



Changing You, Transforming All!



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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Acronyms And Abbreviations

Executive Director's Statement

2023 has been a year of remarkable progress and steadfast dedication for CREAM. We have continued to stand at the forefront of advancing the protection and promotion of women's and girls' rights, successfully implementing a myriad of impactful programs and initiatives. Our collective efforts and unwavering commitment have borne fruit, and I am immensely proud to highlight some of our key achievements.

One of our most significant milestones this year has been the establishment of a second GBV Outreach Center in the Mukuru informal settlement. This center is a beacon of hope, offering essential free legal and psychosocial support to survivors of violence and abuse. The Jasiri Fund, another cornerstone of our initiatives, has continued to provide a crucial financial safety net for survivors of violence.

This fund embodies our belief in the resilience and strength of survivors, ensuring they have the resources they need to rebuild and thrive. At CREAM, we understand that true change begins at the grassroots level. That's why we are deeply committed to empowering grassroots women to become solution providers in their communities.

Through sub-granting nascent grassroots organizations, we amplify their voices, power, and agency, creating a rich pool of local leadership and advocacy against gender inequality. Furthermore, we continue to champion the inclusion of women in governance and decision-making spaces. Our participation in the multi-sector workforce developing a framework for the implementation of the two-thirds gender principle is a testament to our commitment to systemic change.

Our work has also extended to the realm of Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights (SRHR). In 2023, we engaged with adolescent girls, boys, young women, and men across various counties in Kenya. Our goal is to ensure they understand their reproductive rights and can access the adolescent and youth friendly services.

We are also incredibly honored to have been recognized for our efforts in promoting gender responsiveness and inclusivity at the 10th Devolution Conference, where we were awarded the prestigious CHUI award. This accolade is not just a reflection of our hard work but a powerful affirmation of our purpose: to champion, expand, and actualize women's and girls' rights and social justice.

As we look forward to the coming year, we remain steadfast in our resolve to create a world where every woman and girl can live free from violence and discrimination, and where their rights are fully realized. Together, we will continue to push boundaries, break barriers, and drive the transformative change we envision.

In solidarity,

Wangechi Wachira



New Board Members

Exciting News from CREAW

Following an end of term for four (4) board members, CREAW undertook a competitive selection process to recruit new board members. It is our utmost pleasure to reveal the new look of the CREAW board.

We are thrilled to welcome four outstanding women who have joined our esteemed Board of Directors. These new members bring a rich diversity of experiences, expertise, and perspectives that will undoubtedly enhance CREAW's mission and commitment to creating a just society where women and girls can enjoy full rights and live with dignity.

Alongside current board members Rukia Yassin, Samuel Gichohi, Anzette Were, and Maureen Michieka, our new additions promise to further strengthen our resolve and impact. Let's get to know our new board members:

Wairu Kinyor



An Advocate of the High Court with a Master of Science in strategic project management, Wairu has carved a niche for herself as a Tax Justice Strategist.

Her extensive experience in impact programming, resource mobilization, women in leadership, and the protection of women and girls will undoubtedly bring immense value to CREAM. Wairu's solid board experience from various organizations aligns seamlessly with our goals.

Rachel Wanyoike



With a Master of Science in Public Policy and Human Development, along with a host of other qualifications, Rachael is an environment enthusiast who has made significant contributions to the fields of renewable energy, response to climate change, and low carbon competitiveness in Kenya. Her addition to the board is a fantastic asset that aligns perfectly with CREAW's new thematic pillar that focuses on to climate and gender justice.

Grace Njiru



Holder of a BA in Economics and Masters in Public Policy and Management, Grace is a certified CPA with extensive experience in finance audit and strategic governance.

As a KPMG senior manager for the last 15 years and Regional Strategic Lead for International Development Advisory Services (IDAS), she brings a wealth of experience in Governance, Women's Economic Empowerment, and SRHR to the table.

Ruth Nashipae



Ruth Nashipae Muigai is an LLM International law and human rights graduate from the University of East London as well as a Commonwealth Alumna. She is a lecturer at Kenya School of Government. Ruth is a board leader serving on various boards including Inua Village to Global Foundation, and Canada Mathare Education Trust. A UNCC certified climate negotiator, Ruth advocates for climate justice and policy. She recently completed the International School of Climate Migration (ISCM) and is a Transform Norms Fellow with the Apolitical foundation.

Join us in welcoming these phenomenal women to the CREAM family as we continue our journey towards a more just and equitable society for all. CREAM wishes to thank the exiting board members for their service and commitment to providing strategic leadership that has brought CREAM this far in growth and service to its constituents, the women and girls of Kenya.

Launch of Innovative Educational Resources for Children



Launch of Janjaruka games

CREAW was delighted to launch and handover of two video games titled Usafi Mtoni and Janjaruka to Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) on the 28th November 2023.

The games named Usafi Mtoni and Janjaruka as well as audio-visual messages for KICD's Edu Tv and child friendly illustrated booklets for learners we jointly developed by CREAW, KICD and other education stakeholders.

Usafi Mtoni and Janjaruka are two interactive video games designed to support teachers, school leaders and curriculum support officers in delivery of the Competency-Based Curriculum(CBC). Their content links at least one core value and two sub values from the list of eight (8) core values within the CBC to the learning areas.

This contextualizes the learning to the pertinent and contemporary issues (PCIs) to enable the learner gain the competencies while extending their learning in non-formal, informal and community service learning.

The content of the video games is designed to assist teachers, school leaders and curriculum support officers in creating learning experiences around the PCI's which then enable learners internalise values while developing key competencies as they play the games.

The goal of the 2 video games “usafi mtoni “ and “Janjaruka” is to develop and test gamification of learning areas within the CBC as a type of pedagogical design that could be applied in other learning areas to support curriculum delivery and internalisation of values by learners in Kenya.

CREAW's Executive Director Wangecho Wachira appreciates Grace Ngugi Maina who is the Deputy Director, Department of Special Programmes at KICD.

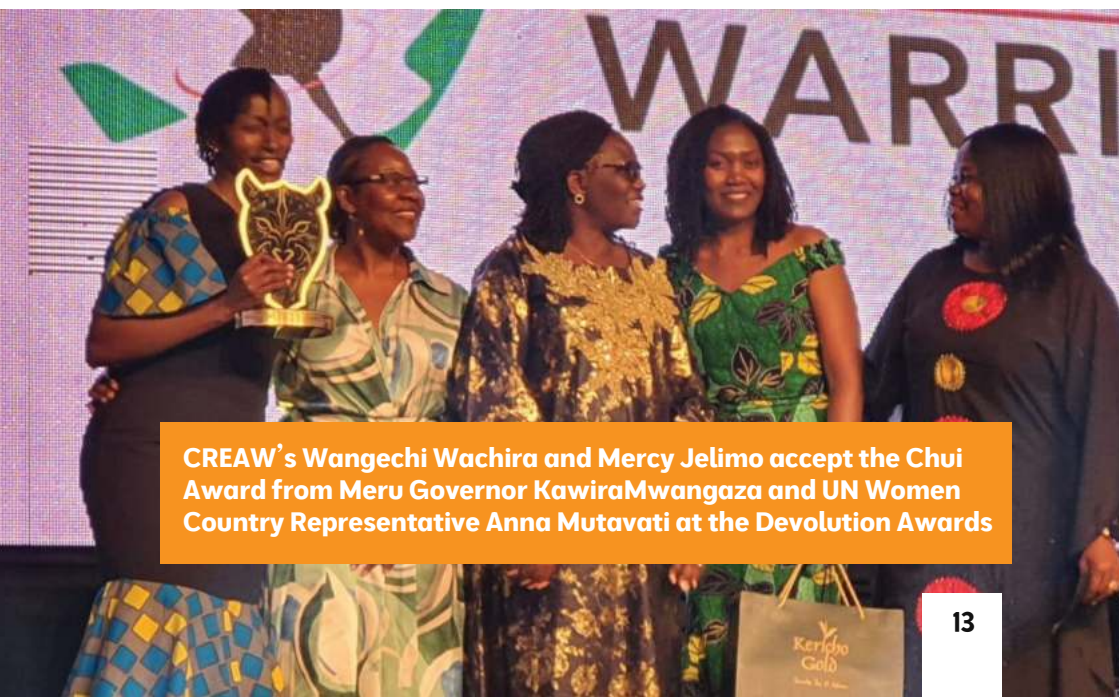


The current pilot that was carried out in five schools seeks to determine the effectiveness of the gamification in 2 key learning areas within the CBC. The first learning area is science and technology with environment and water pollution as the strand and sub strand respectively.

The second learning area is Agriculture with conserving the environment and water, living better with animals and soil as the strand and sub strands. The core values to be assessed are responsibility, unity, social Justice and patriotism.

The PCI's under the two learning areas are; health, life skills , water borne diseases , moral education and community responsibility , environmental conservation , financial literacy , food security.

CREAW Recognized for Exceptional Gender Inclusivity Efforts at Devolution Conference



CREAW's Wangechi Wachira and Mercy Jelimo accept the Chui Award from Meru Governor KawiraMwangaza and UN Women Country Representative Anna Mutavati at the Devolution Awards

Our efforts have not gone unnoticed, as evidenced by recognition of CREAM as a premier women's rights organization in Kenya. In 2023, Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) was honored at the 10th Devolution Conference for its strides in promoting gender responsiveness and inclusivity.

Standing out among the various institutions, CREAM emerged the winner in the prestigious CHUI category of the Devolution Awards. This category is dedicated to recognizing institutions that have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to fostering gender responsiveness and inclusivity across various demographic segments such as youth, women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons, and other vulnerable groups.

Across several Kenyan counties, including Meru, Narok, Isiolo, Nairobi, and Nyeri, CREAM has been collaborating with county government leadership to establish tailor-made gender policies. These policies are designed to effectively address gender-based violence (GBV) while advancing the cause of gender equality. CREAM was also recognized for its role in driving economic empowerment programs for survivors of GBV.

These initiatives empower survivors by enhancing their access to affordable financial services, thereby strengthening their resilience against an array of challenges including surges in food and fuel prices, environmental adversities like drought, and the unprecedented hurdles posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Thank you Council of Governors for this recognition and for shining a spotlight on this important work. We dedicate this award to all our partners, the incredible CREAM Team and everyone who has supported us on this journey,

CREAM's Executive Director Wangechi Wachira said after receiving the award. The Devolution Warrior Awards, an initiative that seeks to spotlight and celebrate exceptional contributions to the advancement of devolution in Kenya, recognized CREAM's efforts in this space.

The awards ceremony, which marked its second occurrence since the inception of devolution, has gained prominence as a platform to honor outstanding individuals and institutions.

The 2023 year's awards saw a staggering 634 nominations submitted across seven distinct categories: Simba, Ndovu, Kifaru, Nyati, Chui, Njiwa, and Tai. CREAM's triumph in the Chui category stands as a testament to our unwavering dedication and efforts to foster a more inclusive and responsive society through gender-focused policies and empowerment programs. CREAM also received the SDG Kenya Award for Best NGO addressing goal number five on gender equality.

CREAW Team Strategic Planning

With CREAM's current strategic plan ending in 2023, we held a strategic planning meeting at the end of the year aimed at crafting a comprehensive and forward thinking roadmap for the organisation's future. It was also an opportunity for the team members to unwind and connect after the hectic year.



CREAW's team during the strategic planning meeting at Nyahururu



Pillar 1:

Ending Violence Against Women (EVAWG)

Introduction

The awards ceremony, which marked its second occurrence since the inception of devolution, has gained prominence as a platform to honor outstanding individuals and institutions.

Ending Violence against women and girls is one of our four pillars. Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) is among the most oppressive forms of gender inequality and a fundamental barrier to equal participation of women in social, economic and political spheres.

Our work on ending violence focuses on prevention to the response continuum. We believe both primary and secondary prevention of violence against women and girls is essential for creating safer, more equitable, and healthier societies for everyone.

We adopted a comprehensive approach involving awareness creation, advocacy and we adopted social analysis and action (SAA) prevention model to address the root causes of violence for primary prevention over the period.

In order to address violence against women and girls, CREAM has over the years committed to survivor-centred approach that ensures healing, access to Justice and reintegration of survivors back into the society with prospects of success. Through our Access to Justice program, we have provided free legal aid and psychosocial support to survivors in Kibera and its environs and most recently our newly opened Mukuru Outreach Centre in Embakasi Sub-County.

1. We run a GBV Toll-Free. 0800 720 186 to help SGBV survivors get rapid assistance. Not only is the line free of charge, but we also offer legal advice, psychosocial support and finally refer them to other services such as police, shelters, health facilities and court.

2. Legal support – We understand that justice for survivors is key. CREAM has lawyers who offer legal advice and representation to survivors of violence. In 2023 CREAM has supported over women and girls who are SGBV survivors to access free legal aid.

The cases range from sexual offences including Intimate Partner Violence/ domestic violence, rape, defilement, FGM and child support/custody. This has ensured that the perpetrators are punished while promoting safety and well-being of survivors.

3.Psychosocial support- One of the most glaring and emerging issues on SGBV are mental health challenges that result in depression, self-harm or suicidal attempts. The organization forestalls the well-being of survivors by offering psychosocial support through individual/one to one counselling and support groups. The counselling sessions play a critical role in managing the mental health of survivors even as they go through this journey.

4.Mediation- We have embraced mediation as a primary tool of dispute management. This is however done in select civil cases that are not criminal in nature. We believe that solutions that are arrived at by the parties themselves will be easier to adhere to and are more satisfactory in the long run since it is a system that encourages compromise from both parties to the mediation.

This has worked well in a number of our child maintenance related cases and it not only assists the children get the justice they deserve but also helps maintain familial ties with the parents as envisioned by the Constitution and the Children Act, 2022.

Key Highlights:

CREAW showcased the services we offer in helping GBV survivors access justice at the Usawa Festival. This included supporting several attendees with legal aid and counselling sessions.

CREAW's team during the Usawa Festival





We were also delighted to host Canadian Members of Parliament Valerie Bradford and Iqwinder Gaheer at our Kibera Office. We appreciate Canada's support and dedication towards building a safe world for women and girls rights by strengthening access to justice to survivors of gender-based violence and gender equality in Kenya



CREAW was pleased to host a delegation of women legislators from the UK parliament and members of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Kenya at our Kibera Outreach centre. The objective of the visit was to learn about organisations in the GBV and human rights space in Kenya and explore areas of collaboration and strengthening.



CREAW Launches Mukuru SGBV Outreach Centre to Address Gender-Based Violence



The fight towards ending gender based violence has received a boost with the launch of the Mukuru SGBV Outreach Center. The inauguration of the center by Center for Rights, Education and Awareness (CREAW) in partnership with Nairobi County, Hewlett Foundation and the Canadian High Commission, marks a crucial step in addressing

the alarming prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Kenya, particularly in informal settlements. The launch, held during the 16 Days of Activism, was graced by His Excellency Christopher Thornley, High Commissioner for Canada in Kenya, Mr. Tom Michira the Chief Officer Public Health representing Nairobi Governor Sakaja, development partners, civil society partners, community partners, and the community at large.

Research shows that 1 in 3 women in Kenya has experienced some form of sexual or gender-based violence in her lifetime. These statistics underscore the urgent need for attention and action to address the pervasive issue that affects the lives of mothers, sisters, daughters, and friends, creating untold stories of pain and resilience within society.



CREAW's ED Wangechi Wachira guides Christopher Thornley, High Commissioner for Canada in Kenya, Chief Officer Public Health Tom Michira around the newly opened Mukuru centre

Survivors in informal settlements face more complex challenges, including poverty, lack of awareness, limited access to support services, stigma, patriarchal attitudes, and harmful social norms. The pervasive silence surrounding these issues often prevents survivors from seeking help or reporting the crimes committed against them.

It is from this backdrop that CREAM and the Nairobi County Government has made efforts to bring services closer to the community through this center. The strategic placement of the SGBV centre within the Mukuru Health Center ensures survivors have access to integrated health services, pro bono legal assistance, free psychosocial support, and economic empowerment programs. The outreach center streamlines the GBV pathways, reducing the burden on survivors' resources and time. In the three weeks since opening, the outreach center has already supported 17 cases for psychosocial support and 11 cases for legal support, highlighting the dire need for these services in Mukuru.

The SGBV Centre represents a departure from the norm by aiming to eliminate the retraumatization survivors often face when navigating different offices and recounting their trauma. By streamlining the GBV pathways, the outreach center paves the way for survivors to attain the justice essential to their healing process. His Excellency Christopher Thornley, High Commissioner for Canada in Kenya applauded the collaborative efforts made towards ending GBV in Kenya, noting that it is a global problem as well. "I hope that the continued advocacy and partnership on advancing gender equality makes a difference in ending GBV," he noted.

While thanking partners and stakeholders for their role in making the outreach center happen, CREAM's executive Director Wangechi Wachira called for increased collaboration between communities, government agencies, media, and civil society organizations.

"Only through a united front can transformative change be achieved, eliminating the root causes of SGBV and fostering a society where everyone can live free from fear and violence," Wangechi said. Chief Officer Public Health Tom Michira lauded the establishment of the centre and emphasised the need to work together in order to address the issue of SGBV from the root.



Group photo with key partners and stakeholders during the Launch of Mukuru Centre

The successful launch would not have been possible without the unwavering support of numerous individuals and organizations. CREAM extends gratitude to the Canadian High Commission, Nairobi County, Hewlett Foundation, and partners such as Unwomen, Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), The United Nations Population Fund (Unfpa), Shofco, Forumciv, Action Aid, Christian Aid, Kenya Red Cross, among others.

The Mukuru SGBV Outreach Centre launch represents a significant step towards combating gender-based violence in Kenya. Through collaborative efforts, streamlined services, and community support, CREAM aims to create a society where everyone can live free from fear and violence.

Stories of change

Rev. Adam Nairuko leading the fight against FGM



Reverend Adam Nairuko during a community engagement

In the stunning landscapes of Narok County known for its world famous Maasai Mara National Reserve, also lies a darker tradition; Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The county is notorious for having one of the highest prevalence of FGM in Kenya, a practice that has persisted for generations.

Despite the widespread acceptance of this harmful practice, Reverend Adam Nairuko from the Kenya Assemblies of God, Ntulele (KAG Church), has made it his purpose to end this deeply rooted practice in the settlements of Ntulele and Suswa.

“FGM is not new in our communities. I saw firsthand the immense pain and suffering it inflicted on the girls while uncircumcised girls were treated as outcasts and a bad omen. As I grew older, I became increasingly aware of the need for change and began to question the wisdom of this age-old harmful practice” says Reverend Adam.

His efforts at ending what was considered tradition were not without resistance from the community. However Reverend Adam decided to take advantage of their Maa tradition by slaughtering a goat and bringing together young men and local elders to share the meal. He then used these sessions to bring up the conversation on protecting the girl child from FGM.

"We just don't let our daughters undergo circumcision; poverty and hunger has also been a factor. Girls who have undergone FGM have now become a woman, therefore the man marrying her will bring more cows in exchange for marriage," one of the elders reveals.



Reverend Adam responds to the elders with a question, "Why would we subject our daughters to the same initiation ceremony that we no longer subject our own boys to, which involves shaving their heads and piercing their ears to signify the child's dependence upon them?".

The Reverend eventually started to see his efforts paying off. In Narok, more and more families have started questioning FGM, and some have already made the decision to stop this harmful practice. The shift is slow but steadily, and Adam's unrelenting dedication is encouraging others to support the cause.



Maasai elders, Young Men and Activists pledging towards the fight against FGM

The campaign against FGM is not just about breaking with tradition but also about giving women and girls the power to make decisions about their own bodies and futures. Adam's message is travelling throughout Ntulele and beyond.

The neighborhood now sees Adam as a champion of women's rights and a representation of development. This initiative is under the UNFPA joint program on Elimination of FGM. It uses male engagement as allies in ending FGM as one of its critical component in the efforts of addressing harmful practices.

Trauma-focused support gave Jane a new lease of life

28-year old Jane* (not her real name) was subjected to Intimate partner violence and distress, which included neglect by the perpetrator, economic violence, and denial of resources. As a result of the abuse and violence, Jane* was traumatized and fell into depression.

The perpetrator (her spouse), further inflicted Jane* with more pain psychologically by taking away their only son, who was under 2 years to his grandmother at their rural home, claiming Jane* was incapacitated and unable to care for their son. Jane* was further chased from their matrimonial home.

Jane* received psychosocial counselling sessions with keen specialized trauma-focused therapy to help manage the emotional distress she was experiencing and to also process the loss of her child. Additionally, Jane* was taken through ways of adopting healthy coping mechanism in order to build resilience and recover in all aspects of her life.

The legal project team also intervened by summoning the spouse for mediation sessions with Jane* to resolve the matters amicably. As a result of the interventions made by the psychosocial and legal team, **Jane*** is healing from her trauma and through the Mediation between her and the husband, the child was brought back from the rural home, and custody was given to the mother.

The legal department went ahead to draw up a Parental Responsibility Agreement (PRA) which was signed between the two parties with the spouse agreeing to pay Ksh. 5,000 monthly upkeep, medical, and committing to paying school fees when the child is of school going age.



Pillar 2:

SRHR

Introduction

Sexual and reproductive health rights is another key pillar of our work. This thematic area seeks to contribute to creating an enabling environment for the realization of SRHR of women and girls by addressing barriers of such as limited 25 access to, stigmatisation of and or discrimination of users and providers of SRHR services.

CREAW has developed behaviour change communication materials which are easily replicable. These have- successfully been used as training resources for peer group learning. In addition, CREAW has successfully used the SAA and SASA! Approach and Training of Trainers (ToT) model to train community champions, including men only groups and custodians of culture, to support community dialogue and action on power and gender issues.

Currently CREAW in partnership with FAWE and Mastercard Foundation are implementing the Imarisha Msichana Program which aims to significantly reduce the incidence of teen pregnancies in Kenya during and beyond the Covid-19 crisis and beyond. The program that is being implemented in 20 counties uses interventions such as championing for re-entry of girls to school, sensitization forums for girls, young women, boys, young men, parents, community leaders on human sexuality and prevention of pregnancy.

Further to that, CREAW has partnered with CARE to implement the Sexual & Reproductive and Economic Empowerment Supporting out of School Adolescent Girls Rights (SHESOARS) program that aims at increasing enjoyment of health-related human rights by the most marginalized and vulnerable girls with an intersection of economic empowerment.

The program target select sub-counties in Kisumu, Siaya, Kajiado, and Nairobi counties and the program participants comprise 2 cohort groups of adolescent girls and boys primarily ages 9-14 years and 15-19 years who are mobilized and registered into girl and boy groups respectively for life skills training through an approved curriculum by the MOH before they are graduated to youth savings and loans association (YSLA'S) groups at the age of 18 years.

Additionally, CREAW has also partnered with ForumCiv to implement Imarisha Afya-Dumisha Haki project that aims to increase enjoyment of Sexual Reproductive Health Rights by marginalised and vulnerable women, girls and boys in select sub-counties in Nairobi and Narok

Key highlights:

CREAW held a debrief session with community youth who are Rovers, Community Based Trainers (CBTs) and Social Analysis and Action(SAA) trainers who implement the **#SHESOARS** program. The debrief session with these young individuals was aimed at assessing their progress, address any challenges they may be facing and evaluating their overall well-being.



CREAW had the pleasure of hosting the **#SHESOARS** Chief of Party, the M&E (MEAL) Advisor, and the Care Kenya team. The meeting aimed to foster connections and facilitate knowledge sharing about the project, which is presently focused on out-of-school adolescents aged 10-19 which the objective of the project is to enhance uptake of sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) .



CREAW in partnership with the Nairobi City County Government held a football tournament with girls drawn from Dagoretti North and Westlands Sub County to mark the International Day of the Girl Child. Emphasis during the event was creating awareness on Mental Health among adolescents as well as prevention of gender based violence.



Stories of change

Breaking Harmful cultural practices in Turkana County

Gari Vallen is a resident of Turkana County and is passionate about the welfare of schoolchildren and out-of-school children in Turkana County. Her determination lies deeply in fixing harmful cultural practices like, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early marriages in Turkana County.

"Harmful cultural norms remain to be one of the biggest problems in Turkana County where the practices of FGM, early marriage and children not going to school remain unsolved. These practices are influenced by poverty, cultural norms, and a lack of awareness, resulting in young girls exchanging their bodies for money in order to secure food, sanitary towels, and clothing,"

Vallen says.



Currently, CREAM in partnership with FAWA, and the Mastercard Foundation have implemented the Imarisha Msichana Program. This initiative aspires to drastically reduce the incidence of teen pregnancies across Kenya. Operating in 20 counties, Turkana been one of them, the program employs a range of interventions.

These encompass advocating for the reintegration of girls into the educational system, organizing sensitization forums targeting girls, young women, boys, young men, parents, and community leaders. The focal point of these forums is human sexuality education and the prevention of unintended pregnancies.

Vallen, a committed advocate against early pregnancies in Turkana County, has experienced a reflective transformation by embracing her role in the Imarisha Msichana program as one of the stakeholders who has undergone through training provided by CREAM. This training has provided her with the necessary skills and knowledge to confront a multitude of challenges in Turkana County.

The training has created a substantial positive impact in addressing these pressing issues and empowering the local community. . Imarisha Msichana has emerged as a powerful tool for change, educating champions like Gari Vallen to spearhead transformative efforts.

Their influence has extended deep into the community, where they actively educate and enlighten young people about the risks of early marriages, teenage pregnancies, FGM, and GBV. Together, they strive to create a brighter future for Turkana County, free from these harmful traditions and social norms. Top of Form.

SHESOARS

Empowering Dreams Beyond the Slums

Margaret Wanjiru a 20-year-old from Kithogoro, a slum in Westlands SubCounty, is an active volunteer in SHESOARS program where she serves as a Social Analysis and Action (SAA) facilitator. Coming from a humble family of four children, Margaret is the youngest and has faced the challenges of growing up without a father.

"Growing up in the slums without a father figure has been tough, especially witnessing my mother struggle to raise four kids on her own," Margaret shared. She emphasized the sense of isolation in her life, as her siblings are already grown and moved out from home, while her mother worked hard to provide for the family's basic needs.

Despite her challenging background, Margaret is determined to break the cycle of poverty. She is an ambitious young lady who envisions a life far from hardships of the slums. In her slum, many young people often fall victim to drugs, early pregnancies, and early marriages due to poverty, forcing them to drop out of school. Recognizing the need for change, Margaret has had a passion to steer the youth away from destructive behaviours, but she lacked the means to do so.

Fortunately, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Economic Empowerment - Supporting out-of-school Adolescent Girls' Rights and Skills (SHESOARS) program emerged as a lifeline for Margaret and many others. This program aims to bring a sustainable change by focusing on out-of-school adolescent girls and boys. Collaborating with community youth identified as Rovers, CBTs, and SAA facilitators, the program reaches out to adolescents through various groups, such as girls' groups, boys' groups, and the YSLA group.

Githogoro slums, which has a large number of teenage mothers, has witnessed positive changes through the SHESOARS program. Teen mothers and fathers are being educated on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) as well as the risks associated with early pregnancies. Margaret actively contributes to these trainings as a young volunteer.

The SAA module which is been used in the community has made a significant impact, especially in challenging traditional gender roles. A notable success story emerged, showcasing a father who was initially resistant to discussing feminine hygiene with his daughter has now embraced open-mindedness and

"These training sessions have given teenage mothers, fathers and those who've left school a ray of hope into a different life.

It's about more than just surviving in the slums; it's about realizing that our futures can be different, through education and empowerment, we're breaking free from the chains of our circumstances, one step at a time.

I believe in a future where our potential isn't limited by where we come from, and SHESOARS is lighting the way for that change,"

she concludes.





Pillar 3:

Women Economic Empowerment

Introduction

This thematic pillar seeks to interrupt poverty cycles and the dependency of women by facilitating access to economic empowerment opportunities that will enable them to initiate and run Income Generating Activities.

Centre for Rights Education and Awareness is leading a consortium that includes Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development and Groots Kenya. The consortium team jointly established a women fund known as Jasiri Fund (Swahili word meaning 'bold'). The overall objective was to support access to finance for 1000 survivors of Gender based violence as a means to strengthen survivors' recovery and resilience in a sustainable manner. The fund worked to support women who are survivors of gender-based violence by focusing on building their socio-economic resilience against economic shocks stemming from Covid-19 and household violence.

Jasiri fund is a \$350,000 guarantee fund held by Kenya Women Micro Finance Bank (KWFT) being implemented in 10 counties in Kenya namely: Kajiado, Kakamega, Kiambu, Kilifi, Tana River, Nairobi, Mombasa, Kwale, Mandera and Busia.

CREAW played a key role in upskilling women at the Feminist Centre Kibera which focuses on strengthening women's capacity to manufacture/produce high quality soap products. Through the #TujijengeTujilinde campaign made possible by UNFPA Kenya and Meiji, the initiative aimed to economically empower survivors of gender based violence.

CREAW on its part has built these women's technical capacity to conduct market research in order to gain deeper insights on consumer preferences and needs for such products. Additionally we trained them on marketing skills to be able to position themselves in the e-commerce space and gain an edge over their competitors.

Key highlights:

CREAW was pleased to host a team from **Mastercard Foundation** to the Coast region at the Okoa Sasa Rescue Shelter. The objective was to learn more about the Jasiri Fund Project and its role in supporting survivors to transition into work or business. It also gave them an understanding of the role that shelters play in creating a safe and conducive environment for survivors of GBV to gain voice and agency. The Okoa Sasa Rescue Shelter is one of our key partners who protect girls and women at risk and survivors of SGBV, through rescuing, referrals and rehabilitation.



From the successes and learnings from the first phase of the Jasiri program, the program will be scaled up to deepen its support to most at-risk girls and young women who are survivors of gender-based violence in 16 counties in Kenya that are recording high prevalence rates of Gender Based Violence. The Jasiri Program proposes to scale up the initial pilot intervention. It will expand its scope to address GBV and the heavy load of unpaid care and domestic work as an emerging gender barrier that disproportionately affects adolescent girls and young women living in rural areas and urban informal settlements.

In the scale up we are excited about Increasing utilization and uptake of gender responsive and inclusive financial services/products by young women and young women owned MSME's.

we are also looking to support and collaborate with community skilling partners (Shelters, master artisans) and TVETS to provide skilling opportunities (life skills, apprenticeship, entrepreneurship) to GBV survivors and most at-risk AGYW. Finally, collaborate with national and county governments to address unpaid care and domestic work through policy practice and budget reforms.

Key activities

CREAW was delighted to be part of the launch of Femi Ng'arisha soap products at the Feminist Centre, Kibera. The Centre focuses on strengthening women's capacity to manufacture/produce high quality soap products.



Millicent Aluoch is a devoted mother of five children living in Mombasa County. Her marriage was tumultuous, with Millicent sometimes seeking refuge at her parents' house, trying to escape the violence and discord in her marriage.

Yet, despite the hardships, she found herself going back to her husband, driven by her love for her children and the



desire to keep the family together. One day, after a particularly tough disagreement with her husband, Millicent ran into Joseph, a Community Health Volunteer (CHV) in Mombasa County.

She confided in him, sharing her story of struggles and despair. Joseph empathized with her situation and introduced her to CREAM for support. After the much-needed psychosocial assistance, Millicent was enrolled to the Jasiri Fund program. The objective of the Jasiri Fund program was to empower survivors of GBV by providing them with access to finance, thereby strengthening their recovery and resilience in a sustainable manner. Millicent was onboarded onto the program and began her journey towards transformation.

Through Jasiri Fund, Millicent received valuable trainings on financial literacy, business management, and life skills. The support she received brought forth a newfound sense of courage and self-acceptance, empowering her to face the world with confidence.

Millicent embraced the trainings and psychosocial support, eager to step out of her comfort zone and pursue her dreams of becoming financially independent. She utilized her newfound knowledge and determination to set up and expand her own cereals shop.

average of Ksh. 1000, a substantial growth compared to her previous earnings which were about Ksh 500 a week.

As Millicent's financial stability grows, she has noticed a positive change in her marital dynamics. The respect in her marriage has increased, and the violence diminished. With the newfound financial stability, she is now empowered to contribute to her family's decisions and contributed to a more harmonious environment.

Encouraged by the growth of her business, Millicent aspires to open a wholesale shop and distribute her products across different counties in the country. She has become an inspiration not only to other women facing gender-based violence but also to anyone striving to improve their circumstances and contribute to their family's growth.

With gratitude in her heart, Millicent thanks the Jasiri Fund for being there when she needed it the most. She encourages other women enduring similar struggles to find their strength and pursue opportunities that would empower them to break free from the cycle of

A Journey of Resilience (From Struggle to Triumph)



Shaney Swale, a middle-aged, single parent from Kongowea, Mombasa, thought she has met the man of her dreams in her high school boyfriend. During their nine years of dating, Shaney managed to complete her high school education and was presented with an opportunity to travel to Canada for work.

After spending a considerable time working in Canada, Shaney returned home and moved in with her boyfriend. Little did she know that her life was about to take a turn for the worse. Gradually, the cracks in their relationship began to appear. It was during her pregnancy that everything unravelled between them.

Her boyfriend's behaviour grew increasingly intolerable, subjecting her to mistreatment and body shaming; ridiculing the changes her body underwent during pregnancy. The trauma led to depression. Shaney felt trapped, with no choice but to seek refuge in her parents' home. Overwhelmed by a profound sense of loneliness, she withdrew from the world, reluctant to engage with others or any activity. However, when she found herself cradling her new-born child, she found a renewed sense of purpose.

Shaney embarked on a small business venture, selling chapatis to eke out a modest living. It was during this time that she encountered a friend who introduced her to CREAW, an organization that offered invaluable psychosocial support. Through CREAW, Shaney was enrolled in the transformative Jasiri program, designed to empower women, youth, and individuals with disabilities who had suffered from the effects of gender-based violence. The program aimed to equip survivors with the tools needed to build socio-economic resilience, fortifying them against the onslaught of economic shocks and domestic turmoil.

Shaney immersed herself in the program picking knowledge on business management and entrepreneurship. She qualified for her first loan of Ksh 100,000 which breathed life into her small chapati selling venture transforming it into a flourishing retail shop.



Pillar 4:

Promoting effective participation of women and girls

Introduction

The women in leadership program seeks to increase the number of women in governance and leadership positions through a wide range of strategies that include public sensitisation, engagement with political parties, media advocacy and working with women aspirants.

Our continuous contribution to processes and movements that have secured gains for women in the Constitution of Kenya 2010 have led to more women occupying decision making spaces at all levels of governance.

This thematic focus also seeks to increase presence of women leaders at all decision-making levels across all spheres, as well as promotion of an environment where women are encouraged to lead and succeed. CREAM continues to support amplification of voices and agency of grassroots women in decision making spaces resulting in better agenda setting and prioritization of women's needs.

The initiative "Women's Voice and Leadership – Kenya" (WVL-K) is currently being implemented over a 5-year period by CARE and its implementing partners in Kenya. The project aims to extensively and progressively contribute to gender equality and to an increased enjoyment of human rights by women and girls in Kenya by improving the governance, management, programming, and sustainability of local WROs. This is intended to be actualized by enhancing their ability to deliver quality services, as well as increasing the effectiveness of Kenyan women's rights networks and platforms.

In line with these thematic areas, we also identified and sub granted 8 feminist, youth led civil society organizations (CSOs) to systematically break down structural and cultural barriers that enable gender inequality in the counties of Narok, Kwale, Kiambu and Nairobi by 2025. The project aims to extensively and progressively contribute to gender equality and to an increased enjoyment of human rights by improving the governance, management, programming, and sustainability of eight local feminist- youth-led CSOs.

The eight organizations will be strengthened to expand their focus on supporting and promoting women and girls' rights in the promotion of SRHR and/or fight against GBV. This is under the Piscca Decid'Her program supported by the Embassy of France in Kenya and the Hewlett Foundation.

Key highlights:

In June 2023, Hon. Aisha Jumwa the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action initiated a process to build consensus on compliance to the not more than two thirds. The working group which CREAM Kenya is honored to sit in, brings together both State and Non state actors and is led by the Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action.

It has been tasked with the overall responsibility to ensure that the country finally gets a mechanism to implement the two-thirds gender rule through an inclusive and consultative process



Gender CS Aisha Jumwa launches the two thirds national women steering committee

We were excited to host a pre-award induction workshop for 8 Youth-led feminist Women's Rights Organisation (WROs) who have been selected for the Piscca Decid'Her project. The project focuses on strengthening capacity of organisations to address gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR).



CREAW conducted a Monitoring, Evaluation and Documentation visit to Women's Rights Organisations under the **#WVL** program. Joined by the CARE Kenya team, we engaged the Chepngobob Koshin Women Group in Kericho County, Paran Women's Group in Narok, Smart Ladies in Nakuru and Kerio Rights Organisation in Uasin Gishu. The visit was aimed at reviewing their **#WVL** journey, impact, milestones and challenges.



We took part of the inaugural **#WROFest** where we celebrated the achievements of women rights organisations who work towards achieving increased enjoyment of human rights by women and girls. The festival involved learning, rewarding and celebrating the hard work of the women's rights organisations under the **#WVL** program.



Women Deliver Conference



CREAW as the convening partner for the Deliver for Good Campaign convened globally by women Deliver supported in the planning and organizing of the Women Deliver 2023 conference as members of the Advisory-partners.



The Women Deliver Conference convened over 6,000 people in Kigali, Rwanda and 200,000+ people online through the virtual Conference and sixmonth global dialogue leading up to the Conference.

The audience and delegates were primarily grassroots advocates, multilateral governments, the private sector, philanthropies, and diverse groups of young people, including from and representing communities facing systemic discrimination.

CREAW jointly with other partners organised two concurrent sessions and participated in a number of engagements. We supported the planning of: Together with the Africa Union and AFDB, we organised a concurrent session on Scaling Innovative Solutions to Enhance Women's Access to Finance and leveraged on this regional opportunity to showcase our innovative financial model dubbed 'Jasiri Fund'.

CREAW together with its Deliver for Good (DFG) Campaign partners which also includes GROOTS and convened globally by Women Deliver held an event on 'Trust Based Funding' highlighting the need for funding approaches that are flexible, unrestricted and that center and enable implementing partners (Ips) to deliver effectively for women and girls.

The DFG Campaign focuses on mainstreaming gender equality across the SDGs and leverages on key policy moments at national, regional and global levels.

20 Years of the Maputo Protocol

2023 saw the celebration of 20 years of the Maputo protocol and an announcement. CREAW participated in the official celebration that were held in Nairobi Kenya and supported a Pre-conference on the status of Gender Equality In Kenya and Women rights 20 years on. During the official Maputo @20 Celebration, the Africa Union through the Women, Youth, Gender Directorate announced its new efforts towards a Convention on ending violence against women.

CREAW in partnership with the Rozaria Memorial Trust with support from African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) will be supporting local women Rights organizations to participate effectively in the process of developing the continent's Convention on EVAWG



On Two Thirds, in 2023, we continued with our efforts to ensure a realization of a mechanism, to achieve the two thirds principle.



As members of the Civil Society Parliamentary Network (CSPEN) we developed a response to the memo that the president had written to parliament on issues of concerns. One of the issues identified by the president was the two thirds and he made a proposal on how to realize its implementation and asked parliament to consider it.

In our opinion, we lauded these efforts by the president but raised a number of concerns, key including the formula that he was proposing which in our opinion falls short of the threshold set by the constitution. From this effort, the Cabinet Secretary in charge of gender had a follow up meeting with the key institutions.

From this meeting, it was agreed that a Multi Sectoral Working Group (MSWG) on realization be set up to adequately develop a framework to implement the two thirds gender rule. CREAM was gazetted as one of the institutions to sit in this working group. CREAM continues to support and participate in the MSWG process which will soon be launching their report.

Stories of change

In the busy settlement of Kibera, Makina Ward, Superb Community Based Organisation (CBO) finds its purpose. This feminist women-led organisation is on a mission to challenge the instruments of power that perpetuate violence against the rights of women and girls while amplifying their voices and fostering gender equality.

Superb focuses on empowering adolescents and women on SRHR, economic justice, feminist leadership and advocating for gender equality.



This women's rights organisation was one of those who qualified for the Women's Voice and Leadership (WVL) project in Kenya. The project aimed to contribute to gender equality and the increased enjoyment of human rights by women and girls in Kenya. It was a 5-year grant funded by Global Affairs Canada and is being delivered by CARE Canada, CARE Kenya, UraiaTrust, Centre for Rights Education (CREAW), Community Advocacy and Awareness (CRAWN Trust) and Urgent Action Fund (UAFAfrica).

Superb was a beneficiary of the institutional capacity building in areas such as strategic plan development, HR policies, Finance Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation policy development. They have been able to develop essential frameworks including a comprehensive five-year strategic plan, financial policies, a code of conduct to persons below and over 18 years, a human resources policy and a monitoring and evaluation policy.

These tools empower them to work more efficiently and effectively toward their goals. These interventions have had a direct impact on the organisation and the community at large. They celebrate the historic achievement of Kibera's Makina Ward electing a woman as a member of the County Assembly, for which Superb played a big role in empowering women to leadership roles.

"Superb CBO has directly impacted over 500, 636 beneficiaries in the community since we were empowered by this program. We have also been able to secure more funding due to the capacity building we received on resource mobilisation," Yasmin Mohamed, Superb's Executive Director, reveals.

Superb has also fostered strong alliances with other WROs in the region which strengthen their collective impact and amplify their efforts to drive positive change. Their advocacy impact is visible after launching a petition with Senator Gloria Orwoba which resulted in the introduction of the Sanitary Towels Provision Bill in the Senate aimed at ending period poverty.

"We are dedicated to empowering women and girls, fostering feminist leadership, and advocating for lasting gender equality in Kibera and beyond. We are immensely grateful for Global Affairs Canada, CARE and CREAMW ongoing support, which fuels our commitment to positive change," Yasmin concludes.



New Partnerships

Strengthening Gender Mainstreaming: CREAW and the Council of Governors (COG) Sign MOU

In a move aimed at advancing gender equality and empowering women across Kenya, the Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) and the Council of Governors (COG) have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The agreement, signifies a pivotal moment in fostering a collaborative partnership between these institutions and county governments throughout the nation.



Ms Mary Mwiti, CEO of Council of Governors with CREAM's Director Wangechi Wachira during the signing of the MOU.

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The primary objective of this MOU is to cultivate a genuine and mutually beneficial relationship that will serve as a cornerstone for supporting one another in several key areas, with a particular focus on mainstreaming gender in the practices, policies, and programs of county governments.

This MOU has been developed at a time when Kenya has recorded the third highest teen pregnancy rates globally with Samburu, West Pokot, Marsabit and Narok recording the highest prevalence according to the KDHS 2022 report.

On GBV, it has been reported that 40 percent of women have experience physical or sexual gender based violence, indicating the pervasive nature of gender based violence. Kenya is still yet to achieve parity in women leadership in elective position with female politicians constituting only 10.6 per cent of all elective seats.

The MOU outlines several vital areas of collaboration between CREAM and COG including comprehensive interventions on teen pregnancies, policy formulation and interventions to improve GBV Prevention, Response and Management as well as enhance the meaningful and effective participation of women leaders within the various county government structures.

It will also focus on development, resourcing, and implementation of Gender Policies, Programs, and Priorities, mentorship and capacity building for Women at the County Level, review of the Intergovernmental Framework for the Gender Sector as well as collaborative action on gender Issues with other state and non-state actors.

During the signing ceremony, Ms. Mary Mwiti, the Chief Executive Officer of COG, expressed the MOU's potential to strengthen the partnership between both institutions and county governments.

CREAM, as a partner in this collaboration, will play a pivotal role in championing the development, resourcing, and implementation of gender policies, practices, and programs within Kenya's 47 counties.

Wangechi Wachira, the Executive Director of CREAM, expressed her gratitude for the partnership with COG, highlighting its significance in promoting the meaningful participation of women leaders and addressing critical issues such as gender-based violence prevention, response, and management, with a particular emphasis on teenage pregnancy.

CREAW Partners with Forum CIV for Wajibu Wetu 3

CREAW in partnership with Forum CIV as the lead consortium partner cocreated, developed and are implementing the Wajibu Wetu 3 project, aimed at addressing gender norms and imbalances of power among men and women in targeted communities, particularly focusing on Nairobi (Makadara and Kibra Sub counties) and Narok (Narok North & Narok East Sub County) counties by 2026.



In Wajibu Wetu project, CREAW's main initiative is to strengthen access to and utilization of sexual and reproductive health services for vulnerable and marginalized women and girls. The challenging cultural norms and genderbased violence prevalent in many Kenyan counties continue to disempower women and girls economically, restricting their ability to make decisions about their reproductive health.

The main goal of Wajibu III is to contribute to correcting the inequalities and human rights violations that persist in Kenyan society, limiting the enjoyment of human rights. By focusing on SRHR, CREAM aims to empower women and girls, providing them with the knowledge, skills, and access to services necessary for a safe, full, and productive future.

The project seeks transformative change, enabling vulnerable women and girls to stay in school, delay marriage, and make informed choices about their bodies and futures.





Financial Report

Total Income
Total Expenditure
Program Management
Administration

KES

237,531,812.34
222,450,612.06
202,256,626.27
20,193,986.29

USD

\$ 1,979,431.77
\$ 1,853,755.10
\$ 1,685,471.89
\$ 168,283.22

A stylized illustration of a woman's face, looking upwards and to the right. The background consists of concentric, wavy lines in shades of brown and tan. The woman has dark skin, large eyes, and a small earring. Her hair is styled in a short, curly bob.

Funding Sources

Multilateral Agencies

- Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives
- Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs-French Embassy

Private Foundations

- Master Card Foundation
- Wellsprings Foundation Philanthropic
- Ford Foundation
- William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

UN Bodies

- UNFPA
- UN Women

Other NPOs

- Christian Aid
- Development Initiatives
- Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa (ISLA)
- Forum For African Women Educationalists-Kenya
- Urgent Action Fund
- OXFAM
- AWDF
- Urgent Action Fund
- CARE Kenya
- Deliver for Good
- Porticus
- Kenya Recross Society





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