



KENYA

GENDER EQUALITY & FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

While Kenya scores 81 (out of 100) on the Women, Business and the Law 2020 index and ranks 109 out of the 153 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2020 with 0.671, significant inequalities between males and females in education attainment, health outcomes, representation in parliament, and participation in the labor market remain. Over the past decade, legislative and policy reform has established a basis for gender equality across all sectors.

However, despite the strides made, several challenges compounded by the intersections of poverty, age, and education disparities remain, with stark regional disparities. Women and adolescent girls are the most vulnerable group in Kenya. They are particularly vulnerable to poverty especially at the household and community is exacerbated by gender-based violence, harmful cultural attitudes and beliefs around gender roles, norms and female empowerment. Limited control over benefits from land and other resources constrains women's successful participation in the economy, particularly as producers and market actors. Women's unpaid childcare and domestic work limits women's contribution in and benefit from productive activities, constrain their mobility, and limit their access to market resources and information while participating in the economy.

To address these issues, USAID Kenya and East Africa (KEA) will continue to apply learning and adaptive approaches that integrate gender into its activities and interventions, which align with the Government of Kenya's priorities and commitments as well as USAID's Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy. This policy aims to ensure that all individuals - men, boys, women, girls, as well as all vulnerable and marginalized individuals - are included and benefit from Kenya's economic and social transformation and prosperity.

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND AGENCY

At the national level, women represent 22 percent of elected and 18 percent of nominated positions in the National Assembly, and chair only three of 27 committees. They hold 27 percent of elected and 86 percent of nominated positions in the Senate, but do not chair any committees there. At the county level, women represent 34 percent of Members of the County Assembly (MCAs). Of that number, only 13 percent were elected. The remaining majority were nominated.

Being engaged in leadership roles at all levels increases women's opportunities to meaningfully engage and influence decision-making, peace building efforts, and community interventions by promoting efforts that increase the number, the capacity and agency of women in leadership at all levels. These activities prioritize efforts to create a more enabling environment by promoting gender-sensitive planning and programming; conducting leadership training and mentorship, establishing women legislators' caucuses to enhance their competencies in areas such as law making and oversight functions, including understanding the budget making process and its relationship to county development plans.

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

USAID's Feed the Future initiative creates economic opportunities for women within priority value chains. It targets women and children for nutrition interventions. These activities promote technologies and management practices that increase productivity and save time for women.

Through community conservancies, women receive opportunities to transform their unique beadwork to lanyards, keychains, necklaces and other products that earn them a steady income. The women acquire skills to standardize their beadwork and meet quality expectations, so their products are attractive to a large range of local and international markets.

The workforce development activities partner with the private sector and other players to support disadvantaged young women and men through innovative education, empowerment, and employment transition activities. These efforts improve young women and men access to quality education and ensure their completion through scholarships, mentoring, work readiness training, internships, and job placement.

PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) programs are aligned with national objectives to influence policy reforms and strengthen delivery of quality SGBV, post-rape care, 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 health facilities in line with national standards on emergency contraception, sexually transmitted infection screenings, and treatment, HIV testing and counseling, trauma counseling, post-exposure prophylaxis for those eligible as well as receive emergency tele-counseling services and referrals to services.

ACHIEVEMENTS SNAPSHOT (FY 2019)

- 138,030 women received increased economic benefits from sustainable resource management and conservation enterprises.
- Over 173,200 women applied new technologies to 80,100 hectares of land
- 28,383 female owned micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises enabled to access nearly \$2,940,441 in loans for investment in farming systems and microenterprises.
- 11,681 young women and 9,808 young men gained access to productive resources (credit, grants, loans), improved skills, or better employment
- 617 girls received scholarships, mentoring, life skills training, and job placement to fast track their career paths
- 10,126 adolescent girls under Determined Resilient Empowered AIDS-free Mentored Safe lives (DREAMS) on HIV/AIDS prevention, gender norms transformation, and gender-based violence.

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