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**UNLOCKING THE POWER OF WOMEN IN CLIMATE ACTION  
AND RESILIENCE: LOCALIZATION OF KENYA'S NATIONAL  
ACTION PLAN II ON UNITED NATIONS SECURITY  
RESOLUTION 1325 IN KAJIADO COUNTY.**



**Date:** November 9 to 10, 2023

**Location:** Enchula Resort, Kajiado County

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## **UNLOCKING THE POWER OF WOMEN: LOCALIZATION OF KENYA'S NATIONAL ACTION PLAN II ON UNITED NATIONS SECURITY RESOLUTION 1325 IN KAJIADO COUNTY.**

On November 9 and 10, 2023, County Governance Watch through the Kenya Electoral Conflict Civic/ Voter Education Support (ECCES) program supported by USAID Kenya through Act Change Transform in partnership with the National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management, held a Workshop on the Annual Report and Localization of the Kenya National Action Plan II on Women, Peace and Security in Kajiado County. Over the decades the importance of women's engagement in peace processes has been recognized through the numerous international, regional, national, and institutional frameworks. The landmark United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 recognizes the relationship between women peace and security and the critical importance of women's meaningful participation in addressing the four Pillars - Participation, Prevention, Protection, Relief and Recovery. Kenya ratified, and domesticated resolution 1325 through the development of a National Action Plan. The first KNAP was implemented for a period of 3 years 2016 to 2018 while the 2nd KNAP was launched in May 2020 for a period of five years 2020-2024.

The workshop on the Kenya National Action Plan (KNAP) on UNSCR 1325 took place from November 9 to 10, 2023. Key stakeholders, including government officials, NGOs, and community leaders, participated in discussions led by County Governance Watch through (CGW). The workshop aimed to sensitize participants on the KNAP, align local efforts with UNSCR 1325, and foster collaboration for effective implementation. Presentations from various organizations emphasized the intersectionality of women's issues, climate change, and conflict dynamics. The meeting brought together various actors that included Women in Peace, Peace committee representatives, the County Government- Gender Department, Women Leaders, Youth Leaders, and the office of the County Commissioner among others.

## 1.0 Objective of the workshop:

- 1) To create awareness of Kenya National Action Plan (KNAP 2) on UNSCR 1325
- 2) To sensitize key stakeholders to facilitate local ownership of women, peace and security, including climate governance.
- 3) To draw draft local action plans establishing the relevance of KNAP at the county/local level.

## 2.0 Output of the Workshop

- 2.1 More than Fifty stakeholders including the county government of Kajiado, civil society organizations, and special interest groups, were successfully engaged, ensuring a diverse range of perspectives and collaborative efforts for effective implementation.
- 2.2 Comprehensive understanding of UNSCR 1325 and the importance of localizing the Kenya National Action Plan (KNAP), with a specific focus on Kajiado County. The workshop also identified root causes affecting women, such as tribalism, land grabbing, political imbalance, and socio-cultural issues, which enabled targeted interventions to address the specific challenges faced by women in the region.
- 2.3 Developed work plans for Pillars 1 and 2 to increase women-led participation in county decision-making, and adopt gender-responsive institutional, and community-level interventions that prevent conflicts.

## 3.0 Outcome of the Workshop

### Introduction, Keynote Speeches, and Opening Remarks

- 3.1 During the workshop, CGW Program Manager, Ms. Edna Miriti, initiated the proceedings by providing introductions and setting a conducive atmosphere for effective engagement. She encouraged active participation and emphasized the significance of open communication. Ms. Miriti underscored the need for collaborative efforts in addressing women's, peace, and security concerns, emphasizing the importance of sustainable solutions.



Figure 1: Opening Remarks from partners (Act Kenya and Women Peace Climate Justice and Resilience Association)

- 3.2 Ms. Magdalene Kaeti, ACT expressed enthusiasm about the workshop, highlighting ACT's role as a multi-stakeholder organization addressing societal, environmental, and governance challenges. ACT collaborates across sectors, including the private sector and NGOs, to tackle critical issues such as human rights, governance, resource management, and climate change. Their comprehensive strategy involves partnerships, initiatives, and strategies to address complex challenges, with a focus on preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE) by engaging local communities.
- 3.3 Dr. Skitter Ocharo, Executive Director of Women Peace Climate Justice and Resilience Association, emphasized their organization's focus on women's issues in the context of climate change. Their holistic approach integrates key areas like climate change, technology, mental health, and financial management to empower women. Using tools like the KNAP scorecard, the organization assesses and monitors women's contributions to sustainable development and environmental planning. Dr. Ocharo highlighted their commitment to creating equitable and resilient communities by addressing climate change- induced conflicts through empowerment, inclusion, and sustainability.



**Figure 2: Kevin Osido, Executive Director, CGW shares his remarks to the Participants**

- 3.4 Kevin Osido, Executive Director of County Governance Watch, acknowledged the critical role of women in fostering peace, climate action and national unity. Their partnership with ACT aims to encourage women's leadership in the women, peace, and security agenda, particularly in conflict-affected areas like Kajiado County. The partnership focuses on integrating women's perspectives into peacebuilding processes through capacity-building, mentorship, and advocacy. He emphasize on importance of UNSCR 1325 localization, recognizing women's unique role in local conflict mediation and resolution.



**Figure 3: County commissioner, Kajiado county officially opening the workshop**

- 3.5 Mr. Felix Watakila, County Commissioner of Kajiado hosted the team at his offices and also shared insights into conflict dynamics, emphasizing the role of women in conflict resolution. Family issues disproportionately affecting women and children were highlighted, along with environmental challenges, including tree-cutting. The Commissioner's Office expressed readiness to collaborate for environmental conservation and livelihood enhancement, showcasing a commitment to sustainable initiatives in Kajiado.

## **4.0 Outcome of the Workshop**

### **Background of UNSCR 1325**

- 4.1 Ms. Susan Chege, as the Lead Facilitator for Women, Peace, and Security at the National Peacebuilding and Security Committee, guides a session on the Introduction and Background of UNSCR 1325. This session, integral to the localization process of the Kenya National Action Plan (KNAP) in Kajiado County, is designed to empower women by establishing a local process and agenda. The primary objective is to address conflict methods and advocate for peaceful resolutions within the community. The KNAP localization process in Kajiado County seeks to align with the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, both established in the aftermath of World War II. These foundational documents emphasize the crucial importance of peace and respect for human life during conflicts.
- 4.2 To implement strategies for peaceful resolution, organizations and initiatives focusing on localized KNAP agendas can engage in community dialogue, implement conflict resolution

programs, raise awareness about peaceful conflict resolution methods, and collaborate with local authorities, stakeholders, and organizations. These efforts are in line with the broader goal of fostering peace and preserving human life during conflicts. Adapting these principles to the local context in Kajiado County through the KNAP localization process for women can significantly contribute to peaceful resolutions and community well-being. By prioritizing the principles of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, interventions can play a pivotal role in enhancing the well-being of communities during times of conflict.

- 4.3** The conclusion of both World War I and II marked the establishment of crucial global documents, namely the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These pivotal agreements underscore the paramount significance of peace and the safeguarding of human life, particularly in the midst of conflicts. Specifically, Article 1 of the Charter emphasizes the sanctity of human life and the imperative nature of seeking peaceful resolutions. Aligning interventions with these principles is crucial to nurturing peace and safeguarding lives during conflicts.



**Figure 4: Women, Peace and Security Reflection session**

- 4.4** In Kajiado County, the localization process of the Kenya National Action Plan (KNAP), specifically tailored for women, holds the potential to enrich peaceful resolutions and fortify community well-being. Kenya's active participation in the UN Security Council and peacekeeping missions has earned it the 47th position in the Global Peace Index. As the first African nation to implement a comprehensive peace policy, Kenya's dedication to conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and security reinforces its commitment to peace and stability.

- 4.5** The UN Security Council Resolution 1325, adopted in Namibia in 2000, emphasizes the role of women in peace actions and security engagement, focusing on four pillars: participation, prevention, protection, and relief and recovery. Kenya's commitment to peacekeeping, implementing peace policies, and supporting UN Security Resolution 1325 demonstrates its commitment to fostering peace both domestically and globally, aligning with the United Nations' principles of global peace, security, and gender equality. The United Nations Security Council (UNSCR) has passed several crucial resolutions aimed at addressing conflict-related sexual violence, empowering women, and improving responses to the needs of women and girls in conflict situations. UNSCR 1820 underscores the need to strengthen partnerships and utilize expertise beyond institutional capacities to end sexual violence associated with conflicts. It highlights the importance of collaborative efforts to address and prevent such atrocities.
- 4.6** UNSCR 1889 (2009) reaffirms the commitment to implement and monitor UNSCR 1325, focusing on the empowerment and participation of women. It specifically stresses the development of global indicators and enhancements in both international and national responses to meet the needs of women and girls in conflict zones. UNSCR 1960 addresses the slow progress in realizing women's rights, aiming to push for more effective actions and commitments to advance the rights of women, particularly in conflict-affected areas. UNSCR 2106 (2011) is dedicated to addressing conflict-related violence with a specific focus on enhancing actions against impunity, ensuring justice, and controlling the availability and use of arms in conflict zones. UNSCR 2122 (2013), with a focus on conflict resolution and recovery, aims to promote women's participation in these processes, recognizing their vital roles and contributions in rebuilding societies affected by conflict. These UNSCRs collectively emphasize the importance of women's empowerment, participation, and the eradication of conflict-related sexual violence. They call for concerted efforts on a global scale to address these issues, establish justice, and involve women in conflict resolution and recovery processes.



**Figure 5: women leader sharing her opinion during the workshop**

## UNSC Resolutions on Women, Peace, and Security

- 5.1** She underscored the significance of the six UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions aimed at addressing sexual violence against women and girls in conflict zones. These resolutions—1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2011), and 2122 (2011)—reaffirm the UNSC's commitment to combat sexual violence. This commitment involves initiatives such as training troops, integrating women into peace operations, countering impunity, and enhancing access to justice. Resolution 1888 specifically sought to bolster the implementation of Resolution 1820 by fostering accountability mechanisms and involving women as advisors. Resolution 1960 focused on women's rights and the ongoing issue of violence against them.
- 5.2** Kenya's dedication to the cause was highlighted through its 57th implementation of the Kenya National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and 1820, initiated as part of the twinning process between Kenya and Finland in 2010. The plan, developed through mapping exercises and regional consultations with 450 participants, aims to address conflict mitigation, share experiences, and identify gaps for enhanced compliance with UNSCR 1325, fostering a more equitable and inclusive society. The Kenyan National Action Plan (KNAP) centers around key areas: participation and promotion, prevention, protection, relief, and recovery.
- 5.3** Priorities span from regional to national levels. Insights into the implementation of KNAP on UNSCR 1325 were shared during the session, covering topics like the localization of the global Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, coordinated efforts among government agencies, governmental commitment to promoting women's leadership and participation, embedding women's rights in peace and security efforts, post-conflict and humanitarian measures to end violence, 29% representation of women in standing positions, increased deployment of women in the military, and socio-empowerment of women and youth.
- 5.4** The session emphasized showcasing the effective functioning of HAK 1195, emphasizing its crucial role in providing services to victims. It underscored the ongoing need for advocacy and support for gender equality initiatives, stressing the importance of addressing gender-based violence and ensuring equal opportunities for women across all sectors. Participants also discussed the critical role of comprehensive resources and assistance for survivors, recognizing the vital contribution of HAK 1195 in this regard.

## Conflict Analysis and Root Causes

- 6.1** Ms. Rose Mbone highlighted various dynamics in the early stages of the conflict, emphasizing the crucial role of information and communication in fostering cohesion. Ms. Mbone clarified how community perceptions and attitudes played a pivotal role in the propagation of misinformation. This information, once disseminated, underwent diverse interpretations, leading to the formation of varied messages and perceptions that

significantly impacted individuals, particularly those vulnerable and targeted as a consequence. Conflict emerges and leads to deaths and injuries. Ms. Mbone underscored the critical importance of effective communication for peaceful coexistence. The dissemination of accurate information becomes paramount in ensuring the well-being of marginalized and highly affected communities. By addressing the root causes of misinformation and promoting understanding, efforts can be directed toward safeguarding the welfare of those most at risk during times of conflict. Ms. Mbone's insights highlight the interconnectedness of communication, perception, and community well-being in conflict scenarios, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions to promote peace and unity.



**Figure 6: conflict analysis session with participants led by Ms. Rose Mbone**

- 6.2 She presented the importance of conflict analysis in understanding the underlying causes and dynamics of conflict. She emphasized that conflict analysis is not just about identifying the parties involved but also about understanding their perspectives, needs, and interests. This information is crucial for developing effective conflict resolution strategies. She also discussed the various tools that can be used for conflict analysis, such as the ABC Triangle, conflict mapping, force-field analysis, conflict tree, onion, stages of conflict, and conflict timelines. These tools can help to visualize the conflict, identify key actors and issues, and track the progress of conflict resolution efforts. By providing an overview of conflict analysis and its tools, Ms. Mbone set the stage for a productive discussion on women, peace, and security challenges. Her emphasis on open communication and collaboration encouraged participants to engage actively in the discussions and work together to find solutions.
- 6.3 During the session, participants were organized into two groups, facilitating focused discussions and presentations on the root causes and their potential impact on women in Kajiado County with the outcomes slated for presentation.



**Women discussing the plans for Kajiado County during the workshop**

6.4 **Summary of points from Q&A:** The Kenya National Action Plan (KNAP) 1325, implemented in over five counties, including Kajiado, is a collaborative effort between the government and various organizations. The County Commissioner and County Government of Kajiado serve as instrumental platforms to engage in activities related to UNSCR 1325 awareness and sensitization. The plan in Kajiado will be implemented with tailored target settings, addressing specific challenges and opportunities for communities. The county government of Kajiado and civil society involvement enhance community ownership and the sustainability of the initiative.

## DAY TWO: UNSCR 1325 WORKSHOP

7.0 There was a group discussion and presentation made by the two groups on the root cause and how it may affect women in Kajiado County.

Causes of conflict	Conflict affecting women in Kajiado
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tribalism/ ethnicity</li> <li>• Land grabbing</li> <li>• Boundary dispute /</li> <li>• Cross-border conflict</li> <li>• Political imbalance</li> <li>• Retrogressive culture</li> <li>• Competition of social and economic amenities</li> <li>• Cattle rustling</li> <li>• Clan and sub-clan intolerance</li> <li>• Alcoholism and drug abuse among youth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of security in getting the loan</li> <li>• Illiteracy</li> <li>• Discrimination against women in leadership and decision-making</li> <li>• Discrimination against land, proprieties</li> <li>• Retrogressive culture</li> <li>• Lack of security in accessing finances</li> <li>• Economic rights to sell and own properties</li> <li>• Water access and control</li> <li>• Corruption</li> <li>• Legal injustices</li> <li>• Use of Kangaroo courts</li> <li>• Effects of climate change through pattern grazing to other areas</li> <li>• Trust on the distant relative over property and land</li> <li>• Technology and media blackmail associated with social media impact on communities</li> <li>• Limited women involved in public participation and governance in county matters</li> </ul>

7.1 It was noted that Tribalism, land grabbing, government imbalance, and competition for social and economic amenities all contributed to the conflict in Kajiado. Youth drug and alcohol abuse contributes to the socio-cultural aspects of the community. The lack of security in obtaining loans also highlights the economic vulnerabilities that contribute to conflict dynamics in the region.

7.2 The conflicts affecting women in Kajiado are rooted in gender-specific issues such as discrimination, unequal access to resources, illiteracy, leadership, and limited economic rights. These barriers hinder women's empowerment, and retrogressive cultural practices and land ownership discrimination exacerbate these issues. Water access, corruption, and legal injustices are also sources of conflict, highlighting the intersectionality of environmental, governance, and legal domains.

7.3 The conflict in Kajiado is a complex issue involving traditional disputes like tribalism and contemporary issues like political imbalance. These conflicts require tailored interventions, considering historical and current dynamics. Women's specific conflicts highlight gender inequalities, necessitating targeted strategies to address discrimination, improve economic opportunities, and ensure equitable decision-making. The intersectionality of these

conflicts highlights the need for holistic solutions that consider social, economic, and cultural dimensions to promote sustainable peace and development in Kajiado.



Figure 7: participants listening to Edna Miriti, CGW

## Localization of UNSCR 1325 Implementation and Kenya National Action Plan: A Focus on Kajiado County

- 8.1 During the session led by Ms. Susan Chege, the objectives of localizing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) were emphasized, with a particular focus on Kajiado County. The core objectives involve aligning local efforts with UNSCR 1325, fostering cross-sectional collaboration, and increasing awareness and understanding. This comprehensive approach aims to amplify the impact of women, peace, and security initiatives, establishing a structured framework for coordinated action.
- 8.2 Ms. Chege underscored the significance of localization in Kajiado County, emphasizing its role in enhancing understanding within local communities, empowering local voices in national discussions on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS), and utilizing local action plans to address security threats and land conflicts. The process provides a platform for women and local actors to express concerns, fostering improved coordination among multi-sectoral partners. The inclusive nature of involving stakeholders in the localization process ensures that diverse perspectives and needs, especially those unique to Kajiado County, are considered, thereby building trust and ownership. This approach ultimately leads to more effective implementation of UNSCR 1325, fostering better outcomes for women's rights and peacebuilding efforts in the region.



**Figure 8: courtesy call during the workshop at the County Commissioner, Office in Kajiado**

- 8.3 Ms. Chege highlighted that localization initiatives within Kajiado County play a pivotal role in challenging prevailing narratives on gender and conflict resolution. These initiatives address societal taboos surrounding gender and women's involvement in security matters, challenge and eliminate gender stereotypes within the local communities, and enhance the capacity of local groups for data collection and needs assessment. The prioritization of integrating new groups, such as teachers and Community Health Volunteers (CHVs), into localization efforts reflects the commitment to tailoring strategies to the unique context of Kajiado County. The overall strategy emphasizes human security perspectives over traditional viewpoints and facilitates regional experiences, exchanges, and training for media practitioners to enhance WPS agenda within Kajiado County.
- 8.4 In concluding her presentation, Ms. Chege highlighted the implementation strategy, which centers on mobilizing Kajiado County governments and local organizations to address Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) issues and implement the National Action Plan (KNAP). This strategy emphasizes the involvement of grassroots women in the localization process, facilitating dialogues, and developing mechanisms for effective localization. Local needs assessments are conducted to formulate county-specific action plans, and a localization map is created to ensure comprehensive coverage and effective implementation within the distinctive landscape of Kajiado County.

## 9.0 Work Plan Development

The discussion was divided into two groups to enable planning and getting involved in the UNSCR 1325 and KNAP processes in Kajiado County. The two groups presented critical suggestions that will prove useful in the resolution as stated below.

### Pillar 1: Participation

**Objective: to increase the inclusive and effective engagement of women at all decision-making levels in peace, security, and disaster management.**

Outcome	Indicators	Priority Activities	Baseline	Target 2021-2023	Lead/Other actors
Meaningful participation of women in the governance of peace, security and disaster management processes strengthened	1.1.1 Enhance the legal and policy environment for women's participation in peace and security processes.	1. Create awareness of the existing legal policies in Kajiado County. 2. Build the Capacity of women in the governance of peace and disaster management on the existing laws and policies. 3. Localize KNAP in the Kajiado Context.		2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County Government - CEC Gender</li> <li>• Gender sector working Group (PS)</li> <li>• CSOs-CRAWN Trust, URAIA, Amani Community AFRICA</li> <li>• FBOs-Catholic Church</li> </ul>

	<p>1.1.2 Provide the requisite resources to facilitate women effective participation, peace, security, and disaster management at all levels of governance.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Build capacity of women on leadership and governance at all levels.</li> <li>2. Tap into existing funds/resources i.e. NGAAF, WEF</li> <li>3. Mobilize women to access resources to support the participation of women in all the processes.</li> </ol>			<p>-County Government -Gender office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender sector working Group(PS)</li> <li>• CSOs-CRAWN Trust, URAIA, Amani Community AFRICA</li> <li>• FBOs-Catholic Church</li> </ul>
	<p>1.1.3 Strengthen and support women’s active involvement in alternative forms of dispute resolution, including reconciliation, mediation, arbitration, and traditional dispute settlement mechanisms</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthen partnership in Women Peace committees at all levels</li> <li>2. Build the capacity of the women peace committees on their mandate.</li> <li>3. Build the Capacity of women to join ADL/CUC peace.</li> <li>3. Lobby MoE adult education to enhance adult literacy in the County.</li> </ol>			<p>-County Government -Gender Sector Working Group -The Star of Hope -CJPC</p>
	<p>1.1.4 Localize the KNAP at the County, sub-county, and community level.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sensitize the KNAP in the five Kajiado Sub-Counties.</li> <li>2. Translate the KNAP/KAJIADO plan to our local language.</li> </ol>			<p>County Government -Gender Sector Working Group -The Star of Hope -CJPC</p>

## Pillar 2: Prevention

**Objective: to enhance the prevention of conflict and all forms of violence against women, girls, and vulnerable groups through gender-sensitive institutional, structural, and social transformation.**

Outcome	Indicators	Priority Activities	Baseline	Target 2021-2023	Lead/Other actors
Women, girls, and other vulnerable groups living free from fear and threat of conflict and violence	2.1.1 Integrate gender responsiveness into early warning and early response systems and into conflict prevention mechanisms, including the prevention of violent extremism.	Map existing peace and security actors in the county, and sub-counties up to the village level. Conduct a needs assessment on the county peace actors/peace committees in the county, and sub-counties up to the village level. Capacity building of the peace committees' members based on the need assessment.	0	1 mapping exercise  1 capacity building training for each level committee	County Government-CEC Gender County Commissioner (and chairs of subsequent committees,, Nyumba Kumi, community policing) CSOs and development partners (Red Cross, Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, evangelical churches, affirmative action office NSC
	2.1.2 Conduct research on the use of existing indigenous and traditional knowledge on women's role in early warning and early responses	Identify existing indigenous and traditional knowledge on women's role in early warning and early responses document on the use of existing indigenous and traditional knowledge on women's role in early warning and early responses in the county	0	1 directory on the existing indigenous and traditional knowledge	County govt. County peace forums NSC
	2.3.1 Institutionalize gender	Lobby for the fast-tracking and approval and implementation of the		C.A Sectoral committee on	County govt-CEC Gender, CA Clerk

	mainstreaming in the security sector.	gender policy in the CA Sensitize the communities, peace committees, business community, youth women on Gender Mainstreaming		gender	
	2.3.2 Enhance a coordinated reporting mechanism to build awareness and promote the participation of the community in the prevention of conflict and all forms of violence against women and girls	Come up with a simplified reporting tool for reporting all forms of violence against women and girls	0	1 tool to be used countywide	CEC Gender County Commissioner NSC CJPC

