in national surveys. However, these sources face challenges that include limited geographic coverage, inconsistent methodologies, and lack of integration with national systems.

### **7.5 Stakeholders' Views on Data and Knowledge Management**

Experts and stakeholders strongly support the establishment of a Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) in Kenya considering it as requisite for improving data accuracy, coordination and response. They highlighted that underreporting of GBV cases is driven by fear, stigma, and fragmented systems results in unreliable data, hindering effective intervention. Experts emphasized the need for restorative, community-driven data collection practices that meaningfully involve survivors and grassroots activists.

According to civil society organizations, GBVIMS fills a critical gap by standardizing data collection and enabling the safety, ethical storage, analysis and sharing of survivor-reported information.

Stakeholders noted that such a system would significantly enhance inter-agency coordination, support evidence-based programming, and strengthen advocacy efforts.

They also stressed its importance in humanitarian contexts, where GBV tends to surge, and called for its integration with other information systems to ensure a more comprehensive and survivor-centered response.

## **7.6 Key Challenges on Data and Knowledge Management**

### **7.6.1 Lack of a Comprehensive National Database**

The absence of an integrated and comprehensive system despite the existence of GBVIMS by some state actors such as NGEC and Kiambu County Government hinder accurate capture of real prevalence of GBV including femicide making it nearly impossible to identify trends, allocate resources effectively and measure the impact of interventions. The lack of a national database also hinders the ability to track repeat offenders or identify high-risk areas.

### **7.6.2 Underreporting**

Underreporting remains a widespread issue in Kenya, mainly driven by:

- (a) Cultural barriers, where the topic of sex related matters is seen as a taboo, and for this reason, victims fail to report for fear of retaliation. In addition, men fear reporting for fear of being seen as weak and this has negatively skewed data.
- (b) There exists another category of persons, such as persons living with disability, illegal immigrants, marginalized communities and other vulnerable groups, whose data is often underreported because of stigma and fear of incarceration or deportation.
- (c) The fear of police inaction or hostility further exacerbates this issue. For example, during the 16 Days of Activism campaign in December 2024, peaceful protesters advocating for femicide prevention were teargassed by police indicating systemic challenges in building trust between citizens and law enforcement. This discourages survivors from seeking justice, perpetuating a cycle of silence, thereby increasing the likelihood of underreporting.

### **7.6.3 Data capture using Manual Systems**

Over-reliance on manual systems by institutions at the heart of capturing GBV, including femicide incidence reports hampers efficiency in gathering information related to these cases.

### **7.6.4 Data Sharing Limitation**

Even when data is collected effectively, sharing becomes a challenge due to issues of privacy and confidentiality concerns, red tape between agencies, and varying levels of technological infrastructure that can impose a challenge in the flow of data necessary for coordinated

responses to GBV and femicide. Moreover, there is often an inadequacy of ways to share data among Ministries, Counties, Departments, and Agencies MCDAs working on these issues.

## **7.7 Opportunities for enhancing Data Management and Co-ordination**

There exist opportunities that the government can leverage on enhancing data management and coordination in addressing Gender-Based Violence including Femicide. These include the existence of:

- (a) Data and knowledge management systems, such as the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) hosted by the NGEC, the Kenya Health Management Information System (KHMIS), the National Crime Research Centre, and the Judiciary's Sexual and Gender-Based Violence dashboard.
- (b) Political goodwill to address gender-based violence, including femicide and related systems for the victims and survivors, demonstrated by the establishment of the Presidential Technical Working Group on Gender Based Violence, including Femicide.
- (c) Enabling legal framework on data collection, storage, and utilization that includes the Constitution of Kenya (2010), the Data Protection Act (2019) and Statistical Act.
- (d) Goodwill from development partners in supporting the establishment of data and knowledge management systems, such as the UN Women Count programme on “Making Every Woman and Girl Count” and the UN Women/UNODC Statistical Framework for measuring Femicide.
- (e) The Intergovernmental Relations Act (2012) facilitates cooperation and collaboration between national and county governments. It is salient for the establishment, support, and coordination of data and knowledge management on gender-based violence, including femicide.
- (f) Collaboration among state, non-state actors, and the private sector on the generation and utilization of citizen-generated data on gender-based violence, including femicide, based on the Kenya Statistical Quality Assurance Framework (KeSQAF).
- (g) Academia and other like-minded institutions are mandated to conduct research on data and knowledge management on Gender-Based Violence, including femicide.
- (h) Leverage health data collection by county governments, the county statistics function and establishment of GIS laboratories by County Governments to collect, analyze and effectively utilize sex and gender disaggregated data to inform planning, policy making and service delivery.

## 7.8 Recommendations

### (a) Gender Based Violence Management Information Systems

This calls for strengthening and establishing an integrated data and knowledge management system to create a government data hub on gender-based violence, including femicide. It brings together the various GBV data management systems located in different state and non-state agencies and tracks GBV data reported across these agencies. It shall be housed within an identified government agency.

### (b) Automation of data collection to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery across all stakeholders.

### (c) Development of a web-based and mobile application to fast-track the Collection and Management of Data on GBV, including Femicide.

### (d) Commission a survey on Gender Based Violence, including femicide. Surveys are crucial for evidence-based decision-making. It is imperative to develop a baseline on GBV, including Femicide, by undertaking a nationwide study through the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics. This survey should include indicators that capture data for all ages and sexes.

### (e) Develop framework to regulate exiting CSOs GBV help lines.

### (f) Review the existing GBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to regulate help lines.

### (g) Establish a dedicated National government GBV helpline.

### (h) Integrate data on GBV in the GIS based laboratories established by the county governments

It is evident that Kenya faces major gaps in the collection, quality, and coordination of data on GBV including femicide. There is no centralized or consistent system to track cases across sectors, and femicide is not distinctly categorized in legal or statistical frameworks. Data is often fragmented, underreported, and lacks disaggregation by key variables such as age, location, or disability status.

Weak data systems hinder evidence-based policy, resource allocation, and accountability. Survivors face barriers to reporting, while frontline responders lack the tools and training to manage data ethically and effectively. To address this, Kenya must invest in integrated, survivor-centred data systems, recognize femicide as a specific category of violence, and ensure multi-sectoral coordination in data collection and use. Reliable, disaggregated data is essential for driving targeted interventions, shaping policy, and upholding justice for survivors.

## **CHAPTER EIGHT: SOCIAL MEDIA FRAMING OF GBV INCLUDING FEMICIDE**

### **8.1 Introduction**

The media in general plays a vital role in shaping public understanding, policy responses, and societal attitudes toward gender-based violence (GBV) including femicide. Both mainstream and alternative media platforms influence how GBV including femicide is perceived whether as an individual tragedies or as systemic human rights violations.

Although media has played a significant role in bringing to the fore GBV including femicide cases, its framing often suffers from sensationalism, victim-blaming, underreporting of structural causes, and a lack of consistent terminology. This chapter analyses the nuances of how GBV including femicide are framed in Kenya's social media and assesses the implications of such portrayals for justice, policy, and social transformation.

### **8.2 Global Context**

Globally, the rise of digital technologies has given way to new and pervasive forms of gender-based violence (GBV), often termed technology-facilitated GBV (TFGBV). These include cyberstalking, online harassment, non-consensual sharing of intimate images, deepfakes, and gendered hate speech. A UN Women report notes that 38% of women have experienced online violence, and that women in politics, media, and activism face disproportionate abuse in digital spaces (UN Women, 2021). This form of violence, although virtual, has real-world consequences, often escalating to offline threats or physical harm, including femicide.

### **8.3 Regional Context**

In Africa, the intersection of social media and GBV is increasingly recognized as a critical human rights and public health issue. Research by Equality Now and the African Union has highlighted that TFGBV is underreported and poorly legislated across the continent. While platforms like Twitter and Facebook have provided space for activism (e.g., #MeToo and #EndFemicide), they have also become sites of digital misogyny and coordinated disinformation attacks against women activists and journalists (Equality Now & AU, 2022). Moreover, femicide remains under-documented in official statistics, with many cases obscured by patriarchal norms and weak data systems (Africa UNiTE, 2021).

### **8.4 National Context**

#### **8.4.1 Current Status of Media and Social Media in GBV and Femicide Reporting**

Kenya's media operates under a robust constitutional and legislative framework that supports freedom of expression (Constitution of Kenya, 2010, Art. 33) and access to information (Art. 35), while also placing safeguards against hate speech and discrimination. The National Gender

and Equality Commission Act (2011) mandates the NGEC to monitor gender portrayal in the media, including stereotypes and harmful narratives.

Self-regulation is promoted through the Media Council of Kenya (MCK), established under the Media Council Act (2013), which enforces ethical journalism and requires sensitive coverage of GBV survivors (MCK, 2013). However, implementation is uneven, and breaches such as victim-blaming and sensationalism persist (Okello-Orlale & Ugangu, 2019).

#### **8.4.2 Role of Social media**

Social media plays a significant and multifaceted role in relation to gender-based violence (GBV) including femicide, acting both as a cause and as a powerful tool for prevention and response.

##### **(a) As a Cause of GBV, Including Femicide**

Social media has become a fertile ground for online forms of gender-based violence, such as cyberbullying, harassment, stalking, and image-based sexual abuse mostly targeting women and girls. It also amplifies misogynistic content and harmful gender norms that normalize violence. In abusive relationships, perpetrators often use social media to monitor, control, or intimidate victims, contributing to patterns of coercive control and psychological abuse.

##### **(b) As a Prevention Mechanism**

Social media plays a vital role in raising awareness about GBV, including femicide. Activists and civil society organizations actively use these platforms to challenge harmful norms, run awareness campaigns, and spark public discourse. In Kenya, campaigns such as #MyDressMyChoice and #StopFemicideKE have ignited national debates and protest movements, helping to shift cultural perceptions and bring GBV and femicide into the public consciousness.

##### **(c) As a Response Tool**

Social media has provided a platform for survivors to share their stories, seek support, and connect with services. It also enables the documentation and exposure of GBV and femicide cases, putting pressure on institutions to respond and take action. In a context where formal reporting systems are weak or under-resourced, social media helps fill critical data gaps and drives public accountability, making it a valuable tool for justice and reform.

#### **8.4.3 Social media Framing of GBV including Femicide**

Social media in Kenya has the power to both help and harm efforts to address gender-based violence (GBV), including femicide. On one hand, it can raise awareness, spark public action, and support survivors. On the other hand, it can expose survivors to more harm through online abuse, shame, or blame.

The way social media presents or frames GBV and femicide stories plays a big role in shaping public opinion. Framing refers to how information is packaged and shared, the details they chose to highlight, the choice of language and imagery used, and the kind of messages sent. If social media frames GBV or femicide as a private matter or blames the victim, it reinforces harmful attitudes. But if it frames these issues as serious crimes and human rights violations, it can inspire support, action, and justice. The importance of media framing in GBV and femicide is shown in the following ways:

#### **(a) Influences Public Attitudes and Cultural Norms**

Social media is a key site for the construction of social meaning. Framing determines whether audiences interpret GBV as a personal tragedy, a private matter, or a systemic human rights issue. For instance, when social media coverage of femicide presents it as an isolated “crime of passion” rather than the result of structural gender inequality, it reduces the urgency for collective action or legal reform.

An example of problematic framing was reported in Msambweni, Kwale County, by a local chief during a key informant interview. Despite public awareness that GBV includes physical, sexual, emotional, or economic harm rooted in gender inequality and that femicide refers to the intentional killing of women or girls because of their gender, often by intimate partners, the media initially misrepresented a femicide case as reported verbatim below,

*“The case involved a young woman who was killed by her partner. It was first portrayed as a domestic dispute, but was later correctly classified as femicide.” (KII- Kwale)*

This kind of framing brings out a disturbing disconnect between media narratives and the lived realities of GBV including femicide victims and their dependents. By downplaying or ignoring the gendered motives behind these killings, media coverage essentially strips femicide of its political and social context, reducing it to isolated or ‘domestic’ incidents. This not only minimizes the brutality and systemic nature of the violence but also erases the power dynamics and gender inequalities that underpin it, ultimately weakening public understanding, outrage, and demand for justice.

#### **(b) Shapes Legal and Policy Responses**

Politicians and policymakers are often responsive to issues that dominate public discourse. Sustained and accurately framed social media coverage can place femicide and GBV on the national agenda, influencing law-making, budget allocations, and institutional reforms. Conversely, silence or misrepresentation by the media can delay or water down policy interventions.

### **(c) Impacts Survivor Support and Reporting**

When social media upholds survivor-centered language, avoids victim-blaming, and highlights support services, it encourages other survivors to come forward.

The risk of spreading gossip and victim-blaming through social media has already deterred many survivors from reporting their cases. A survivor from Tana River County shared that fear of public shaming online kept her from seeking help or reporting the abuse to authorities as captured below,

*“Community gossip is now on social media. The victim-blaming there deterred me from speaking out.... If I report, I would be seen as disrespectful not just to my husband, but to the whole clan.” (Survivor – Tana River County)*

On the other hand, stigmatizing or sensationalist coverage can retraumatize survivors and deter reporting, especially in cases involving marginalized groups.

### **(d) Shapes Public Discourse and Social Movements**

Media narratives create the boundaries of what is considered “normal” or “acceptable” to say about GBV including femicide. Feminist and civil society organizations have often used media to shift framing from private suffering to public injustice, giving rise to powerful movements like #MeToo and #TotalShutDown.

Alternative media platforms are particularly valuable in amplifying voices often excluded by mainstream outlets but if used wrongly can also perpetuate normalisation of GBV including femicide as illustrated by KII from Isiolo County below,

*“Social media content fuels the normalization of GBV, including femicide.” (KII – Isiolo County)*

## **8.5 Views from Stakeholders on social media framing of GBV including femicide**

During stakeholder engagements and through public participation submissions received by the Technical Working Group (TWG), there were mixed reactions regarding the role of social media in addressing GBV, including femicide. While some viewed it as a powerful tool for awareness, reporting, and mobilization, others expressed concern that it can also perpetuate misinformation, online harassment, and the normalization of violence.

### **(a) Inadequate guidance on online communication**

The public expressed concern over the lack of guidance on Online Communication. Kenya lacks a clear policy to guide how we use digital and social media. Without it, harmful content spreads easily and it becomes difficult to hold anyone accountable. Some members of the public expressed concern that in the absence of the guidelines and with the normalisation of

spread of false information online, victims of GBV were often blamed further retraumatising them as illustrated by a Survivor below,

*“Once a case is posted online, people don’t care to verify the details. They often doubt or shame the survivor instead of helping) (Survivor - Mombasa)*

The platforms do not have a local system to verify what’s true or false online. Because of this, harmful rumours and false accusations spread quickly, making the situation worse for survivors, and confusing the public.

#### **(b) Low Digital Literacy and lack of supports**

The public also expressed fears on low Digital Literacy and Lack of Support with many digital users lacking the knowledge to protect themselves while using online platforms online. Girls and women especially face cyberbullying, threats, and online harassment, and there’s no support system to help them. Communities in West Pokot raised the issue of pornographic material being widely shared on social media. Others mentioned that girls are now using platforms like TikTok to sell or display their bodies because of poverty and pressure. This shows how harmful content and economic desperation are closely linked.

#### **(c) Legal and Policy Gap**

Stakeholders expressed frustration with weak laws and poor enforcement. Survivors of online violence and activists often face threats and harassment with no real help from the law. Many people asked: Why are social media companies not being regulated in Kenya? They want the government to create clear, strong rules that specifically deal with online gender-based violence as recounted by the verbatim quote by one of the experts engaged during public participation below,

*“We are living in a world where private tech platforms hold massive power over public opinion. With every algorithm tweak or trending topic, they can amplify harmful gender stereotypes often without accountability. We need stronger oversight and responsible digital governance to ensure these platforms become tools for equality, not enablers of discrimination.” (KII-Kajiado)*

#### **(d) Harmful online content**

Concerns were raised about Social Media Platforms and Technology. Many people said that platforms like Facebook, X, and TikTok often push harmful content, including sexist jokes, hate, and falsehoods. Algorithms (the systems that decide what we see) are blamed for making harmful content more visible. A key informant from Kajiado County decried harmful social media and commercial practices targeting minors and youth as captured below,

*“We need to regulate access to pornographic content on social media targeting minors and the youth.” (KII- Kajiado)*

These enable predatory behaviours and obscure GBV reporting. They also place young people at risk, with many falling into toxic online spaces that promote GBV and disrespect for women and girls.

#### **(e) Lack of Data and Analysis**

There is very little data on who is affected by online GBV especially when it comes to people with disabilities or those from poor backgrounds. Stakeholders noted that we do not use tools like GIS mapping to identify GBV hotspots in areas like Kuria West. People want better research and data, especially since most victims and perpetrators are under 40 and heavily influenced by digital trends.

Online Awareness Doesn't Always Lead to Action While people agree that campaigns like #SayHerNameKE or #JusticeForShantel have raised public awareness, they feel the government rarely follows through with meaningful action. There's also concern about the mental health impact of online violence on survivors and human rights defenders, which often goes unaddressed.

#### **(f) Weak Infrastructure and Institutions**

Kenya doesn't yet have a strong institution or policy to manage how social media is used, or how to deal with online harm. Stakeholders suggested the need for a national platform or body perhaps a Digital Communications Council where survivors, digital rights groups, and government leaders can work together to develop lasting solutions and policies that protect everyone online.

### **8.5 Lessons for Kenya from Global Practice**

Across the globe, social media has emerged as a powerful tool for challenging GBV and femicide. Countries have creatively harnessed these platforms to raise awareness, amplify survivor voices, mobilize mass action, and press for accountability both from governments and communities.

- (a) In Latin America, the viral hashtag **#NiUnaMenos** originated in Argentina as a cry against femicide and spread regionally, catalysing mass protests that directly influenced government policies, including the development of GBV data systems and feminist budgeting. Similarly, in South Africa, the **#TotalShutdown** movement was born online, uniting women across cities in coordinated marches that led to a Presidential Summit on GBV and a comprehensive National Strategic Plan.
- (b) Social media has also become a space for survivor-centered storytelling. In India, the **#WhyLoiter** campaign used Instagram and Twitter to challenge the policing of women in public spaces, framing loitering as a right rather than a risk. In Mexico, anonymous Facebook survivor pages provided safe spaces for victims to share experiences, identify

abusers, and expose patterns of impunity, contributing to broader advocacy for legal reform.

- (c) Governments and NGOs in some countries have also led effective digital campaigns. Canada's "It's Time" campaign featured compelling video messages by influencers, helping shift public attitudes on consent and violence. In the UK, the #Enough campaign targeted online harassment and coercive control through short, youth-friendly videos across platforms like TikTok and Snapchat.
- (d) Some platforms are being used to document GBV in real time, creating both awareness and pressure for justice. In Turkey, the "We Will Stop Femicide Platform" consistently shares updates on femicide cases via Twitter and Instagram, becoming a key watchdog in the absence of reliable government data. In Kenya, local campaigns such as #JusticeForShantel and #SayHerNameKE have effectively rallied public support and demanded justice in cases where the legal system has been slow or silent.
- (e) In the tech innovation space, apps like India's Safecity and Pakistan's Harassment Recorder are enabling users to anonymously report harassment and assault, generating crowdsourced data that informs urban planning and law enforcement advocacy. Meanwhile, youth-driven campaigns such as Nigeria's #SayNoToRape and the Philippines' Youth for Safe Spaces have leveraged TikTok, YouTube, and meme culture to normalize conversations about consent, reporting, and safety.
- (f) Australia stands out as a pioneer in developing a robust national response to digital violence through the establishment of the eSafety Commissioner, the world's first government agency solely focused on keeping people safe online. Under the Online Safety Act 2021, the Commissioner has powers to compel online platforms to remove harmful content within 24 hours and to support victims of cyber abuse, including image-based abuse and serious online harassment (eSafety Commissioner, 2023). Kenya can borrow this model by establishing an independent statutory body with similar authority to regulate online spaces and enforce user protection standards.
- (g) In the United Kingdom, the Online Safety Act (2023) imposes a legal duty of care on social media platforms, requiring them to protect users from harmful and illegal content. This includes content that promotes or glorifies violence against women and girls. Importantly, the Act ensures that children and vulnerable groups are given special consideration, and mandates transparency in algorithmic content recommendation systems (UK Parliament, 2023). A comparable Kenyan law could help mitigate the algorithmic amplification of misogyny and hate speech, especially among youth who are most exposed to social media.

- (h) In India, the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 require platforms to trace the origin of harmful content and establish redressal mechanisms for users facing abuse. Additionally, the country has set up cyber cells within police stations and women help desks to receive complaints about online violence (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, 2021). Kenya could explore integrating TFGBV reporting into existing police and judicial systems, while also investing in law enforcement training on digital rights and victim-sensitive approaches.
- (i) Closer home, South Africa's Cybercrimes Act (2021) criminalizes cyber harassment, stalking, and the non-consensual distribution of intimate images. The country also operates a Gender-Based Violence Command Centre that provides digital reporting channels and connects survivors with psychosocial and legal support (Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, 2021). Kenya could replicate this model by developing a 24/7 digital GBV response hub linked to mental health services and legal aid providers.

These country examples demonstrate that legal frameworks alone are insufficient without supportive institutions, survivor-centred services, and multi-sectoral partnerships. Kenya has the opportunity to develop a comprehensive digital safety ecosystem by combining legislative reform with digital literacy campaigns, algorithmic transparency measures, and a survivor-focused response system. Equally important is the need for collaborative regulation, where tech companies operating in Kenya are compelled to remove harmful content swiftly and transparently, under the oversight of an independent regulator.

## **8.6 Recommendations for Transforming Social Media Framing of GBV including Femicide in Kenya**

To improve how gender-based violence (GBV) including femicide are framed in Kenyan social media, the TWG proposes a set of multi-level, actionable interventions. These recommendations are as follows:

### **(a) Enact and Enforce Comprehensive Legal Protections for Digital Users**

Develop and implement robust digital laws that provide specific safeguards against online harassment, cyberbullying, doxxing, and digital surveillance, especially for women human rights defenders, activists, and GBV survivors.

### **(b) Institutionalize Fact-Checking Mechanisms**

Establish and support fact-checking systems and platforms to curb the spread of misinformation and disinformation related to GBV including femicide, while promoting digital accountability.

### **(c) Bridge the Gap Between Digital Advocacy and Ground-Level Action**

Strengthen the integration of online activism with community-based advocacy to ensure sustained, real-world impact on policy and legal reforms.

(d) Create Formal Policy Engagement Platforms for Digital Activists

Institutionalise structured forums or advisory councils that allow digital activists, especially youth and feminist content creators, to contribute meaningfully to legislative processes.

(e) Facilitate the Development of a National Digital Communication Policy

Support the design and adoption of a gender-responsive digital communication policy for Kenya that upholds freedom of expression while safeguarding users against harm.

(f) Support the Establishment of a Digital Communication Society of Kenya

Encourage the creation of a professional, multi-stakeholder body dedicated to advancing ethical, inclusive, and secure digital communication in Kenya.

(g) Strengthen Global Solidarity and Partnerships

Build and sustain alliances with international and regional human rights organizations to amplify local voices and campaigns on gender justice and digital rights at global forums.

(h) Invest in Nationwide Digital Literacy Programs

Develop and roll out inclusive digital literacy and safety training, particularly for women and marginalized groups, to promote responsible, secure, and empowered use of digital spaces.

(i) Support and Fund Research on Digital GBV including Femicide

Allocate resources toward ongoing research on the patterns, impacts, and policy gaps regarding online GBV and the digital dimensions of femicide in Kenya.

(j) Leverage Online Platforms for Mental Health Support

Use digital media to raise awareness and promote access to mental health resources for survivors of GBV, content creators, and digital rights activists experiencing trauma.

(k) Establish a Stand-Alone Digital Communication Department

Create a dedicated government or multi-agency body focused on regulating, monitoring, and facilitating digital communication in a manner that promotes rights-based access and accountability.

(l) Implement Continuous Monitoring and Analytics of Social Media Trends

Set up real-time monitoring systems for online content to detect harmful trends, support early-warning systems on GBV narratives, and generate actionable data for interventions.

Whereas mainstream media still plays an important role in reaching policymakers and supporting formal investigations, social media has become a more powerful and accessible tool in the fight against gender-based violence. It is faster, more inclusive, and centred on survivors' voices. Social media allows everyday people to speak out, share stories, and demand action, helping to shift public attitudes and pressure leaders to respond. Unlike traditional media, which often covers GBV in a limited or sensational way, social media can portray GBV including femicide as a serious human rights violation.

## **CHAPTER NINE: EVALUATING RESOURCE ALLOCATION, TRAINING LEVELS, AND OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS IN MANAGING GBV INCLUDING FEMICIDE IN KENYA**

### **9.1 Introduction**

Across global, regional, and national levels, efforts to address GBV, including femicide, are constrained by insufficient and inconsistent resource allocation, inadequate training of frontline actors, and fragmented operational systems.

Preventing and responding to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including femicide calls for adequate resource allocation, targeted training, and operational effectiveness across key pillars such as prevention, response, support, and investigation. Resourcing refers to the allocation of financial, human, and institutional assets for prevention, survivor support, legal accountability, and data systems.

This chapter focuses on institutional strengthening, particularly regarding resource allocation, training, and coordination across global, regional, and Kenyan contexts, drawing on empirical evidence and case studies. The chapter further discusses the impact of these gaps and makes key actionable recommendations on instructional strengthening.

### **9.2 Global, Regional and National Contexts**

#### **9.2.1 Global Context**

At the global level, gender-based violence (GBV), including femicide, remains alarmingly high. Yet, efforts to prevent and respond to this pervasive issue are severely underfunded (UNFPA, 2022). While many countries have adopted national action plans to address GBV including femicide, global funding by state actors remains insufficient. Most programs are heavily reliant on donor support, rendering them vulnerable to changes in geopolitical priorities (UNFPA, 2022; IRC, 2021).

#### **Resource Allocation**

Despite widespread recognition of GBV including femicide as urgent global issues, resource allocation remains critically inadequate. Less than 1% of global humanitarian aid is directed toward GBV interventions, even though over 70% of women in crisis-affected areas report experiencing violence (International Rescue Committee [IRC], 2021).

Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia regions with the highest intimate partner violence (IPV) rates, estimated between 33% and 35% receive insufficient funding relative to the scale of need (World Health Organization [WHO], 2021). The table below gives a general overview of the yearly Global GBV/ Femicide resource gaps.

**Table 3: Global GBV/Femicide Resource Gaps**

Resource Type	Global Need	Current Allocation	Deficit
Prevention Programs	\$120B/year	\$22B/year	82%
Survivor Services (health, legal, shelters)	\$80B/year	\$15B/year	81%
Data Systems	\$5B/year	\$0.8B/year	84%

**Source: World Bank**

State actors continue to adopt national action plans to address GBV, but these commitments are rarely matched with sustainable financial support. Most GBV programs rely heavily on short-term donor funding, which creates instability and limits long-term impact (United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA], 2022). For instance, although UNFPA supports GBV initiatives in 153 countries, it faces annual funding shortfalls exceeding USD 500 million. Furthermore, less than 20% of resources are allocated toward addressing the root causes of GBV such as patriarchal norms and toxic masculinities while the bulk of the funding supports emergency services like shelters and clinical care (UN Women, 2023).

### Training

First responders including law enforcement officers, healthcare providers, and community-based organizations frequently lack specialized training to handle GBV and femicide cases. Many do not receive instruction on trauma-informed care, survivor-centered approaches, or best practices for collecting forensic evidence, which weakens both prevention and accountability efforts (WHO, 2021). This training gap leads to further victimization of survivors and undermines trust in public institutions.

In many countries, access to such training is limited to capital cities or delivered through international NGOs, leaving rural and marginalized communities with minimal capacity to respond effectively (UN Women, 2023). As a result, survivors often face insensitive treatment, weak case follow-up, and low conviction rates, contributing to a culture of impunity.

### Co-ordination

Effective prevention and response to GBV require strong coordination across sectors such as health, justice, education, and social services. However, many countries suffer from fragmented responses due to a lack of clear protocols, weak referral systems, and siloed operations (UN Women, 2023). Without harmonized standards and regular inter-agency collaboration, survivors frequently fall through the cracks of disconnected systems.

Furthermore, the absence of comprehensive, disaggregated data limits effective planning and resource targeting. While 161 out of 195 countries have collected GBV data, few provide

statistics that capture the experiences of marginalized groups such as indigenous women and persons with disabilities (UN Women, 2023). The lack of coordinated data collection and analysis further weakens institutional accountability and policy effectiveness.

## **9.2.2 Regionally**

### **Resource Allocation**

Africa mirrors global trends in increasing political will to address gender-based violence (GBV), as evidenced by regional frameworks such as the Maputo Protocol and the African Union Gender Strategy (2018–2028). However, this commitment remains largely rhetorical in the absence of sufficient budgetary support. Few African Union (AU) member states meet the Abuja Declaration's target of allocating at least 15% of their national budgets to the health sector, and even fewer earmark funds specifically for GBV prevention and response, including femicide (African Union Commission, 2018; African Development Bank, 2021).

GBV interventions across Africa are typically urban-centred, project-based, and heavily reliant on donor funding. This dependency renders programs vulnerable to shifts in donor priorities and often excludes rural and marginalized communities (UN Women, 2021). For instance, in South Africa where the femicide rate is five times the global average, with seven women killed daily, key GBV mechanisms are significantly underfunded.

The National Strategic Plan on GBV and Femicide (2020–2030) lacks a ring-fenced budget, and Thuthuzela Care Centres, designed to provide integrated survivor support, operate at only 40% capacity due to funding shortfalls (Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities [DWYPD], 2020). Moreover, while high-profile campaigns such as 16 Days of Activism receive up to 70% of GBV-related funding, grassroots organizations often more embedded in local communities receive just 5% (Hassim, 2021).

### **Training**

Specialized training for frontline responders, including police, healthcare workers, and judicial officers remains severely limited across the continent. In many African countries, such training is concentrated in capital cities or delivered primarily through international NGOs, leaving rural and underserved areas without adequate professional capacity (UN Women, 2021; World Health Organization [WHO], 2021). The lack of trauma-informed and survivor-centered approaches among first responders contributes to poor case handling and secondary victimization of survivors.

Many police officers and local administrators continue to perceive GBV as a private or domestic issue, which undermines survivors' willingness to report incidents and diminishes their access to justice (Jewkes *et al.*, 2015). Weak forensic infrastructure, inadequate evidence collection practices, and corruption further contribute to low conviction rates for GBV and

femicide cases (UNODC, 2020). These gaps highlight the urgent need for standardized and decentralized training programs tailored to the African context.

## Co-ordination

The lack of multisectoral coordination continues to be a significant barrier to effective GBV prevention and response across Africa. Without clearly defined protocols for inter-agency collaboration, survivors often fall through the cracks in health, justice, and social service systems. Inconsistent referral systems and siloed institutional responses exacerbate service gaps and reduce accountability (UN Women, 2021).

Standardized operating procedures and data-sharing protocols between police, healthcare providers, social workers, and community-based organizations are either missing or poorly implemented. This fragmentation not only delays service delivery but also weakens data collection, making it difficult to track trends and allocate resources effectively (UNODC, 2020; WHO, 2021). In comparison, countries in Latin America have established femicide observatories through NGO-government partnerships, which have contributed to improved prosecution and prevention; Africa lacks equivalent infrastructure (UN Women, 2021).

### 9.2.3 National Context

#### Resource Allocation

Kenya's case is no different from the global and regional context. While robust policy and institutional frameworks to prevent and respond to GBV exist, budgetary allocations remain minimal. For instance, county-level allocations for GBV desks and shelters are non-uniform and largely inadequate, with many dependent on development aid from development partners.

**Table 4: Kenya's GBV/Femicide Resource Landscape**

Initiative	Impact	Funding Status
USAID Programs (pre-cut)	60% reduction in sexual assault via No Means No Worldwide	Terminated in 2024
World Vision Economic Programs	250,000+ households reached (2021)	\$5M/year; requires \$20M
Government Shelters	12 operational nationally	65% underfunded

#### Sources: World Bank

Despite Kenya's stated commitment to addressing gender-based violence (GBV), resource allocation remains insufficient and uneven across both national and county levels.

### At the National level

the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action is the only ministry with a dedicated GBV budget line. However, this budget has remained limited. In the fiscal years 2021/22, 2022/23, and 2023/24, the department received KSh. 3.6 billion, KSh. 3.9 billion, and KSh. 5.7 billion, respectively, with the majority earmarked for transfers to affiliated agencies such as the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) and for staff emoluments. In FY 2023/24, only KSh. 500 million was allocated to gender-specific programs (State Department for Gender, 2024).

Other sectors including health, education, judiciary, and security play crucial roles in the GBV response but often lack dedicated budget lines for GBV, with interventions buried within broader sectoral programs (National Gender Equality Commission [NGEC], 2023). This fragmented financial architecture hampers targeted implementation and accountability.

### At County level

At the county level, GBV financing is inconsistent. Gender is not a fully devolved function but a shared responsibility. The level of county financing for GBV varies widely across regions, influenced by local priorities, resource availability, and leadership commitment. The table below presents the budget allocations for GBV programs in three counties in Kenya.

***Table 5: Examples of County Budgets for GBV Programs in Kenya***

County	Budgetary Allocation
Kiambu	In the year 2021/2022 approximately KSh 10 million (around USD 90,000) was allocated in the budget specifically for GBV prevention and response activities
Nairobi	In the Financial Year 2022/2023 Approximately KSh 15 million (~USD 135,000) was allocated for GBV-related activities.
Kilifi	Kilifi County has historically allocated minimal funds (KSh 2-3 million) towards GBV.

In most counties, GBV funding is often subsumed under broader budgetary categories such as youth affairs, sports, or early childhood development. This lack of a dedicated budget line means that survivors frequently lack access to essential services unless supplemented by external development aid. Unfortunately, geopolitical shifts have had a significant impact on donor-supported GBV programs, including those addressing femicide.

For example, the withdrawal of USAID funding led to the closure of approximately 60% of shelters across the country, disrupted medical-legal partnerships, and left many survivors without safe spaces (USAID Kenya, 2023). In counties like Migori, the absence of shelter infrastructure has further undermined the effectiveness of local GBV coordination mechanisms.

## **Training**

Kenya has made some strides in GBV-related capacity building. Training programs targeting government officials, health workers, educators, civil society actors, and law enforcement officers have been supported by both state and non-state actors (UN Women Kenya, 2022). However, these initiatives remain fragmented and unevenly implemented across counties. There is no unified national training framework or accredited capacity-building program for GBV responders, leading to inconsistencies in service delivery standards (NGEC, 2023).

Only a small proportion of police officers, prosecutors, and judicial officers have undergone specialized GBV training. Community health volunteers and teachers, who often act as first responders, lack sufficient technical support, protective mechanisms, and psychosocial resources to effectively manage GBV disclosures (National Council for the Administration of Justice [NCAJ], 2022). Many law enforcement personnel still treat GBV as a private or domestic matter, which weakens survivors' access to justice and reinforces stigma (Amnesty International Kenya, 2021).

Furthermore, investigations are hampered by a shortage of forensic capacity. Case documentation is often poor, medical-legal reports are delayed, and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) has limited GBV-focused units with trained personnel (Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions [ODPP], 2023).

## **Coordination**

Kenya has established a multi-sectoral coordination mechanism the National Gender Sector Working Group on GBV bringing together state and non-state actors across health, law enforcement, justice, education, and social services. However, the group's recommendations lack binding legal authority, and implementation is often dependent on the goodwill of individual ministries or development partners (State Department for Gender, 2024).

Service delivery systems remain fragmented. Most counties lack one-stop centres, forcing survivors to navigate multiple agencies to access medical, legal, and psychosocial support. Psycho-social services are severely underfunded, and forensic medical services are overwhelmed due to understaffing and limited infrastructure (NCAJ, 2022).

Public awareness campaigns on GBV exist but are often unsustained and fail to consider local language, cultural norms, or the specific needs of rural and informal settlements. As a result,

stigma remains high, and many survivors drop their cases or do not report at all due to fear of retaliation, re-traumatization, or lack of access to legal aid (UN Women Kenya, 2022).

Despite these structural gaps, community-led innovations have shown promise. For instance, economic empowerment programs by World Vision have trained over 250,000 women in business skills, leading to a 30% reduction in intimate partner violence in some households (World Vision Kenya, 2022). Similarly, community dialogue models led by Samburu and Sabaot elders have reduced rates of FGM and child marriage by up to 40% in targeted regions (UNFPA Kenya, 2022).

### **9.3 Impact of Under resourcing, Inadequate Training and Fragmented coordination**

#### **9.3.1 Under-Resourcing: Impact on Prevention and Response**

Chronic underfunding affects all pillars of a functional GBV prevention and response ecosystem. Key impacts include:

- (a) Prevention becomes reactive, not proactive: Minimal investment in public education and awareness means harmful gender norms go unchallenged, and root causes of GBV including femicide remain unaddressed. This allows cycles of violence to persist across generations.
- (b) Survivors face limited options for safety and recovery: Without operational shelters, one-stop centres, or adequately equipped hospitals, survivors are often forced to stay with abusers or retraumatized in unsafe care environments. This increases vulnerability to further violence or even femicide.
- (c) Weakened justice systems: Courts and police lack the funds for GBV-specific units, specialized staff, forensic labs, and survivor-friendly facilities. The result is poor investigations, delayed trials, and low conviction rates that fail to deter offenders.
- (d) Poor data for planning: Inadequate investment in data systems leads to underreporting and misclassification (e.g., femicide recorded as generic homicide or suicide), which hides the scale of the crisis and undermines evidence-based decision-making.
- (e) Neglected community actors: Grassroots organizations struggle to maintain services due to lack of core funding, especially in rural and marginalized communities. As a result, localized and culturally relevant prevention and response services collapse or operate unsustainably.

#### **9.3.2 Inadequate Training: Impact on Prevention and Response**

Lack of systematic and standardized training leads to uninformed, harmful, or negligent responses across sectors. Impacts include:

- (a) Victim-blaming and traumatisation: Law enforcement, healthcare providers, and even judiciary actors often respond with bias or disbelief, deterring survivors from reporting and seeking help.
- (b) Missed signs of risk: Without trauma-informed and gender-sensitive training, first responders are unequipped to recognize early signs of violence escalation, undermining GBV including femicide prevention efforts.
- (c) Unprofessional case handling: Poor documentation, botched evidence collection, and insensitive interrogation of survivors hinder investigations and prosecutions.
- (d) Uneven service quality: Training is often donor-driven, limited to urban centres or certain government units, leading to inconsistent service standards across counties and sectors.
- (e) Breakdown in survivor trust: When frontline actors are untrained or hostile, survivors are discouraged from engaging with the system, contributing to a culture of silence and impunity.

### **9.3.3. Lack of Coordination: Impact on Prevention and Response**

Fragmented systems and siloed interventions undermine the effectiveness of GBV including femicide response. Key impacts include:

- (a) Delayed, disjointed services: Survivors are forced to navigate multiple agencies separately police, hospital, legal aid with no clear pathway or referral protocol. This delays support and increases traumatisation.
- (b) Duplicated efforts, wasted resources: Ministries, departments, and organizations often work in isolation, leading to inefficiencies and gaps in service delivery, especially in rural areas.
- (c) No accountability or oversight: Without a binding legal or policy framework to coordinate actors, multi-sectoral forums lack enforcement power, resulting in irregular engagement and weak monitoring.
- (d) Missed opportunities for prevention: Uncoordinated prevention campaigns dilute messaging, and absence of joint data analysis limits the ability to identify hotspots or patterns of risk for femicide.
- (e) Policy incoherence: Fragmentation leads to mismatched interventions and inconsistent implementation of laws or national plans, especially at county level.

Under-resourcing, inadequate training, and lack of coordination are systemic barriers that reinforce one another compromising prevention, weakening survivor protection, and undermining justice delivery for GBV including femicide. Addressing these three factors

holistically is essential to ensure an effective, rights-based, and survivor-centered national response

#### **9.4 Stakeholder Voices on Resource Allocation, Training, and Operational Challenges in Addressing GBV including Femicide**

Efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV), including femicide, are hampered by critical and persistent gaps in resource allocation, inadequate training, and weak operational frameworks. These deficiencies cut across all sectors such as judiciary, healthcare, law enforcement, shelter provision, and community engagement creating a fragmented and ineffective response system. The TWG established the following from Stakeholder engagement during the nationwide visit:

##### **9.4.1 Resource Allocation**

Stakeholders from across Kenya consistently raised concern over the chronic underfunding of GBV prevention and response services. County governments were particularly singled out for failing to allocate dedicated and traceable budget lines for GBV, leaving critical services such as rescue centres, safe houses, legal aid, psychosocial support, and medical care inadequately resourced.

The heavy reliance on donor funding creates fragility in service delivery. Civil society organisations (CSOs) and private actors often the main providers of survivor services reported abrupt interruptions when donor support ended. Survivors, especially women and girls, were frequently forced to return to violent environments when shelters closed or enforced short time limits due to limited funds.

*“Most shelters are donor-funded. When funding ends, operations shut down, and survivors are sent back to unsafe environments,” (KII- Nairobi.)*

Stakeholders emphasized the need for sustainable, government-led financing, particularly at the county level, to ensure continuity and equity in GBV services. They also called for mainstreaming GBV budgets across all sectoral plans, including health, justice, education, and social protection, to ensure multi-sectoral responses are well resourced.

##### **9.4.2 Training and Capacity Building**

Across sectors, stakeholders described a critical lack of training and institutional capacity among frontline responders, including police officers, medical professionals, prosecutors, and magistrates. Many actors lacked trauma-informed and survivor-centered approaches, resulting in secondary victimization of survivors and ineffective case handling.

Gender desks at police stations, for instance, were often described as “tokenistic”, with officers untrained in GBV protocols. High rates of staff transfer further undermined the impact of training investments, with officers being reassigned before they could apply their skills.

*“Gender desks are often a formality. The officers lack training, and survivors end up being retraumatized,” (KII- Kericho)*

In the justice sector, training gaps among prosecutors and judges resulted in delays, case dismissals, and low conviction rates. Police also lacked basic forensic tools and knowledge necessary for proper evidence collection and preservation.

*“Preservation of specimens is a major challenge. Police lack refrigerators or know-how to store forensic evidence. Some documents with evidence were even being stored in carton boxes,” (KII- Kibra).*

Stakeholders emphasized the need for standardized and continuous GBV training integrated into pre-service and in-service learning across sectors. They also recommended capacity strengthening at community level, including training of chiefs, elders, religious and local leaders who often serve as first points of contact for survivors.

#### **9.4.3 Co-ordination**

Stakeholders identified weak inter-agency coordination as a major bottleneck in GBV response. Despite the presence of national policies, implementation was hindered by siloed operations, absence of standardized referral pathways, and limited cooperation between actors in health, justice, policing, and community services.

Survivors often fell through the cracks of a disjointed system, receiving delayed or no support. In many counties, cultural norms further complicated matters, with survivors being encouraged by local leaders and law enforcement to resolve violent incidents through traditional dispute resolution, even in cases involving physical or sexual violence as narrated by the survivor below,

*“When I went to the Chief, he referred me back to the elders who asked me to forgive and go solve it at home. No one helped me access medical or legal support.” (Survivor -Nandi)*

Moreover, youth and community leaders expressed frustration at their exclusion from formal GBV prevention efforts, despite being among the most affected and capable of spearheading behavioural change.

*“Youth are rarely included in prevention programs, yet we are the most affected and can lead change,” –Youth advocate, Laikipia.*

Academics and researchers also pointed to serious data gaps particularly the lack of disaggregated national data on femicide as a barrier to coordinated and evidence-based responses.

*“We still lack reliable national data on femicide. This severely limits our ability to respond strategically,” (KII- Nairobi)*

Stakeholders recommended the establishment of robust multi-agency coordination structures at both county and national levels. Key proposals included the revitalization of Gender Sector Working Groups (GSWGs), strengthening referral systems, improving data collection protocols, and enhancing community-level case management frameworks.

From stakeholder engagements, the Technical Working Group (TWG) inferred that while there have been efforts to invest in resources, training, and coordination of preventive and response mechanisms, these efforts remain insufficient. Addressing these persistent gaps will require strong political will, predictable and sustained financing, effective cross-sectoral coordination, and the meaningful inclusion of survivor and community voices at every level of intervention.

## 9.5 Best Practices

The table below highlights selected best practices from various countries that Kenya can adapt to enhance the resourcing, training, and coordination of prevention and response mechanisms for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) including femicide. These models demonstrate how strategic investments, multi-sectoral capacity building, and strong institutional coordination can strengthen national and county-level GBV responses.

**Table 6: Global and Regional Best Practices**

Country	Practice
<b>RESOURCE ALLOCATION</b>	
South Africa – Dedicated GBV and Femicide Fund	In 2020, South Africa allocated over ZAR 1.6 billion (~USD 85 million) specifically for the implementation of its National Strategic Plan on GBV and Femicide. This included ring-fenced funding for shelters, survivor services, police training, and legal aid. The Treasury published GBV budget guidelines to assist departments in aligning spending with strategic GBV priorities.
Sweden's Victim Protection Fund	The Judiciary shared a best practice Sweden, where part of the fines imposed for crimes is directed to a Victim Protection Fund.
Canada – Gender-Based Violence Strategy Fund	Canada's federal government committed over CAD 100 million over five years for a GBV Strategy, supporting shelters, trauma-informed services, and research. Provinces and territories were required to co-fund and report on implementation outcomes.
Rwanda's Integration into National Budget	GBV response is integrated into Rwanda's national development and gender budgeting framework, including performance contracts (Imihigo) at local government levels. Every district is required to budget for GBV-related services including Isange One Stop Centres.
Spain's Regional Funding Distribution Model	Spain uses a formula-based model to allocate national GBV funding to regional governments based on population size, GBV prevalence, and

	existing service infrastructure. This ensures equitable and needs-based distribution of GBV resources.
<b>TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING</b>	
Philippines's Mandatory GBV Training for Law Enforcement	The Philippine National Police (PNP) must undergo continuous gender sensitivity and anti-VAW (Violence Against Women) training as per the Anti-VAWC Act. Police Women's Desks have been established at all stations, staffed with trained officers.
Chile's Gender Equality Training for Public Servants	Chile's "Escuela de Formación en Género" provides nationwide online and in-person GBV training for government officials, including teachers, police, and judiciary staff.
Sweden – Multi-Disciplinary Training	Sweden provides joint training programs for social workers, prosecutors, and police officers on handling domestic and sexual violence cases, with a focus on risk assessment, survivor safety, and children's rights.
India's Training Health Providers Under MoHFW	India's Ministry of Health trains health professionals under the One-Stop Centre Scheme using standardized, rights-based protocols for survivor care, including forensic documentation and referral processes.
<b>CO-ORDINATION</b>	
Australia's National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children	Australia's 10-year plan ensures multi-sectoral coordination across all states and territories, with clear roles for health, justice, education, and social services. Includes a strong data and monitoring framework and survivor-led advisory groups.
Colombia's Inter-Institutional Committees Against GBV	Colombia's law mandates each municipality to form an inter-agency GBV committee led by local authorities and involving CSOs, judiciary, and security forces. These committees are responsible for case follow-up, local budget monitoring, and coordination.
Norway's Survivor-Centered Case Coordination	Norway uses a "coordinator" model in high-risk domestic violence cases where a trained officer is assigned to work with survivors, courts, shelters, and child services to ensure seamless service delivery and protection.
Tunisia's National Observatory to Monitor GBV	Tunisia's GBV law led to the creation of a National Observatory on Violence Against Women, tasked with data collection, inter-agency coordination, and impact assessment of government interventions.

## CHAPTER TEN: SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 10.1 Summary of Key Findings

The Technical Working Group (TWG) conducted a comprehensive analysis of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including femicide across the country. Drawing from extensive consultations across all 47 counties, stakeholder engagements, survivor testimonies, expert submissions, and reviews of legal, policy, and institutional frameworks, the following key findings emerged:

- 1. Prevalence and Trends of GBV and Femicide:** GBV, including femicide, remains pervasive, with a 10% rise in reported femicide cases from 2022 to 2024 (NPS data indicating 1,639 cases). Women aged 30–44 are most affected, and perpetrators are predominantly intimate partners or known individuals (77% of cases). Hotspots include urban informal settlements, rural areas with harmful cultural practices (e.g., FGM in Kisii, Narok, Samburu), and situational contexts like public transport, marketplaces, and schools. Underreported forms include economic, psychological, and technology-facilitated GBV, while emerging trends involve online dating, climate-linked violence, and abuse against vulnerable groups (e.g., PWDs, elderly women, commercial sex workers, men and boys).
- 2. Root Causes and Contributing Factors:** GBV is rooted in patriarchal norms, economic dependency, cultural practices (e.g., early marriage, widow cleansing), substance abuse, and weak family structures. Family and community obstruction of justice, such as informal settlements through elders, perpetuates impunity. Social media amplifies victim-blaming and misinformation, while poor digital literacy exacerbates online GBV. Conflict, migration, and environmental stressors further heighten risks.
- 3. Legal and Policy Gaps:** Kenya lacks a standalone offense for femicide, leading to inconsistent classification and data collection. Existing laws (e.g., Sexual Offences Act, Penal Code) address some forms of GBV but overlook emerging issues like medicalized FGM, marital rape, and technology-facilitated violence. Implementation is weak due to delays, victim fatigue, and inadequate harmonization with international instruments (e.g., Maputo Protocol reservations limit reproductive rights).
- 4. Institutional and Response Challenges:** Support systems are fragmented, underfunded, and trauma-insensitive. Law enforcement (e.g., NPS, DCI) faces training deficits, high caseloads, and evidence-handling issues. Community mechanisms (e.g., *Nyumba Kumi*) prioritize reconciliation over justice. Data systems are siloed, with no centralized GBV/femicide observatory, hindering evidence-based responses. County-level efforts vary, often donor-dependent, with chronic underfunding.

- 5. Impacts of GBV and Femicide:** GBV erodes human dignity, family cohesion, and national development, imposing health burdens, economic losses, and intergenerational trauma. Survivors face barriers to justice, while vulnerable groups (e.g., adolescents, PWDs) experience compounded invisibility.
- 6. Stakeholder Perspectives:** Public consultations revealed widespread calls for legal reforms, community education, and survivor-centred services. Non-state actors highlight funding instability, while experts emphasize data-driven and multispectral approaches.

These findings underscore systemic failures in prevention, response, and accountability, despite progressive frameworks like the Constitution and international commitments.

## 10.2 Conclusion

Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including femicide, represents a severe violation of Kenya's constitutional rights to life, equality, dignity, security, and access to justice, while posing a significant barrier to national development and gender equality goals. The pervasive nature of GBV, marked by a 10% rise in femicide cases from 2022 to 2024, predominantly affecting women aged 30–44, is driven by patriarchal norms, economic dependency, harmful cultural practices, and weak family structures. Underreported forms such as economic, psychological, and technology-facilitated abuse, alongside vulnerabilities in conflict, migration, and climate-affected contexts, exacerbate the crisis. Fragmented, underfunded, and trauma-insensitive response systems, coupled with inadequate legal frameworks and community-level obstructions, perpetuate impunity and hinder justice. Addressing this crisis demands a transformative shift towards gender equity, underpinned by robust data systems, sustainable financing, and coordinated multisectoral efforts. Failure to act decisively risks entrenching violence, undermining social cohesion, and denying vulnerable populations their fundamental rights. This report brings to the fore several interventions geared towards creating a society free from GBV including Femicide.

## 10.3 Recommendations

The TWG proposes the following actionable, prioritized recommendations, categorized by theme:

### 10.3.1 Resource Allocation

To address chronic under-resourcing and ensure sustainable, survivor-centred interventions:

- (a) Institutionalize Gender-Responsive Budgeting:** Establish ring-fenced and dedicated budget lines for GBV prevention and response at both national and county levels. These should be integrated into mainstream sector budgets such as health, education, police, and judiciary not isolated project-based allocations.

- (b) **Establish a GBV Funding Mechanism:** Operationalize the Victim Protection Act, 2014 to target restitution/compensation of GBV survivors.
- (c) **Fund Survivor Support Services:** Allocate resources to scale up shelters, safe houses, legal aid centres, and psychosocial support services in all counties, including mobile response units for remote or underserved areas.
- (d) **Invest in GBV Prevention:** Provide sustained funding for behaviour change communication, school-based gender education, youth engagement, and community mobilization efforts to address root causes of GBV, including harmful gender norms.
- (e) **Support Data Systems and Research:** Establish a national GBV observatory or integrated data system to collect and publish disaggregated, real-time data on GBV and femicide to inform policy and track accountability.
- (f) **Strengthen Grassroots Interventions:** Ensure predictable and flexible funding for community-based organizations, especially those led by women and marginalized groups, to support localized prevention and response strategies.
- (g) **Engage International and Private Sector Partners:** Leverage public-private partnerships and development financing (e.g., through CSR or pooled AU funds) to supplement public budgets while maintaining transparency and state accountability.

### 10.3.2 Training and Capacity Building

To improve frontline responses and promote survivor-centred, rights-based practices:

- (a) **Develop and Mandate Standardized Training Curricula:** Implement a national curriculum on GBV response and prevention for all relevant sectors health, police, judiciary, education, and social services with refresher courses and continuous professional development. These should be both at entry level and in-service courses.
- (b) **Enhance Capacity of Justice Actors:** Train police officers, magistrates, prosecutors, and court personnel on gender sensitivity, trauma-informed approaches, and the legal framework for GBV and femicide to reduce impunity and strengthen prosecutions.
- (c) **Support Multi-Sector Workforce Development:** Build the skills of healthcare providers, community health volunteers, teachers, and county officers to detect, document, and respond effectively to cases of GBV, ensuring consistency and professionalism.
- (d) **Institutionalize Technical Capacity Building:** Strengthen the national GBV technical training framework under the State Department for Gender and ensure its roll-out to county levels.

### **10.3.3 Co-ordination and Governance**

To improve the cohesion, efficiency, and accountability of national and county GBV responses:

- (a) **Strengthen Inter-Governmental Coordination Mechanisms:** Review and enhance the framework for gender relations between national and county governments, including the reactivation or establishment of Gender Sector Working Groups (GSWGs) at county levels.
- (b) **Reinstate the Directorate for GBV Mitigation:** Reinforce political will and technical leadership by reinstating and adequately resourcing the Directorate of Gender-Based Violence Mitigation within the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action.
- (c) **Scale One-Stop Centres:** Institutionalize and replicate county-level one-stop centres that offer integrated health, psychosocial, police, and legal services for survivors.
- (d) **Operationalize Referral Pathways:** Strengthen and formalize multi-sectoral referral mechanisms between health facilities, law enforcement, legal aid providers, and shelters.
- (e) **Co-ordinate Survivor Follow-Up Services:** Integrate legal aid, economic reintegration, and survivor monitoring into county and community service plans to prevent repeat victimization or femicide.
- (f) **Use Data to Coordinate Services:** Align all GBV interventions under a national digital platform to track case management, referrals, and budget utilization, ensuring better coordination and accountability.

## CHAPTER 11: IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

This chapter outlines a strategic framework for implementing and monitoring the recommendations proposed by the Technical Working Group on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including femicide. It establishes clear timelines, assigns responsibilities to relevant stakeholders to ensure accountability, tracks progress, and sustains efforts toward eliminating GBV and femicide in Kenya.

**Table 7: Implementation Matrix**

SNO.	Recommendation/Specific Action to be taken	Time Frame	Responsibility
<b>High-Level Strategic Actions</b>			
1.	Declare Gender-Based Violence (GBV) including Femicide as a national crisis and to be given high level attention and priority, emergency resources allocation and public attention.	By January 31, 2026	Executive Office of the President
2.	Launch a national awareness and mobilization campaign on GBV and femicide, led by the President, to challenge harmful norms and encourage public reporting.	By March 31, 2026	Executive Office of the President, Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services
3.	Mandatory installation of security surveillance including Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) in all short stay rentals, lodgings and commercial accommodation facilities to enhance security and prevent GBV incidents.	By September 31, 2026	Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife  Ministry of Interior and National Administration
4.	Develop and enact legislation on citizen responsibility to mandate public reporting of GBV incidents and impose penalties for non-reporting.	By September 30, 2027	State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action, Office of the Attorney General Parliament,
5.	Establish and operationalize a GBV Fund comprising Government, Development Partners, Private sector and Philanthropists	By September 30, 2026	Executive Office of the President
6.	Establish a multi-sectoral coordination framework for the implementation of the recommendations anchored on the Presidency	By March 31, 2026	Executive Office of the President,
<b>Legal and Regulatory Actions</b>			
<b>Legal and Policy Reforms</b>			
7.	Ratify the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and ILO Conventions 189 and 190 to align national laws with international standards on GBV.	By September 30, 2026	Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection Office of the Attorney General

SNO.	Recommendation/Specific Action to be taken	Time Frame	Responsibility
8.	Amend the Protection Against Domestic Violence Act 2015 to establish a comprehensive coordination framework for GBV including femicide.	By September 30, 2026	Office of the Attorney General, Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services Parliament
9.	Develop and publish regulations for standardizing safe houses to provide emergency shelter and support services for GBV survivors.	By September 30, 2026	Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services
10.	Review and revise the Bail and Bond Guidelines to enforce stringent bail and bond terms for GBV perpetrators, specifically to deter recidivism and enhance survivor protection.	By December 31, 2026	Judiciary
11.	Amend the Sexual Offences Act to mandate resolution of cases within six months and impose harsher penalties for convicted offenders.	By September 30, 2027	Office of the Attorney General, Parliament
12.	Amend the Penal Code to define femicide as a distinct offence with specific elements and penalties to increase successful prosecutions.	By September 30, 2027	Office of the Attorney General, Parliament
13.	Develop and implement a forensic management policy to ensure standardized compliance in evidence collection, handling, and preservation.	By September 30, 2027	Ministry of Interior and National Administration
14.	Establish a survivor fund through amendments to the Victim Protection Act to provide financial support to GBV survivors	By September 30, 2027	Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services
<b>Administrative Actions</b>			
<b>Response and Support Services</b>			
15.	Establish a national integrated toll-free GBV helpline and call centre under the IC3 framework with a rapid response team for reporting, counselling, and referral support for survivors.	By January 31, 2026	Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services Ministry of Health National Police Service
16.	Develop and implement a standardized protocol for GBV victims, ensuring trauma-informed referral pathways across all service providers.	By June 30, 2026	Ministry of Health, Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services County Governments
17.	Establish a specialized police unit to effectively handle GBV cases	By September 30, 2026	National Police Service
18.	Mandate annual progress reporting to the President on GBV and femicide eradication efforts, including key performance indicators and challenges.	First report by September 30, 2026; annually thereafter	Executive Office of the President, County Governments

SNO.	Recommendation/Specific Action to be taken	Time Frame	Responsibility
			All Relevant Ministries and Agencies
19.	Establish One-stop GBV response centres in high-prevalence counties to provide integrated medical, legal, and psychosocial support.	By September 30, 2027	Ministry of Health, County Governments National Police Service Office of the Director of Public Prosecution Judiciary
20.	Establish rescue centres in all counties to support GBV survivors with shelters and rehabilitation services.	By September 30, 2028	Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services County Governments
21.	Expand gender justice courts to all 47 counties to increase access to Justice for GBV and femicide victims.	By September 30, 2028	Judiciary
22.	Decentralize forensic laboratories to all counties to reduce forensic evidence processing delays	By September 30, 2029	Ministry of Interior and National Administration
<b>Prevention and Awareness</b>			
23.	Prohibit the use of traditional dispute resolution mechanisms for all GBV cases, ensuring all such cases are handled through formal judicial processes to prioritize justice over reconciliation.	By December 31, 2025	Ministry of Interior and National Administration
24.	Integrate positive parenting education into all antenatal care visits to promote GBV prevention through family-based approaches.	By December 31, 2025	Ministry of Health
25.	Implement the National Parenting Policy to engage parents in GBV prevention through structured programs and guidelines.	By December 31, 2025	Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services
26.	Direct the allocation of a dedicated national budget line for GBV prevention, response, and survivor support in the fiscal year 2026/2027.	By March 31, 2026	Executive Office of the President, National Treasury
27.	Enhance gender-sensitive specialized skills for duty bearers handling GBV and Femicide cases.	By September 30, 2026	National Police Service, Judiciary Office of the Director of Public Prosecution Ministry of Health
28.	Strengthen male engagement and inclusion programs to involve in GBV prevention dialogues and activities.	By September 30, 2026	Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services
29.	Integrate content on prevention and response to GBV and mainstream family values in education curriculum	By September 30, 2027	Ministry of Education, Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development

<b>SNO.</b>	<b>Recommendation/Specific Action to be taken</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
30.	Strengthen community policing structures to activate GBV prevention mechanisms in all counties	By September 30, 2027	Ministry of Interior and National Administration National Police Service County Governments
<b>Data and Monitoring</b>			
31.	Develop an integrated Gender Based Violence Information Management System to aid case tracking and reporting.	By September 30, 2026	Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Information, Communication and the Digital Economy
32.	Commission a nationwide GBV survey to collect comprehensive data, address gaps, and inform evidence-based policy development.	By September 30, 2026	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services
33.	Establish a National GBV Toll-Free Helpline for reporting, support, and data collection.	By September 30, 2026	Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, Ministry of ICT
34.	Establish a National GBV and Femicide Observatory to produce and disseminate disaggregated data annually.	By September 30, 2028	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services
<b>Gender Mainstreaming in Correctional Services</b>			
35.	Develop and implement a comprehensive gender policy for the Kenya Prisons Service to address and prevent systemic GBV issues.	By June 30, 2026	State Department for Correctional Services
36.	Establish a confidential grievance mechanism for officers and inmates to report sexual harassment cases in the Kenya Prisons Service.	By June 30, 2026	Commissioner General of Prisons
37.	Develop and implement a stand-alone sexual harassment policy for the Kenya Prisons Service to protect officers and inmates.	By September 30, 2026	State Department for Correctional Services

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## APPENDICES

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## APPENDIX 1

**Table 7: National Legal and Policy Framework**

LAW	ANALYSIS	RECOMMENDATION
The Constitution of Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Article 11 recognizes culture as the foundation of the nation and as the cumulative civilization of the Kenyan people</li> <li>- Chapter 4- The Bill of Rights affirms the country's commitment to nurturing and protecting the well-being of the individual, the family, communities and the Nation.</li> <li>- Article 91 (2) (b) provides that a political party shall not engage in violence or intimidation of its members, supporters, opponents or any other person;</li> <li>- Article 174 objectives of devolution</li> <li>- Fourth Schedule Article 186 Distribution of functions between the National Government and the County Governments</li> </ul>	Despite the Constitution providing for legal safeguards to protect the lives of men, women and children from any form of abuse, the implementation of these constitutional principles still remains weak and disjointed hence the nation is unable to enjoy the full benefits envisaged under the Constitution. Accordingly, there is a need to develop a comprehensive legal framework that recognises culture as the foundation of the nation and civilization of the Kenyan People and the nation. This legal framework should however, provide for a clear demarcation of roles between the national government and the county governments
The Penal Code (Cap. 63)	It provides for criminal offences and particularly those against bodily integrity. The Code further prohibits every form of violence in its provisions but does not, however, explicitly define what constitutes femicide.	Amend the Penal Code to define an offence Femicide as a distinct from murder. The amendment should not only define femicide but also provide for the clear elements of the offence.
Victims Protection Act (Cap. 79A)	The Act has limited access to compensation for GBV including Femicide cases.	There is a need to establish and operationalize a victims compensation fund and make the compensation processes simpler.

The Sexual Offences Act (Cap. 63A)	This legislation defines the different forms of sexual gender-based violence, the necessary ingredients to prove these offences and the penalties.	Despite this being a robust framework to address sexual gender-based violence, there are several challenges with its implementation. These challenges vary from poor underreporting due to stigma, delays in the adjudication processes, and witness and victim fatigue among many others. The Act should be amended to provide for the chemical castration of offenders convicted under the Act and also provide for marital rape as an offence under the Act. The Director of Public Prosecutions should issue administrative measures to the effect that withdrawal of sexual offences matters can only be undertaken by a Senior Prosecutor.
Protection Against Domestic Violence (PADV) Act (Cap. 151)	Definition of domestic violence, protection orders and other remedies available to victims of domestic violence.	There is a need to create awareness on the protection measures available to victims or potential victims of domestic violence under this Act.
Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act (Cap 62B)	Provides for offences central and related to the practice of female genital mutilation. Recognizing it as a human rights violation and a cultural practice that is repugnant to culture and morality.	There are new trends emerging that are exploiting section 19 of the statute that makes the medical procedures an exception to the rule. The medicalization of FGM should be explicitly prohibited under the Act.
Employment Act (Cap. 226)	This legislation makes it compulsory for every employer to have a policy and mechanism to deal with sexual harassment in the workplace.	Monitoring of the implementation of the existence and implementation of a sexual harassment policy within the workplace is weak. There is need to strengthen the implementation of sexual harassment policies at the work place and enhance penalties for non-compliance.
TSC Act (Cap. 212)	In appreciation that teachers hold a place of authority, which may easily be abused, this legislation directs the TSC not to serve as a teacher if they have ever been convicted for a sexual offence a person convicted of a sexual offence.	The TSC should fast track the implementation of disciplinary measures against persons convicted of GBV.

Basic Education Act (Cap. 211)	<p>This statute not only provides for matters incidental to the management of basic education in Kenya but also protects the learners against any physical and mental harassment.</p> <p>It places the responsibility on the head teacher to address any issues of violence and or harassment against the learners.</p>	<p>Cases of harassment and sexual abuse by teachers and peers in schools persist. Many of these cases go unreported and undocumented.</p> <p>Further, the legislation does not envisage gender and related concepts as part of the learner's curriculum.</p>
The Children Act (Cap. 141)	Children are protected from every form of abuse; further, where they conflict with the law, there are specific measures and safeguards within the criminal justice system for securing their bodily integrity.	There is limited knowledge on the provisions of this legislation, which contributes to weak enforcement of the provisions of this legislation.
Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act (Cap. 79C)	In addition to providing for offences related to the misuse of computers, this statute amends several sections of the Sexual Offences Act to address technology-facilitated gender-based violence. It also guarantees the integrity of data collected through any support or prevention interventions for survivors and or victims of gender-based violence.	<p>There is little awareness of this legislation with respect to its contribution to addressing gender-based violence, including femicide.</p> <p>Online child grooming has not been captured as a specific offence.</p>
The Law of Succession Act	This is the legislation that governs the inheritance of property for both men and women.	This legislation plays an indirect but significant role in addressing the structural causes of gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide, particularly through its provisions on inheritance and property rights. Unfortunately, its implementation is hampered by cultural practices that hinder women from enjoying their part of the inheritance.
Elections Offences Act (Cap. 66)	The legislation provides the legal and procedural framework for the election process in Kenya.	Violence against women in elections is a distinct form of gender-based violence that is not covered by this legislation. This is violence that goes beyond the immediate electoral period.

Political Parties Act (Cap. 7D)	The legislation provides for the registration, regulation and funding of political parties in Kenya.	Political party nomination exercises have been marred by gender motivated violence against women candidates. The political parties oversee this form of violence against women without effective redress mechanisms.
Legal Aid Act (Cap. 16A)	Section 35 Legal assistance for GBV survivors.	Limited legal aid access for GBV victims due to funding constraints.
County Governments Act (Cap. 265)	The legislation provides for the framework of decentralisation, the county level planning framework and procedures, including the use of Geographical Information System (GIS) based data, citizen participation and public information and access to information. These provide mechanisms which address gender -based violence should be mainstreamed.	Despite provisions law, GBV programs and interventions do not attract high prioritisation.

## APPENDIX 2

Table 8: OVERLOOKED FORMS OF GBV

Typology	Manifestation
Femicide and Intimate Partner Violence occur in various contexts as follows	<p>Relationship-based femicide involves the killing of women by current or former partners, often after prolonged abuse or control.</p> <p>Online dating-linked femicide arises when perpetrators lure and abuse victims through dating platforms.</p> <p>Intimate terrorism refers to a pattern of escalating psychological, physical, and eventually lethal violence in intimate relationships.</p>
Economic and Workplace GBV also poses a significant threat	<p>Sextortion is the demand for sexual favours in exchange for employment or professional advancement.</p> <p>Economic abuse includes control over a partner's income, property, or financial decisions.</p> <p>Violence in informal workspaces, such as domestic work or market vending, exposes many women to exploitation.</p> <p>Public figures like female celebrities and sports women often face online abuse, stalking, and gendered attacks due to their visibility.</p>
Sexual Exploitation and 'Sex for Security' arrangements are prevalent in certain economic and humanitarian contexts:	<p>In fishing communities, 'sex for fish' arrangements involve women being coerced into sex to access fish.</p> <p>'Sex for soil' occurs when women must trade sex for land or farming inputs.</p> <p>In humanitarian settings, aid workers or peacekeepers have been known to exploit vulnerable women in exchange for food, water, or safety.</p>
Conflict, Migration, and Displacement-Linked GBV is rampant in fragile settings	<p><b>In conflict zones, women face rape, abduction, and forced marriage.</b></p> <p>During migration or displacement, women and girls especially refugees and internally displaced persons are highly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.</p> <p>Climate-Linked GBV arises during environmental crises. Events like droughts, floods, or displacement due to climate change often increase household stress and resource scarcity, heightening the risk of violence, early marriage, and exploitation for women and girls.</p>
Medical and Reproductive Violence includes	<p>Coerced sterilization or medical procedures without informed consent based on gender or marital status of women</p> <p>Discriminatory healthcare, particularly against women with disabilities or unmarried women, further entrenches inequality in access to reproductive services.</p>
	Abuse by police or military personnel, such as sexual violence in custody or excessive force during protests, is not uncommon.

State and Institutional GBV takes various forms	<p>Institutional failure to protect survivors of GBV or dependants of femicide victims through slow police response, inadequate services, or lack of prosecution enables abuse to continue.</p> <p>Religious and educational institutions can also be sites of GBV, especially when teachers or clergy exploit their positions of power.</p>
Violence Against Specific Populations includes:	<p>Children, including street children, who face physical, emotional, and sexual abuse.</p> <p>Persons with disabilities, who are often abused by caregivers and face major barriers to accessing support.</p> <p>Elderly women, who may be targeted with violence tied to accusations of witchcraft or disputes over inheritance.</p> <p>Sex workers, who face stigma, exploitation, and abuse from clients, the public, and law enforcement.</p> <p>Androcide and male victimization, especially in conflict settings, detention, or during community attacks, highlights that men too can face gendered violence.</p>
Political and Public Sphere GBV disproportionately targets women	<p>Female politicians and voters often face electoral violence, including physical and online based harassment and physical attacks.</p> <p>Women human rights defenders are regularly subjected to threats, surveillance, and intimidation because of their activism.</p>
Cultural and Traditional Forms of GBV persist	<p><b>Female infanticide, rooted in son preference, reflects deeply entrenched gender bias.</b></p> <p>Marital rape, still not criminalized in Kenya, continues to be normalized and overlooked within marriage.</p>
Spatial and Environmental Vulnerabilities also increase the risk of GBV	<p>In urban informal settlements, poor lighting and lack of secure infrastructure contribute to a high risk of sexual assault and harassment.</p>
GBV Against Adolescents and Young People is particularly widespread and diverse:	<p>Teen dating violence involves physical, emotional, sexual, or online abuse in young romantic relationships, often unrecognized or normalized.</p> <p>In schools, girls face sexual exploitation, often under the guise of “sex for grades” or from so-called “sponsors” who offer money or support in exchange for sex.</p> <p>Online GBV targets adolescent girls with cyberbullying, sextortion, and revenge pornography.</p> <p>Early and forced marriages often arise from poverty or social pressure, exposing girls to lifelong cycles of abuse.</p> <p>Youth in institutional care, such as orphanages or shelters, may be subjected to abuse due to weak oversight mechanisms.</p> <p>Young people in detention particularly girls often experience physical and sexual abuse from staff or peers while boys experience sodomy.</p>

### APPENDIX 3

**Table 9: Law Enforcement Institutions**

S/No	Institution	Role in GBV Response and Support	Gaps in Service Delivery
1	National Police Service	Investigating GBV cases including femicide, documenting evidence, securing crime scenes, and conducting forensic analysis.	Limited training on GBV, understaffed, slow response times, inadequate confidentiality protocols, inadequate training on securing crime scenes and evidence handling.
3	State Department for Internal Security and National Administration	Providing overall security to create an enabling environment for GBV prevention and support.	Slow response times, need for more training in GBV and femicide response protocols, inadequate coordination with other agencies.
4	Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI)	Investigating GBV cases including femicide, arresting perpetrators, ensuring public safety, conducting specialized investigations into GBV and femicide cases, documenting evidence, and securing crime scenes.	Need for more trained forensic experts, high caseloads, and inadequate training on securing crime scenes and evidence handling.
5	National Forensic Lab (DCI)	Analyzing forensic evidence from crime scenes, suspects, and victims, ensuring confidentiality, and overseeing evidence transmission.	Quality assurance, co-ordination challenges with other agencies, need for more trained forensic experts, high caseloads, inadequate training on evidence handling.
6	National Government Administration Officers (NGAO)	Coordinating national government functions related to GBV prevention and support, promoting national cohesion and integration.	Resource constraints, need for more trained staff, inadequate inter-agency coordination.
7	Kenya Prisons Service	Ensuring safe custody of offenders involved in GBV, facilitating rehabilitation for community reintegration of offenders.	Overcrowding, limited rehabilitation programs, need for more trained staff.
8	State Department for Immigration	Managing immigration services, ensuring border security, facilitating legal migration, preventing human trafficking and transnational GBV-related crimes.	Need for more trained staff, inadequate inter-agency coordination.
9	Government Chemist	Providing chemical analysis and forensic evidence for GBV and femicide cases, aiding investigations and prosecutions.	Resource constraints, need for more trained forensic experts, high caseloads, and inadequate training on evidence handling.
10	Chief Government Pathologist	Providing forensic evidence through examinations and expert testimony to determine cause of	Resources, cultural sensitivity, public scrutiny, high caseloads, inadequate training on forensic

S/No	Institution	Role in GBV Response and Support	Gaps in Service Delivery
		death or document injuries in GBV and femicide cases, aiding investigations and prosecutions.	pathology. Emotional toll, public awareness of services.
11	National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA)	Campaigning against alcohol and drug abuse, providing support services to those affected by substance abuse, collaborating with other agencies on GBV prevention.	Limited resources, need for more trained staff, inadequate coordination with other agencies.
12	Private Security Regulatory Authority	Regulating private security firms, training personnel on GBV prevention, investigating misconduct, and promoting ethical practices to ensure safety and accountability in GBV cases.	Need for more staff training on GBV response protocols. Inadequate monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.
13	Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA)	Investigating police misconduct in GBV cases including femicide, holding officers accountable, monitoring police response to GBV, raising public awareness, recommending policy reforms to ensure justice for GBV survivors.	Legal and policy gaps, need for more trained staff, coordination challenges, inadequate monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.
14	Directorate of Immigration Services	Monitoring and preventing human trafficking and transnational GBV including femicide-related crimes.	Cultural norms, legal and policy gaps. Inadequate coordination with other agencies.
15	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP)	Prosecuting GBV cases including femicide, ensuring justice for survivors, safeguarding informed consent, overseeing the integrity of evidence transmission in GBV cases.	Backlog of cases, lack of specialized prosecutors, insufficient witness protection, limited survivor-centered approach.
16	Police Reforms Working Group Kenya	Advocating for comprehensive reforms within Kenya's security sector to address issues related to GBV.	Legal and policy gaps, resource constraints, fragmented efforts, need for more trained staff.
17	National Council of Administration of Justice (NCAJ)	Coordinating and overseeing the administration of justice to ensure timely and efficient justice delivery in GBV and femicide cases.	Limited resources, need for more trained staff, delays in case processing, and inadequate inter-agency coordination.
18	Offenders Registry Judiciary	Maintaining a registry of convicted offenders involved in GBV and Femicide, ensuring access to information for public safety and awareness by making such register public.	Limited resources, inconsistent data on offenders, coordination issues, delays in updating records, inadequate public access to information.

#### APPENDIX 4: LIST OF MEMORANDA

S/No.	ORGANISATION / INDIVIDUALS
1.	Echo Network Africa Foundation (ENAF)
2.	Kajiado North for Empowerment and social Welfare Outreach (KNESWO)
3.	Centre for Rights Education and Awareness
4.	Tharaka Nithi County
5.	Tharaka Nithi Gender Sector Working Group and Tharaka Nithi CSO Network
6.	SWOP Ambassadors
7.	Survivors of Sexual Violence in Kenya
8.	Sheria ni Ngao – CBO
9.	Isiolo Youth Community Action Team, Isiolo County
10.	Kambi Garba Women Community Action Team, Isiolo County
11.	County Government of Meru – Directorate of Gender and Social Development
12.	Wajir County Government
13.	Democracy Trust Fund, the Power fund
14.	Anti-FGM Board
15.	Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) Community Action Team, Isiolo County
16.	Kenya Women Agenda (KEWOA)
17.	President's Advisor on Women Rights
18.	National Gender and Equality Commission
19.	Women Students Welfare Association (WOSWA)
20.	Ni Mama Network, End Femicideke, Defenders coalition
21.	Coalition for peace and Gender Champions
22.	Trends and Drivers of Femicide in Kenya
23.	National Crime Research Centre
24.	State department for gender and affirmative action
25.	The youth congress
26.	Africa alliance for health, research and economic development
27.	Prefix research
28.	Scribe services
29.	Agnes Kagure foundation
30.	Domestic work development stakeholders
31.	Nguru collective
32.	C/O Amnesty international Kenya

33.	Section 3 Community Health promoters
34.	Swop ambassadors
35.	Witness protection agency Kenya
36.	Kenya women parliamentary association
37.	Social justice center working groups Dagaratti
38.	Women in response to HIV/AIDS and drug addiction
39.	Kenya university women's economic empowerment hub
40.	Ni mama network
41.	Kangemi -Westland's uhaki paralegal network
42.	United disabled persons of Kenya
43.	The Kenya peasants league
44.	Activista Kenya
45.	Badili Africa -Kenya
46.	Civil society reference group
47.	Democracy trust fund
48.	The Baha'i' community of Kenya
49.	Nairobi gender -based violence (GBV)technical working group
50.	Echo network Africa foundation
51.	Centre for research rights and development
52.	SCAD-student campaign against drugs
53.	Domestic workers returnees of Kenya (DWROK)
54.	Tuvuli organization-empowering communities
55.	Women of faith-Marsabit county
56.	Child space organization
57.	Survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) Kericho County
58.	Kericho Centre for human rights (KCHR)
59.	Martha Akumu Oiye
60.	Government chemist department
61.	Voice for justice
62.	The judiciary
63.	Consortium on gender- based violence including femicide
64.	David Gitari Itumbi
65.	Kajiado North GBV sector working group and Kajiado county community members

66.	Kericho civil society organizations
67.	Kenya law
68.	Esther Cherono Keino MBS
69.	Samburu county CSO network
70.	JM Kariuki foundation
71.	Women peace champion and GBV advocates -Nakuru county
72.	Nakuru county GBV technical working group
73.	Domestic work development stakeholders
74.	Center for enhancing democracy and good governance
75.	Mwangi Muraya Wanyambigi-gender psychology class
76.	Groots Kenya- Nakuru county
77.	Groots Kenya movement
78.	Nominated MCA- Fancy Chepkorir Korir Kericho county
79.	Midrift Hurinet
80.	Friends of lake Turkana (FOLT)
81.	Women of Turkana County
82.	Kwale women of faith network
83.	Kwale county gender sector working group
84.	Centre for development and peace Kenya
85.	Nisasa Desired futures (NIDEF)
86.	Tana River civil society organizations network
87.	Kenya community support Centre (KECOSCE)
88.	Tana River human rights defenders' network
89.	Aggrey Nyangweso- Gender officer Tana River County
90.	County Government of Tana River
91.	End Femicide Kajiado & Young generation for social support
92.	Kajiado youth government
93.	Survivors of Sexual Violence in Kenya
94.	Youth leaders under the umbrella; Youth for Sustainable Development (YSD), Makueni
95.	Civil Society Organization-Garissa County
96.	Garissa Child Protection and Gender Technical Working Group
97.	Needv Cancer Health Initiative (NCHI)
98.	African Boychild Network

99.	Centre for domestic training and development
100.	National Police service
101.	Kenya National Chamber of the Commerce Bungoma Chatter/ integrity social justice centre
102.	Bungoma County Women Peace Network (BCWPN)
103.	Office of the Attorney General &Department of Justice
104.	Muslims for Human rights (MUHURI)
105.	Lamu County Gender Sector working group
106.	Search for common ground (Search)
107.	Ministry of Gender, Culture, The Arts and Heritage State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action
108.	Christian Student Leadership Centre
109.	The Judiciary Chief Magistrate's- Kilifi
110.	Kilifi Women of Faith Network at joy Fellowship Ministry, Kilifi
111.	Kenya Community Support Centre (KECOSCE)
112.	The Kisii County Gender Sectoral Working Group
113.	Bomet East Human Rights Educators and Defenders (HREDS)
114.	Safe Steps foundation Kenyan (SSF-K)
115.	National Crime Research Centre
116.	Centre for reproductive rights
117.	Young Women Tots Under the YW4A Program and Women Rights Organizations in Kisii County
118.	Kisii Network of Human Right Defenders
119.	The Kisii County State & Non-state Actor against GBVF
120.	Inter-Religious Council of Kenya Homabay County
121.	GROOTS Kenya Champions
122.	Kiambu County Empowerment Network (KCEN)
123.	Centre for Community Gender Development (CCGD)
124.	Ekakenya Sidai CBO
125.	Nareto Latia
126.	HELGA
127.	Enkolili CBO
128.	The Survivors Mentor CBO
129.	Eslenkei Initiative
130.	Women in response to HIV/AIDS & Drug addiction

131.	Domestic Work Development Stakeholders
132.	Tuvuli Organization Executive Team
133.	Geraldine Muiruri
134.	Hon. Njambi Kinyanjui
135.	Eneza Imani Community Shelter and Rescue Centre
136.	Pink Genderwatch Network
137.	MK Defenders
138.	Come Together Widows & Orphans Organization
139.	Centre for Multiparty Democracy Kenya
140.	Taita Taveta Human Rights Watch
141.	Mombasa County SGBV TWG
142.	Women of Faith Mombasa County at Tononoka Social Hall
143.	Yung Women's Christian association (YWCA) Mombasa Branch
144.	SEYA Youth Organization
145.	Centre for Resilience and sustainable Africa

## APPENDIX 5: GAZETTE NOTICE No.

### **SPECIAL ISSUE**



# THE KENYA GAZETTE

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GAZETTE NOTICE NO. 109

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON GENDER-BASED  
VIOLENCE (GBV) INCLUDING FEMICIDE

#### APPOINTMENT

WHEREAS, Article 45 of the Constitution posits the family as the basic unit of society and the necessary basis of social order;

WHEREAS, Articles 28 and 29 of the Constitution affirm the inherent dignity of every individual and their right to freedom and security;

WHEREAS, these articles, as read together with other provisions of the Constitution, provide the framework to guarantee the protection of these rights as well as other unalienable rights, through security that encompass the protection from all forms of violence, whether public or private;

WHEREAS, the Government takes note of the rising cases of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in the country, with increased cases of the killings of women and girls, generally referred to as Femicide;

WHEREAS, such cases grossly undermine the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under Article 26 (Right to Life), Article 27 (Equality and Freedom from Discrimination), Article 28 (Human Dignity), Article 29 (Freedom and Security of the Person) and Article 48 (Access to Justice) of the Constitution;

WHEREAS, Kenya has ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) for the protection and promotion of women's rights;

WHEREAS, the Government, as part of the community of nations made commitments under international conventions and treaties, including the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);

WHEREAS, these treaties oblige the State to take measures to prevent, respond to and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls;

NOW THEREFORE, having given due consideration to the profound threat that this pervasive menace poses to our nation's collective pursuit of gender parity, I do note as follows:

I. THAT the increased cases of GBV and Femicide continue to cause immense physical, emotional, and economic harm to individuals, families, and communities, exacerbating gender inequalities and impeding sustainable development;

II. THAT there are existing gaps in prevention, response, investigations, prosecution, data management, and survivor support systems in GBV and Femicide cases; and

III. THAT such egregious violations pose a threat to our national security as well as strain the nation's social fabric.

FOR REASONS WHEREFORE, I, William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces, in exercise of the powers conferred on the Head of State and Government by the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Kenya, do:

(a) Establish a Technical Working Group on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Including Femicide, to assess, review, and recommend measures to strengthen the institutional, legal, and policy response to GBV and Femicide in the country;

(b) The Technical Working Group shall comprise of:

#### *Chairperson*

Nancy Baraza (Dr.)

#### *Members:*

Mohammed Washala Abdi,  
Ruth Aura Odhiambo (Dr.),  
Linah Kilimo,  
Edna Ngare Ngeno (Dr.),  
Linda Musumba (Dr.),  
Nobert Talam,  
Michael Kariuki,  
Charles Ismael Otieno Otiente,  
Diana Christine Nanjala,  
Peter Mwangi Kamau,  
Anthony Nzioki,  
Surum Ipato Korema,  
Anne Ngetich,  
Wangu Kanja (Dr.),  
Franklin Wallah,  
James Nombi,  
Kizito Wangalwa,  
Harleen Kaur Jabbal,  
Bashir Isaak (Dr.),

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Valentine Chepkoech Simei,  
 Shem Nyakutu,  
 Jane Leakey,  
 Beatrice Karwitha,  
 Lucy Njeri Mwaniki,  
 Purity Ngina (Dr.),  
 Sam Thenya (Dr.),  
 Susan Ndanyi,  
 Antonia N'gabala Sodonon,  
 Mercy Karanja (Dr.),  
 Gloria Wawira,  
 Faith Odhiambo,  
 Ann Ireri,  
 Seth Masese,  
 Mashetti Masinjila.

*Joint Secretaries:*

Caroline Jerono Kibiwott,  
 Jessica Achieng Omundo,  
 Geoffrey Rotich,  
 Baldwin Anyiga.

*Secretariat:*

Rosemary Muriungi,  
 Kepha Onyiso,  
 Philomena Loitarengan.

1. The Terms of Reference of the Technical Working-Group are to:

- (a) Identify trends, hotspots, and causes contributing to GBV and Femicide;
- (b) Analyse the adequacy of current legal and policy frameworks in addressing GBV and Femicide;
- (c) Propose amendments to strengthen laws, improve enforcement, and close existing legislative gaps;
- (d) Evaluate resource allocation, training levels, and operational effectiveness in managing prevention, response, support and investigations related to cases on GBV and Femicide;
- (e) Conduct community engagements to gather input on solutions to combat GBV and Femicide; -
- (f) Provide actionable recommendations on prevention, investigation, prosecution, and survivor support mechanisms in GBV and Femicide cases;
- (g) Examine the role of social media coverage in GBV and Femicide, including its influence on public perception, awareness, and policy-making;
- (h) Identify psychological issues related to the commission of crimes associated with GBV and Femicide;
- (i) Establish socioeconomic challenges contributing and exacerbating to the commission of GBV and Femicide; and
- (j) Recommend proposals to strengthen family ties, foster harmonious co-existence among family members, and develop social structures that support the resolution of domestic disputes;

2. In the performance of its tasks, the Technical Working Group shall:

- (a) Co-opt any person(s) deemed necessary or expedient for the effective discharge of its functions;

- (b) Conduct public hearings and/or receive information in private (where necessary in camera) as part of its mandate;
- (c) Convene meetings, forums, or consultations at such locations and times as necessary for the proper execution of its mandate;
- (d) May cause to be carried out such studies or research or obtain advice as may inform or assist the Task Force on its mandate;
- (e) Review and consider reports, judgments, or findings of past or ongoing cases related to GBV and Femicide;
- (f) Examine official reports, policies, legislation, or other relevant documents concerning GBV and Femicide;
- (g) To invite written submissions and memorandums from the members of the public;
- (h) Have such powers necessary or expedient for the proper execution of its functions, including the power to regulate its own procedures;
- (i) Create committees or sub-committees to expedite the discharge of its tasks.

- (j) Ensure, where appropriate, the safety and protection of participants;
- (k) Engage and work collaboratively with the National Government Administration Officers (NGAO) for effective support in the discharge of its mandate; and
- (l) Where necessary ask for extension of time from the appointing authority to enable it complete its work.

3. At its first meeting, the members shall select a vice chairperson from amongst the membership.

4. In furtherance of the objectives and purpose of the Technical Working Group, all State entities are directed to afford the Technical Working Group all necessary support and cooperation.

5. The Technical Working Group is expected to develop a report and submit it to the appointing authority within a period of ninety (90) days with effect from the date of this notice, or for such longer period as may, by notice in the Gazette, be extended.

6. The Technical Working Group shall report to H.E. the Deputy President, through the Principal Secretary for Gender, who will be the chairperson of a Principal Secretaries' Oversight Committee comprising of Principal Secretaries of the State Departments of Internal Security and National Administration, Social Protection, Health, Diaspora Affairs, Tourism, Cabinet Affairs, Devolution, Higher Education and Research, Technical Vocational Education and Training, and the Solicitor-General.

7. The Secretariat of the Technical Working Group shall be at the Ministry of Interior and National Administration.

The Secretariat address shall be:

*Ministry of Interior and National Administration,  
 P.O. Box 30510-00100,  
 Harambee House,  
 Nairobi.*

Dated the 9th January, 2025.

WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO,  
*President.*

## APPENDIX 6: GAZETTE NOTICE No. 63



# THE KENYA GAZETTE

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## CORRIGENDA

IN Gazette Notice No. 3546 of 2025, *amend* the expression printed as "D. O. ONTWEKA, for Commissioner, Customs and Border Control," to *read* "GEORGE ADUWI, for Commissioner, Customs and Border Control".

IN Gazette Notice No. 2896 of 2025, Cause No. E9 of 2025, *amend* the expression printed as "for a grant of probate of written will" to *read* "for the sealing of a grant of probate".

IN Gazette Notice No. 2959 of 2025, Cause No. E14 of 2025, *amend* the petitioner's name printed as "James Tharuba Kiongo" to *read* "James Kiongo Tharuba".

IN Gazette Notice No. 14510 of 2024, *amend* the expression printed as "Cause No. E33 of 2024" to *read* "Cause No. E33 of 2023".

IN Gazette Notice No. 4541 of 2023, Cause No. 6 of 2023 (formerly Cause No. E43 of 2022), *amend* the petitioner's name printed as "Samson Kiptanui Metto" to *read* "Samson Kiptanui Metto".

IN Gazette Notice No. 13302 and 13301 of 2025, *amend* the expression printed as "A. C. MUTAI" to *read* "C. C. MUTAF".

IN Gazette Notice No. 3361 of 2025, *amend* the expression printed as "Dated the 12th September, 2025" to *read* "Dated the 12th February, 2025".

IN Gazette Notice No. 3835 of 2025, *amend* the expression printed as "Cause No. E26 of 2025" to *read* "Cause No. E26 of 2024".

IN Gazette Notice No. 10538 of 2021, *amend* the expression printed as "Block 8/28" to *read* "Block 8/25".

IN Gazette Notice No. 15847 of 2024, Cause No. E874 of 2024, *amend* the first petitioner's name printed as "Lydia Nyawira Wangui" to *read* "Lydia Nyawira Njoroge".

IN Gazette Notice No. 12143 of 2024, Cause No. E171 of 2024, *amend* the expression printed as "the deceased's daughters" to *read* "the deceased's daughter and mothers of the deceased's children, respectively".

IN Gazette Notice No. 14299 of 2024, Cause No. E366 of 2024, *amend* the expression printed as "for a grant of probate to the estate" to *read* "for a grant of letters of administration Intestate to the estate".

IN Gazette Notice No. 16653 of 2024, Cause No. E273 of 2024, *amend* the petitioners names printed as "(1) Odhiambo Collins Odoyo and (2) John Aluko Otuoro" to *read* "(1) William Opiyo Apayo and (2) Julius Ogutu Opiyo".

## GAZETTE NOTICE NO. 3862

## TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) INCLUDING FEMICIDE

## APPOINTMENT

IT IS notified for the general information of the public that I, William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces, further to Gazette Notice No. 109 of 2025 on the Technical Working Group on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), appoint—

TECLA CHEBET TUM (Dr.)

to serve as a member of the Technical Working Group, with effect from the 28th March, 2025.

Dated the 28th March, 2025.

WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO,  
*President.*

## APPENDIX 7: GAZETTE NOTICE No. 80



# THE KENYA GAZETTE

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## CORRIGENDA

IN Gazette Notice No. 14410 of 2023, Cause No. E23 of 2023, *amend* the petitioner's name printed as "Serah Muthoni Chenge" to *read* "Sarah Muthoni Chenge".

-----  
IN Gazette Notice No. 2925 of 2024, Cause No. E99 of 2023, *amend* the deceased's name printed as "Margaret Njoki Kamau" to *read* "Margaret Njoki Kamau alias Margaret Njoki".

-----  
IN Gazette Notice No. 13699 of 2024, *amend* the expression printed as "Cause No. E147 of 2024" to *read* "Cause No. E147 of 2020".

-----  
IN Gazette Notice No. 2505 of 2025, *amend* the expression printed as "Issue of Title Deeds" to *read* "Loss of Green Cards" where it appears.

## GAZETTE NOTICE NO. 5047

## TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) INCLUDING FEMICIDE

## EXTENSION OF TERM

IT IS notified for the general information of the public that His Excellency Hon. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces has extended the term of the Technical Working Group on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) including Femicide, for a period of sixty (60) days, with effect from the 9th April, 2025 up to 8th June, 2025.

Dated the 25th April, 2025.

FELIX K. KOSKEI,  
*Chief of Staff and Head of the Public Service.*

## GAZETTE NOTICE NO. 5048

## THE NATIONAL CEREALS AND PRODUCE BOARD ACT

(Cap. 338)

## NATIONAL CEREALS AND PRODUCE BOARD

## APPOINTMENT

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by section 3 (2) of the National Cereals and Produce Board Act, the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development appoints—

JOHN GIKANDI THONGORI

to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Cereals and Produce Board, for a period of three (3) years, with effect from the 25th April, 2025.

Dated the 25th April, 2025.

MUTAHI KAGWE,  
*Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development.*

## GAZETTE NOTICE NO. 5049

## THE WATER ACT

(No. 43 of 2016)

(L.N. No. 28 of 2019)

## ATHI WATER WORKS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

## RE-APPOINTMENT

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by section 66 (1) (b) of the Water Act, the Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation re-appoints—

JAMES WAINAINA (ENG.)

to be a Member of Board of Directors of the Athi Water Works Development Agency, for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 25th April, 2025.

Dated the 25th April, 2025.

ERIC MURIITHI MUUGA,  
*Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation.*

## GAZETTE NOTICE NO. 5050

## THE STATE CORPORATIONS ACT

(Cap. 446)

## THE KENYA ORDINANCE FACTORIES CORPORATION ORDER

(L.N. No. 125 of 1997)

## APPOINTMENT

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by section 6 (1) (e) of the State Corporations Act, the Cabinet Secretary for Defence appoints—

Brig. (Rtd.) J. N. Mururi,  
Brig. (Rtd.) P. T. Ibere,  
Brig. (Rtd.) D. C. Bartongo,

to be Members of the Board of Directors of the Kenya Ordinance Factories Corporation (KOFC), for a period of three (3) years, with effect from the 25th April, 2025.

Dated the 25th April, 2025.

ROSELINDA SOIPAN TUYA,  
*Cabinet Secretary for Defence.*

## GAZETTE NOTICE NO. 5051

## THE MILITARY VETERANS ACT

(No. 18 of 2022)

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MILLITARY VETERANS

## APPOINTMENT

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by section 10 (2) (b) of the Military Veterans Act, (Cap. 199A), the Defence Council appoints—

Lt. COL. (Rtd.) EDWARD CHEROP KIMOSOP (37210)

to be a Member of the Advisory Committee on Military Veterans, for a period of one (1) year, with effect from the 1st May, 2025.

Dated the 25th April, 2025.

ROSELINDA SOIPAN TUYA,  
*Cabinet Secretary for Defence and Chairperson of the Defence Council.*

## GAZETTE NOTICE NO. 5052

## THE COPYRIGHT ACT

(No. 98 of 2001)

## KENYA COPYRIGHT BOARD

## APPOINTMENT

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by section 6 (1) (f) of the Copyright Act, the Attorney-General appoints—

Agatha Lutala Karani,  
Sarah Wanjiru Migwi,  
Dan Okoth Aceda,

to be Members of the Board of Directors of the Kenya Copyright Board, for a period of three (3) years, with effect from the 25th April, 2025.

Dated the 25th April, 2025.

DORCAS AGIK ODUOR,  
*Attorney-General.*

## APPENDIX 8: GAZETTE NOTICE No. 125



# THE KENYA GAZETTE

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## CORRIGENDA

IN Gazette Notice No. 6034 of 2024, Cause No. E222 of 2024, *amend* the petitioner's name printed as "Caroline Wambui Kuria" to *read* "Carolyne Wambui Kuria" and the expression printed as "the deceased's father and daughter, respectively" to *read* "the deceased's widower and daughter, respectively".

-----  
IN Gazette Notice No. 1684 of 2025, Cause No. E2 of 2024, *amend* the deceased's name printed as "Abdullah Bhanji Kimani" to *read* "Abdullah Bhanji Kamani".

-----  
IN Gazette Notice No. 4152 of 2025, Cause No. E437 of 2024, *amend* the petitioner's name printed as "Patrick Mutungi Muro" to *read* "Patrick Mutungi Muro".

-----  
IN Gazette Notice No. 7016 of 2024, Cause No. E37 of 2024, *amend* the deceased's name printed as "Gladys Nyaraga Madali" to *read* "Hezron Ndeda Livihu alias Ndenda Livihu".

-----  
IN Gazette Notice No. 1505 of 2025, Cause No. 431 of 2024, *amend* the expression printed as "Intestate" to *read* "testate".

-----  
IN Gazette Notice No. 12937 of 2024, *amend* the petitioners names printed as "(1) Mary Wangari Kagwanja and (2) Phyllis Wairimu Waweru" to *read* "(1) Mary Wanjiku Kamau, (2) Elizabeth Njeri Wanjiku, (3) Mary Wangari Kagwanja and (4) Phyllis Wairimu Waweru".

-----  
IN Gazette Notice No. 7335 of 2025, *amend* the proprietor's name printed as "Petere Weru Muriithi" to *read* "Peter Weru Muriithi" and the expression printed as "expiration of thirty (60) days" to *read* "expiration of sixty (60) days".

-----  
IN Gazette Notice No. 7624 of 2025, *amend* the expression printed as "Cause No E144 of 2023" to *read* "Cause No. E144 of 2025".

-----  
IN Gazette Notice No. 5365 of 2023, Cause No. 13 of 2023, *amend* the deceased's name printed as "L.I.M. Thiongo Mburu alias Lucas Mwaura Thiongo" to *read* "Njoroge Thuku".

-----  
IN Gazette Notice No. 7643 of 2025, Cause No. E111 of 2025, *amend* the date of death printed as "15th April, 2020" to *read* "15th December, 1996".

## GAZETTE NOTICE NO. 7729

## TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) INCLUDING FEMICIDE

## EXTENSION OF TERM

IT IS notified for the general information of the public that His Excellency Hon. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces has extended the term of the Technical Working Group on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) including Femicide for a period of thirty (30) days, with effect from the 9th June, 2025 up-to 8th July, 2025.

Dated the 13th June, 2025.

FELIX K. KOSKEI,  
*Chief of Staff and Head of the Public Service.*

## GAZETTE NOTICE NO. 7730

## THE KENYA NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

(No. 14 of 2011)

## EXTENSION OF TERM

IT IS notified for the general information of the public that His Excellency, Hon. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 11 (15) of the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights Act, 2011, has extended the period specified under section 11 (4) of the Act by ten (10) days and under section 11 (5) of the Act by ten (10) days, in respect of the tenure of the Selection Panel appointed *vide* Gazette Notice No. 4651/2025 of 11th April, 2025.

Dated the 13th June, 2025.

FELIX K. KOSKEI,  
*Chief of Staff and Head of the Public Service.*

## GAZETTE NOTICE NO. 7731

## THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND ASSET DISPOSAL ACT

(Cap. 412C)

## THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND ASSET DISPOSAL REGULATIONS, 2020

(L.N. No. 69 of 2020)

## DEBARMENT

PURSUANT to Regulation 22 (5) (k) of the the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Regulations, 2020, it is notified for the general information of the public that the Public Procurement and Asset Authority has debarred—

## FILTRONIC INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

from participating in the public procurement and asset disposal proceedings on the grounds specified in section 41 of the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, for a period of three (3) years, with effect from the 5th March, 2025.

Dated the 7th March, 2025.

JOHN MBADI NG'ONGO,  
*Cabinet Secretary,*  
*The National Treasury and Economic Planning.*

## GAZETTE NOTICE NO. 7732

## THE PUBLIC BENEFIT ORGANIZATIONS ACT

(No. 18 of 2013)

## INVITATION TO MAKE SUBMISSIONS TO THE DRAFT PUBLIC BENEFIT ORGANIZATIONS REGULATIONS

IT IS notified for the general information of the public that the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration has developed the Draft Public Benefit Organizations Regulations in accordance with section 69 of the Public Benefit Organizations Act. The Regulations seek to guide on the Registration and Management of Public Benefit Organizations in accordance with the Public Benefit Organizations Act.

The Draft Regulations may be accessed on the official website of the Public Benefit Organizations Regulatory Authority website [www.pbor.go.ke](http://www.pbor.go.ke) or [ppregulations@pbor.go.ke](mailto:ppregulations@pbor.go.ke) by the 25th July, 2025.

Members of the public, stakeholders and interested parties are invited to submit their views, written comments and representations via this e-mail [ppregulations@pbor.go.ke](mailto:ppregulations@pbor.go.ke) by the 25th July, 2025.

In addition, the Ministry and the Authority shall undertake physical public participation exercises at the dates and venues to be specified by the Authority.

Dated the 9th June, 2025.

ONESIMUS KIPCHUMBA MURKOMEN,  
*Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration.*