



# FROM COMMITMENT TO ACTION:

Tracking progress made in the implementation of the 12 commitments in Kenya



# Introduction



# The 6 themes of the ACs:

01

Gender Based Violence

04

Bodily autonomy and Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights (SRHR) 02

Economic justice and rights

05

Feminist Action for Climate

Justice

03

Feminist movements and leadership

06

Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality

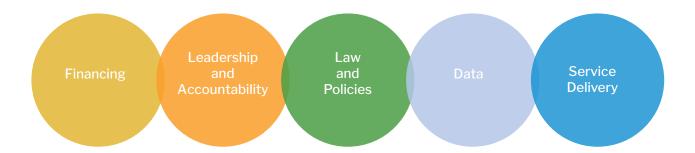
Gender-based violence (GBV) is a pervasive global issue that necessitates comprehensive and concerted efforts for effective prevention and response. In this context, the Government of Kenya, in partnership with various stakeholders, has embarked on the implementation of 12 commitments within the framework of the Gender Equality Forum (GEF). These commitments are aimed at addressing the multi-faceted challenges posed by GBV and FGM, encompassing legal reforms, resource allocation, integration of services, research, and collaborative initiatives. This report presents an overview of the achievements and advancements made in the realization of these commitments as of the year 2023.



# **GEF Commitment Number 1:**

Full implementation of Gender Based Violence (GBV) Laws and Policies by adopting a GBV Indicator in the government performance contracting framework by 2022.

# **Actualizing the 12 Commitments**



# **Achievements**

Progress has been made in the establishment of robust legal and policy frameworks to address gender-based violence (GBV), exemplified by the following achievements:

- **Policy Enhancement:** The National Policy on Prevention of and Response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) 2014 has undergone a comprehensive review. The revised policy is currently pending the necessary approvals, reflecting the government's commitment to strengthening its approach to GBV prevention and response.
- County-Specific Policies: Notable strides have been taken in multiple counties, including Migori, Kisumu, Kisii, Samburu, Isiolo, Garissa, Narok, and Kajiado where tailored GBV policies have been formulated. These localized policies address the unique challenges faced by each county, ensuring that GBV prevention and response strategies align with the specific needs of the communities.
- Collaborative Efforts: The commitment to combat GBV has been furthered through collaborative initiatives. Counties like Turkana and Kitui have drafted Anti-GBV Policies in partnership with the Council of Governors and UN Women. This collaborative approach ensures a unified and comprehensive response to GBV challenges.
- **GBV Indicators in Performance Contracting:** The integration of GBV indicators into the 2022/23 Performance Contracting for Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) represents a significant achievement directly attributed to GEF's endeavors. This step enhances accountability and underscores the commitment to achieving tangible progress in GBV prevention and response at various administrative levels.
- Workplace Policy Development: Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) have taken significant strides in enhancing workplace environments. The development of gender-based violence (GBV) workplace policies within these entities underscores the commitment to fostering safe and inclusive workplaces, free from harassment and discrimination.

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# **GEF Commitment Number 2:**

Investing USD 23 million for GBV prevention and response by 2022 and increasing resource allocation up to USD 50 million by 2026 through a co-financing model. Specifically, the Government of Kenya commits to sustaining the allocation of USD 2.79 million to GBV and FGM and incrementally work towards a minimum budget allocation of USD 5 million for the subsequent financial years and institute an accountability framework for tracking expenditure.

#### **Achievements**

Significant progress has been achieved in the commitment to invest in the prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV), as outlined below:

- Enhanced Financial Commitment: In the Fiscal Year 2021/2022, the Government allocated Kshs. 129M to combat GBV and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). This financial commitment underscores the prioritization of GBV eradication within the national agenda.
- Bilateral Collaborative Endeavours: Noteworthy advancements include an additional allocation of Kshs. 120M as a counterpart fund for the GBV Prevention and Response Kenya-Finland bilateral program spanning from 2021 to 2024. This allocation was further augmented by an additional 8M, demonstrating the government's dedication to crossborder collaborations for GBV eradication.
- **Strengthened Budgetary Allocation:** In the Fiscal Year 2023/2024, the government took substantial steps to fortify the budgetary allocation for GBV eradication. Notably, the allocation for the Ant-FGM board increased significantly from 102 million to 245 million Kshs, reflecting a robust financial commitment to addressing FGM-related challenges.
- Non-State Actor Engagement: Non-state actors have also actively engaged in the financial commitment to GBV prevention and response. Specifically, entities such as UNFPA and UN Women have contributed significantly, allocating 21.3 million and 23 million Kshs respectively to the Anti-FGM board for the Financial Year 2023/24. This collaboration underscores the multi-faceted approach toward resource mobilization for GBV eradication.

# **GEF Commitment Number 3:**

To ratify and implement the ILO Convention 190 on eliminating Gender Based Violence and Harassment in the world of work by 2026 in close partnership with the private sector.

#### **Achievements**

The accomplishments in this commitment are detailed as follows:

- Ratification Process Initiation: The Government of Kenya has taken decisive steps towards
  the ratification and implementation of ILO Convention 190. The commitment to this process
  has been emphasized by the President's announcement, affirming the intention to ratify ILO
  190. This pronouncement demonstrates a significant stride towards enhancing workplace
  safety and gender equality.
- Facilitation Guidelines: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora Matters has contributed
  to the process by furnishing comprehensive guidelines. These guidelines are designed to aid
  in the preparation of a country position paper, thereby facilitating the efficient progression
  of the ratification process. This preparation underscores Kenya's dedication to fulfilling
  international obligations.
- **Gender Champion Training:** Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU) has played a pivotal role in driving the initiative forward. Their effort in training and sensitizing gender champions on the provisions and significance of ILO Convention 190 is commendable.



This training contributes to a heightened understanding of the convention's principles and objectives.

Private Sector Gender Mainstreaming Policy: The Kenya Private Sector Alliance has
exemplified proactive engagement by launching a Private Sector Gender Mainstreaming
Policy. This policy is strategically designed to integrate strategies for eliminating GBV in the
workplace, contributing to a corporate culture of respect and equality.

These achievements collectively underscore Kenya's commitment to fostering safe and respectful workplaces while addressing GBV and harassment through comprehensive policies, training, and collaborative initiatives.

#### **GEF Commitment Number 4:**

Introduction of a module on GBV in the 2022 Kenya Demographic Health Survey (KDHS) to strengthen the utilization of gender statistics in informing the design, scale-up, and evaluation of FGM and GBV programming.

#### **Achievements**

The achievements for Commitment No 4 are outlined as follows:

- **Enhanced Data Collection:** The inclusion of FGM and GBV indicators within the KDHS 2022 questionnaires has resulted in comprehensive data collection. This strategic integration is geared towards bolstering the availability of gender-specific statistics, thereby facilitating a more informed approach to evidence-based policy formulation and program design.
- Finalized KDHS 2022 Report: A significant milestone has been achieved through the
  completion and finalization of the KDHS 2022 report. This comprehensive report serves
  as a valuable resource that provides insights and data on various health and demographic
  aspects, including FGM and GBV. It has been effectively disseminated to both state and
  non-state stakeholders, ensuring widespread access to crucial information for decisionmaking and strategic planning.

# **GEF Commitment 5:**

Developing a GBV management and information system by 2022 to strengthen GBV prevention and response programming.

Progress in fulfilling the commitment to establish a Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) by 2022 is highlighted as follows:

# **Achievements**

- Establishment of GBVIMS: The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) is developing a robust Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS). Once finalized, the system will serve as a pivotal tool for systematically capturing, managing, and analyzing data related to gender-based violence incidents, significantly enhancing GBV prevention and response programming. NGEC will work with key sectors such as health, judiciary, among others.
- Mobile Application for FGM Cases: The implementation of a mobile application system, known as "Pasha," for reporting and managing referrals of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) cases signifies NGEC's innovative approach to addressing GBV-related challenges. This mobile application streamlines the reporting process, ensuring swift and efficient response to FGM incidents.



#### **GEF Commitment 6:**

Invest Kshs.100 million annually for GBV research and innovation to boost evidence-based programming.

# **Achievements**

The advancements in fulfilling this commitment are outlined below:

- Existing Research Agencies: The Government Structure is equipped with established research agencies that serve as valuable resources for GBV research and innovation. Notably, the National Crime Research Centre and other semi-autonomous bodies such as NCPD, KIPPRA, and KNBS contribute to a robust research ecosystem.
- Gender Research and Documentation Center: Within the SDfG & AA framework, the Gender Research and Documentation Center plays a pivotal role. This center enhances the research capacity specifically focused on gender dynamics, thereby contributing to evidence-based programming.
- **Mobilization of Funds for Research and Innovation:** The mobilization of funds for anti-GBV research and innovation is exemplified through the following:
- **Ongoing Consultations:** Collaborative discussions between Kenya and the United Kingdom government highlight a commitment to invest in effective strategies to prevent violence against women and girls. These consultations aim to inform evidence-based programming and interventions...
- Investment Case for Transformative Results: Kenya's Investment Case for the Transformative Results serves as an accountability framework for realizing commitments made during the International Conference on Population and Development+25 (ICPD+25). This framework encompasses aspirations to eliminate preventable maternal deaths, address unmet family planning needs, and eradicate Gender-Based Violence and harmful practices.
- Academic Partnerships: Universities actively engage in partnerships with both state and non-state actors to conduct in-depth research on GBV and gender-related matters across diverse sectors of development.

# **GEF Commitment 7:**

Integrating GBV services - medical, legal, and psychological support services into the essential minimum package of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2022.

#### **Achievements**

Progress in achieving the commitment to the integration of gender-based violence (GBV) services, including medical, legal, and psychological support, into the essential minimum package of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2022 is highlighted through the following accomplishments:

- **Enhanced Access to Justice:** The establishment of 12 Specialized Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) courts contributes to enhanced access to justice for survivors. These courts are dedicated to addressing GBV cases with precision and sensitivity.
- Guidelines for GBV Recovery Centers: Significant strides have been made with the
  development of comprehensive guidelines for the establishment of Gender-Based Violence
  Recovery Centers (GBVRCs). These guidelines serve as a blueprint for creating dedicated
  centers that offer holistic support to survivors of GBV.



- Integrated SGBV Centers: Notably, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) integrated centers, known as Tumaini clinics, have been established in County health facilities within Nairobi. These centers are specifically designed to address SGBV cases, and their operational status is evidenced by the current functionality of 38 Tumaini clinics.
- Emergency Operation Centre for GBV: A vital response mechanism has been put into action with the operationalization of an Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) toll-free line (1508). This line serves as a critical communication channel for GBV and general emergency responses, ensuring swift and effective assistance.
- Operational Private Shelters: The establishment of operational private shelters and GBV rescue centers in 18 Counties, including Kiambu, Nairobi, Nakuru, Nyeri, Kajiado, Kisumu, and others, underscores the commitment to providing safe havens for survivors across diverse regions.
- **GBV IMS by Action-Aid Kenya:** The establishment of GBV Information Management Systems (GBV IMS) by Action-Aid Kenya in 16 counties further amplifies support mechanisms. These systems offer essential legal, medical, and psycho-social support to survivors.
- Holistic Survivor Support Program: The Badili African collaboration, USIKIMYE, has introduced a comprehensive survivor support program. This program focuses on mitigation, response, and reintegration, offering a holistic approach to supporting survivors.
- Convicted Sexual Offender's Registry: As a deterrence measure, the operationalization of a Convicted Sexual Offender's Registry is being pursued. This registry aims to reduce instances of repeat offenders by maintaining a record of convictions.
- **Strengthened County Mechanisms:** The strengthening of coordinated mechanisms within counties is exemplified through the development of dedicated GBV laws and policies. These mechanisms ensure that counties have comprehensive frameworks for addressing GBV.
- **Review of National GBV Policy:** Efforts have been invested in the review of the National Gender-Based Violence (GBV) policy. This policy framework sets the stage for a comprehensive national approach to tackling GBV.
- Government-Run Shelters: Five counties have successfully established shelters that are
  publicly funded, demonstrating a governmental commitment to providing safe spaces
  for survivors. Nairobi County, among others, has developed legal frameworks such as the
  SGBV Act to guide these efforts.
- **GBV Tool-Free Lines:** A roll-out of GBV tool-free lines has been realized through diverse stakeholders, including the 21094 toll-free lines in 14 counties.
- Enhanced Mental Health Referral: The provision of Psychological Support Services (PSS) has reached level 2, with referral facilities like mental health units recommending further engagement with counties to acquire more data.
- Implementation of Protection Against Domestic Violence Act Rules: The enactment of
  the Rules for the implementation and prevention of the Domestic Violence Act reflects
  proactive measures to ensure the implementation of legal frameworks aimed at preventing
  domestic violence.

# **GEF Commitment Number 8:**

Scaling up the National Police Service Integrated Response to GBV '(Policare)' and establishing Gender-Based Violence Recovery Centers and shelters in all 47 counties.

#### **Achievements**

Progress in achieving this commitment is highlighted through the following accomplishments:

• Policare Policy Statement and Procedures: Notable strides have been taken with the launch



of the Policare Policy Statement and Standard Operating Procedures. These foundational documents lay out a structured approach to addressing gender-based violence within the National Police Service.

- **Gazetted Policare Centers:** The Office of Inspector General of Police has taken significant steps by officially gazetting Policare centers in Nairobi and Nanyuki. This official recognition underscores the commitment to providing specialized support for GBV survivors.
- **Institution of Gender Desks:** To facilitate efficient response, gender desks have been established in select police stations. These dedicated desks ensure that gender-based violence cases are addressed with sensitivity and expertise.
- Expansion Plans for Policare: Plans are underway to extend the reach of Policare centers to additional counties. This expansion strategy prioritizes areas with a high prevalence of GBV, including Samburu, Kilifi, and Bungoma.
- **GBVRC Centers and Shelters:** Notably, some counties have successfully established Gender-Based Violence Recovery Center (GBVRC) centers, shelters, and supplementary services such as Child Protection Centres/Units (CPU). These comprehensive support structures cater to the diverse needs of survivors.
- **Guidelines for GBVRCs:** A significant milestone has been achieved with the development and implementation of guidelines for GBVRCs. These guidelines serve as a critical framework for effective and standardized support delivery.
- Safe and Protective Spaces Guidelines: Guidelines for safe and protective spaces have been established. These guidelines ensure that survivors have access to environments where their safety and well-being are prioritized.
- **Optional Protocol for Shelter Centers:** A significant step has been taken with the launch of an optional protocol for the establishment of shelter centers. This protocol further underscores the commitment to providing secure havens for survivors.
- **GVRC Centers in Government Level 5 Hospitals:** The establishment of Gender-Based Violence Recovery Center (GVRC) centers within government Level 5 hospitals is a testament to the comprehensive approach to survivor support.
- **Strengthened Gender Desks:** To enhance response capacity, an increased number of gender desks have been introduced in key police stations. This strategic expansion ensures that gender-based violence cases are efficiently addressed across crucial locations.
- These achievements collectively demonstrate Kenya's dedication to enhancing the National Police Service's capacity to respond to GBV and to provide accessible and comprehensive support through the establishment of Gender-Based Violence Recovery Centers and shelters across all counties.

# **GEF Commitment 9:**

Establishing a GBV survivors fund through a co-financing model in partnership with the private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders for the economic empowerment of GBV survivors.

# **Achievements**

Progress in fulfilling the commitment to establish a GBV survivors fund through a co-financing model in collaboration with the private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders for the economic empowerment of GBV survivors is outlined through the following accomplishments:

• Jasiri Fund Establishment: A collaborative effort involving CSOs like Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development (CCGD), Mastercard, GROOTS Kenya, and Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) has resulted in the establishment of the Jasiri Fund. This fund operates in 10 counties, namely Busia, Kajiado, Kwale, Mandera, Tana River, Kiambu,



Kakamega, Nairobi, Mombasa, and Kilifi, providing substantial support for GBV survivors.

- Action Aid's Survivor Fund: Action Aid has also taken a noteworthy step by instituting a dedicated fund aimed at aiding survivors of violence. This fund contributes to alleviating the burdens faced by survivors and fosters their empowerment.
- **Dignity Pack Implementation:** To mitigate challenges, the government has introduced the Dignity Pack/Kit initiative. This initiative is designed to alleviate the burdens faced by survivors and provide essential support for their well-being.
- **GBV Action Plan:** A significant milestone has been reached with the implementation of a GBV action plan in March 2023. This plan serves as a strategic blueprint, ensuring survivors' access to financial resources and facilitating their recovery through enterprise initiatives such as the SAFER projects, which play a crucial role in addressing and preventing GBV.

#### **GEF Commitment 10:**

GBV prevention and response in crisis situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic response, humanitarian contexts and electoral-related GBV.

#### **Achievements**

Progress in advancing the 10<sup>th</sup> commitment is underscored by the following accomplishments:

- Government Funds Allocated for COVID-19 Response: The government has allocated funds to specifically address the prevention and response to GBV during the COVID-19 pandemic. This allocation reflects a dedicated effort to mitigate the heightened risks faced by individuals during crisis situations.
- Activation of County GBV and FGM Working Groups: The activation of GBV and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) working groups across all 47 counties is a significant achievement. These working groups play a crucial role in coordinating comprehensive responses to gender-based violence within their respective regions.
- Establishment of Active GBV Task Force: An active and functional GBV task force has been established. This task force functions as a strategic hub for coordinating multifaceted responses to GBV issues, thereby reinforcing crisis management efforts.
- Valuable Lessons from COVID-19 GBV Management: The management of GBV during the COVID-19 pandemic has yielded valuable lessons. These insights contribute to the ongoing refinement of crisis response strategies and approaches.
- Studies on GBV Management in Crisis: Comprehensive studies have been conducted on the management of GBV in crisis scenarios. These studies, including an analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on households, provide critical insights into addressing gender-based violence in crisis contexts.
- Introduction of Triple Threat Framework: The introduction of the Triple Threat framework marks a significant step toward activating GBV and FGM working groups in all 47 counties. This framework bolsters the preparedness and effectiveness of responses to gender-based violence.
- **Utilization of ICT for Access to Justice:** Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT), virtual courts have been established by the judiciary and CSOs. The integration of technology, including the use of the 1195 reporting line, facilitates access to justice and data-driven policy interventions.
- **Expanded Mandate of NACC:** The mandate of the National AIDS Control Council (NACC) has been expanded to include the National Syndemic Diseases Control Council. This expansion integrates the consideration of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) into the broader context of syndemic disease control.



#### **GEF Commitment Number 11:**

To strengthen collaboration with non-state actors including girl-led, women's rights organizations, male champions, and the private sector through coordination structures such as the Gender Sector Working Groups at the national and county levels.

#### **Achievements**

Progress towards enhancing collaboration with non-state actors, including girl-led and women's rights organizations, male champions, and the private sector, through coordination structures such as the Gender Sector Working Groups at the national and county levels, as evidenced by the following accomplishments:

- Establishment of Gender Sector Working Groups: The establishment of Gender Sector Working Groups across all 47 counties stands as a significant achievement. These groups serve as pivotal platforms for fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and coordinated efforts among various stakeholders.
- Establishment of Male engagement
- Establishment of the male engagement thematic area has enhanced an inclusive approach to combating GBV/FGM
- **CSOs and Women's Rights Organizations Integration:** Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Women's Rights Organizations are integral components of the GEF structures. Their involvement spans across both the Advisory and the National Steering Committee levels, reflecting a comprehensive and inclusive approach.
- **Operationalization of M-ATC:** The operationalization of the Multi-Agency Technical Committee (M-ATC) to accelerate the elimination of Female Genital Mutilation by 2022 is a noteworthy accomplishment. This committee convenes biannually to strategize and take action toward achieving this critical goal.
- Establishment of County Anti-FGM Coordination Steering Committees: A milestone
  achievement lies in the establishment of county-level Anti-FGM Coordination Steering
  Committees. These committees, chaired by County Commissioners, meet biannually,
  indicating a commitment to eradicating Female Genital Mutilation within their respective
  regions.

#### **GEF Commitment Number 12:**

Adoption and institutionalization of the multi-sectoral GEF Leadership structure comprising the National Advisory Committee, the National Steering Committee, and the county leadership structure to guide the implementation of Kenya's GEF Commitments in the GBV Action Coalition up to 2026.

# **Achievements**

The strides made in adopting and institutionalizing the multi-sectoral GEF Leadership structure, encompassing the National Advisory Committee, the National Steering Committee, and the county-level leadership framework, to guide the execution of Kenya's GEF Commitments within the GBV Action Coalition up to 2026, are evident through the following accomplishments:

• **National Advisory Committee:** A pivotal achievement is the establishment of the National Advisory Committee, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary and co-chaired by the Deputy Chief of Staff from the Executive Office of the President. This committee plays a central role in providing comprehensive guidance for the implementation of GEF initiatives.



- National Steering Committee: Another milestone is the formation of the National Steering Committee, helmed by the Principal Secretary of Gender and co-chaired by the UN Women's Country Representative. This committee spearheads the technical execution of GEF Commitments, ensuring a focused and effective approach.
- **Secretariat Support:** To bolster the implementation efforts of the National Steering Committee, a dedicated Secretariat has been established. This support structure aids in coordinating and facilitating the execution of GEF Commitments, contributing to streamlined efforts.
- Localization of Generation Equality Forum (GEF): Both government entities and non-state actors have effectively localized the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) through the GEF Mashinani campaign, which has been rolled out in various counties. This campaign brings GEF's goals and principles to grassroots communities.
- Localization through intercounty exchange visits
- The Kenya-Finland Bilateral Programme has localized GEF through council of elders exchange visits to in Samburu and Bungoma in the effort to reduce gender-based violence (GBV) and FGM. By bringing together elders from different communities, the exchange visits have helped to break down barriers and promote dialogue, leading to greater awareness and understanding of the issues surrounding FGM and GBV. The outcome has been Maa Declaration to abandon FGM.
- Strong Linkages with GBV/FGM Committees: The leadership structures established under GEF have forged significant linkages with both the National and County GBV/FGM committees. This integration enhances collaboration and ensures a cohesive approach toward addressing gender-based issues.
- Inter-Agency Programme on GBV: The establishment of an inter-agency program specifically targeting the prevention and response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) marks a significant accomplishment. This program fosters collaborative efforts across agencies to combat GBV effectively.
- Partnership in capacity building with local community leadership
- The government has partnered with the Kenya School of Government (KSG), the Kenya Association of Professional Counsellors (KAPC), and Amani Counselling and Training Centre to train duty bearers and nyumba kumi teams in Kilifi, Bungoma and Samburu Counties. They are trained on the Community Policing Programme at KSG, and Counseling at KAPS and ACTC.
- **GBV Sector Working Group:** The formation of a GBV Sector working group underscores a collective commitment to addressing Gender-Based Violence comprehensively. This group serves as a hub for sharing knowledge and strategies in the fight against GBV.
- Anti-FGM Coordination Steering Committees: A notable accomplishment lies in the establishment of Anti-FGM Coordination Steering Committees at the county level. These committees, chaired by County Commissioners, underscore the collective effort to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation.
- Inter-Governmental Framework on Gender Coordination: The creation of an intergovernmental framework dedicated to the coordination of gender initiatives reflects a holistic commitment to promoting gender equality across governmental bodies.



# **Conclusion**

In conclusion, Kenya's resolute commitment to combat gender-based violence (GBV) through the 12 Gender Equality Forum (GEF) commitments is evident in its multifaceted approach. Achievements across these commitments underscore the government's dedication and collaboration among state agencies, non-state actors, civil society, and partners. Sustaining momentum is vital. Continuous monitoring, evaluation, and adaptation are needed. Ensuring marginalized groups benefit is essential for inclusivity.

The lessons from crises like COVID-19 emphasize responsive strategies. Leveraging technology, collaboration, and data-driven approaches remains crucial.

Established leadership structures and specialized centers highlight the importance of collaboration. Ongoing capacity building and advocacy are key for lasting engagement.

As Kenya continues its journey, steadfast dedication, inclusivity, and innovation will drive progress toward a society free from GBV. Achievements form a strong foundation for a more equitable and safer future.

