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## KENYA

### GENDER EQUALITY & FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

Kenya scored 80.6 out of 100 on the Women, Business and the Law 2021 index and ranked 95 out of 156 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2021, with an overall score of 0.692. Overall, these scores remain consistent from the previous year though the lived realities for women and girls is markedly different, particularly in terms of the statistics based on age, marital status, and geographical location. COVID significantly increased inequalities between men and women in education attainment, health outcomes, representation in parliament, and participation in the labor market. Kenya's gender equality commitments regarding the advancement of gender equality, women, and girl's empowerment are enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya, legal and policy environment and outlined in the gender machinery's mandates.

Young women and adolescent girls are the most vulnerable group in Kenya. They are particularly vulnerable to poverty especially at the household and community level exacerbated by gender-based violence, harmful cultural attitudes, and beliefs. Limited control over benefits from land and other resources limits women's participation in the economy, particularly as producers and market actors. Women's unequal and unpaid care work limits women's contribution to and benefits from productive activities, their mobility, and access to market resources.

To address these issues, USAID's strategic entry point looks at vulnerability through the eyes of adolescent girls and young women and working with local actors and entities, facilitate Kenyan-owned, -led, and -managed interventions to shift harmful gender norms, address teenage pregnancies and prevent and respond to gender based violence. This is expected to align with the Government of Kenya's priorities and commitments, the USG National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality as well as USAID's Gender Equality and Female Empowerment policy.

## WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Without administrative mechanisms to realize the two-third gender rule, persistent harmful gender norms and structural barriers to women's participation within the electoral process, women continue to be locked out from entering and participating into leadership spaces. By promoting efforts and engaging women and other relevant actors at all levels to increase women's capacity and agency will in turn ensure women are meaningfully engaging and influencing decision-making, peace building efforts, and community interventions.

The Kenya Inclusive Governance, Accountability, Performance and Participation (Kenya- IGAPP) is working with Kenyan led consortiums to appraise participation and performance of women in the 2022 election by addressing barriers which perpetuate their exclusion, to advance policies and measures to safeguard women's safety and security during the 2022 electioneering period and to support platforms and mechanisms that expand leadership opportunities for women.

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## WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

USAID's Feed the Future activities create economic opportunities for women within priority value chains by increasing enterprise productivity and competitiveness, job creation, and enhancing access to credit and training in business and networking platforms. Activities also target women and children for nutrition interventions that address social and gender norms around feeding practices, as well as increasing knowledge on the importance of dietary diversity. These activities promote technologies and management practices that increase productivity, save time and reduce work drudgery for women and girls.

Environment and natural resources activities strengthen and integrate economic benefits, with livelihood and conservation interventions, to build women- and youth-led resilient households, community organizations and spur women and youth leadership in conservation.

Education and workforce programs work with the public and private sectors and other players to increase access to quality education, support disadvantaged young women and men through innovative training, empowerment, and employment transition activities. These efforts utilize different approaches to ensure that school environments are conducive for both boys and girls to remain in school and perform well. Through remedial classes within local communities, USAID addresses specific local barriers that limit educational attainment for girls, and boys which hinder particularly young women from accessing socio-economic opportunities, including vocational and higher education, finance, and employment opportunities.

## PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) programs are aligned with national priorities and commitments to influence policy reforms, financing, and accountability. Activities strengthen efforts that Integrate GBV services – medical, legal, and psychological support services into the delivery of quality SGBV, and community support services to populations that are vulnerable and most- at-risk including adolescent girls and young women, female sex workers, injection drug users, and men at high-risk. This work is conducted within communities and health facilities in line with the essential minimum package such as emergency contraception, sexually transmitted infection screenings, and treatment, HIV testing and counseling, trauma counseling, pre/post-exposure prophylaxis for those eligible as well as provision of emergency tele-counseling services and referrals to services.