



COMMUNITY DISCUSSION ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



held at Nadapal Host Community, Kakuma.



END
VIOLENCE



SUPPORT
SURVIVORS



SPEAK
OUT



BUILD SAFE
COMMUNITIES



ORGANISED BY
VOCALISE AFRICA

Introduction

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) remains one of the most pressing social challenges affecting vulnerable communities, with women and girls disproportionately experiencing various forms of violence, discrimination, and abuse. Addressing GBV requires continuous community engagement, awareness creation, and the promotion of safe spaces where community members can openly discuss the causes, effects, and prevention of violence. Recognizing the power of storytelling to stimulate dialogue and social change, Vocalise Africa organized a Community Radio Drama Listening Session at Nadapal Host Community in Kakuma to create awareness and encourage collective action against GBV.

The activity was designed to use interactive story telling as a catalyst for community conversations, enabling participants to reflect on real-life situations, share experiences, and identify practical solutions for preventing and responding to Gender-Based Violence within their community.

Activity Overview

The session brought together members of the host community who listened to a carefully produced drama highlighting different forms of Gender-Based Violence, its impact on individuals and families, and the importance of community responsibility in preventing violence and supporting survivors.

Following the listening session, participants engaged in a facilitated discussion that provided an opportunity for both women and men present to express their views, ask questions, and reflect on the issues presented in the drama. The discussion was vibrant, respectful, and highly participatory, demonstrating the effectiveness of radio drama as a community engagement tool. Participants openly shared personal observations and experiences while proposing practical recommendations aimed at strengthening GBV prevention and response within the community.

The session created a safe platform where community members felt comfortable discussing sensitive issues that are often difficult to address in public forums. The interaction also

enabled facilitators to better understand the community's perceptions, existing challenges, and priority needs related to Gender-Based Violence.

Observations and Key Outcomes

The listening session achieved its objective of increasing awareness and encouraging community dialogue on Gender-Based Violence. Participants demonstrated a clear understanding of the key messages presented in the radio drama and actively contributed to discussions on how GBV affects families and communities.

One of the most significant outcomes was the community's strong appreciation of the drama approach. Participants described the drama as relatable, engaging, and easy to understand, noting that it encouraged reflection without making individuals feel targeted or judged. Many expressed a desire for similar sessions to be conducted regularly, emphasizing that continuous engagement would reinforce positive behavior change and keep GBV prevention discussions active within the community.

Participants also emphasized the importance of inclusive community dialogue. Community members recommended that future sessions intentionally bring men and women together to discuss GBV issues collectively. They noted that involving both genders would promote mutual understanding, encourage shared responsibility, and strengthen collective efforts to prevent violence while fostering healthier family and community relationships.

Another important recommendation focused on strengthening community ownership of the initiative. The host community proposed that local community representatives work closely with the project team during future activities. Involving local hosts in mobilization, planning, and implementation was viewed as an effective way to improve participation, build trust, and ensure sustainability of future community engagement efforts.

A recurring theme throughout the discussion was the economic vulnerability faced by many women experiencing Gender-Based Violence. Women participants highlighted that financial dependence on their spouses often limits their ability to report abuse, seek protection, or leave violent relationships. They emphasized the need for economic empowerment interventions, including access to savings groups, financial literacy training, small loans, and

other livelihood support opportunities that would enable women to become more financially independent and resilient.

Challenges Encountered Lessons Learned

The activity experienced an overwhelmingly positive response from the community, resulting in attendance exceeding the planned target. While the session had been organized for approximately 20 participants, significantly more community members attended after learning about the activity. Although the high turnout reflected strong community interest and acceptance of the drama approach, it also presented logistical challenges.

The session demonstrated that community radio drama is an effective participatory communication approach for addressing sensitive social issues such as Gender-Based Violence. Storytelling created a non-threatening environment that encouraged honest dialogue, increased community participation, and promoted collective problem-solving.

The activity also reinforced the importance of community ownership. Working closely with local community representatives can strengthen mobilization efforts, improve trust, and increase the long-term sustainability of project interventions. Additionally, the discussions highlighted the close relationship between Gender-Based Violence and economic vulnerability. Effective GBV programming should therefore integrate awareness creation with interventions that strengthen women's economic resilience and decision-making capacity.

Finally, the unexpectedly high attendance demonstrated the community's willingness to participate in initiatives that provide practical knowledge and opportunities for open dialogue. Future planning should therefore anticipate larger attendance and allocate adequate resources to accommodate increased participation.

Conclusion

The Community Radio Drama Listening Session and Discussion on Gender-Based Violence at Nadapal Host Community was successfully implemented and achieved its intended objective of raising awareness while creating an inclusive platform for community dialogue. The high level of participation and the quality of discussions demonstrated both the community's

interest in addressing GBV and the effectiveness of radio drama as a communication and social Behaviour change tool.

Participants provided valuable recommendations that will inform future programming, particularly the need for more inclusive engagement involving both men and women, stronger collaboration with local community representatives, and greater investment in women's economic empowerment initiatives. Although the session experienced logistical challenges due to the unexpectedly high turnout, this reflected the community's enthusiasm and willingness to engage in conversations aimed at improving their wellbeing.

Moving forward, incorporating the lessons learned and recommendations from this activity will strengthen future community engagement initiatives, increase community ownership, and contribute to more effective prevention and response efforts against Gender-Based Violence within host communities.

