Engaging men to strengthen the implementation of GBV laws and policies and promote gender equality in Kenya

Men of quality are not afraid of equality, National Co-ordinator says as MenKen closes UNTF - Funded Project

Mr. Fredrick Nyagah-National Coordinator

Message from The Project Co-ordinator

Mr. Fredrick Nyagah-National Coordinator

Mr. Fredrick Nyagah-National Coordinator conducting Women’s Health Empowerment training at MMUST in Kakamega County

Men Engage Kenya Network (MenKen) Completion of UNTF-Funded Project

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Men Ken

Mr. Fredrick Nyagah National Coordinator

Ms. Catherine Githae
Project Coordinator

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS US ALL.

Kakamega CCAs, Mumias CCAs and Menken staff celebrate a community mural unveiled by the Director Research Extension and Linkages, at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology Professor Judith Achoka.
Men Engage Kenya Network (MenKen) completion of unfunded project

Gender equality key to growth, says UNWOMEN
Kenya Country Director

recognizes that gender equality will be achieved when gender is valued in four key areas namely: opportunity, empowerment, capabilities and vulnerabilities. UN Women aligns its work in Kenya with the Government of Kenya priorities on gender equality and women’s empowerment. We are mandated by UN General Assembly to sustain the efforts to achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment by facilitating strategic platforms for policy dialogue, citizen accountability, and strong strategic partnerships that will create transformation and sustainable economic growth.

The movement for gender equality was originally conceived in the 19th Century as struggle led by women for women suffrage—the right to vote. In recent years men have begun to stand up in addressing inequalities and discrimination faced by women and girls, thus calling to unify our efforts. In recognizing the critical role for men in gender equality, UN Women initiated the HeForShe campaign, which is a solidarity movement global movement to engage men and boys as advocates and agents of change for achievement of gender equality and women’s rights. The campaign encourages men and boys to speak out and take action against inequalities faced by women and girls.

In Kenya the HeForShe campaign was launched on 20th November by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Kenya Hon. Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, who officially committed and assumed the role of the leading champion in Kenya. “I am HeForShe because Gender Equality is not only a woman’s issue; it is a human rights issue that requires my participation. As I preside President of Kenya, I commit to take action against all forms of violence against women and girls. Following in the steps of His Excellency the President, UN Women in Kenya urges all men and boys to stand up and be counted by signing up for gender equality on www.heforhe.org.”

This year marks a key milestone for work on gender equality and women’s empowerment. UN Women is celebrating 20 years of progress 2015 for achievement of gender equality and women’s rights. The campaign encourages men and boys to take action against all forms of violence against women and girls. The campaign recognizes the importance of ensuring women’s rights, empowerment and gender equality.

Ending violence against women remains a key priority area for UN Women in Kenya. The Demographic Health Survey (KDHS) 2008-2009, shows that the incidences of gender based violence (GBV) in Kenya are systematic with spousal or intimate partner violence reported as the most common and highest form of violence. Approximately, 45% of Kenyan women aged 19-45 has experienced either physical or sexual violence or both in their life time. Kenya Police Service crime reports from 2010 showed an 8% increase in rape cases, 19% in defilement and 22% related to incest. In addition, studies show that 48% of women who have experienced any form of gender based violence are more likely to be infected with HIV than those who have not.

Against this background, UN Women in Kenya recognizes that partnership with men and boys through an organization like Men Engage Kenya Network is critical including policy advocacy on male engagement. In engaging men and boys, UN WOMEN is casting the outreach deeper into the society by deliberately placing responsibility on ending violence against women and girls on the society and its attendant institutions.

This approach underscores the fact that violence does not just happen it is coached and housed in a society that celebrates violence and to end violence the same society needs to re-examine itself, its institutions, its attitudes, its values and subject all these to the accountability principles. This is our appeal to all men and boys to come on board and support gender equality as this is progress for all.

I call all men to come on board to support gender equality as Equality for Women is progress for all.

MenKen wishes to appreciate the following who have supported the Project in one way or another and without whom we could not be celebrating the success:

• The Ministry of Devolution and Planning (Gender Directorate)/ National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC)
• National AIDS Control Council (NACC)
• Kakamega County Government
• Kisumu County Government
• UN Women Kenya
• Sonke Gender Justice
• Kenya Women Parliamentary Association
• Africa Unite Kenya Chapter
• GBV Working Group Members housed by NGEC
• Family Health Options Kenya (Head office, Kisumu and Kakamega)
• Support Activities in Poverty Eradication and Health (SAIPEH)
• Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology
• Margret Wanjiu foundation
• Movement of Men against AIDS in Kenya
• CHF International/Soon becoming GFDRR
• International Committee on the Treatment of People with AIDS (ICPJ)
• ChildFund Kenya Office and Eastern Community Development Programme (CFK)
• Centre for Rights, Education and Awareness (CREEAW)
• Kenya Charity
• Seventh Day Adventist Church (Nairobi Central and LMS Guest House)
• GBV Service Providers in Kisumu County led by JTFORH, police, local administrators, paralegals who supported the project.
• Community Change Agents in Kisumu and Kakamega counties led by Collins Omari, Jane Nyanjom, Elizabeth Nawaal, Joseph Karanja, Edwin Napali, Michael Warimo, Tom Onyango and George Osiro.

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Mandate of MENKEN

Men Engage Kenya Network (MenKen) is an alliance of organizations working with boys and men in GBV and HIV prevention. It was officially launched in 2008 by the then Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development. MenKen is affiliated to MenEngage Global, MenEngage Africa and is a member Africa Unite Kenya Chapter and the GBV Working Group led by NGEC.

Vision

A Kenyan society free of any forms of gender inequalities

Mission

To increase the participation of men and boys in eliminating Gender Based Violence, Promoting Sexual Reproductive Health, Positive fatherhood and well being of men, women and children in the society. MenKen is also committed to building partnerships with organizations, institutions and governments.

Priorities/Areas of Focus

• Prevention of Gender Based Violence
• Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support
• Positive fatherhood
• Building capacity of organizations and networks in engaging men and boys to prevent violence and gender mainstreaming.

For more information contact us on info@menken.or.ke , visit our social media sites and website www.menken.or.ke