

LEC COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION



VISION

A SOCIETY WHERE CHILDREN, WOMEN AND YOUTHS HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS AND FREE FROM FORMS OF VIOLATIONS.

MISSION

LEC THRIVES TO CHAMPION THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN, WOMEN AND YOUTHS THUS ENSURING THEIR RIGHTS ARE REALIZED

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Dear Friends,

LEC Community Organization was founded on the basis of survivor centric to support survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV) turn their vulnerability into resilience and discover their inner strength that no one can rob them off. Our 15 years of impact have been as a result of survivors' peer to peer support and the long-term coaching of sustainability initiatives that guarantees economic resilience and prevention from recurring violence.



LEAH NYALOBO, LEC FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our partnerships with community resource including GBV and child protection networks and committees, government departments, private sector, civil society organizations, local communities and individuals have enhanced longevity and effectiveness to the services we offer within our communities especially in informal settlements of Mathare and the Rural areas of

Busia which has high prevalence of Gender Based Violence.

We want to sincerely thank our partners who have supported our work in our communities where our community members face adverse vulnerabilities and require holistic, systematic and coordinated efforts in providing solutions. We are looking forward into 2025 as we continue to maintain resilience in the communities we work as we turn the new challenges we face into opportunities.

Thank you very much and be blessed

Leah Nyalobo

Founder and Executive Director

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PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED DURING THE YEAR

ENDING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Gender Based violence remains an epidemic in our communities especially the informal settlement of Mathare which is one of Nairobi's slums. This is an over-crowded zone made up of shanties with no access to running drinking water and poor sanitation. People are living below the poverty line, life expectancy and education rates are very low. Indeed, slum dwellers have limited access to paid employment. About 49% of adults living in slums have regular or casual employment and 19% work in a family microenterprise. Thus, more than 26% of the inhabitants are unemployed.

This rate is even higher among young people (15-24 years) and women. In addition, security is a big challenge for the people of Mathare. Due to high unemployment many youth have gone into criminal activities that expose women and children to violence through theft, rape and defilement. The situation in Busia County is even worse, as Busia is rated among the poorest counties in the Country with high prevalence of HIV/AIDS as per the National Bureau of statistics during the national census carried out in 2019. Gender Based Violence continues to affect the lives of many women and girls. Retrogressive cultural



Peer to peer support of GBV survivors and coaching on IGA

practices such as wife inheritance and wife beating has normalized the abuse. However, Gender Based violence is exposing women and girls to so many risks including death, denying them education, and condemning them to poverty. Due to high poverty levels, many women and girls continue suffering and becoming

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victims due to lack of adequate services from the government stakeholders and lack of coordinated services from state and non-state actors.

In effort to address Gender Based Violence both in Mathare and Busia, LEC intensified prevention strategies through community sensitizations that reached 5,653 community members through door-to-door sensitizations, community barazas, international days including 16 Days of Activisms and Day of the African Child. LEC supported strengthening of GBV-response referral networks both in Mathare and Busia that brought together both state and no state actors and ensured there is service provision from government facilities such as access the health services, legal aid, justice and police services where survivors reported abuses and access of social amenities from social department such as department of children services and Gender department. The networks also ensured coordinated services provision to survivors of GBV. During the year, LEC supported 335 survivors of Gender Based Violence with psychosocial services including access to medical services, temporal shelter, food and referral services. LEC empowered 116 survivors of GBV with Income Generating Activities through access to micro credit funding of table banking and revolving fund.

ELANA EINSTEIN VOCATIONAL CENTRE

Many women and girls have fallen victims of Gender Based Violence due to their inability to economically provide for themselves and their children. As a result,



Ongoing tailoring skills development with GBV survivor

they have remained in the captive of their abusers due to financial dependence.

In one of the international conferences on women empowerment, our Executive Director during her presentation on LEC's work in informal settlements met a warm-hearted lady Dr. Elena Einstein from United States of America whose vision matched LEC vision in empowering vulnerable women. As a

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result, a vocational centre was born that currently equips survivors of Gender Based Violence with tailoring and dress making skills. Thanks to Elena, the centre purchased 5 electric sewing machines and enrolled 10 young women as a pilot cohort into the vocational centre. Besides acquiring skills, the centre provided safety to the 10 women's children who accompanied their mothers during the training. The 20 children were taken care of and provided with two meals a



During cohort one graduation ceremony of tailoring and dress making training

day as their mothers acquired the necessary skills. This cohort that served as a pilot cohort was meant to provide the mothers with skills and thereafter link them to job opportunities that would enhance their financial independence and break the cycle of violence related to financial inability. Out of the ten women, one lady who performed extremely well and showed a lot of interest in the trade, requested to be supported with capital to start her own business. Elena supported the process and to date, the lady has opened a business and employed her daughter that just finished education and two other women from the pilot cohort. Her business is really flourishing as LEC Community school has linked her to the school families that are supporting her business with children school uniforms. Three women were referred to other small-scale businesses as assistant tailors while two opted to co join the current cohort 2 to further sharpen their skills after introduction of a professional trainer. Two majored in bead making which was an added skill development besides the tailoring and dress making. These two are slowly perfecting the skill and are able to make the beads jewelry including neckless, bracelets and ankle beads and sell them within their communities. The second cohort of 9 women have begun their training and we intend to make it better based on the lesson learnt from the first cohort.

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CHILD PROTECTION AND EDUCATION

LEC recognizes the importance of wholesome development of a child. To ensure protection from abuse and exploitation, LEC strives to protect children from the informal settlement and the rural areas of Busia through strategies such as prevention and protection. Under Prevention, LEC empowers children to be their own advocates through creation and strengthening of Child Rights Clubs within communities and schools. LEC equips children with knowledge on their rights, how to flag out an abuse and where to report incase an abuse happens. During the year, LEC facilitated formation of child rights clubs in 5 schools (235 children) ; 2 in mathare slums and 3 in the county of



Learners at MLEC Community school

Busia. LEC has a community school which provides quality education to 321 learners from the slums of Mathare. During the year, LEC rescued 27 children from the Dandora dumpsite (largest dumpsite in Kenya) and returned them back to school. LEC supported their parents with Income Generating Activities to maintain their children in schools and prevent them from scavenging. In Busia County, LEC rescued 41 girls from child marriage and reintegrated them back with their families and supported their schooling. 15 boys were rescued from child labour and taken back to school.

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ACCESS TO DIGNIFIED, SAFE AND HEALTHY HOUSING

LEC has built a 3-storey building on the outskirts of Mathare slum that provides housing to survivors of Gender Based Violence and a community school to 321 children from the slum areas. Thanks to this project, the families and learners have access to a dignified housing which has access to clean water, electricity, toilets and houses that are well ventilated and insulated. The building is fitted with safety measures



Safer and dignified housing project in Budalangi village constructed through participatory approach

equipment including fire extinguishers and the families and children sensitized on safety measures and trained on use of fire extinguishers incase of emergencies. In the County of Busia, Budalangi area prone to floods that have severely affected houses leaving many families homeless and displaced, LEC supported reconstruction and renovation of 50 houses through community participatory approach. Local craftsmen were trained on floods resistant construction method and women trained on house maintenance. This has become a good practise and Mabinju village (Project area) has thereafter been recognised by local authority as the hub for skills development/learning on improved housing models.

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WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE



Waste management group during a clean up activity

Mathare slums is frequented by insecurities due to lack of employment opportunities to youth and poor sanitation due to lack of toilets, blocked drainage and poor disposal of Wastes. During the year, LEC organized 65 youth into groups and trained them on waste management and how to come up with income generating activities from the waste's activities. To date, these groups have come up with community initiatives in cleaning the slum areas and sorting the wastes into resources. LEC has also supported renovation of 11 ablution blocks both in Mathare and Busia which are being managed and maintained by youth and in return create some income to the youth.

These youth have been sensitized and trained on GBV and are currently GBV champions as they are able to sensitize the community against Gender Based Violence and support in referral mechanisms.

CONCLUSION

Our partnerships and networking will continue as we forge into 2025 with the attitude of resilience and community engagements. As a survivor centric organization, we continue turning our vulnerabilities into our resilience while maximizing our strength in re building our dignity within our spaces. Together, let's create a safer space for women and children.