

# FINAL MIDTERM REPORT

## Mid-Term Evaluation of The Muungano Gender Forum Project for International Solidarity Foundation

*Prepared for*



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**March 2024**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Pan African Research Services Limited (PARS) is grateful to International Solidarity Foundation (ISF)'s project staff who provided invaluable technical and logistical support, enabling the research team provide a true picture of the midterm evaluation for the Muungano Gender Forum (MGF). In particular, our appreciation goes to Ms. Ireneous Kombe (Country Director), Ms. Bella Masanya (Project Manager) Ms. Damaris Simu (Communication Coordinator) and the entire staff who provided valuable support for this midterm evaluation.

We are also grateful to the four implementing partners (Nyamira North Women Sacco, Manga HEART, Bosinya Women CBO and CECOME) for all their endless support in mobilizing the respondents required by the research team, as well as providing additional information needed for this evaluation. Special gratitude goes to all the targeted respondents, community members and all other stakeholders, for availing themselves for interviews.

We are also grateful to the Departments of Gender from both counties led by Mr. Eric Ongeru – CECM Gender Kisii County and Dr. Grace Nyamongo - CECM Gender Nyamira County, for finding time in their busy schedules to provide useful insights, without which, we would not have been able to prepare this midterm report.

Finally, we appreciate PARS project team; Ms. Susan Kahinga (Lead Consultant), Mr. Dennis Arori (Project Manager) and Ms. Lucy Munyi (Project Coordinator) in carrying out the various research activities and preparing this midterm evaluation report.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

Table 1: Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviation	Full Name
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CECOME	Center for Community Mobilization and Empowerment
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender Based Violence
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
IRDO	Impact Research & Development Organisation
ISF	International Solidarity Foundation
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
LVCT	Liverpool VCT
MGF	Muongano Gender Forum
NNWS	Nyamira North Women Sacco
NPS	National Police Service
PARS	Pan African Research Services
SGBV	Sexual Gender Based Violence
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ISF, a Finnish development organization is currently implementing the MGF Project (2022-2025) in Kisii and Nyamira Counties. MGF is a multisectoral platform for discussing women's rights in Kisii and Nyamira counties. Regular cooperation with Kisii and Nyamira County Governments and Gender Sector Coordination Groups continues to enhance coordination among state and non-state actors in effectively addressing gender inequality and social exclusion of women. MGF provides a platform that drives gender equality dialogue among relevant stakeholders.

ISF engaged the services of PARS to undertake a midterm review of the MGF project to assess the implementation strategies applied in the project during the first half (2022-23) of the ongoing project, in order to inform the planning for remaining project period (2024- 25) and 2026-2029 programme in line with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development for Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC) criteria (Relevance, Effectiveness, Coherence, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability)

PARS adopted a participatory and consultative approach in data collection through literature review and qualitative interviews. Secondary data was collected through the review of various documents shared by ISF and from other relevant sources. Primary data was collected from the two counties of Nyamira and Kisii through observations, FGDs (community members, male champions and MGF Steering Committee) and KIIs (County Government officials, National Police Service (NPS), judicial officers, religious leaders, chiefs and others). A total of 10 FGDs and 20KIIs were conducted in addition to observing one forum which was held in Nyamira North Women Sacco (NNWS) during the data collection period.

The following is a **summary of the findings** from the midterm evaluation;

**Relevance:** The MGF project is relevant to the needs of the community as the forums are sensitizing the community on various GBV issues affecting them. These cases include, FGM, IPV, defilement/rape cases, resource allocation inequality among others. The project currently targets the relevant areas of Nyamira and Kisii Counties which have 33% and 35.3 % GBV prevalence rates as per the Kenya Demographic Health Survey 2022. However, more focus has been given to Nyamira County as compared to Kisii County since GBV cases are rampant in both counties.

**Effectiveness:** This section focusses on progress on the achievement of project outcomes and outputs:

*OUTCOME 1: Increased level of trust between community members, chiefs, and police*

*Output 1.1: Chiefs offer victim-sensitive services that respond to the needs of GBV and FGM victims:* The MGF project has involved chiefs through enhancing their capacity in handling GBV cases, and also forming part of the panelists during the sessions. This has improved the trust levels from the community members as they currently report GBV cases to them. However, from interviews during this midterm review, community members do not have full confidence in the handling of these (FGM and GBV) sensitive cases by chiefs due to incidences of collusion with the perpetrators which deny victims/survivors justice.

*Output 1.2: The chiefs follow the national guidelines on SGBV laws:* The midterm review found that most chiefs follow the required national guidelines in handling these cases except for a few who were corrupt and also those who lacked enough knowledge on the same. This underlines the need for the project to continue with sensitization of chiefs to close knowledge gaps as well as work with the justice system to seal corruption loopholes.

*Output 1.3: Community members have trust to the Pasha App and the GBV Toll Free numbers:* Most community members were noted to trust GBV toll free numbers in reporting these cases. The awareness levels of Pasha APP was very low for both the community members and service providers. The main gaps noted were that the Pasha App was not working at all and that the GBV toll numbers were not working efficiently affecting timely reporting of these cases. For the remainder of the project period, the project can focus on increasing efficiency of the GBV Toll Free numbers.

*OUTCOME 2: Increased dialogues on SGBV at family and community level.*

*Output 2.1: Women and girls safely share the SGBV incidents happening in their families and the community at large:* Since the inception of MGF, many women were noted to have improved in sharing GBV cases occurring in their families and even within the community. However, although SGBV dialogues have increased/improved at family and community level, the review notes that the threat of reprimand when women and girls bring out these cases perpetrated by men within the community remains a threat to sustaining this progress. *Output 2.2: Families adopt non-violent domestic conflict resolution methods:* Through MGF, beneficiaries have been able to have more dialogues at family and community level to solve various conflicts. These dialogues have created a platform to have open, respectful and solution-oriented discussions about issues affecting the members at household level and the community at large.

*Output 2.3: Community understands medical services available for SGBV survivors:* The community is currently following the guidelines more especially in handling rape/defilement cases by preserving evidence as they take the victims/survivors for the necessary medical procedures at the health care facilities

*OUTCOME 3: Community members are aware of the importance of women generating income.*

*Output 3.1 Community members are aware of the links between women's economic role and SGBV:* MGF was noted to have improved women empowerment by learning how to generate their own income through various activities like vegetable farming, forming of groups/chamas among others. Men and other community members and leaders were noted to be supporting women in their course to economic empowerment. However, the review noted resistance from some men who still felt that empowerment of women would lead to breaking of marriages. This stems from a notion that when women are empowered, they don't need men in their life leading to higher number of single women in the community.

*Output 3.2 Women have confidence to develop their livelihoods:* Through MGF, women were noted to be coming out in large numbers to generate more income through farming, planting vegetables, forming *chamas* and even extra ordinary jobs like construction. They thus were not sitting in the houses waiting for their husbands to come to their help financially. The review also noted that women

were coming out confidently to demand for leadership positions in order to take lead in matters affecting the community in general.

#### *OUTCOME 4 Relevant people arrive to MGF rural sessions*

*Output 4.1 MGF reaches out to community members :* Relevant people from the community were targeted through MGF forums. This is because there was positive response from men, women and youth as the forums were heavily supported by the community members through large turnouts during the rural sessions. The forums were relevant as they tackled issues directly affecting the community members like FGM, GBV etc.

One gap noted was that while the timings of the MGF sessions were largely friendly to most adult community members, this was not the same for youth more especially those below 25 years who were in various learning institutions. This suggests that most youth are not being adequately reached with messaging which would have long term impact on sustainability of interventions.

#### *OUTCOME 5. MGF has a recognised role in promoting gender equality in Kisii and Nyamira Counties.*

*Output 5.1 All relevant stakeholders in Kisii and Nyamira are familiarised with each project working in the area:* The forums were noted to have brought relevant stakeholders like chiefs, police, health care professionals among others together to sensitize the community members on the importance of peaceful coexistence and respecting the various human rights including the rights of women at family and community level thereby improving gender equality.

Although not initially identified for inclusion by the project, the review found that there is need for inclusion of stakeholders such as those from the education and agricultural sectors in the MGF project for knowledge sharing and economic empowerment for the remainder of the project.

**Coherence:** ISF has managed to bring all relevant stakeholders together who are directly involved in implementation of MGF project. Key stakeholders like Gender departments in both counties and the implementing partners have helped MGF to conduct their planned activities with the support of other stakeholders who have been at the fore front in facilitating the forums and other advocacy events.

However, ISF has not partnered with other actors/NGOs offering sensitization to community members on similar areas like FGM, GBV among others, in the target areas. This has led to duplication of similar activities on the same beneficiaries by the different actors like LVCT, UNICEF, Nuru ya Mtoto, Syndemic Disease Control, IRDO, Implementing Partners etc.

**Efficiency:** The project is currently run by a team of three ISF staff. These staff are able to plan one event per week as per the available economic resources. The project team has demonstrated commendable efficiency in its implementation, showcasing adept project management and execution capabilities. The adherence to set timelines reflects a commitment to timely task completion, ensuring the project activities are on track.

Collaboration with local partners, government agencies, and the steering committee is noted to have played a crucial role in identifying relevant topics, ensuring community engagement, and aligning project activities with local needs. Moreover, the collaboration with community leaders, government

departments, and duty bearers, such as chiefs, has not only facilitated project implementation but has also contributed to policy development and changes in community practices.

While efforts have been made in communication and engagement, there are still gaps mentioned regarding effective communication methods, engagement with key stakeholders like the police and chiefs, and reaching vulnerable groups such as youth and single mothers

**Impact:** The MGF project has demonstrated the transformative power of collaboration in addressing gender-related issues in Kisii and Nyamira counties. The inclusive approach, encompassing partnerships with CBOs, county departments, community members, chiefs, religious leaders, and the collaborative decision-making processes within the project, has significantly contributed to reduction of SGBV cases, FGM cases and increased women economic empowerment.

The project did not reach all the actors as intended. The evaluation findings indicate that there was a challenge in engaging youth through the forums.

**Sustainability:** Empowering community members, especially women, through knowledge, skills development and leadership roles will ensure that they become advocates for change within their communities. Collaboration with local organizations and institutions will integrate project activities into broader development efforts, increasing the likelihood of sustained impact.

However, implementing partners cannot be engaged throughout the project cycle due to limited financial resources in retaining them. This poses a risk to continuity of the project activities after the project cycle.

The following are some of the **key recommendations** from this midterm review;

1. MGF should scale up the interventions in Kisii County. This is because most project activities are currently implemented in Nyamira County.
2. MGF project should have a well-structured way of working with the implementing partners. MGF should focus more on SGBV policy creation and implementation at county and national level and support implementing partners in conducting the grassroot forums on SGBV. ISF should initiate discussions with Gender departments in both counties to bring all relevant actors together. This will help in planning and coordination of various activities to avoid duplication.
3. MGF should also continue capacity building the chiefs in following the national guidelines when handling GBV cases to increase the trust levels. MGF should also organize sessions for men separately so as to sensitize them more on the importance of respecting and empowering women in the society.
4. More resources both human and economic should be deployed for project activities scale up to reach a larger group in both Kisii and Nyamira County. This Includes facilitation/allowances for the steering committee.
5. Establish separate forums specifically targeting youth to address their unique concerns and issues and include topics that resonate with young people and encourage their active participation in discussions. They can be reached through churches and learning institutions (secondary and tertiary).

6. Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track the impact of the project over an extended period. The monitoring can be done monthly, quarterly or semi-annually.
7. ISF through MGF should also lead in establishing holding centers for the victims in both counties for better and quick recovery.
8. ISF should plan to have formal engagements with the implementing partners during the project life period for continuity of project activities after the project.

## 1 INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

### 1.1 Project Background

The International Solidarity Foundation (ISF), a Finnish development organization is currently implementing the Muungano Gender Forum (MGF) Project (2022-2025) in Kisii and Nyamira Counties. MGF is a multisectoral platform for discussing women’s rights in Kisii and Nyamira counties. During the first project phase 2018-2021, the project mainly targeted duty bearers, while also grassroots sessions were piloted. In the second phase (2022-2025), the focus is on the weekly grassroots forums organized within the same locations where ISF implementing partners operate. Regular cooperation with Kisii and Nyamira County Governments and Gender Sector Coordination Groups continues to enhance coordination among state and non-state actors in effectively addressing gender inequality and social exclusion of women. MGF provides a platform that drives the gender equality dialogue among relevant stakeholders. The project brings together state and non-state actors to discuss and share information on addressing key issues and challenges affecting women and girls in the region in effectively addressing gender inequality and social exclusion of women.

### 1.2 Purpose of the Evaluation

The overall purpose of the evaluation was to assess the implementation strategies applied in the project during the first half (2022-23) of the ongoing project, in order to inform the planning for remaining project period (2024- 25) and 2026-2029 programme planning.

Aligned with the OECD DAC criteria, the more specific purpose of the evaluation was to assess:

- ✓ Relevance: Is the intervention doing the right things?
- ✓ Coherence: How well does the intervention fit?
- ✓ Effectiveness: Is the intervention achieving its objectives?
- ✓ Efficiency: How well are resources being used?
- ✓ Impact: What difference does the intervention make?
- ✓ Sustainability: Will the benefits last?

### 1.3 Scope of Work

The table below outlines the project outputs and outcomes we investigated during the midterm evaluation among other areas of the project.

Table 2: Project Outcomes and Outputs.

<b>GOAL: Prevalence of SGBV in Nyamira and Kisii Counties is reduced</b>
<b>OUTCOME 1 Increased level of trust between community members, chiefs and police</b>
Output 1.1 Chiefs offer victim-sensitive services that responds to the needs of GBV and FGM victims
Output 1.2 The chiefs follow the national guidelines on SGBV laws.
Output 1.3 Community members have trust to the Pasha App and the GBV Toll Free numbers

<b>OUTCOME 2 Increased dialogues on SGBV at family and community level.</b>
Output 2.1 Women and girls safely share the SGBV incidents happening in their families and the community at large.
Output 2.2 Families adopt non-violent domestic conflict resolution methods
Output 2.3 Community understands medical services available for SGBV survivors.
<b>OUTCOME 3 Community members are aware of the importance of women generating income.</b>
Output 3.1 Community members are aware of the links between women's economic role and SGBV
Output 3.2 Women have confidence to develop their livelihoods
<b>OUTCOME 4 Relevant people arrive to MGF rural sessions</b>
Output 4.1 MGF reaches out to community members
<b>OUTCOME 5. MGF has recognized role in promoting gender equality in Kisii and Nyamira Counties.</b>
Output 5.1 All relevant stakeholders in Kisii and Nyamira are familiarized with each project working in the area.

#### **1.4 Geographical Coverage for the Evaluation**

Below were the project locations in the target counties;

1. Kisii County: Megogo, Omoenga and Metembe sub-locations
2. Nyamira County: Ekerenyo, Itibo, Magwagwa, Kemera, Irianyi, Bosamaro, Magombo and Manga

We targeted these locations through the following implementing partners;

1. Kisii County: CECOME
2. Nyamira County: NNWS, Manga HEART, Bosinya Women CBO

## 2 METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Data Collection Approaches

PARS adopted a participatory and consultative approach in data collection. A two-pronged approach was adopted; Literature review and qualitative approaches were used.

Literature review entailed a comprehensive review of all relevant documents shared by ISF. These documents enabled us to review and conceptualize the existing situation of project interventions and future plans. These enabled us to plan and develop data collection tools for the midterm evaluation. The documents reviewed as received from ISF were;

- 1) MFG 2022-2025 proposal.
- 2) MFG 2022-2025 activity plan.
- 3) MFG 2022-2025 monitoring plan.
- 4) MFG 2023 annual reporting.
- 5) MFG 2023 Indicator tracking table.
- 6) MFG 2023 Project annual narrative report.
- 7) MFG 2022 Project annual narrative report.
- 8) ISF Project Manual 2022-2025.

Qualitative approach was used to collect primary data through KIIs, FGDs and observations. The evaluation team conducted KIIs and FGDs with relevant stakeholders as listed in the next section below by the use of structured discussion guides as per the evaluation criteria. The team also undertook observations during a forum organized in Nyamira North by MGF on FGM.

### 2.2 Sampling Design and Targeted Respondents

All respondents were purposively targeted as the evaluation team received adequate information (list of respondents and their contacts) from ISF and their implementing partners on all the relevant stakeholders. All targeted interviews as per the inception meeting with ISF at their offices were achieved. Below is a table showing the targeted and achieved interviews.

Table 3: Target and Achieved Interviews

FGDS	Achieved Interviews	KIIs	Achieved Interviews
NNWS Mixed Gender Group (18-35 yrs)	1	ISF Staff	2
NNWS Mixed Gender Group (over 35 yrs)	1	Implementing Partners	4
Manga HEART Mixed Gender Group (18-35 yrs)	1	Gender CECs	2
Manga HEART Mixed Group (over 35 yrs)	1	Health Dept	2
Bosinya Mixed Gender Group (18-35 yrs)	1	Police	2
Bosinya Mixed Gender Group (over 35 yrs)	1	Judiciary/Lawyers	2
CECOME Mixed Gender Group (18-35 yrs)	1	Media	2
CECOME Mixed Gender Group (over 35 yrs)	1	Chiefs	2

MGF Steering Committee	1		Religious leaders	2
Male Champions	1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>			<b>20</b>

**2.3 Data Analysis**

Qualitative information was analyzed and validated at the end of data collection period by the moderators, allowing collective reflection on the information gathered. This helped to triangulate data from different sources to offset any tendency towards biases. Further analysis was done through gridding and thematic analysis.

**2.4 Survey Limitations**

- The evaluation team (PARS) was not able to measure correctly the project outcomes and outputs as the project indicators were not assigned any target at midterm or end term for comparison. This is because, comparing the achieved values against a target gives a true measure in effectiveness.

## 3 RESULTS AND FINDINGS

### 3.1 Introduction

This section presents the results and findings in inform of OECD DAC criteria as per the specific purpose of the evaluation i.e. Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability.

### 3.2 Relevance

**Evaluation Question:** *To what extent do the achieved results (project goal, outcomes and outputs) continue to be relevant to the needs of the beneficiaries?*

Gender equality and women's empowerment is part of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, which were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The Kenyan government in line with these SDG goals has come up with relevant programs like the creation of the Gender department and has developed policies and Acts that advocate against gender inequality e.g., the Anti FGM Act and the SGBV policy. MGF was deemed relevant to the county government, gender department as it was compatible with the SDG goals for gender equality and women empowerment.<sup>1</sup> MGF collaborated with county gender departments to contribute to the development of policies, such as child protection and gender mainstreaming policies, indicating a strategic approach to influencing systemic change.

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*“Muungano Gender Forum under ISF has supported in development of gender mainstreaming policy which is at an advanced stage now. It has been passed in the cabinet and is now awaiting presentation in the county assembly” KII CEC Gender*

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Gender Based Violence (GBV) cases are common in Kisii and Nyamira Counties which have 33% and 35.3 % GBV prevalence rates as per the Kenya Demographic Health Survey 2022. These cases include Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Intimate partner Violence (IPV), defilement/rape, resource allocation imbalance (mostly on ownership and inheritance) among others. The major causes of these cases include; poverty as many people mostly women don't have their sources of income, ignorance on people's rights and channels of reporting, drug abuse and lastly a feeling of superiority of men over women in the community among other causes.

Through the sessions organized by MGF project, the review noted that the community has been sensitized on various areas of GBV. The forums consist of both men and women and they have created awareness to the community members on the negative effects of GBV cases propagated by family members at family and community level. The community has been enlightened on negative effects of FGM on young girls when they become adults, the importance of family members staying together peacefully, women empowerment through creating a source of income from growing vegetables and being involved in *chamas*, handling and reporting of defilement/rape cases without interfering with

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<sup>1</sup> Muungano Gender Forum Project plan 2022-2025

the evidence and equity in property ownership and inheritance by both men and women among others.

Through forums, many people have been reached as compared to those reached by implementing partners alone. Over the last two years/since the start of the project, a good number of people have embraced the project and there is a positive response from the target beneficiaries both direct and indirect which include but not limited to; reduction of FGM cases, improved peaceful communication at family level, improved confidence of women to speak on various issues affecting them before people, women have more knowledge on their rights on property ownership, improved planting of vegetables for sale as a source of income through Soko Freshi and improved early reporting of defilement cases for investigations.

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*“It sensitizes us about Female Genital Mutilation and the disadvantages that come with it. It empowers us as ladies to talk against it and the Government has also emphasized against it by punishing those who advocate for it, through arrests. It is an old-fashioned practice that has to be stopped by all of us. These cases have reduced since the project started” FGD Beneficiaries*

*“Because the project has done more even in creation of awareness. For the time that the project has been running, we have been able to create awareness in the grass roots and even a lot of women are now aware that they can be able to own property and inherit it because that awareness has been done.” FGD Steering Committee*

*“We have seen a change on early reporting of defilement cases as community members come to us immediately or soon as these cases happen. This enables us to do quick follow ups on the evidence and investigations. This is because they (MGF) also sensitize them on reporting those cases early enough so that investigation can commence.” KII Service provider*

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MGF has brought together all relevant stakeholders/service providers for improved response to various GBV cases and aiding victims to get early medical attention and justice. These service providers have been included in various forums as facilitators to educate the beneficiaries and community members. Local leaders like chiefs, religious leaders, clan elders and nyumba kumi leaders have been involved in mobilization of the community members to attend the forums and also in awareness creation through sensitizing them.

Hospitals have recorded improvements as they are currently more equipped to handle GBV cases partly as a result of MGF project. Initially, health care providers feared receiving GBV victims as the hospitals and other health facilities were not well equipped with the necessary facilities to handle these cases. Also, healthcare providers used to stigmatize the survivors due to lack of enough knowledge on how to handle them. Findings from the review showed a more positive attitude with health care providers accepting to receive the survivors and assist them.

Most defilement/rape cases were initially solved through kangaroo courts where the rights of the victims were not considered but the dignity of the perpetrators. The midterm review found that legal processes are now followed in most instances where justice prevails for both the victim and the perpetrator.

The project currently targets relevant areas in both Nyamira and Kisii Counties. However, more focus has been given to Nyamira County as compared to Kisii County since GBV cases are rampant in both counties.

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*“The chiefs, the clan elders and even religious leaders were involved. They supported this project by passing information to the locals. The chiefs took the campaign up and ensured a lot of people in the community are aware.” FGD Beneficiaries*

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*“Initially the hospitals were not well equipped to receive these survivors and we used to stigmatize these survivors. Maybe if someone had been raped or defiled, we were not accepting it fully but nowadays since the last three years with sensitization, the health care personnel have accepted to receive these survivors and assist them.” KII Service provider*

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### **3.3 Coherence**

#### **3.3.1 Internal Coherence**

**Evaluation Question:** *Were you involved in the design of this project? In what ways? Do you think all the necessary people were consulted?*

ISF worked closely with the Gender departments in both Kisii and Nyamira counties in designing MGF project. Other stakeholders who were involved in designing the project were the MGF steering committee which comprises 11 members from both counties and the four implementing partners (Nyamira North, Manga HEART, Bosinya Women CBO and CECOME). Through this partnership various activities around SGBV were proposed and agreed. Other stakeholders like health officers, judicial officers, lawyers, police and the chiefs were identified and roles allocated to sensitize the community through forums as panelists.

All stakeholders in most instances, have been receiving regular updates on the progress of various activities and any challenges encountered on the process of implementation. These stakeholders have also been directly involved in most cases through either mobilization or facilitation to ensure that the project objectives are achieved.

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*“My people here, the directors here, they are also involved in the activities that they do. And they get reports which again get to my desk. Many at times like last week there was the country director ISF, a lady from Kilifi. She was here. We had a good engagement last week. They have been consistent in coming to our offices to tell us what they intend to do and we have also put our input on what we think need to be done.” KII Implementing Partner*

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#### **3.3.2 External Coherence**

**Evaluation Question:** *Are there other actors in place providing the same interventions as MGF Project? If yes mention them? How did the MGF collaborate with these actors to avoid duplication?*

Most of the implementing partners were initially providing similar interventions on GBV before MGF project was introduced. ISF approached these implementing partners for partnerships as they already have good foundation on these areas for easy accessibility to target beneficiaries. But, ISF through MGF continued to offer similar interventions like GFM advocacy among others to the same beneficiaries.

Other actors providing similar interventions mentioned by respondents include LVCT, UNICEF and MoH in Kisii County while in Nyamira County there were actors such as Nuru ya Mtoto, Syndemic Disease Control, Impact Research and Development Organization (IRDO), Afya Plus and local CBOs.

The major challenge is duplication as most of the above-mentioned actors are carrying out relevant activities in the same areas where ISF is conducting the forums. Hence, same beneficiaries are targeted as there is no alignment amongst themselves. These activities include sensitization on FGM, Women empowerment, protection against rape/defilement, women rights. These actors only come together during celebration of events campaigning against SGBV like International Women's Day, 16 days of activism, day of African child, zero tolerance to FGM among others.

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*"I talked of UNICEF and CECOME which is under ISF also as an implementing partner. LVCT is there. We are having a number having the same intervention like MGF." KII Implementing Partner*

*"We have got Nuru ya Mtoto, it is an NGO dealing with HIV and one drivers of HIV is GBV which is one of their programs. We also have Syndemic Disease Control which has come up with triple threat whereby they trained health care workers, elders, chiefs, we have attended their meetings and we have got technical working groups which incorporates county commissioner and some leaders and all the departments incorporated.." KII Service Provider*

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ISF has been able to implement the project easily in Kisii and Nyamira Counties because of the following factors: political good will as cases of disturbances from the political class have never been experienced; involvement of relevant stakeholders; willingness of the community members to be sensitized and readiness to change; good mobilization from chiefs and other local leaders.

### **3.4 Effectiveness**

***Evaluation Question:*** *What other approaches could (strategies and tools) produce better results?*

MGF sessions have enabled ISF to achieve better results on advocacy of SGBV cases at community level. Better results on the same can be further achieved through working together with other organisations offering similar interventions to avoid duplication and reaching more people. ISF can also target learning institutions like secondary and tertiary institution to sensitize students (girls and boys)/youths on SGBV cases. Involving religious leaders during mobilizations as most people view them as role models will also help in reaching more people. Lastly, more capacity building to service providers on responding to SGBV cases and creating holding centers for victims will improve on responding and reporting of these cases.

**Evaluation Question:** *How well have the applied approaches (grassroot forum sessions and advocacy with the counties) and their practical means of implementation contributed to the achievement of the expected results (outcomes)?*

**3.4.1 OUTCOME 1: Increased level of trust between community members, chiefs, and police**  
**Output 1.1: Chiefs offer victim-sensitive services that responds to the needs of GBV and FGM victims**

Through MGF, chiefs and the police have been trained on the steps to be followed in handling GBV cases like defilement/rape, and how evidence should be preserved including the process they should follow before handing over to the courts. MGF included chiefs and police in forums as panelists to train the locals on the same which has improved the trust between the community members and these important duty bearers in handling GBV cases. Chiefs and the police are also working closely with health care providers in handling GBV victims in most instances. This has made most GBV victims report sensitive cases to chiefs as their first point of contact for assistance.

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*“I think I have attended some of the forums and the chiefs talking to the community about rape cases and through MGF they have been taught on the steps to be followed incase such happens and how evidence should be preserved”* KII Implementing Partner

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However, there are some chiefs who have resorted to protecting some people in exchange of money more especially when defilement/rape cases involve family members or people with more money as compared to the families of the victims. These situations have made the GBV victims suffer in silence and therefore lack trust in reporting further or future GBV cases to the chiefs.

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*“If they see like you are poor, your case might not be heard, the perpetrator may use money and the case will be swept under the carpet”* FGD Beneficiaries

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**Output 1.2: The chiefs follow the national guidelines on SGBV laws.**

Chiefs who come from where MGF is carrying out its activities have been capacity built on SGBV laws. These trainings have enabled them in most cases to follow the national guidelines in handling SGBV victims right from the time they are affected until they get medical attention and justice. However, some respondents feel that some chiefs especially the old ones, lack enough knowledge on handling cases as they are sometimes involved in corrupt practices or threatening the victims on behalf of the perpetrators.

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*“Yes, chiefs have been working hand in hand with the people around them like medics and human rights officers and they have made many people aware that no one will be spared in case they are caught doing something that is against the law.”* KII Service Provider

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*“Others handle them well but others also threaten you like, will you go to court and testify that the child has been raped? or what evidence do you have that the child has been raped?”* FGD Beneficiaries

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**Output 1.3: Community members have trust to the Pasha App and the GBV Toll Free numbers**

Pasha App is the application which is supposed to report FGM and GBV cases by community members to ISF and other relevant stakeholders. GBV toll free number is number given to the community members for reporting FGM and GBV cases to ISF and other relevant duty bearers.

Project beneficiaries were noted to be using the GBV toll free number most often as compared to other numbers or reporting avenues. However, there was low awareness of the Pasha App among community members, service providers and even implementing partners. Beneficiaries opined that they trusted the toll free number because of its accessibility, faster response and confidentiality of the information. This has led to many cases being reported to various service providers from different parts of both counties (Nyamira and Kisii). However, during data collection for this the mid-term evaluation, cases of the toll number not functioning as expected were reported.

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*“Actually, they trust the GBV toll number compared to the other numbers. It’s because it is accessible and they get help so fast, it is not something they wait for too long. Also, confidentiality is there with the toll number.” KII Implementing Partner*

*“About Pasha I am not aware but for the GBV toll numbers we do receive phone calls. As you can see the way cases are coming up, people are reporting their cases then you can gauge that the number are being used because how can I know of a case that is at Nyamira if am not called?” KII Service Provider*

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Finally, the following are the issues which have affected optimal performance of this outcome; The community members have not gained full trust in chiefs’ handling of (FGM and GBV) sensitive cases as some of them collude with the perpetrators to deny victims/survivors justice. Some chiefs also don’t follow the SGBV laws due to lack of adequate knowledge. The Pasha App is not working completely and GBV toll numbers sometimes are not working properly as expected which affects timely reporting of these cases. For the remainder of the project period it would be key for the project to work on improving the efficiency of the GBV toll number.

### **3.4.2 OUTCOME 2: Increased dialogues on SGBV at family and community level.**

#### **Output 2.1: Women and girls safely share the SGBV incidents happening in their families and the community at large.**

Since the inception of MGF, many women have gained and improved their courage to share GBV cases occurring in their families and even within the community. This is to make sure that the rights of the victims are protected by seeking justice when those cases occur. Other community members have also shown positive signs in supporting women to make sure that the victims get the necessary help from a health facility in a timely manner while preserving the necessary evidence.

On property ownership and inheritance, women have not been able to come out in large numbers and defend themselves. This is because they still have the perception that men have more rights when it comes to property as compared to women. This has made them loose property to their brothers or close relatives which they would have otherwise owned.

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*“Nowadays women don’t hide if their rights have been violated, most of them come out to discuss about it or even report such cases. When I see people coming to the healthcare facility escorting the girl who*

*has been defiled means that they have started to understand that GBV is not part of us and it need to be stopped.” KII Service Provider*

*“You know something that is in the society especially in Kisii that has been for a long time is that we all leave men to inherit so it will take time for them to realize that this happens and for them to be able to assert their rights?” KII Service Provider*

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### **Output 2.2: Families adopt non-violent domestic conflict resolution methods**

Through MGF, beneficiaries have been able to have more dialogues at family and community level to solve various conflicts. These dialogues have created a platform to have open, respectful and solution-oriented discussions about issues affecting the members at household level and the community at large. This has brought unity within the community members as they work together to seek solutions to their problems peacefully.

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*“Through community dialogues we are able to solve our issues without violence. It has brought unity within the family and community members as we seek solutions to our problems.” FGD Beneficiaries.*

*“Yes, because currently they have been informed on the consequences of engaging in GBV and they are advised if they cannot talk, to involve other members of the community and then the next level that is the chief or police.” FGD Steering Committee*

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### **Output 2.3: Community understands medical services available for SGBV survivors.**

MGF forums have sensitized beneficiaries through various panelists on how to seek for modern medical services in case one has been raped/defiled or abused. Sensitization by various providers on behalf of MGF project has been done also through radios, churches, market places and chiefs' barazas. The community is currently following the guidelines more especially in handling rape/defilement cases by preserving evidence as they take the victims/survivors for the necessary medical procedures from health care facilities.

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*“We are aware that we should take the victim to the hospital within 72 hours and the clinical officers are ready to help us any time and the services are free.” FGD Beneficiaries.*

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Lastly, though SGBV dialogues have increased/improved at family and community level, women have not gained full confidence in sharing GBV ordeals as they fear reprimand when they bring out these cases perpetrated by men within the community. Some men still hold some traditional beliefs of superiority over women thus avoiding sober and non-violent discussion on GBV issues.

### **3.4.3 OUTCOME 3: Community members are aware of the importance of women generating income.**

#### **Output 3.1 Community members are aware of the links between women's economic role and SGBV**

MGF has improved women empowerment through learning on how to generate their own income through various activities like vegetable farming, forming of groups/chamas among others. Skills and knowledge gained from Soko Freshi (Open Trade Fair) exhibitors and also collaborations and networks created have improved the trading knowledge and activities. Generation of their own income has made women to be economically empowered and make proper decisions for themselves as well as advocate for their rights. Men and other community members and leaders have also supported women in their course to economic empowerment.

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*“When you are told to educate women about economic empowerment the very first thing you do is educate them about gender-based violence and human rights.” KII Implementing Partner.*

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However, some men still feel that women don’t need to be empowered a lot as this will break marriages. This stems from a notion that when women are empowered, they don’t need men in their life leading to higher number of single women in the community.

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*“It is good to empower them (women) but not to much as this will break our marriages as they will not lead us which is bad to young girls.” FGD Beneficiary*

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### **Output 3.2 Women have confidence to develop their livelihoods**

Through MGF, women are coming out in large numbers to generate more income through farming, planting vegetables, forming *chamas* and even extra ordinary jobs like construction. They are currently not sitting in the houses waiting for their husbands to come to their help financially.

Women have also come out confidently to demand for leadership positions as they want to take lead in some matters affecting the community in general. These positions will also enable them to create a livelihood for themselves and other fellow women.

Through Soko Freshi by MGF project, women have been actively involved in learning and have been exposed to income generating activities and joining the groups to support their businesses.

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*“Soko Freshi has opened our eyes and we are now knowledgeable on various activities we can do and get money. For farming, we are aware on where and who to sell our products to after harvesting them.” FGD Beneficiary*

*“Even in the leadership positions, women are playing a key role and it starts from our offices because we have a number of women who are clan elders. We were even advocating for a lady to become a chief in one of our locations because they do better than men.” KII Service Provider.*

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### **3.4.4 OUTCOME 4 Relevant people arrive to MGF rural sessions**

#### **Output 4.1 MGF reaches out to community members**

Relevant people from the community were targeted through MGF forums. This is because there was positive response from men, women and youth as the forums were heavily supported by the community members through large turn outs during the rural sessions. The forums were relevant as they tackled issues the community members are going through or suffering from.

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*“Absolutely, yes. most of the domestic or partner intimate violence are among grown-ups and not children and we targeted men and women including youth.” KII Implementing Partner.*

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*“Most especially when they talk to youth about stopping drugs, talking to women on GBV, so I think those are the right people to talk to.” KII Service Provider.*

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The evaluation team attended one forum organized by MGF in Nyamira North on FGM and observed that the community members who attended this session were really engaged throughout the session as they were asking and responding to questions posed to them by the moderator/panelist. The moderator also had enough knowledge on the subject matter as she highlighted the negative effects of conducting the cut on young girls and responding to various questions raised during the session. Below are some images from that session.

Figure 1: MGF session in Nyamira North on FGM



One gap noted was that while the timings of the MGF sessions were largely friendly to most adult community members, this was not the same for youth more especially those below 25 years who were in various learning institutions. This suggests that most youth are not being adequately reached with messaging which would have long term impact on sustainability of interventions.

### **3.4.5 OUTCOME 5. MGF has a recognised role in promoting gender equality Kisii and Nyamira Counties.**

**Output 5.1 All relevant stakeholders in Kisii and Nyamira are familiarised with each project working in the area.**

MGF sessions brought together various stakeholders like implementing partners, chiefs, police, health care providers, lawyers, judicial officers and gender departments from both Kisii and Nyamira Counties among others. These panelists have sensitized the community on the need to respect the rights of both gender within the society and the importance of staying together peacefully and in harmony.

Initially, women were perceived as lesser human beings in the society but through MGF sessions and other advocacy events, community members have improved knowledge on women rights, women empowerment rates have improved and the overall situation and perception of women has positively changed. Women are currently respected and consulted by men in matters affecting the family and the community in most cases.

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*“I can say this without doubt, that where MGF has gone the society has not remained the same. People have started viewing the other gender as people who have equal rights and entitlements.” KII Service Provider.*

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*“I’ll look at it on this perspective, when a woman knows her rights, when she is empowered economically, when she has been capacity built, it makes that woman air her grievances. Sometimes back women were not heard, they were called names and shouted at but as per now people have understood that it is wrong.” KII Service Provider.*

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Through MGF project, various stakeholders have learnt on how to work together to achieve better results in dealing with GBV cases. The project has improved the coordination mechanisms on helping the victims and survivors from the various duty bearers who sometimes are panelists in MGF sessions.

Stakeholders from the education and agricultural sectors also need to be involved in MGF project for knowledge sharing and economic empowerment.

### **3.5 Efficiency**

**Evaluation Question:** *Is the use of human and economic resources efficient in relation to the project’s achievements?*

**Human Resources:** There are only three staff attached to the project (Project Manager, Communications Coordinator and an Accountant. These staff are only able to organize one event per week and these events have been successful in relation to project achievements through observing implementation timelines, stakeholders’ collaboration and engagement, utilization of local capacities and adaptations to natural occurrences.

**Economic Resources;** The available resources are only adequate for one event per week by providing facilitation, refreshments and merchandise to the facilitators and those who attended the forums as beneficiaries.

**Implementation Timeline:** All the project activities have been implemented within the timeline set for them. This suggests efficiency in project management and execution, meeting the deadlines and ensuring timely completion of tasks.

**Stakeholders Collaboration:** Team collaboration, stakeholder engagement, and the use of merchandise during forums to motivate community members were also factors that contributed to project efficiency. The project efficiently collaborated with duty bearers, such as chiefs and nyumba kumi leaders, ensuring their active participation and support. This collaboration enhanced the effectiveness of the project in addressing issues relevant to these stakeholders. Engaging local partners as implementing partners also increased efficiency in terms of mobilizing the community through making phone calls to chiefs and direct interaction in the community is a supporting element in increasing efficiency.

**Utilization of Local Capacities:** The project identified and utilized local capacities, such as local panelists and moderators, effectively. Engaging local resources efficiently contributed to the success of the forums and outreach activities.

**Adaptation to Natural Occurrences:** The project has demonstrated flexibility by adapting forums to suit community events. For instance, scheduling forums in the evening if rains occur in the morning shows an efficient response to local circumstances.

**Evaluation Question:** *Are the communication methods efficient? What kind of communication methods and channels could be used to make the project more efficient?*

The project utilized different communication methods, including phone calls and face-to-face interactions. Findings indicate that Phone calls and WhatsApp were an efficient means of communication especially for engaging duty bearers like chiefs who may not have email addresses.

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*“The communication has been efficient because, usually when we want to make, the arrangement for the activity MGF communicate earlier to the project staff who do the mobilization. And we do it, plus they usually do it on Facebook, WhatsApp and Phone calls.” KII implementing partner*

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The project allocated resources for various items such as T-shirts, caps, pens, books, and bags, which served as incentives and promotional materials. These merchandises create awareness of MGF and its activities in the community. Additionally, food is supplied during sessions to ensure the comfort and attendance of participants. The MGF utilized these resources as a strategy to motivate and involve individuals during forums. This approach has yielded positive outcomes in terms of raising awareness, engaging stakeholders, and fostering community motivation to participate in the forums.

Findings from the evaluation indicate that the communication methods are effective but could benefit from enhancements to improve efficiency. For example, MGF can expand the use of digital platforms such as social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) to reach a wider audience including the youth. Develop engaging content, share updates about project activities, success stories, and relevant information related to gender equality and women's empowerment. Implement SMS campaigns to send targeted messages about upcoming forums, key discussions, and reminders to community members. Voice messaging can also be effective, especially for reaching those who may have limited literacy skills.

**Evaluation Question: Is collaboration with key stakeholders efficient and mutually satisfying?**

Collaboration is integral to the Muungano Gender Forum project, involving partnerships with local organizations, stakeholders, county departments, and the community. The collaborative approach ensures a more comprehensive and impactful response to gender-related issues in Kisii and Nyamira counties.

**Partnership with Local Organizations:** The project collaborates with local partners, including community-based organizations (CBOs), to address gender-based violence (GBV) issues. Muungano Gender Forum complements implementing partners activities by addressing topics such as land issues, legal matters, and wider gender-related issues that the implementing partner focus on. This complementarity enhances the overall impact of the MGF in the community by covering a broader range of needs and providing diverse perspectives and solutions.

**County Collaboration:** The project has an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Nyamira County, indicating a formal collaboration. There is collaboration with county departments, including gender, health, education, and agriculture, working closely with these departments helps in policy development, advocacy, and the alignment of project activities with broader county initiatives. Through the collaboration, MGF has supported in the development of policies, such as child protection and gender mainstreaming policies. This collaborative effort ensures that the project aligns with and contributes to broader policy frameworks.

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*“Muungano gender has supported us in most of our engagements, financially to ensure we have that. And their input for the gender mainstreaming policy for Kisii county and child protection again for Kisii County. These are the two policies we have partnered with Muungano Gender Forum to ensure that they are concluded.” KII CEC Gender.*

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However, the evaluation found there were challenges with county collaboration particularly the Kisii County government where there were financial demands and delays in signing agreements. These challenges indicate an area where mutual satisfaction could be improved through more streamlined processes and effective communication channels.

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*“We have never had issues with Nyamira but Kisii we have had issues with them because sometimes the county government makes financial demands that we are not able to meet, last year we were doing the drafting policy and they made some financial demands that we couldn’t meet” KII Implementing staff*

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**Community Collaboration:** The Muungano Gender Forum created a collaborative space within the community where men, women, and youth actively participated in discussions. The forums facilitated dialogue and collaboration among community members to address gender-related issues.

**Engagement with Chiefs and Religious Leaders:** Collaboration with chiefs and religious leaders was crucial, as they play influential roles in the community. Their active participation in forums and collaboration with the project contribute to community acceptance and the success of interventions.

While efforts have been made in communication and engagement, there are still gaps mentioned regarding effective communication methods, engagement with key stakeholders like the police and

chiefs, and reaching vulnerable groups such as youth and single mothers. Improving communication strategies and targeted outreach is crucial for ensuring inclusivity and effectiveness

**Collaborative Decision-Making:** Collaboration within the project extended to decision making processes, with the steering committee being involved in identifying issues and topics for discussion. This collaborative approach ensured that the forums addressed the most relevant and pressing concerns within the community.

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*“if there's a topic on FGM we usually discuss with the local leaders where maybe the cases may be high. So that's when we decide to hold the forum, the area where the cases are high, if there are land cases are high, we also look for an expert who usually go to the area where the cases arise so that we may address the issue” KII Steering committee*

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**Unmet Expectations:** Findings indicate that community members sometimes have expectations of incentives like transport reimbursements, which Muungano doesn't provide. This could lead to disappointment or dissatisfaction among participants, potentially affecting their engagement or attendance in future forums.

**Target Audience Inclusivity:** While the project has targeted men and women, there's a need to focus more on engaging men actively. For example, in Nyamira county the MGF targeted women and girls only. Men and boys were not included in the forums. There is need to consider implementing strategies specifically designed to attract more men to the sessions and ensure their active participation. This could include tailored messaging, outreach through platforms men frequent, and creating safe spaces for men to discuss sensitive topics related to GBV.

**Evaluation Question:** *Are there actors and/or institutions whose engagement could improve the efficiency of the project?*

**Government Agencies:** Strengthening collaboration with relevant government agencies, especially those focused on gender, health, education, and agriculture. This could include closer ties with local health departments, educational institutions, and agricultural extension services.

**Healthcare Providers:** Engaging healthcare providers, including hospitals, clinics, and community health workers, can improve access to medical services for GBV survivors. Training healthcare professionals on GBV protocols, providing counseling services, and establishing referral pathways for survivors can enhance the project's impact on addressing health-related aspects of GBV.

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*“The media has some authority or command some authority in terms of pushing a narrative, and therefore they need to be empowered to put this more in the media so that they can reach more people.”*  
KII Service Provider

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**Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):** Collaborating with other CSOs working on GBV prevention, women's rights, human rights, and community development can leverage resources, share best practices, and amplify advocacy efforts. CSOs often have grassroots networks, expertise in community engagement, and experience in implementing projects that complement the goals of the MGF project

**Private Sector:** Explore partnerships with the private sector, especially businesses and industries operating in the region. Private sector engagement can bring in additional resources, expertise, and opportunities for economic empowerment initiatives.

**Community-Based Organizations (CBOs):** Identify and collaborate with smaller, grassroots-level organizations that have a deep understanding of local dynamics. These organizations can play a crucial role in community mobilization and grassroots-level interventions.

**Establish partnerships with youth organizations** to specifically address the needs and challenges faced by young men and women. Involving youth-led initiatives can bring fresh perspectives and innovative solutions.

**Media and Communication Platforms:** Engaging media outlets, social media influencers, and communication platforms can enhance outreach and awareness campaigns. Utilizing media channels for public education, storytelling, and advocacy can reach a wider audience and stimulate conversations about GBV, gender equality, and human rights.

**International NGOs and Development Partners:** Engage with larger international NGOs and development partners that have experience in gender-related projects. These organizations can provide technical expertise, share best practices, and contribute to the project's overall effectiveness. This will enhance strength and sustainability as well as the impact.

**Evaluation Question:** *To what extent is the steering committee represented from Kisii and Nyamira and the relevant to the project*

Participants emphasized the importance of involving key stakeholders from both Kisii and Nyamira counties in the steering committee. They highlighted that for effective change, the involvement of stakeholders from both areas is crucial. However, Kisii County is not adequately represented in the 11-member steering committee and there is need to add more members from Kisii to ensure a more balanced representation.

The steering committee highlighted the importance of additional training in several key areas to enhance the project's effectiveness. Training sessions or workshops to improve engagement with county government officials, understanding government roles in GBV, navigating bureaucracy, advocating for policy changes, and building partnerships. Training on media advocacy techniques, such as message development, pitching stories, using social media, and engaging with various media outlets. Training on how to integrate gender perspectives into all project activities, addressing gender-specific challenges, promoting equality, and understanding power dynamics. Trainings on legal advocacy strategies, including understanding GBV laws, advocating for reforms, and supporting survivors through legal processes.

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*Advocacy strategies, what is the best way I can reach the governor instead of going to his office, media advocacy, when I go to the media, what should I communicate, general advocacy and also gender mainstreaming in all our aspects. The other day my area chief was calling me that there was a case for under age boy and girl who were married and their parents were comfortable with that so we need the basic legal information on how to handle such cases and the referral pathways. FGD steering committee*

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### 3.6 Impact

**Evaluation Question:** *Are the applied strategies and activities reaching (all) relevant actors?*

**MGF grassroots forums-** which were organized by the implementing partners/steering committees or chiefs were the main avenue for reaching the target beneficiaries. The advantage of this approach was the wide reach at the grassroots level. However, the community felt the MGF has not been able to reach the youth because they don't attend church or the chiefs barazas.

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*"Yes, church elders' chiefs boda-boda leaders, schools' teachers that is it has reached everybody. But in all that there are still some people like the young men who have not yet been reached because they do not attend church, they do not also attend the chief barazas they are normally radical alcoholics and drugs but also the percentage has also reduced"* FGD Beneficiaries

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The aim of the MGF was to address the social norms that perpetuate SGBV among other gender equality issues. The community has become more aware of gender-related issues, with improved knowledge on topics such as domestic violence, female genital mutilation (FGM), and family planning. Findings from the community members indicate that there is a decrease in domestic violence, indicating a positive impact on family relationships. Also, positive changes in men's behavior were reported, reflecting a shift towards more responsible and supportive roles within the family. Another impact has been confidence for women and girls in reporting cases of abuse, indicating a positive change in attitudes and a willingness to seek help.

This indicates MGF reached the target beneficiaries and contributed to community cohesion by addressing social issues collectively through dialogue, education, and awareness.

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*"I've been seeing people coming to court asking about the process of marriage. Requesting information on how to go get a marriage certificate. Something that they did not know existed before. There is also an increase in the number of cases for succession. People did not use to do succession"* KII Service Provider

*"Before the introduction of these groups, people used the kangaroo courts in case of defilement, they used to handle it at community level and leave it at that but currently because of this sensitization and the law, nowadays once the perpetrators have been arrested, the case proceeds to the courts"* KII Implementing Partner

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MGF Steering Committee is formed once every 2 years and it comprises of members from ISF partners, community leaders, church leaders, relevant line ministries and CSO's from Kisii and Nyamira. Their roles are to identify the topics, moderators and panelists for each forum and ensure a follow-up of the action points from the forums. The steering committee was able to select topics which were relevant to the local community and to engage the communities with ease. They were also able to deliver on spot feedback on the emerging issues during the forums. The inclusive approach, targeting people from different positions within the community has ensured its success.

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*“Because the steering committee are key, during forums they meet earlier, they do meetings early enough, they decide on the topic of discussion. And then they give their opinion on what has happened and what they want the projects to achieve” KII Implementing Partner*

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The implementing partners are local CSOs with a long-standing reputation within the communities. They have the knowledge and networks to influence the community. MGF partnered with them for support in localizing the project to ensure continuity acceptance and sustainability of the project activities

The Muungano project collaborates with local partners, including community leaders, chiefs, nyumba kumi (neighbourhood watch) representatives, and religious leaders. These local partners played a crucial role in supporting and participating in the forums, bringing their insights and perspectives to the discussions. The project also collaborates with various government departments, including the county's gender, health, education, and agriculture departments. Regular meetings are held to share progress and activities, fostering a collaborative relationship with key government stakeholders.

The project actively collaborates with county governments, especially in the gender department, to develop policies. Policies related to child protection and gender mainstreaming have been developed in collaboration with the counties, indicating multisectoral engagement in policy formulation.

**Women Empowerment:** Women's empowerment is evident in the reported positive changes. The project has empowered women economically, encouraging practices like maintaining kitchen gardens and participating in savings groups. This economic empowerment enhances unity and reduces financial stress within families. The program has contributed to women gaining confidence, generating income, and reducing dependency on husbands, thereby enhancing overall family well-being.

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*“When a woman has her own money, it increases unity and togetherness because men are not asked to take care of too many financial responsibilities. It has also empowered us as women by encouraging us to start chamas and do planting of vegetables.” FGD Beneficiaries*

*“When a woman becomes economically empowered, it helps in reducing cases of violence because now the man is not going to get angry with you because you ask for everything from the husband, even when he is stressed because he doesn't have money.” FGD Beneficiaries*

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**Men's Engagement:** Involving men in the forums has resulted in positive changes such as improved communication between fathers and daughters and a better understanding of gender equality thus embracing the concepts discussed in the forums. However, it was noted in Nyamira County MGF targeted only women, thus men were not reached. This was observed during the discussion groups which were attended by women only.

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*“men have been attending these forums and they have learnt that, it is not good to beat their wives, we are all equal because we use to think women are not very important in the society.” KII Implementing Partner*

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*Before men were not involved in, matters like, girls' issues. These were roles for women, but through the Muungano forum which has, which has in preached equality. The roles have been accepted that even men*

*have accepted that they can do the roles that women usually used to do in our traditional Kisii setting. KII Implementing partner*

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*“Men have also learnt that they should not force their wives to give them conjugal rights, they should give them time to prepare and this has helped to reduce domestic violence because initially when a woman refuses to give in, they will be beaten.” FGD Beneficiaries*

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**Capacity Building for Service Providers:** The project focuses on building the capacity of service providers, ensuring they are equipped to respond effectively to cases of GBV. This includes training sessions for those responsible for handling such cases, such as staff in the gender and social services department, the chiefs and the police as the first respondent’s to SGBV cases.

**Legal Advocacy and Justice:** The project emphasizes on the importance of pursuing justice for survivors of GBV. This involves following reported cases through the legal system, collaborating with higher offices, and advocating for the rights of survivors. The commitment to addressing bureaucratic challenges in the legal process is highlighted.

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*“Before the introduction of MGF, people used the kangaroo courts in case of defilement, they used to handle it at community level and leave it at that but currently because of this sensitization and the law, nowadays once the perpetrators have been arrested, the case proceeds to the courts.” KII Service Provider*

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The project did not reach all the actors as intended, from the findings it emerged there was limited youth engagement: The evaluation findings indicate that there is a challenge in engaging youth effectively in the forums. Despite efforts to involve them, such as having separate forums for them, there seems to be a gap in attracting active participation from young people. This could be seen as a negative aspect in terms of fully engaging all demographic groups, especially considering the importance of youth involvement in addressing gender issues.

**Evaluation Question:** *Have the project interventions led to some unintended (positive or negative) outcomes?*

**Engagement of Men in GBV Discussions:** The project successfully engaged men in discussions about GBV through men-only sessions, which was not initially planned but has led to a broader impact in addressing key perpetrators of GBV cases. Some men have also come to share their GBV incidences

**Evaluation Question:** *What kind of strategies and activities should be undertaken to strengthen the project impact?*

Provide regular training and capacity-building sessions for the steering committee, duty bearers, and community members as well as focus on enhancing the skills of local panelists, moderators, and community leaders to effectively facilitate discussions. Provide regular and updated training for duty bearers, such as the police and chiefs, on handling GBV cases, preserving evidence, and following legal procedures.

Strengthen collaboration with existing partners and explore opportunities for new partnerships. For example, collaboration, the courts have a children community users committee program which ISF can join and enlighten the community about the plight of children in the two counties.

Increase the frequency of MGF rural sessions to maintain continuous engagement with the community.

Address various topics in each forum to ensure a comprehensive approach to gender-based violence (GBV) issues. Include drug and substance abuse discussion within the forums because this is the cause of most cases of domestic violence within the community.

Establish separate forums specifically targeting youth to address their unique concerns and issues and include topics that resonate with young people and encourage their active participation in discussions. For examples issues related to gender-based violence (GBV), education, and early pregnancies.

Involve the clergy, heads of institutions to talk about SGBV in their sectors of influence, this would increase awareness level and reach more community members.

Enhance the project's online presence with more active and engaging social media campaigns.

Use platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to share project updates, success stories, and relevant information.

Collaborate with educational institutions that is schools and educational institutions to integrate awareness programs on GBV and gender equality

into the curriculum. Conduct workshops and seminars for students and educators to address specific challenges faced by young people.

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*“We need to involve the clergy, chief, police. We involve the teachers and of course head of institutions. We involve all these people. Heads of institutions need to be educated. The clergy when they are in church need to talk about these things and so forth. If it is talked about from all sectors, the support will be big and then we will achieve more.” KII Implementing partner*

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MGF needs to hold frequent stakeholder engagement and capacity building. Continuous training will ensure a sustained impact. Consider implementing ongoing training sessions with the implementing partners, steering committees, chiefs and any other stakeholders. This could involve periodic refresher courses or addressing new challenges that may arise in the community. Increase the frequency of steering committee meetings to ensure ongoing collaboration, share updates, and discuss emerging issues.

Continue and expand income-generating activities within the community to empower women and youth economically, reducing their vulnerability to GBV and implement programs that focus on skill development, especially for single mothers and widows, to enhance their employability and economic independence.

Strengthen engagement with media houses, ensuring that spokespersons effectively convey the project's goals and messages. Consider media campaigns during key advocacy events.

### 3.7 Sustainability

**Evaluation Question:** *What kind of strategies should be undertaken to strengthen the sustainability?*

The evaluation notes that the activities undertaken by MGF were largely sustainable. For example, imparting knowledge to implementing partners was sustainable since most of these groups are registered and have been working with the community thus can continue to create forums to transform the community. The knowledge gained also remained within the community since these organized groups are from the same communities

Increased level of awareness of women and girls on their rights, what constitutes gender-based violence; the available pathways of getting justice in case they are violated and capacity enhancement of service providers health, community leaders, police and chiefs on how to handle and report GBV cases will contribute greatly to the sustainability of the project.

The project increased the awareness and knowledge on gender inequality and social exclusion of women. A change in the attitudes and behaviors of the community was noted, from FGD discussion it emerged the community is currently following the guidelines in handling the medical procedures of GBV victims by seeking modern medical services in cases of rape or beatings by spouse instead of seeking justice from Kangaroo courts. Discussion with chiefs indicated a reduction in violence against women and girls.

The evaluation found out that men are the main perpetrators of GBV and because the project reached a good number of men as men champions, there is likelihood that the outcomes will be continued after the project in the specific areas where the project was implemented.

In addition, the MGF work in influencing policy reforms in relation to the gender mainstreaming policies ensures that the reforms are protected by law and policy and thus sustainable. At the same time the high level of collaboration and networking witnessed under this programme with County department of Gender, the police, chiefs and hospital staff has created capacities that will enable these organizations continue create awareness and to seek for improved service delivery

The MGF fostered Community ownership and participation by involving local communities in the planning, decision-making, and implementation processes. MGF Steering Committee which comprises of members from ISF partners, community leaders, church leaders, relevant line ministries and CSO's from Kisii and Nyamirais tasked with identification of topics, moderators and panelists for each forum and ensure a follow-up of the action points from the forums. The inclusive approach, targeting people from different positions within the community ensured its success and sustainability.

Women empowerment is important as it reduces financial stress within the families at the same time given women financial freedom. The project has empowered women economically, encouraging practices like maintaining kitchen gardens and participating in savings groups. From the findings it emerged the program has contributed to women gaining confidence, generating income, and reducing dependency on husbands, thereby enhancing overall family well-being. However, it was noted there is need to empower women's groups by building their organizational capacity. Strengthening these groups will ensure that they continue to address gender issues and support community development initiatives beyond the project duration.

Two main threats to sustainability of the MGF were noted from this evaluation.

Although the implementing partners indicated they had measures in place to ensure continuity of activities and were confident in sustaining these beyond MGF funding there were concerns raised on funding of some of the activities including community forums. This calls for a better strategy in partner engagement in the future of ISF's with a more mutual benefits relationship as opposed to transactional ones. For example, where both parties recognize their roles in providing solutions to the problem and are keen to continue in this discourse to create impact in the community and as opposed to a relationship that is more on funder and grantee and that ends once the funding ends.

Implementing partners cannot be engaged throughout the project cycle due to the expenses required in retaining them. This poses a risk to continuity, thus need to look at more sustainable approaches for example peer to peer learning which would ensure knowledge remained within the reach of community members and that there was a high number of those who could share information. The number of implementing partners were also not sufficient especially in Kisii in ensuring wide coverage of wards and ensuring information reached a large number of people. Thus, peer to peer learning would boost these efforts in that there are additional resource persons within the community. This can also be strengthened by forging strong partnerships with local institutions, including schools, religious organizations, and community groups. This integration can enhance the sustainability of project activities by embedding them in existing community structures. Networking can open up opportunities for collaboration, resource sharing, and mutual support, contributing to the sustainability of the project.

Survey participants proposed an establishment of resource and support centers within the community that can serve as safe spaces for victims of gender-based violence (GBV). These centers can offer counseling, legal support, and community resources.

## 4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 4.1 Conclusions

#### 4.1.1 Relevance:

Through the sessions organized by MGF project, the community has been sensitized on GBV; Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Intimate partner Violence (IPV), defilement/rape, resource allocation imbalance (mostly on ownership and inheritance) among others. Through forums, many people have been reached as compared to those reached by implementing partners alone.

MGF has brought together all relevant stakeholders/service providers for improved response to various GBV cases and aiding victims to get early medical attention and justice. These service providers have been included in various forums as facilitators to educate the beneficiaries and community members.

Hospitals have recorded improvements as they are currently more equipped with facilities and skills to handle GBV victims. This has been partly contributed by MGF project. Initially, health care providers feared receiving GBV victims as the health facilities were not well equipped with the necessary facilities. Also, healthcare providers used to stigmatize the survivors due to lack of enough knowledge on how to handle them.

Most defilement/rape cases were initially solved through kangaroo courts where the rights of the victims were not considered but the dignity of the perpetrators. Currently, legal processes are followed in most instances where justice prevails for both the victim and the perpetrator.

The project currently targets the right areas in both Nyamira and Kisii Counties which have 33% and 35.3 % GBV prevalence rates as per the Kenya Demographic Health Survey 2022. However, more focus has been given to Nyamira County as compared to Kisii County considering that GBV cases are rampant in both counties.

#### 4.1.2 Effectiveness:

The following is a summary of the various project outcomes and outputs as per the midterm evaluation findings:

*OUTCOME 1: Increased level of trust between community members, chiefs, and police*

*Output 1.1: Chiefs offer victim-sensitive services that respond to the needs of GBV and FGM victims:* The MGF project has involved chiefs through enhancing their capacity in handling GBV cases, and also forming part of the panelists during the sessions. This has improved the trust levels from the community members as they currently report GBV cases to them. However, from interviews during this midterm review, community members do not have full confidence in the handling of these (FGM and GBV) sensitive cases by chiefs due to incidences of collusion with the perpetrators which deny victims/survivors justice.

*Output 1.2: The chiefs follow the national guidelines on SGBV laws:* The midterm review found that most chiefs follow the required national guidelines in handling these cases except for a few who were

corrupt and also those who lacked enough knowledge on the same. This underlines the need for the project to continue with sensitization of chiefs to close knowledge gaps as well as work with the justice system to seal corruption loopholes.

*Output 1.3: Community members have trust to the Pasha App and the GBV Toll Free numbers:* Most community members were noted to trust GBV toll free numbers in reporting these cases. The awareness levels of Pasha APP was very low for both the community members and service providers. The main gaps noted were that the Pasha App was not working at all and that the GBV toll numbers were not working efficiently affecting timely reporting of these cases. For the remainder of the project period, the project can focus on increasing efficiency of the GBV Toll Free numbers.

*OUTCOME 2: Increased dialogues on SGBV at family and community level.*

*Output 2.1: Women and girls safely share the SGBV incidents happening in their families and the community at large:* Since the inception of MGF, many women were noted to have improved in sharing GBV cases occurring in their families and even within the community. However, although SGBV dialogues have increased/improved at family and community level, the review notes that the threat of reprimand when women and girls bring out these cases perpetrated by men within the community remains a threat to sustaining this progress. *Output 2.2: Families adopt non-violent domestic conflict resolution methods:* Through MGF, beneficiaries have been able to have more dialogues at family and community level to solve various conflicts. These dialogues have created a platform to have open, respectful and solution-oriented discussions about issues affecting the members at household level and the community at large.

*Output 2.3: Community understands medical services available for SGBV survivors:* The community is currently following the guidelines more especially in handling rape/defilement cases by preserving evidence as they take the victims/survivors for the necessary medical procedures at the health care facilities

*OUTCOME 3: Community members are aware of the importance of women generating income.*

*Output 3.1 Community members are aware of the links between women's economic role and SGBV:* MGF was noted to have improved women empowerment by learning how to generate their own income through various activities like vegetable farming, forming of groups/chamas among others. Men and other community members and leaders were noted to be supporting women in their course to economic empowerment. However, the review noted resistance from some men who still felt that empowerment of women would lead to breaking of marriages. This stems from a notion that when women are empowered, they don't need men in their life leading to higher number of single women in the community.

*Output 3.2 Women have confidence to develop their livelihoods:* Through MGF, women were noted to be coming out in large numbers to generate more income through farming, planting vegetables, forming *chamas* and even extra ordinary jobs like construction. They thus were not sitting in the houses waiting for their husbands to come to their help financially. The review also noted that women were coming out confidently to demand for leadership positions in order to take lead in matters affecting the community in general.

#### *OUTCOME 4 Relevant people arrive to MGF rural sessions*

*Output 4.1 MGF reaches out to community members :* Relevant people from the community were targeted through MGF forums. This is because there was positive response from men, women and youth as the forums were heavily supported by the community members through large turnouts during the rural sessions. The forums were relevant as they tackled issues directly affecting the community members like FGM, GBV etc.

One gap noted was that while the timings of the MGF sessions were largely friendly to most adult community members, this was not the same for youth more especially those below 25 years who were in various learning institutions. This suggests that most youth are not being adequately reached with messaging which would have long term impact on sustainability of interventions.

#### *OUTCOME 5. MGF has a recognised role in promoting gender equality in Kisii and Nyamira Counties.*

*Output 5.1 All relevant stakeholders in Kisii and Nyamira are familiarised with each project working in the area:* The forums were noted to have brought relevant stakeholders like chiefs, police, health care professionals among others together to sensitize the community members on the importance of peaceful coexistence and respecting the various human rights including the rights of women at family and community level thereby improving gender equality.

Although not initially identified for inclusion by the project, the review found that there is need for inclusion of stakeholders such as those from the education and agricultural sectors in the MGF project for knowledge sharing and economic empowerment for the remainder of the project.

#### **4.1.3 Coherence:**

**Internal Coherence:** ISF worked closely with the Gender departments in both Kisii and Nyamira counties in designing MGF project. Other stakeholders who were involved in designing the project were the MGF steering committee and the four implementing partners (Nyamira North, Manga HEART, Bosinya Women CBO and CECOME). Other stakeholders like health officers, judicial officers, lawyers, police and the chiefs were identified and roles allocated to sensitize the community through forums as panelists. All stakeholders in most instances, have been receiving regular updates from MGF staff on the progress of various activities and any challenges encountered on the process of implementation.

**External Coherence:** Most of the implementing partners were initially providing similar interventions on GBV before MGF project was introduced. Other actors providing similar interventions mentioned by respondents include LVCT, UNICEF and MoH in Kisii County while in Nyamira County we have Nuru ya Mtoto, Syndemic Disease Control, Impact Research and Development Organization (IRDO), Afya Plus and local CBOs. The major challenge is duplication as most of the above-mentioned actors are carrying out relevant activities in the same areas where ISF is conducting the forums. These actors only come together during celebration of events campaigning against SGBV like International Women's Day, 16 days of activism, day of African child, zero tolerance to FGM among others.

#### **4.1.4 Efficiency:**

There are only three staff attached to the project (project Manager, Communications Coordinator and an Accountant. These staff are only able to organize one event per week and these events have been successful in relation project achievements through observing implementation timelines, stakeholders' collaboration and engagement, utilization of local capacities, adaptations to natural occurrences. The available economic resources are only able to plan one event per week by providing facilitation, refreshments and merchandise.

The project utilized different communication methods, including phone calls and face-to-face interactions. Findings indicate that Phone calls and WhatsApp were an efficient means of communication especially for engaging duty bearers like chiefs who may not have email addresses.

The project allocated resources for various items such as T-shirts, caps, pens, books, and bags, which served as incentives and promotional materials. These merchandises create awareness of MGF and its activities in the community.

Media engagement by utilizing local media, including radio and TV, as part of its advocacy was a good strategy of reaching a larger audience. However, representatives of MGF during the shows should be well knowledgeable to convey the project's goals and messages.

Collaboration is integral to the Muungano Gender Forum project, involving partnerships with local organizations, stakeholders, county departments, and the community. The collaborative approach ensures a more comprehensive and impactful response to gender-related issues in Kisii and Nyamira counties.

Government Agencies (Education, Agriculture, NPS); private sectors (businesses & industries for resources and expertise); International Development Agencies (Funding, technical support and access to global best practices in gender equality and GBV prevention).

Kisii County is not adequately represented in the 11-member steering committee and there is need to add more members from Kisii to ensure a more balanced representation.

#### **4.1.5 Impact:**

MGF project has demonstrated the transformative power of collaboration in addressing gender-related issues in Kisii and Nyamira counties. The inclusive approach, encompassing partnerships with CBOs, county departments, community members, chiefs, religious leaders, and the collaborative decision-making processes within the project, has significantly contributed to its impact.

The MGF project has demonstrated commendable success in reaching and impacting its target beneficiaries by employing a variety of strategic approaches. The project's grassroots forums, organized by implementing partners, chiefs, and steering committees, have been pivotal in disseminating information and fostering community dialogue. However, the community's feedback highlights a notable gap in reaching the youth, who may not participate in traditional forums.

The project's impact on women's empowerment, economic activities, and family dynamics underscores its holistic approach to addressing gender-related issues. Additionally, the positive changes observed in men's behavior and the capacity building for service providers and legal advocacy highlight the project's multifaceted strategy in creating sustainable change.

#### **4.1.6 Sustainability:**

Muungano Gender Forum (MGF) project has demonstrated significant achievements in promoting gender equality, addressing gender-based violence (GBV), and empowering communities in Kisii and Nyamira counties. The project's focus on grassroots forums, stakeholder collaboration, capacity building, and women's empowerment has yielded positive outcomes and contributed to sustainable change within the communities.

The project's success in reaching diverse actors, including community leaders, women, men, and service providers, showcases its inclusive approach and effectiveness in fostering dialogue, awareness, and behavior change. The active involvement of implementing partners, steering committees, and local institutions has enhanced the project's impact and sustainability by ensuring local ownership and continuity of activities beyond the project duration.

Despite these achievements, the evaluation has identified potential threats to sustainability, such as funding limitations, partner engagement challenges, and the need for continuous capacity building. To address these threats and ensure the long-term sustainability of the project, it is recommended to diversify funding sources, foster mutually beneficial partnerships, implement peer-to-peer learning initiatives, strengthen local institutions, establish resource and support centers, focus on capacity building for women's groups, and promote community networking and collaboration.

## **4.2 Recommendations**

### **4.2.1 Relevance:**

Taking into consideration the availability of resources, MGF should scale up the interventions in Kisii County. This is because the project is currently implemented more in Nyamira County than Kisii County. This will make even the County (Kisii) to have more representation at the MGF Steering Committee as compare to its current constitution. The committee should also have more people from Judiciary, NPS and education department.

MGF should also stick to its initial mandate of conducting advocacy at the county level, influencing policies/to make policies that are supporting whatever the partners are doing on the ground. This will avoid duplication and enhance effectiveness on dealing with GBV cases at county and national level.

MGF should continue capacity building all relevant stakeholders including service providers and MGF Steering Committee on advocacy issues and handling of GBV cases to increase their knowledge and capacity on dealing with these cases.

### **4.2.2 Effectiveness:**

We recommend that MGF should also continue capacity building the chiefs in following the national guidelines when handling GBV cases to increase the trust levels. This is to ensure that chiefs are able to receive all the cases without community members bypassing them due to fear of corruption and other issues. The capacity building should also be enhanced to other relevant service providers for better delivery of services.

MGF should also organize sessions for men differently so as to sensitize them more on the importance of respecting and empowering women in the society. This will reduce GBV cases as men are at the center of these cases.

MGF should also plan to target more areas especially in Kisii County and sensitize people on GBV cases and property ownership by women which is a major area of concern in both Nyamira and Kisii Counties. More people can additionally be reached through churches and learning institutions (secondary and tertiary). This is because in churches, people have trust on their religious leaders and in secondary schools and colleges/universities, more young people will be reached.

#### **4.2.3 Coherence:**

ISF through MGF project should have a well-structured way of working with the implementing partners. This is because, currently most implementing partners are involved in inviting their members and others to the forums without a structured way of working together. This has led to duplication of activities which makes ISF not to be really felt on the ground.

ISF should initiate discussions with Gender departments in both counties to bring all relevant actors together. This will help in planning and coordination of various activities to avoid duplication. This will also ensure that more people are reached by same interventions from different actors. The respective county government departments are also ready to have this discussion for the benefit of the community members at large.

#### **4.2.4 Efficiency:**

A robust and multifaceted communication strategy is needed for MGF success. By embracing the influence of religious leaders, collaborating with local influencers, harnessing technology, and tailoring messages to specific community needs, Muungano can foster widespread awareness and participation.

The integration of cultural sensitivity, continuous feedback mechanisms, and innovative approaches will ensure a dynamic strategy that resonates with the community, building trust and sustained commitment. Through this holistic communication framework, Muungano can not only disseminate vital project information but also create a lasting impact that resonates across diverse segments of the community, fostering collaboration and shared success.

#### **4.2.5 Impact:**

The project can create a big impact to the community and other stakeholders through the following activities:

**Conduct Stakeholder Workshops:** Organize workshops to train religious leaders, influencers, and community figures on effective communication strategies. This will ensure a consistent and aligned message across all channels.

**Regular Community Forums:** Establish regular community forums, both in-person and online, to facilitate open discussions, address concerns, and gather valuable feedback. This creates a sense of inclusivity and involvement.

**Community-Specific Content:** Develop tailored content addressing the unique needs of specific community groups, such as single mothers. This can be achieved through targeted workshops, forums, and informational materials.

**Community Ambassador Program:** Establish a community ambassador program where individuals from within the community actively promote project messages. This peer-to-peer approach can enhance trust and engagement.

**Regular Training Updates for Religious Leaders:** Schedule periodic training sessions for religious leaders to keep them informed about project progress, challenges, and success stories. This ensures they remain effective advocates for the project within their congregations.

**Evaluate and Adapt:** Implement a continuous evaluation process for the communication strategy, considering feedback, data analytics, and the evolving needs of the community. This adaptability ensures the strategy remains effective over time.

**Social Media Campaigns:** Launch targeted social media campaigns to reach a younger audience. Share engaging content, success stories, and calls to action to encourage online participation and discussion.

**Online Community Forums:** Establish online community forums or discussion groups to complement face-to-face interactions. This would facilitate continuous engagement, allowing community members to share experiences, ask questions, and provide feedback conveniently.

**Training on Digital Literacy:** Provide training sessions on digital literacy, especially for duty bearers like chiefs who may not be familiar with certain digital communication tools. This ensures that all stakeholders can effectively utilize the chosen communication channels.

**Regular Evaluation and Feedback:** Implement a structured system for regular project evaluation and community feedback. This could involve surveys, focus group discussions, or online feedback forms to gather insights on the effectiveness of communication methods and project impact.

**Expand Merchandise Strategy:** Expand the use of merchandise as a motivational strategy. Consider creating branded materials that not only serve as incentives during forums but also act as ongoing reminders of the project's presence in the community.

**Incorporate Gamification:** Introduce elements of gamification in community engagement strategies. This could involve organizing friendly competitions, quizzes, or interactive games related to project themes. Gamification can make the communication process more engaging and memorable.

**Capacity Building of Panelists (stakeholders):** Continuous trainings will increase the knowledge shared. This will in turn improve the response rate and handling of GBV victims towards creating a society free of violence. Health care providers can be trained on forensic, psychosocial and five modules for the healthcare. Journalists can be trained on project intricacies, ensuring accurate and compelling coverage that resonates with the community.

**Collaborative Events:** Collaborate with other community organizations to host joint events or initiatives. This fosters a sense of unity and can expand the reach of project messages through shared networks. ISF should Collaborate with county government and health departments to reduce alcohol

and drug abuse as well as rehabilitation of the affected community members to strengthen efforts in reduction of GBV incidences.

#### **4.2.6 Sustainability:**

We recommend the following activities for the sustainability of the MGF project:

**Regular Stakeholder Engagement:** Maintain open lines of communication with community members, local organizations, and other stakeholders. Regularly solicit feedback to identify evolving needs and adapt strategies accordingly.

**Invest in Training and Capacity Building the community:** Allocate resources for continuous training and capacity building, ensuring that community members are equipped to lead and sustain project activities. Focus on building the organizational capacity of women's groups to enhance their effectiveness.

**Advocacy for Policy Change:** Engage in ongoing advocacy efforts at local and national levels to influence policies that support gender equality, health, and community development.

Collaborate with government bodies to integrate project principles into broader development strategies.

**Diversify Income-Generating Initiatives:** Explore a variety of sustainable income-generating activities that cater to the diverse skills and interests of the community. Encourage entrepreneurship and innovation among project participants especially women.

**Technology Integration:** Continuously assess and improve the use of technology for reporting and addressing gender-based violence. Provide regular training on technology use, ensuring that the community is comfortable with and benefits from these tools.

**Long-Term Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track the impact of the project over an extended period.

**Create Knowledge-Sharing Platforms:** Develop a centralized platform for sharing experiences, best practices, and challenges among project participants, stakeholders, and similar initiatives. Facilitate peer learning and collaboration to strengthen the collective impact.

#### **4.2.7 MGF Steering Committee's Recommendations:**

MGF steering committee was selected from the project areas in Kisii and Nyamira Counties. They support the project with up-to-date information with regards to gender equality and related concerns from the community, thus helping in the selection of relevant topics, panelists for discussion among other activities. This is important as it connects ISF to the needs of the community members. The following are the specific recommendations from the Steering Committee on the MGF project;

- Establish holding centers for the victims in both counties for better recovery.
- Involving religious people to bring together various groups of people within the community.
- Creating booklets and brochures for people to have written information for sustainability.

- Capacity building the committee on advocacy so that they can understand the initial objectives of MGF project for scale up purposes.
- MGF project should avoid carrying out similar activities where implementing partners are to avoid duplication. But instead, go to other areas and also focus on policy implementation at county and national level. Also, MGF should meet the implementing partners so as to develop the road map of project activities.
- MGF should be closely monitor and regulate their panelists and those who represent them on media to make sure that the correct information is passed to the target audience.
- Lastly, MGF should review the allowances of the steering committee due to the prevailing economic situation in the county and globally.

## 5 ANNEXES

### 5.1 Data Collections Tools



MFG\_FGD Guide  
\_MGF Steering commi



MGF\_FGD  
Guide\_Community Me



MGF\_KII Guide\_ISF  
Implementing Partner:



MGF\_KII  
Guide\_Service Provide

### 5.2 Terms of Reference



Mid term Evaluation  
Consultant Muungano