



# 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

2021 Activity Report  
LWF Kenya-Somalia Program

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# The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Kenya- Somalia Program

## Activity Report



The 16 Days activities featured in this report was supported by Bread for the World, however, this publication does not reflect their opinions or views

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# 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence



[16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence](#) is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25<sup>th</sup> November, the International day for the Elimination of violence against women, and runs until 10<sup>th</sup> December, Human Rights Day.

The global theme for this year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence was "Orange the world: End violence against women now!"

Gender- Based Violence has been a hindrance to personal growth and development to women and girls across the world. It is one of the most pervasive violations of human rights and a huge threat to advancement to women and girls in our communities.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates 1 in 3 women across the world, has been subjected to at least a form of GBV in their lifetime.

This type of abuse can range from physical harm, sexual intimate partner violence and non- partner violence, harmful cultural practices such as FGM, amongst others.

The Kenya 2019 Violence against Children Survey (VAC) report showed an increased trend in physical and sexual violence experienced by adolescents between the ages 13-17. This was worrying.



The 16 Days Campaign is also used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

Violence against women and girls remains hugely persistent.

Women and girls are often subjected to physical and sexual violence by an intimate partner or sexual violence from a non-partner. This trend increased with the outbreak of COVID 19.

While we are still experiencing the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, cases of sexual gender-based violence are still on the rise. This has been fueled by the global economic downturn, school closures and national lockdowns.

In 2020, LWF conducted Gender Impact Assessment in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kalobeyi Settlement and the host community during the pandemic. This assessment showed that there was increased reporting of violence against women, girls and boys.

Combating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence is our major objective. We are focusing on promoting collective responsibility in the fight to eradicate SGBV. This strengthens the capacity of community leaders, children, caregivers, partners and other stakeholders on prevention of SGBV in host community and refugee camp.

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) took lead in the campaign under the theme “Orange the World: #End Violence against Women Now.” We employed different programmatic activities in Kakuma Refugee camp, inviting community members and organizations to participate in events that unite in the struggle to end violence against women.

The campaign was inclusive of women, girls, boys and men and stakeholders working with the community.

### **Campaign Programs**

LWF together with the community spearheaded agendas relevant to the 16 days of activism campaign. We challenged the community to freely talk about Rights, raise their voices especially to raise awareness against violence.

# Kakuma- Kenya

## Highlights from the field



In commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV, LWF Kakuma Program participated in a wide range of activities to create awareness on GBV and empower the community on ways of addressing the situation.

Some of the activities conducted include;

- Integrating sports in anti-GBV campaign
- Boys sessions in schools within Kakuma Refugee Camp
- Girls Sessions in schools exploring harmful cultural practices that negatively affect young girls in the community
- Inclusion art and play therapy
- Film on GBV awareness

## Social Media Campaign

We created awareness on this campaign sharing related content through LWF Kenya-Somalia Social media sites. Our goal was to create awareness on the need to end Gender-Based Violence. We shared resources and materials on GBV to arouse thoughts on ways of eradicating GBV.

A short video was produced to explain to call for action against GBV.

# Integrating sports in anti-GBV campaign



## Friendly match between Kakuma Divas FC and partners

We mobilized communities to promote collective responsibility in the fight to eradicate GBV. A friendly match was played between agency staff and girls from the refugee camp. The activity was aimed at engaging girls through sports as a way of boosting the participation of women and girls during the campaign. We worked to raise awareness on GBV through sporting activities.

## Friendly match between Partners and Kakuma united

This activity was undertaken to promote community responsibility in the fight to eradicate GBV. A friendly match was played between agency staff and Kakuma United FC.



Partners take part in a football match during the 16 Days of Activism Campaign

# Boys Sessions in Schools

Boys to men engagement talk on Gender Based Violence



40 Learners from Kakuma Refugee Camp and 30 from the host community were engaged on a 'speak up' session on harmful cultural practices in schools

During the sessions the boys were taken through how traditional notions of masculinity are associated with greater acceptance of, and risk of perpetration of violence against girls and women.

Through this engagement boys became more sensitized on the negative impacts of GBV .

We partnered with IRC-Kakuma Program to ensure the boys were more enlightened on the roles they can play to reduce GBV cases in their communities.



Boys to men sessions held in school to promote positive roles boys can play to reduce GBV

# Girls Sessions in Schools

We conducted advocacy forums for children in the community to address harmful cultural practices such as FGM

In some communities, FGM goes hand in hand with child marriage. Girls married as children are more likely to drop out of school and become pregnant as teenagers –they face increased risks of dying during pregnancy or childbirth.

Advocacy forum was conducted to 60 cultural and religious leaders from host and refugee camp to Support community-level transformation of social norms and practices. LWF protection staff present, discussed and addressed different GBV issues emphasizing on the risk mitigation activities.



## Session with adolescent girls on Harmful cultural practices

Harmful practices are deeply rooted in social norms and conventions. 40 adolescent girls from refugee camp and 30 from the host community had a session on harmful cultural practices.

The session was to increase awareness on the negative impact of sexual violence on women and adolescent girls as well as society as a whole.

We conducted a speak up session on Child Marriage, Trafficking, Sex Slavery, Rape and Intimate Partner Violence. Participants shared experiences, perceptions and healing processes among themselves.

Bound by international, regional, and national laws LWF has an obligation to grant special protection to children and take appropriate measures to eliminate harmful social and cultural practices affecting the welfare, dignity, normal growth, and development of the child.

# Inclusion Art and play therapy

(Drawings, painting, coloring)

Art and play therapy sessions provide children with a platform to express themselves through drawings and paintings. 40 learners from different schools in Kakuma refugee camp were engaged in Art and play therapy sessions to encourage expression of thoughts on matters related to GBV.



*Children from Kakuma Refugee Camp take part in art and play session during the 16 Days of Activism Campaign*

# Film on GBV Awareness

## " Orange the World: #End Violence against Women Now

50 agency staff members attended the filming of a movie during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence. The film 'A girl from Mogadishu' is a powerful and inspiring film based on the true story of global gender-based violence. It is a testimony of a girl who made the extraordinary journey to escape war-torn Somalia and emerged as one of the world's foremost international activists against Gender Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation. The film is a powerful story of courage, hope, and remarkable determination of refugees."



### Conclusion

During the 16 days of activism campaign, activists around the world use the campaign to further raise awareness about the prevalence and devastating impact of gender based violence. This is to celebrate victories gained by the Women's Rights Movement, challenge policy and practice that allow women to be targeted for acts of violence and demand that violence against women be recognized as an abuse of human rights.

LWF is taking strides to ensure that Women and girls are safe from violence in support of the global effort to end sexual and gender based violence.

# Dadaab- Kenya

## Highlights from the field

LWF Dadaab programme observed the 16 Days of Activism to End Sexual and Gender Based Violence by upholding 5 key commitments:

- Ensure that humanitarian and emergency preparedness and response in country programs include a focus on the prevention of gender-based violence
- Continue to raise awareness of the LWF gender justice policy at head office and country program level and monitor compliance
- Step up advocacy towards ending gender-based violence at the local, regional and global level
- Increase our resource mobilization efforts towards gender-based violence prevention and response programs, including support to survivors.
- Engage with men and boys and community leaders, including faith leaders, to raise awareness, prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

## Sexual and Gender Based Violence awareness among female learners in Dadaab refugee camps



Gender-based violence awareness session for young girls at Central Primary School in Hagadera. Photo: LWF

Celebration of 16 days of activism for 2021 targeted learners in schools across Dadaab refugee camps of Dagahaley, Hagadera and Ifo. Awareness was created for both girls and boys on the importance of protection of women and girls against violence and need for an equal society that value men and women. Learners were given related to gender based violence, safe guarding and protection of children in schools and were also equipped with knowledge to identifying and reporting in case of abuse or violence in schools.

Topics covered during activities included sex and gender, definitions of terms including: victim, perpetrator, accomplice and witness; violence, gender-based violence, school-related gender-based violence, types of violence, root causes of gender-based violence, consequences of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and prevention measures of SGBV. All these topics gave the learners a deeper understanding on the identification of School-Related Gender based Violence (SRGBV) and how to respond to it. Learners understood their contribution on prevention of SRGBV.

The awareness helped learners understand the different types of violence that exist and how to identify that violence. This is important because some of the learners might have experienced these types of violence without their knowledge and thus, they are in a better place to identify them and take the necessary actions when it comes to reporting.

## Training teachers on prevention and response to sexual violence

30 teachers received training covering topics on attitudes towards young people, sex and gender, human and child rights, safe learning environment, school-related gender-based violence, bystander effect and response, direct support, reporting and referral systems and basic counseling skills.

The training was able to achieve a shift of attitudes of teachers relating to gender norms which is considered the root cause of gender-based violence. The attitude shift will ensure that the teachers are capable of promoting gender equality in the school setting so that the learners are able to respect each other's rights. Another important achievement is the direct support the teachers provide to learners who have been affected by SRGBV and how to handle victims of SRGBV. The teachers also got to learn about the different reporting channels that are available and accessible.

## SGBV awareness among persons with disabilities

LWF Dadaab also incorporated awareness on gender-based violence focusing on persons with disabilities by incorporating activities linked to persons with disabilities in the campaigns. A radio talk show at Radio Gargaar FM held in preparation for the International Day for Persons with Disabilities on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021. Community leaders reminded Dadaab refugee and host communities to respect the rights of women and girls who are also living with disabilities. The same message was echoed during celebrations organized by LWF in Hagadera to mark the day for persons with disabilities.



LWF staffer Alfred discussing issues of persons with disabilities in relation to gender-based violence at Radio Gargaar in Hagadera-Dadaab. Photo: LWF

# Jubbaland State - Somalia

## Highlights from the field

The Lutheran World Federation; Kismayo program has been very active in regards to Gender and Protection field areas.

LWF has been promoting and advocating for the gender inclusion especially for girls and women with disabilities.

LWF Kismayo has been an active partner in the annual 16Days of Activism campaigns against gender based violence that kicks off 25<sup>th</sup> November which is the International Day for the elimination of violence against women, and until the 10<sup>th</sup> of December to mark the Human Rights Day within Jubbaland State of Somalia.

In line with the LWF gender Policy and principles, LWF Kismayo has been able to achieve the following to curb GBV against women and girls:

1. Promote gender justice as a theological foundation to proclaim dignity and justice for all human beings and to promote gender equality as a universally recognized human right.
2. Uphold values of dignity and justice, inclusiveness and participation, mutual accountability and transparency reflecting respect for all people's gifts.
3. Apply at regional and local levels the LWF assembly and council decisions regarding inclusiveness and gender and generational balance, ensuring the equal representation and participation of women and men at all levels in decision-making positions
4. Support the empowerment of women as a key strategy toward ending the unequal distribution of wealth and conflict and preventing and responding to gender-based violence
5. To promote gender inclusion, equity and equality within the Somali community level.
6. To allow Women and girls in community participation, role sharing, leadership, decision-making and being an active and useful member in the society.
7. Promote gender justice as a theological foundation to proclaim dignity and justice for all human beings and to promote gender equality as a universally recognized human right.
8. Uphold values of dignity and justice, inclusiveness and participation, mutual accountability and transparency reflecting respect for all people's gifts.
9. Apply at regional and local levels the LWF assembly and council decisions regarding inclusiveness and gender and generational balance, ensuring the equal representation and participation of women and men at all levels in decision-making positions
10. Support the empowerment of women as a key strategy toward ending the unequal distribution of wealth and conflict and preventing and responding to gender-based violence
11. To promote gender inclusion, equity and equality within the Somali community level.
12. To allow Women and girls in community participation, role sharing, leadership, decision-making and being an active and useful member in the society.

## Activities:

### Inter-school Debate Competition

The debate competition was held at the EARC Centre for the CWDs SNE Learners from four schools. The activity targeted both boys and girls from ALP schools and other schools supported by LWF. Four schools took part in the debate:

- Ex-Marine School VS Wamo Stadium School
- Nasrudin School VS Cad Ceed School



*SNE Learners at the LWF EARC Centre*



*SNE Learner on action-proposer*

The debate competition was held to promote social cohesion, gender inclusion and equality, attitude change, disability mainstreaming and to raise awareness on GBV prevention for girls and women at the school level and the community at large. It also promotes on the importance of girl child education in the Somali community.

The participants were given as a motivation; hygiene kits such as facemasks, soaps and refreshments. Learning materials such as books, pencils, erasers and pens were also given to the winning team to motivate them and engage them in the future endeavors.

Schools in Kismayo not only act as cognitive building centers that's a conducive environment for learning and play and co-curriculum activities but also as protection center, but also, they have become the safest and most protective area for children especially SNE Learners considering Somalia's political tension, instability, crimes, violence, insecurity and other related risks.

Education does not only involve in classroom teaching and learning but also other activities where children should have equal opportunities. For example, Sport and other co-curricular activities such as debates, drama and choir, music and arts are important segment of education, and a great opportunity for everyone to feel welcome and accepted.

Teachers have also been trained and promoted by LWF through Jubbaland Teachers Training College (JTTC) to apply individual educational plan (IEP) at timetable level for Children with Difficulty in learning or with Intellectual Disability and all types of disabilities. This impacts positively on learning capacity development, child's mental health and psychological development and overall wellbeing. Thus improving on their social and academic life.

Teachers were given skills and trained to promote community attitude change towards girl child education and children with disabilities. Teachers are also encouraged to provide extra time for tuition and remedial classes for Children with Difficulty in learning or with Intellectual Disability.

# Capacity building training for the SNE and EARC Caregivers at the EARC Hall on SGBV and Ending Violence against women and girls in Kismayo, Somalia



The capacity building training was done in order to enhance discussions on gender inclusion and child protection related issues within the community. Women and girls with disabilities were twice as likely to experience violence as those without disabilities.

The awareness campaign to end violence against women and girls was done to:

- To prevent violence against women and girls.
- To address the specific protection needs of persons at high risk of SGBV (including [older persons](#), [persons with disabilities](#), adolescent girls, children and female heads of household) and take them into account in all programming so as to promote gender equality.
- To address the trauma expressed by victims of violence e.g. SGBV survivors.
- To support women and girl's survivors of GBV in the context of COVID-19.
- To ensure that SGBV survivors can seek a judicial remedy and other support.
- To protect displaced women (IDPs), girls, men and boys against SGBV at all times and in all locations, including in the home, school and work, in public places, on public transport, and at aid distribution points.

Topics covered included:

- Gender and protection.
- How gender and disability equitable practice can create change to end violence.
- Causes and prevention of GBV/SGBV in the community.
- Right-based approaches and referral pathways –To the partners, government, etc.
- Gender equity and equality
- Gender roles and responsibilities at community level.
- Impacts of GBV on family and community.
- Consequences and prevention measures of GBV.

## Conclusion

All the activities have been carried out by the LWF Kismayo team in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Gender, Children, Family affairs and Human Rights, the EARC clients and caregivers, SNE learners and Parents, the community leaders and other stakeholders. All events and activities were carried out successfully with all COVID-19 protocols observed. The participants were also provided with preventive materials for COVID -19 and were also taught on how to practice safe hygiene measures such as handwashing tips since there were suspected cases reported by the Jubbaland State of Somalia, Ministry of Health on Influenza type A and other flu outbreaks.



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LWF Kakuma Area Manager  
Carolyne Wainaina

Technical Advisor- Advocacy and Human Rights  
Lillian Kantai

Contributions: Denise Akun, Sharon Khagweyi, Nashon Tado, Yurub Dakane  
Photos: Denise Akun, Klaus Tongoren, LWF Dadaab & Somalia

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