

2024

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL REPORT



BACKGROUND

Gender inequality remains a major area that our society has struggled with since time immemorial, however, this calls for continuous needs assessment, review, and intervention implementation from all corners using a holistic approach without leaving no one behind this is a result of the emerging trends affecting gender around the globe.

To address this, Governments around the world have been working through line ministries and departments to address these challenges.

To achieve this, collective effort had to be put in place by ensuring the creation of various platforms and avenues by international bodies, intergovernmental cooperation, and civil society partnerships.

As a result of this, 30 years ago governments across the globe met in Beijing after a build-up meeting in Nairobi, Kenya to come up with ways to address the challenges related to gender inequality across the world with much focus on young women / Girls.

However, since then till now there have been a lot of emerging trends toward addressing Gender inequality that call for a review of the declaration to meet the emerging demands. The Declaration become the most progressive blueprint ever for advancing the rights of not only women but also girls.

As a result of Beijing declaration, On December 19, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 66/170 to declare October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.

Since there establishment of the day, the International Day of the Girl Child has been focusing on the need to address the challenges girls face and promote their empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights.

each year a theme is set a side to address specific issues depending on the global needs affecting the said population.



THEME OF THE DAY

2024 theme for the International Day of the Girl was “Girls' Vision for the Future” To achieve this, Slum Child Foundation a registered NGO in Kenya with ECOSOC status with the United Nations teamed up with other Like- Minded Organizations to Mark the day in the Slums of Korogocho.



CROSS CUTTING ISSUES CONNECTED TO THE THEME

In the Slum of Korogocho and its environment, it is clear that apart from challenges related to Education and Gender-related issues that affect their growth and development toward achieving the vision for the Future it is evidence that Substance use and crime remain major issues in achieving this.

To address this, we had to integrate Gender and Substance use as a cross-cutting issue with the theme for the day so that we could still drum up the voices of the girls to the world on the issues affecting them towards attaining their vision for the future.

By integrating the theme of the day and the agenda of the 2025 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, we initiated a dialogue with the girls to get their views during the celebration that culminated into a girl’s declaration.



EVENT GOAL AND OBJECTIVE

Based on the theme for the event, the event had statements attached which were as follows

Goal

To address challenges girls face towards realizing their vision for the future

Event Objectives

1. To engage the girls from the informal settlements on the Beijing Declaration to identify gaps for policy ratification and amendments by the concerned Ministries in Kenya in realizing their vision for the future.
2. To identify gaps in the implementation of SRHR/Period poverty government-aligned programs within the informal settlement that affect their present and future growth and development
3. Identify cross-cutting / emerging issues concerning Beijing declaration in addressing period poverty
4. Empower the young girls towards realizing their vision for the future



ACTIVITIES OF THE DAY

The event was filled with engaging entertainment and activities by the girls both from Korogocho slums and Its environs.

The event began with an opening prayer from a young mother from the Linda Binti Organization. Opening speeches were made by various leaders of the organizations present at the event.

on the sidelines, we had a 60-minute Yoga session that was led by the Tujibonge Initiative that engaged young mothers, some partners, and school girls.

The essence of having this was to engage the participants in a body-building recreational activity that they would carry on even after the event.

This was followed closely with Soccer for a fun match amongst the young mothers from the Korogocho and Mathare slums, after which the team went to the plenary where entertainment by other girls took center stage.

At the plenary, the MC Miss Oliech from Miss Koch Kenya, and her co-host Mr. Chrispine, from Child Space Organization took the platform to recognize the area chief who was in attendance and ready to officiate the event as a government official.

The chief engaged the crowd on how girls need to be supported to have a great nation and how they have potential that will help them build a vision fit and best for the future.

He encouraged the girl child by even recognizing that they have the best performance in school. In addition to that he also noted that the government is in the right direction in supporting the girl child.



GIRL CHILD ENGAGEMENT

One of the highlights of the event was a group discussion session that was coordinated by Slum Child Foundation. The session began with a historical background of the International Day of the Girl, and the steps that have been taken by both the state and non state actors to mark the day.

The Goal and objective of the day were well elaborated and the activities were done on the material day with a culmination of Focused Group Discussion.

The girls were divided into three groups according to different ages:

Group 1:

10 to 12 years discussed challenges and opportunities related to menstruation and SHRR.

Group 2: 13 to 15 years discussed the role of policymakers in curbing Period poverty in Kenya and how that can help in shaping the future of the girls.

Group 3: 16 and above discussed the achievements attained since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and identified gaps they foresee and way forward.

The group discussion session was carried for 60 minutes. with group representatives sharing feedback at the plenary.



Group One Findings:

The challenges faced during menstruation are like;

- Inadequate clean water to handle reproductive health Materials.
- Increased cases of stigma and Gender based violence more so from boy child.
- inadequate information to opposite Gender on how to handle matters related to Menstrual Hygiene
- Inadequate Skills on how to handle improvised sanitary towels.
- Lack of good nutrition during menstrual cycle especially those who come from families that cannot handle three meals a day or the family eat less than two a day.
- Lack of money to purchase sanitary towels hence having no pads. request to Government to cut down or scrap off the taxes and ensure the availability of Menstrual products within the lowest level within the community.
- Lack of basic needs and other basic necessities like water, soap and hence not going to school while menstruating and exposing them to UTIs.

The questions they put forward from this group were like;

- In case of gender-based violence which are the places to seek assistance?
- What is STI and how are they transmitted?
- What is HIV/AIDS and can it be treated?
- If one is raped by the father, can they get an STI?
- If My father rapes me what should I do?
- Is it safe to use family planning as a child?
- Is it okay for girls to get circumcised more so the teenagers because they are grown up?

GIRL CHILD ENGAGEMENT

Group two findings:

Group 2: 13 to 15 years discussed the role of policymakers in curbing Period poverty in Kenya and how that can help in shaping the future of the girls.

Esther, Kate, and Christine presented points in 16 and above years group.

- The girls requested the government through policy makers to domesticated and put in place policies based on international treaties and conventions that Kenya is a signatory to in a way that they safeguard girls from all level within the community.
- There was a call from the girls to duty bearers to ensure the adopted policies that protect them should be fully implemented to the latter since it has been a major challenge the girls are facing towards realizing their vision for the future
- Intervention should be put in place to address cross cutting issues like climate change, Mental health, Drug and Substance Use, HIV/AIDs just but to mention a few.

Group Three Findings:

Group 3: 16 and above discussed the achievements attained since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and identified gaps they foresee and way forward.

Below are the comments from the girls

- The government should keep up with the advocacy and implementation of the policies
- Gender affirmative actions should be strengthen at all levels within the communities where the girls come from.
- Domestication of international treaties and conventions focusing on the protection of girls from poor background
- Creation of more avenues and spaces where women and young girls can exercise leadership practices.
- Access to opportunities that strengthen intervention that promote leadership kills through academy.



WAY FORWARD

Based on the issues that emerged here are some recommendations

1. Implement Programs that Uphold the Beijing Declaration's Goals for Girls:

This cut across from educational and Economic Empowerment, Health Education and Political and Civil Engagement with the girl child

2. Address Drug and Crime-Related Issues Affecting Girls:

This cut across Drug Abuse prevention Programs that are evidence based, Promote a safe and Supportive Recovery Program and Provision of Legal Aid Counselling Services

3. Combatting Violence Against Girls and Protecting their Rights:

This include Raising awareness on Gender Based violence's, creation of safe spaces and Policy advocacy for Girls Rights Protection

5. Increase Efforts to Prevent Exploitation and Empower Girls to Recognize their Rights:

This include Educational Workshops on Rights and Self Defence, Promote Reporting Mechanism and Mentorship and role Models

6. Collaborate with International Bodies to Broaden the Impact:

This include global Partnerships for Resource Sharing and Capacity Building for Local Stakeholders



EVENT PARTNERS

With Funding Support from fairstyria

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

The participants ranging from school children to young adults, gathered in the amphitheater. In attendance were the 6 represented schools;

1. Emmaus Education Centre,
2. New Star Light Academy,
3. Kariobangi Baptist Primary School,
4. St John's Primary School,
5. Lucy Centre and
6. Glory Primary School.
7. SOS youths
8. Korogocho Young mothers
9. The Wider Community

PARTICIPATING Partners

Participating organizations included

- a. Slum Child Foundation,
- b. World University Service - Austria
- c. Miss Koch Kenya (Koch AGPP Cluster),
- d. Inua Dada,
- e. SOS Villages,
- f. Community Voices Network
- g. Rotaract Club of Nairobi Magharibi
- h. Restore Dignity Foundation
- i. German Doctors (Linda Binti Project)
- j. Kenya Reading and Writing Culture NGO
- k. Hare Krishna
- l. Child Space Organization
- m. Sikiliza Fm
- n. Amani Kibera
- i. Rotaract Club of Westlands
- J. The Bliss Organization

Government Representatives

1. Office of the Local Administration
2. Department of Children's Services – Ruaraka Office
3. Nairobi City County
4. National Police Service – Korogocho Police Station



This report has been Developed by

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