



YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

Empowering women and girls



STATE OF THE AFRICAN WOMEN (SOAW) PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT.

2020

This project is funded
by the European Union



A project implemented by:



CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

The consortium is made up of eight organizations working towards one common goal: to realize and extend women's and girls' rights across Africa.

- **Lead Organization: International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Region (IPPF AR).**

IPPF AR was responsible for general management and overall co-ordination; this includes, planning, monitoring and reporting on the project. The specific responsibility was to strengthen the advocacy capacity of IPPF member associations, parliamentarians and journalists, supporting them in rolling out the advocacy and communication campaign and creating dialogue within the African Union (AU) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

- **Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen (KIT)** – Royal Tropical Institute was the knowledge partner, KIT generated knowledge on the status of AU policies and norms – the Maputo Protocol in particular. It also facilitates reflection, action research and learning.
- **Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW)** spearheaded the communication campaign, packaging KIT's knowledge into products, producing advocacy and communication materials, a website and social media communication. In addition it undertook the monitoring of the project through the WebMo tool.

- **Faith to Action Network (F2A)**, works through its Africa-wide network of faith institutions to promote the campaign at grass-roots level and bring relevant issues and findings to the attention of policy makers.
- **Young Women's Christian Association of Kenya (YWCA Kenya)** built the capacity of and works through its Africa wide network of youth champions to promote the campaign at grass roots level and find ways to influence policy making.
- **International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPF EN)** focuses on advocacy at the European/African level along with DSW.

ASSOCIATES PARTNERS:

- **Organization of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA)**
 - promoted advocacy across the network of African First ladies.
- **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH** – had an advocacy role by facilitating advocacy at the level of regional and pan-African fora.

PROJECT DURATION:

The project was implemented in the period of 2017-2020

TARGET COUNTRIES

1. Benin
2. Burkina Faso
3. Ethiopia
4. Gambia
5. Ghana
6. Kenya
7. Lesotho
8. Liberia
9. Madagascar
10. Malawi
11. Mozambique
12. Nigeria
13. Tanzania
14. Uganda
15. Zimbabwe

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A. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

YWCA Kenya is appreciative to the EU for the funding through IPPFAR that led to the successful implementation of the 3-year SOAW project. We are indeed optimistic that the gains made will not be lost and those pending will be achieved through the knowledge and advocacy skills acquired.

The report would not have been possible without the invaluable generosity of young women champions from the communities of 15 MAs. The report highlights the voices, achievements and courage of women and girls across the MAs who have kept the race of challenging discrimination and inequality. It also reflects the vast knowledge, best practices, experiences and efforts of women and girls who are deeply committed to and engaged in realizing women and girls' rights.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the consortium partners, International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Region (IPPFAR), International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPFEN), organization of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA), Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW), Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Faith to Action Network (F2A) for the public pressure on duty bearers in the legal and social norms influence through vibrant synergies in the implementation process.

Our sincere gratitude goes to Anouka van Eerdewijk and Elsbet Lodenstein from KIT who facilitated the development of the SOAW Report and Action Learning which aided in the development of Country specific knowledge products (Policy briefs and communication products).

Special appreciation goes to YWCA- Kenya team led by Ms. Deborah Olwal-Modi for her leadership, flexibility and supportive way of working with her program team.

Much appreciation is extended to Roselyne Pepela and Ernest Kirimi for the production of this report.

B. ABOUT THE REPORT

This report provides a summary of the implementation of State of African Women Campaign across 15 YWCA Member associations (MAs) which was as result of a call for proposals under the EU's first ever decision to fund EU-AU projects on a Pan-African scale in Africa. It focuses on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) encompassing;

- 1. Gender-based violence against women (GVAW),*
- 2. Harmful practices (in particular child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM)*
- 3. Reproductive rights and sexual and reproductive health (SRH)*
- 4. HIV and AIDS. Using a rights-based approach it aims to inform how the empowered MAs and civil society, women Rights Holders have advocated for those rights in respect of SRHR.*

The report shows how advocacy happened primarily through networks of trained CSOs and their volunteers. It also provides an overview of violence against women and girls (VAWG) to communities and what the MA are doing to end the diversified violence.

Findings show the heavy drag and negative effects that retrogressive Social-cultural values and Practices imposes on the girls and women and the need to invest urgently in scaling up legal framework efforts to prevent violence.

5. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE SOAW PROJECT

YWCA Kenya is appreciative to the EU for the funding through IPPFAR. The SOAW Project combined interventions that engaged and shaped the youth advocacy effort to address the Pan-African policies and social norms that hinder the achievement of gender equality. The project sought to inspire supportive policy reforms, and strengthen capacity that enables the implementation of the policies.

In 2017, YWCA commenced the project implementation by consolidating key priority actions across the Member association that are anchored to country specific policies contributing to the AU strategy of the MAPUTO plan of Action. YWCA Kenya coordinated 14 MAs to participate in the advocacy process. The project targeted to build the capacity of 32 champions but by the 3rd year YWCA-Kenya had built the capacity of 90 champions. Thirteen of the MAS went through an organizational Advocacy Assessment to ascertain the levels and the gaps in advocacy.

This process informed the development of the youth-friendly advocacy manual as youth are the voice of YWCA MA movement. The manual was disseminated to all the 15 MAs and 90 champions during capacity strengthening trainings and it is anticipated that this will go along way in supporting the continued advocacy work. Positive feedback on youth engagement in policy advocacy has been attributed to the technical Support Supervision and through the Organizational Advocacy Performance (OAPA) process. This enabled the MAs and the champions to gain from the expertise of YWCA Kenya on different Advocacy approaches, tactics, SoAWC resources and campaign material. During the OAPA processes, YWCA Kenya was able to make recommendations to the MAs and the champions on the advocacy gaps in advancing gender equality. The OAPA results enabled YWCA Kenya to develop the Communication and Strengthening Guidelines. It is hoped that the MAs will also use the recommendations in this guidelines to strengthen their coalitions and networks in various regions.

In the implementation process, more than 30 advocacy actions related to African continental decision- and policy making processes on women's rights have been championed by YWCA MAs across Africa, some of them have been successfully reviewed/implemented and other still in the process. It is worth noting that through the support of the lead organization- IPPFARO, YWCA member association champions were supported to participate in the various regional conferences to amplify the voices of women rights. The contributions were through GIMAC, FGM Summit, ICASA, Beijing, Consultation on African Population, ICPD+ 25 and various country specific initiatives. The champions have been exposed to diversified strategies and knowledge related to policy advocacy which will make significant contribution to their various countries. YWCA Kenya through the guidance of KIT had an opportunity to document an FGM campaign case study that will be used to further the advocacy work of ending harmful practices in the region.

6. BACKGROUND OF THE ISSUE ADDRESSED BY THE PROJECT

Achieving full gender equality in all spheres of life is a critical element of the ‘aspirations of the Africa we want’ articulated in Agenda 2063. Addressing the unfinished agenda is also key to realizing the SDGs, and in particular SDG Three and Five. Sexual and reproductive health as well as financing for health systems are key priorities to meeting SDG Three (to promote healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages). In order to meet SDG Five (to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), more efforts are needed to end gender-based violence against women and girls, as well as harmful practices, such as child marriage and FGM. It also requires women and girls being able to make decisions about sexual relations and partners, and about choice of contraception and access to and use of SRH services and information.

The ‘State of African Women’ Report provided vital information that supported the strengthening of CSO advocacy efforts. It is the result of a context specific analysis that monitors and reports on the different levels of implementation of key continental rights instruments. The findings strengthened CSOs’ knowledge and capacity, and promoted their meaningful participation in decision-making processes. With increased access to knowledge and understanding of policy gaps and contestations, CSOs including young people were better prepared to influence the positioning and implementation of legal and social norms. They have also been better equipped and enabled to hold decision makers to account for their policy commitments through evidence and a stronger civil society voice.

PARTICIPATION IN LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

YWCA MAs have been well known for advocacy work at the grass-roots for more than a century with very minimal participation in policy advocacy.

Since the inception in 2017, YWCA Member-Associations and youth champions have influenced the opinion shapers on 30 legal and policy framework ranging from policy development and reviews, sensitization on the existing policy that are not in force to lobbying for budgetary allocation for implementation.

The MAs engaged in meetings, consultations, coalition building and involved various stakeholders in advocacy work using the evidence built from their daily work. This was well illustrated through public participation e.g. in the EAC SRHR bill in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania despite the tough advocacy environment in Tanzania.

The MAs through the coalitions engaged in intergenerational dialogues to raise awareness on the policies affecting them; Lesotho, Nigeria, Madagascar and Ghana utilized women lobby groups to plan the engagement of the policy makers. Through Coalition building, Tanzania, Mozambique, Kenya, Malawi and Ghana did very well in joining voices to push for advocacy actions on the harmful practices.

It is important to note that awareness raising was heavily been hampered by strong retrogressive social norms in some countries. FGM practicing countries like Kenya, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and Tanzania have various myths about FGM and therefore the push for policy implementation has been slow. YWCA actions target the grass-root, sub-national to national platforms.

7. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

I. IDENTIFICATION AND SELECTION OF REGIONAL MAs AND CHAMPIONS

The 15 member associations and the champions were identified through a "Power Mapping and Perception Audit" exercise to identify who were the most influential MA and the champions to work with. YWCA Kenya in collaboration with World YWCA office in Geneva worked together to identify the 15 YWCAs that participated in the SOAW project. This included the development of the criteria for selecting the Youth Champions, leading to the identification and selection of 30 young women across the region. Since the inception, there has been change of champions in some MAs due to natural attrition. The design of the project did not have specific support accorded to the champion's work which made it difficult to retain all the champions.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL ADVOCACY CAPACITY AND PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS

ORGANIZATIONAL ADVOCACY CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

OACA surveys were done for 13 MAs through online interactions on Email, Skype and WhatsApp. The initial OACA was done in 2018 for 11 MAs, in May 2019, OACA was done for Mozambique and Kenya, bringing the total number to 13. The two MAs that did not participate in the OACA were Zimbabwe and Lesotho. The OACA results indicated that most MAs were not good in advocacy work at the policy due to:

- *Lacked of proper documentation on the good grass root*
- *Poor communication and visibility strategies*
- *Poor resource allocation including limited resources towards advocacy work*
- *Poor organizational vitality*

ORGANIZATIONAL ADVOCACY PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

OAPA was carried out to 13 MAs. In June 2019, during the TOT training on OAPA, YWCA managed to do an online(Skype) OAPA to MA of Malawi and did physical survey with Ethiopia, Mozambique, Lesotho, Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Kenya and Burkina Faso. Online survey was conducted for Nigeria and Madagascar. There was a challenge of language and Internet Connectivity that hindered an engaging OAPA process in Benin, Liberia and Gambia. The OAPA results show considerable improvement in advocacy work and most of them have joined networks to leverage on the resources and expertise. This was evidenced by Tanzania, Mozambique, Ghana, and Lesotho joining the government initiatives.

III. CSOS CAPACITIES STRENGTHENED THROUGH TRAININGS

a) Development of Knowledge Products

i. SOAW Report

The SOAW report presented the current status of ratification and domestication of the Maputo Protocol and the MPoA and how it is tracked and documented. More insight was needed into what has to be done to accelerate implementation, monitoring and reporting on key rights instruments and political commitments regarding women and girls' rights in SRHR.

Therefore, the State of African Women research report was published to contribute to securing, realization and extending women's rights enshrined in African Union (AU) policies in African countries. The SOAWC project had two intermediate objectives. The first was to influence legal and social norms on women's rights through greater transparency and public pressure on duty-bearers. The second was to hold decision-makers to account for their policy commitments on women's and girls' rights through a stronger civil society voice and meaningful participation in decision-making. The implementation of SOAWC project was the RightByHer campaign, which focused on increasing YWCA MAs and civil society's contribution to implementation of the African commitments on women and girls' rights in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

The RightByHer campaign focused on implementation of the AU's Maputo Protocol (the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa) and the Maputo Plan of Action (MPoA), which is the implementation framework for the Continental Policy Framework on SRHR.

The campaign strengthened the knowledge and the advocacy strategies of YWCA MAs and their CSO coalition in the implementation of the Maputo Protocol and the MPoA at three decision-making levels across Africa: regional, national and subnational.

The RightByHer campaign focused on four specific rights areas:

- 1. Gender-based violence against women (GVAW)*
- 2. Harmful practices (in particular child marriage and female genital mutilation, FGM)*
- 3. Reproductive rights and sexual and reproductive health (SRH)*
- 4. HIV and AIDS*

ii. Development of Factsheets

Four Major Factsheets were developed alongside the SOAW research report to support Country-focused Advocacy.

- Gender Violence Against Women (GVAW)-Intimate partner, violence, Sexual Violence and GVAW in contexts of insecurity and war*
- Harmful Practices- Child marriage and FGM*
- Reproductive Rights and SRH - Right to control fertility and choose method of contraception, Non-discriminatory access to SRH services, information and education.*
- HIV and AIDS- Testing and disclosure, Protection and self-protection from HIV and AIDS, Non-discriminatory access to SRH services, information and education.*

All the four Fact-sheets explicitly define the four rights areas, what is guaranteed by Maputo Protocol, the realities in practice and highlighted what needs to be done.

YWCA used the above mention report and the factsheets to develop country specific fact sheets for Malawi, Ghana, Ethiopia,



A senior official in Ghana reads the SoAW Child-Marriage focused Fact-Sheet during a CSO forum in Ghana.

iii. Action Learning Case Study

Various Action Learning Case Studies were documented by the implementing consortium partners: IPPFAR, Faith to Action and YWCA-Kenya through the support of KIT. YWCA Kenya having been a lead partner for the MAs documented on the Anti-FGM campaigns in Kenya.

YWCA Kenya's anti-FGM advocacy programme: 2017-2020 Case Study

YWCA Kenya has implemented strategies towards the eradication of FGM since 2017 through the SOAWC project and the Right By Her campaign. The campaign focuses on increasing civil society's contribution to the implementation of the African commitments on women and girls' rights in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), including harmful practices such as FGM.

YWCA used a multilevel advocacy approach both at the national and grass-root level to contribute to the eradication of FGM among the practicing families and communities in order to achieve the adoption of a more consistent FGM Act and the implementation of the national FGM policy.

At the grassroots- level, YWCA strengthens young women champions' awareness on FGM issues and skills to effectively advocate for social norm change at the community level targeting custodians of culture. The training of 28 young women champions aimed to build awareness of the legal framework of FGM (Maputo Protocol, Anti-FGM Act 2011), and to influence social and cultural norms promoting the harmful practice. It was expected that this awareness would enhance champions' advocacy work and their engagement with local leaders through intergenerational dialogue (see box below). During the Champions' training, their skills were strengthened to craft advocacy messages, conduct digital advocacy and engage with media.

Intergenerational dialogues as a tool for change

Intergenerational dialogues are co-organized at the community level by YWCAs, champions and community leaders. It is a forum that YWCA has been using to bring together two different generations. It uses dialogue across generations as a way to decrease the level of misunderstanding by building on the knowledge and experience of previous generations. It aims to create awareness, mutual understanding and to promote long-term solutions for the risks faced by the community. In the case of sexual and reproductive health and rights, including harmful practices, both generations gain a better understanding of each other

In order for the champions and YWCA branches to effectively implement their advocacy work, YWCA also invested in strengthening a conducive organisational environment. It trained YWCA staffs (15) and board members (7) to support the advocacy actions of YWCA champions in Tana River, Meru, Kisii through data collection, report writing and advocacy campaigns to better document the progress and influence of their advocacy actions.

At the national level, YWCA organised a training of CSOs on effective advocacy, to initiate anti-FGM actions and to raise a unified voice by developing an action plan addressing legal and policy gaps in a more coordinated way.

YWCA joined the anti-FGM coalition that was built to profile evidence against pro-FGM actions, including the case filed by Dr. Tatu against the Anti-FGM Act. YWCA engaged with Anti-FGM CSOs, such as Equality Now and the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA Kenya) to critically analyze the petitions presented to court by Dr. Tatu. Based on this analysis, advocacy messages with hash tags were developed and journalists and relevant CSOs were sensitized on advocacy strategies to counter initiatives that would promote FGM actions. In addition, the network held a range of meetings to develop a road map on advocacy work around FGM, also beyond the litigation process.

Key Lessons Learnt:

1. Importance of establishing partnerships and coalitions.

The pro-FGM case provided a boost to the CSOs working on FGM and led to the expansion of the anti-FGM coalition to mobilize more evidence against FGM and to bring forward a unified voice in advocacy. Initially led by a core group of legal organizations (FIDA Kenya, Equality Now and the Anti-FGM Board), allies from NGOs and CSOs joined the group (Samburu Girls Foundation, KEWOPA, AMREF, Msichana Empowerment Kuria, Men for the Equality of Men and Women, CREAM, and YWCA).

2. Alliances with traditional and political leaders

The readiness of the elders to declare abandonment of FGM/C was a great opportunity to influence the community to accept change. The champions took advantage of this to push for shifts in attitudes in the broader community. The participation of a sitting Member of Parliament (MP) and nominated senator to the #DontTouchFGMLaw court process is an important indication of commitment of women political leaders to end FGM/C.

3. Implement anti-FGM laws progressively

The pro-FGM case revealed the continuous threat of backlash on progressive reforms relating to violence against women and harmful practices. In order to preserve all that has been gained on the policy level in the past and also to prepare for potential changes in the political environment, there is need to build a broad support base and to influence and sustain social norms that support the elimination of FGM.

4. Use social media creatively

The sheer number of shared videos, Facebook pages and Twitter feeds on ending FGM/C suggest that social media can be an important tool for advocacy campaigns. The young women champions, for instance, started a WhatsApp group to support each other on the advocacy issues, compare notes and experiences even during the FGM/C court case. However, in the remote-rural regions, the champions continue using physical contacts and safe spaces.

iv. Development of Social Media Strategy

The Strategy was developed by DSW in 2018 with the following objectives

- *To raise awareness about continental commitments (Maputo Protocol and Maputo Plan of Action)*
- *To strengthen focus on how women's and girls' rights are realized.*
- *To inform and strengthen effective advocacy efforts and strategies of CSOs and African Influencers/Multipliers*

The key messages in the social media strategy was with reference to the gap between women's rights (as enshrined in the Maputo Protocol) and the reality of women's lives. If we close this gap, we all benefit, because happy, healthy women means happy, healthy families and communities. The #RightByHer Campaign worked to close this gap across 4 priority areas. Governments have made a promise by signing the MP, and are failing to keep it. Another commitment was done through the ICPD+25 summit in 2019 in Nairobi. They need to stand up and do #RightByHer. The MAs and the Champions supported to close the gap by sharing their reality under #RightsVsRealites, and demanding your rights by participating in the advocacy ask.

v. Development of training curriculum

YWCA Kenya engagement a consultant to develop the training curriculum on advocacy in May 2019. After consultations with the MAs on the content of the Training Manual, it was agreed that one manual is developed to serve both for the CSOs and the youth Champions. The pre-testing of the manual was done during the MA's training in May 2019 for the Eastern, Southern and Western Africa region. Reviews were further done to the manual to be youth friendly and by August 2019, the Training manual was finalized with consultation from the consortium partners and MAs and disseminated to all YWCA MAs and stakeholders. It is anticipated that the manual will support the work of the MAs and the champions on the advocacy work.

vi. Development of Communication and Strengthening Guidelines

During the implementation process, Organizational Advocacy Capacity Assessment (OACA and Organizational Advocacy Performance Assessment OAPA) was carried out for the members associations which revealed some gaps hindering the organizational performance. It was evident that YWCA MAs' advocacy lagged behind due to:

- *lacked of proper documentation on the good grass root work done over years*
- *Poor communication and visibility strategies*
- *Poor resource allocation including limited resources towards advocacy work*
- *Poor organizational vitality*

It is from the gaps identified above that necessitated the development of these guidelines.

These guidelines stipulates the following Capacity issues YWCA Member associations should strengthen:

- *Strengthen the organizational profile by all means.*
- *Restructure their governance structures.*
- *Rejuvenate and strengthen the existing constituents.*
- *Review and strengthen organizational policies and procedures.*
- *Develop and implement a comprehensive strategic plans.*
- *Develop a project management plan*
- *Develop a resource mobilization plan*
- *Develop and implementation monitoring plan,*
- *Develop women/girls safeguarding policy and a complaint mechanism,*
- *Recruit key staff, convene the quarterly meetings and annual reviews and planning*
- *Implement the Communication strategy.*

b) Training of CSO

All the 15 MAs went through the initial inception training on the project and how it is anchored on the MAPUTO plan of Action. Through the OACA and the OAPAs the MA went through a training of self-assessment which informed their action plans and strategies during the advocacy training. It was anticipated that 15 MA would be trained from the initial target, but other opportunities provided a platform for the CSOs to be trained. For example through support supervision to Mozambique, 12 more CSOs in the CECAP coalition were trained on the advocacy tactics and the SOAWC report shared with them. The coalition enhanced their knowledge on how to package the youth collective action to reach, and how to influence change on the social norms. In April 2019, the world YWCA brought together 22 African MAs in Uganda and YWCA Kenya took the opportunity to share the SOAWC report to elicit a discussion on policy framework for Gender Equality. YWCA had a session on Policy analysis and use of research and evidence to champion the policy agenda in the respective countries that were represented. The 7 YWCAs Member Associations that are not implementing the SOAW projected benefited greatly from the training.

Fórum da Sociedade Civil para os Direitos da Criança-ROSC, Fórum Nacional da Rádios Comunitárias de Moçambique (FORCOM), World Vision Moçambique, Save The Children Moçambique, Associação de Jovem para Jovem (AJPJ), Associação dos Defensores dos Direitos da Criança (ADDIC), Rede Comunicadores Amigos da Criança (RECAC), Plan International Moçambique, Young Women Christian Association Moçambique (YWCA), Fundação para o desenvolvimento da Comunidade (FDC), Actionaid Moçambique, Centro de Aprendizagem e Capacitação da Sociedade Civil (CESC), e Malhalhe and Women's Forum.

c) Training of the Champions

A total of 90 Champions across the 15 Member associations have been trained in various platforms since 2017. The champions went through the orientation of the program on the SOAWC report and the key findings, most of them participated in the Organizational Capacity Assessment which build into the advocacy training; including messaging and digital advocacy to ensure they utilize the social media platform. We note that the champions from Tanzania, Malawi, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Ghana who received further trainings through support supervision made a big impact in advocacy initiatives. For example the Marriage Act Law for Tanzania and Mozambique were reviewed, Ghana pursuing the change of consent to sex and advocacy environment in Ethiopia made liberal for the youth to raise their voice on sexual and gender based violence.

d) Training of champions in the use of campaign materials.

- In 2017 during the induction period, all the MAs identified the policy areas they were either already engaged or planned to get involved. This guided on the orientation process with specific reference to the SOAWC report on the four right areas. Other than the SOAW report as the campaign tool, other specific fact sheets were developed especially during the support supervision for specific MAs and champions.
- In 2018, YWCA Tanzania had an internal stakeholders meeting and YWCA-Kenya to support them on highlighting the report findings. The MA and the champions were trained on stakeholder analysis matrix, and audience prioritization matrix. Target audience were identified as decision maker , group with formal power or authority and opinion shapers were engaged thereafter to influence the opinion and behavior to decision makers on the Marriage Act Law.
- April 2019- YWCA MAs in Africa had a regional meeting in Uganda and the National General Secretary- Kenya had a side event with the champions from Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Ethiopia and Malawi to train them on the use of Fact sheets and the policy briefs(Developed by F2A).

- May 2019- YWCA developed an Advocacy Manual and held two major regional training in Malawi for all the Eastern and Southern countries (Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Kenya) and West African countries (Ghana, Nigeria, Gambia, Benin and Liberia) trained them on the use of fact sheet, policy briefs, and advocacy training manual. The champions were specifically trained on advocacy strategies: lobbying, media-developing press statements where they developed a press statement together with the national General Secretaries. This has been continuously been incorporated under each support supervision visit to improve skills and capacity as well as address gaps basing on the action-plans that were developed during the trainings.
- August 2019:- This was during the Mozambique Support Supervision and training to “The Coalition for Elimination of Early Marriages” (CECAP) Review Meeting held at Mulotane Lodge, where YWCA Mozambique is a member. This meeting was held following the Approval of Marriage Law Act for Preventing and Combating Child Marriage marriages by the government and YWCA-Kenya shared the SOAWC report and country fact sheet that supported the coalition in reviewing the advocacy plan. The young champions’ advocacy plan for 2020 was reviewed in line with the CECAP advocacy plans, CECAP prepared a report with the contribution of YWCA in the National Strategy for Prevention and Combating Premature Marriages (2015-2019) to be delivered to other partners. YWCA Advocacy Training Manual shared and 24 champions trained on use of advocacy materials. This was also part of the technical Assistance to the coalition and support supervision process for the champions.
- September 2019:- 26 Champions from the various Counties in Kenya from areas prevalent in Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Child Marriage, HIV/AIDS which are the SoAWC focus areas, trained at the YWCA Kenya Champions training in Nairobi on tangible advocacy and capacity strengthening strategies using the YWCA Advocacy Manual. The Champions were given campaign flash disks, T-Shirts and fact

sheets to use and disseminate during their advocacy programs at the field.

- October 2019:- Ghana Support Supervision. The Child Marriage booklets based on the SoAWC report disseminated during the visits at various interactions by the Champions and CSO Stakeholders. The Right By Her T-shirts and flash disks were used by the Champions to raise awareness to the SoAWC campaign during Advocacy Programs in public spaces, radios and Television.
- November 2019: SoAWC Launch and Award Ceremony in Lilongwe, Umodzi Park, Malawi. YWCA Champions joined Journalists from IPPFARO to launch the Right By Her report. The launch was followed with detailed situational analysis done on the state of African girls and women from various countries and partners represented using statistics on the SoAWC report that was issued to all champions. The Champions received awards after an intensified Right By Her competition that saw Zimbabwe, Kenya, Malawi and Ghana Champions receive awards; smartphones and tablets and were trained on their use to intensify their digital #rightbyher advocacy.
- February 2020: Champions in Ethiopia were trained during the Support Supervision visit on use of the hashtag #RightByHer for enhancing and raising awareness on their various advocacy initiatives to gain global support on their advocacy messaging on FGM, Child Marriage and SGBV
YWCA SoAWC champions were trained on advocacy to influence the leadership and gender offices of Addis Ababa University, the largest, highly residential national university in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with a student capacity of 48,673 students towards the implementation of a Gender and Sexual Harassment Policy. Conceptual and practical aspects of advocacy were learnt in addition to various advocacy strategies to influence legal and social norms at the meso-level which includes advocating for an end to sexual harassment and discrimination of women at the Universities and adoption of Gender and Sexual Harassment Policy.

e) Provision of Technical Assistance, Coaching and Support Supervision to champions in carrying out national campaign actions

The Technical Assistance and support supervision was carried out both offline and online. Where no physical support missions were carried out YWCA-Kenya continued to share information through social media #RightByHer and the youth champions' whatsapp group. The group emailing was also used to provide technical assistance to some of the YWCAs and address key issues. Uganda, Ethiopia and Liberia discussed with Kenya on upcoming events like GIMAC and CSW.

During the period of implementation the Member Associations received technical assistance at the institutional level. The technical assistance (TA) was based on the gaps identified during the Organizational Advocacy Capacity Assessment. The assistance was also in reference to the policy gap in their various Countries of operation. The initial target was to carry out 36 TAs. However, on 22 were carried out across the 15 member associations due to low implementation of activities in 2018 because of the delayed funding.

i. Technical Assistance to Tanzania:

Tanzania is one of the MAs whose advocacy work contributed to the amendment of the Marriage Act Law. The highlight below shows how each action yielded to some outcome.

June 2017: YWCA Champion from Tanzania supported on messaging with specific reference SOAW report to highlight at the GIMAC (Gender Is My Agenda Campaign) summit in Addis Ababa on the challenges faced in campaigns to promote SRHR and End FGM and the misconceptions. The Champion took part in a recommendation that was included in the final GIMAC pre-summit Communique

August 2017: YWCA Tanzania champions participated on National Health Summit Tanzania. Youth from participating organizations agreed and developed a comprehensive Plan of Action (PoA) and recommendations, submitted to the Government of Tanzania (GoT) Ministry of Health, Community Development Gender, Elderly and Children for the implementation including on how the Government should establish the conducive environment for Tanzanian youth to be able to access necessary health services that saves lives.

July 2018: Support to SOAW Champions and CSO Tanzania- YWCA Kenya trained YWCA Tanzania on stakeholder analysis matrix, and audience prioritization matrix which identified the influence and perceived attitudes within the harsh political environment for advocacy work and how they would use Right By Her Campaign. Target audience were identified as decision maker, group with formal power or authority to make desired change and influences referred to people group compelling impact on actions, opinion and behavior of decision makers.

August 2017: September 2019: YWCA Kenya supported YWCA Tanzania together with the Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network (TECMN) with some campaign materials like the advocacy manual, HP fact sheets to sustain campaigns with other stakeholders saw the amendment of the Marriage Act Law (1971) approved in October. Considering the political environment of Tanzania, this was a big milestone for the network.

ii. Technical Assistance and Support to Kenyan Initiatives:

April 2018 - YWCA Kenya took part in the planning and organizing of the 1st Pan African End-FGM Youth Summit held in Nairobi Kenya by the Kenya Anti-FGM Board. The summit brought together young people from across the continent and beyond. YWCA Kenya brought the champions from Tanzania, Liberia, Uganda and Kenya represented to this summit to raise their voice and provide actual facts on issues relating to FGM in their countries to various leaders present at the Summit. The experiences shared was able to inform future practical steps in the effort to end FGM.



SoAW Champions at the Summit

Aug 2018: Physical Support Supervision to Mombasa and Kisii Champion to establish the level of engagement of the champions with reference to the use of the newly acquired knowledge to build evidence and campaign in their advocacy activities in Kilifi with specific reference to high rise issue of teenage pregnancy. The key findings from the champions engagement was that they were mainly carrying out activities at the grass-root level and not engaging with the decision makers (Limited linkages); The champions lacked advocacy skills especially on messaging with reference to social media; The champions lacked publicity materials for their work and therefore relied on their limited knowledge.

June 2019: Supported the champions' activity in Kisii, and developed a position paper to lobby resources for ANTI-FGM activities from the office of the County women representative. The office of the women representative started engaging in national and internal conferences in the process of understanding the global trend on harmful practices and GBV. It is unfortunate that Kisii County is still among the counties with high FGM and GBV prevalence. A lot of

effort and diversified strategies are recommended for this region.

June 2019: Position paper was developed on ending harmful practices and presented to the women representative of Kisii and to the Member of County Assembly in Tana River which was in turn presented at the county assembly. It is hoped that this will be adopted and integrated in the County Action Plan for implementation.

June 2019: Supported the advocacy work through meetings, consultation which yielded to the launch of SRHR act for the county government of Meru. The Act is envisaged to reduce harmful practices and high rates of GBV in Meru County.

July 2019: YWCA Kenya is part of the confederation of civil society organisations & activists, 'Global call to Action to end FGM/C' advocating for the achievement of SDG 5.3 (Eliminate harmful practices) - Link <https://actiontoendfgmc.com/about> through prioritization, resourcing and action to end FGM/C. YWCA Kenya champions' voices and opinions were incorporated in Global Action.

August 2019: Mobilization of faith communities and youths in creating ICPD+25 awareness. Participation in 1 day workshop on 28th August 2019 held in Nairobi, Kenya. Development of a position paper by faith communities in line with ICPD25 Nairobi Commitments. YWCA made recommendation of incorporating Harmful practices as one of the priority commitment.

September 2019: Advocacy Training for Kenyan Champions and all the branch managers on Harmful Practices A total number of 26 champions and 7 managers gained the collective understanding of the SRHR and gender equality priorities including emerging issues and legal areas of contestation. The champions and the Managers identified the areas to advance the SRHR agenda and tangible

advocacy and capacity strengthening strategies that can be supported by the RBH campaign. The champions and the Managers were sensitized on the FGM case that challenges the approval of the Amended FGM act of 2011 for combating FGM and developing advocacy strategies around it.

July-October 2019: The approval of the Kenya Anti-FGM act of 2011 was challenged in court by a medical doctor who was seeking to have Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) legalized. Dr Tatu Kamau wanted the anti-FGM board, the Government body tasked with the responsibility to effect the campaign and policy against the practice, disbanded. YWCA Kenya together with other nine CSOs joined hands to enhance ANTI-FGM advocacy about the court case and moving beyond the case. In

September 2019: YWCA Kenya together with AMREF and Equality Now organized a sensitization and awareness campaign for the journalists from various media firms in Kenya. The objective was to strengthen their reporting on the narratives on SRH, FGM and its effects to girls and women.

October 2019: The partners formed a technical Working group led by YWCA Kenya to support on product development, guide and control on messaging and campaign strategies. Tools to be used: Online Advocacy? Facebook, Twitter, - Traditional Media Advocacy;TV, Banners, Posters, Wrist-bands, T-Shirts, Plackards : Hash-tags: #DontTouchFGMLaw #EndFGM #RightByHer.

October 2019:During the World YWCA council in South Africa, YWCA Kenya gave technical assistance to the board and management staff on coalition building and conflict resolutions for peaceful co-existence. This training is considered key for the continuity and awareness of the SoAWC progress and milestones achieved by the MAs and champions in various countries.

iii. Technical Assistance, Coaching and Support Supervision to Malawi

- **May 2019:** Technical assistance was done to all the MA management and the board during the training Malawi Training and Ghana training. The issues that were handled were on governance, Leadership development for the young champions, Resource mobilization for the MAs Vitality and Sustainability. Supported champions' activities in Malawi and developed a media statement on the national policy to end early marriages and harmful practices during the advocacy training. The press statement was aired on Malawi Media (TV and print media). This yielded into a powerful engagement of the department of health on an effort to implement the SRHR policy that was developed in 2017.

- **November 2019:** Malawi Support Supervision: YWCA Malawi joined effort through advocacy campaigns with young people to seek for sexual and reproductive health services, carry out sensitization programs to ensure the elimination of harmful maternal practices including domestic and sexual violence and Male involvement in the advocacy work, promotion and delivery of SRHR services.

To this end YWCA Malawi champions organized advocacy activities around SRHR policy which was held alongside the Right By Her Launch in Malawi and the award ceremony for the young women champions who have promoted advocacy work for the girls and women. The event was concluded with Panel discussion on the status of Youth Friendly Health Services (YFHS) in Malawi and the MAs represented. The department of health from Blantyre committed to scale the access to SRHR discussions to Lilongwe for joint efforts in addressing the gaps. It was agreed that the department of health together with the voice of CSOs will lobby for resources to implement the SRHR policy which is very comprehensive



Launch of RightByHer Campaign in Malawi

- The engagement of Malawi Champions Josephine and Caroline is one of the initiatives that confirms the power of mentorship. The champion have been empowered to engage fruitful with various stakeholders on SRHR issues.

Most Significant Story of Change by Caroline–Malawi

“Before engaging in the SOAW project, I was very shy to discuss SRHR issues, I sincerely thank YWCA of Malawi for nominating me to be a SOAW Champion. The process I have gone through for knowledge and advocacy skills enhancement coupled with the participation in the regional conferences has contributed significantly to my personal self- confidence. I can now stand in front of audiences of all ages and speak on very personal matters and difficult topics which I would not do before the training and capacity building. I can not only speak to those at grass-root level but can also take my views and concerns to policy makers to advocate for change on behalf of the community beneficiaries.”

MOST SIGNIFICANT STORY OF CHANGE- Malawi Youth Champions



Figure 4: Left: Caroline Being interviewed



Figure 5: Advocacy session on SRHR

“Young women and girls are capable of doing what men can do when given a chance.”

- No physical support visit were done to Madagascar, Liberia, Gambia, Nigeria, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso and Benin, instead the champions were engaged through WhatsApp, email, Skype follow-ups on the action plans and activities. The project realized very little impact on the champions' advocacy in the mentioned MAs who did not receive physical support supervision. The period for implementation of the project to support the champions was not sufficient to support them engage both on social norms and policy level. The champions need further support in all the advocacy cycle to support them identify the policy and link it to the barriers to assess their capacity of involvement.

iv. Technical Assistance, Coaching and Support Supervision to Ghana

- YWCA Kenya also supported the board and management staff on coalition building and conflict resolutions for peaceful co-existence. It is anticipated that the coalition will have a strong voice to make gains on the age of consent to sex.
- After the advocacy training, YWCA Ghana developed partnership with the radio stations and made several run shows on ending child marriage.
- October 2019: Ghana Support Supervision explored the practical steps for coalition building and developing a strategy to end child marriage in a cohesive way. The MA had been advocating for the change of age of consent to sex from age 16 to 18 but for a long time they were not making a headway. The workshop enabled participants to reach greater understanding advocacy pathways of influencing the change of age of consent to sex from 16 years to 18 years. YWCA Kenya supported in drafting a communique to be used for school collection of signatures to support the proposed policy review. A coalition was formed and a roadmap was too developed. YWCA Kenya supported the MA to package information on the collection of signatures in school to support the process of petition against the age of Consent to sex to be changed from age 16 to 18.



the Queen Mother of Adabraka, Naa Korkor Aadzioyi (center) with members of leading CSOs in Ghana and the media pose for a group/family photograph holding the SoAWC Child Marriage Fact Sheet

Press release link for the partners and stakeholders event: <https://allafrica.com/stories/201910190073.html>

v. Technical Assistance, Coaching and Support Supervision to Uganda

The management of Uganda had declined to support the champion's advocacy with an excuse that YWCA was to support all the activities of their champions. YWCA Kenya send a taskforce to do a project re-orientation with the Uganda MA on the pertinent issues of supporting the champions work. It is worth noting that by the end of the project the champions received very minimal support even after the intervention of YWCA Kenya.

vi. Technical Assistance, Coaching and Support Supervision to Madagascar

October 2019: YWCA Madagascar met with diplomat of the Permanent Mission to advocate for ending Child marriage for Malagasy children. This was anchored to the SOAW report which YWCA shared with them during the meeting. YWCA Madagascar was later invited in Geneva during the annual planning to incorporate their voice as indicated in the report.

October 2019: YWCA Madagascar presented the UPR report to the permanent mission during the UPR meeting in Geneva. By writing the report as part of the 2019 Universal Periodic Review was one of the ways to encourage the Government and Parliament to act, to redouble their efforts, to commit themselves genuinely in the fight against and the elimination of child marriages in Madagascar. Emphasizing the importance of using the provisions of the SADC Model Law and the ratification of the Maputo Protocol to combat child marriage and to protect girl.

vii. Online Technical Assistance, Coaching and Support Supervision to Ethiopia, Bukina Faso, Nigeria and Zimbabwe

These MAs were supported through skype calls and WhatsApp communication. Ethiopia were in constant consultation on how to carry out online campaigns due to the government restrictions. Until 2019 they were advised to continue with their offline campaigns to avoid conflicts with the government regulation. It was also a relief in 2019 when the CSOs voice was heard and the burn of online campaigns was lifted.

Burkina Faso has two board led management; Youth and the Elderly women. YWCA gave a technical assistance of the boards having joint deliberation on supporting the youth board which doesn't have reliable income. It was from the clarification that the champions started getting support for their advocacy work. When the government of Burkina Faso passed a law prohibiting female genital cutting in 1996, it launched a public education campaign to make the law effective. It added the topic to the school curriculum and opened a telephone help line for girls at risk. As a result, the champions with the support on advocacy joined other CSO forums to sensitize more women and girls on FGM; the number of convictions has gone up and public support for female genital cutting is falling.

Zimbabwe support their vision of ending GBV and poor maternal services for the young women. Due to the rising cases of SGBV, YWCA Zimbabwe developed messages in school to promote SRH opportunities



Champions campaigning for girls rights in Zimbabwe.

Technical assistance to CSO for their inclusion into national delegations to the African Union and regional economic communities.

i. Africa CSO Consultation on the Status of Africa's Population

September 2019: More than 10 young champions participated in the Africa CSO Consultation on the Status of Africa's Population to develop a common African Position on Population and development through CSO online survey which was followed by a CSO validation through a convention in Namibia where the Kenyan, Malawi and Mozambique champions with key representatives across the five regions of the Africa Region participated. The delegation identified Regional population and development priorities and CSOs recommendations made to the AU for inclusion in the final CAP document.

ii. Addis Ababa Beijing +5 Conference

October 2019: Addis Ababa Beijing +5 YWCA Kenya together with Lesotho Champions participated in the various highlights of important achievements, challenges and set-backs in progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women over the past 5 years were discussed, priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in various countries were highlighted for over the past five years through laws, policies and/or programmes, specific measures to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination-actions that various countries have taken in the last five years to advance gender equality in relation to women's role in paid work and employment.

iii. Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health

October 2019: The champions from Uganda and Malawi participated in the Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health which laid a platform of building the capacity of African Policy Makers for enhanced implementation of ICPD PoA and improved reproductive health outcomes in meeting the SDGs by 2030 in the region; Elicited commitments to improve RH/FP outcomes including ending preventable maternal deaths, eliminating unmet need for family planning and ending child marriages and teenage pregnancies, among others.

iv. The Nairobi Summit on ICPD+25: Accelerating the Promise.

November 2019: YWCA Champions from Malawi, Ghana and Kenya participated in the Nairobi Summit on ICPD+25: Accelerating the Promise. This gave an opportunity for the Champions to interact with various Government and National representatives as they took to the floor to present their commitments to achieve the goals of the ICPD Programme of Action and Agenda 2030. The national commitments that will, collectively, lead to fulfilling the promise of ICPD, including achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

v. 29th World YWCA Council- South Africa

November 2019: YWCA Kenya made recommendations of the champions who had made strides in SOAWC advocacy to participate in the 29th World YWCA Council which was held in Johannesburg, under the theme "Young Women Transforming Power Structures for Gender Equality," which was anchored to Goal 2035: The State of African Women campaign (SOAWC) partners used the World Council platform to share the experiences and recommendation on the African legislative framework which have gaps in law enforcement and security for girls and women and the barriers for survivors of GVAW and harmful practices in terms of access to justice and continued low levels of reporting and prosecution. Special emphasis was on low awareness of the policies, acts, protocols and guidelines in many countries; many people are not aware if their countries have signed, ratified or have reservations.

vi. Gender Is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC)

February 2020 - Held At Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the theme: ‘Recognizing and Amplifying Women and Girls Agency to Silence the Guns in Africa’? The theme was of particular interest to the participating SoAWC Champion from Nigeria advocating for peace in schools, religious arena through peace-building and conflict resolution programs since conflict exacerbates the vulnerability of young women and girls. Displaced women and girls are often at the highest risk, tasked with providing food, clothing, shelter and keeping families together in countries with destroyed infrastructure and lack of sustainable economic fabric.

vii. At the Local Level- Kenya

YWCA champion Met with women representative of Kisii County to lobby for budgetary allocation for ANTI-FGM activities. The women representative was committed to present the position paper to the county assembly for debate. It is hoped that the champions will continue lobbying for both the National and resources that will support the advocacy work of ending harmful practices. It was from this context that further consultations were done in June 2019 with the ANTI-FGM board CEO to develop an action plan for creating synergies in the ant-FGM campaigns. This has been hampered by the court case challenging the existence and constitutionality of the Anti-FGM board. The Anti-FGM has embarked on community dialogues in the counties that adversely hold on the FGM culture.

8. POLICY CHANGES ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

After the advocacy training for the MAs and the champions, each MA championed for at least 2 policy issues /social norms- to tallying to at least 30 legal/social issues affecting girls and women. Some of which have been approved and others still in the process. MA and champions were trained, engaged in consultation with stakeholders and campaign from grass-root to the national levels on 4 policies.

	Member Association		Policy Framework championed	Status of the legal framework as at September 2020
1.	Kenya	1.1	Ani-FGM Policy	On-Going-Pending Court case
		1.2	EAC SRHR Bill	On-Going to remove contested content on abortion and age appropriate information.
		1.3	SRHR Policy Meru	Finalized and Launched 2019
2.	Tanzania	2.1	Female Genital Mutilation Act (EAC Act) 10	On-Going
		2.2	Amendment of the Marriage Act Law	Finalized and ratified- 2019
3.	Mozambique	3.1	Ending child marriage and premature re-union	Finalized and ratified-2019
		3.2	SRH Policy on commitments to FP2020	Implementation on-going
4.	Ethiopia	4.1	Review of Criminal Code to criminalize FGM Perpetrators	Review On-Going
		4.2	Sexual Harassment Policy	On-Going
		4.3	SRH Policy	On-Going
5.	Zimbabwe	5.1	Review of National HIV Testing Guidelines of 2014	On-going
		5.2	SRHR Policy	On-Going
6.	Uganda	6.1	EAC SRH bill	On-Going
		6.2	Health Policy-Access to FP	Implementation ongoing
7.	Madagascar		Policy on GBV and Child Marriage	On-Going
8.	Lesotho	8.1	Domestic Violence Bill of 2018	On-Going
		8.2	Inheritance and succession to chieftainship	On-Going
9.	Ghana	9.1	Ending Child Marriage	Review Process On-going
		9.2	Ending VAWG	Implementation On-Going
10	Nigeria		Legal enforcement on VAWG	Review Process On-going
11	Benin		Campaign to End Child Marriage	Implementation On-Going
12	Burkina Faso	12.1	Adolescent SRH (ASRH) policies- Lacking in the country	Development Process on-going
		12.2	Policy to end FGM and child marriage	Implementation On-Going
13	Gambia	13.1	The Constitution of Gambia (1996)	Review Process On-going
		13.2	Islamic Sharia law- Has no minimum age of marriage	Review Process On-going
		13.3	FGM legislation	Review Process On-going
14	Liberia	14.1	Domestic Violence Act	Review Process On-going
		14.2	Amendment of the constitution of 1996	Review Process On-going
15	Malawi	15.1	SRHR policy launched in 2017	Implementation On-Going
		15.2	National Gender Policy and National Action Plan to Combat Gender Based Violence in Malawi (2014-2020)	Implementation On-Going

Description of the Policy Campaigns:

1) Kenya: The Kenyan champions have been at the forefront on advocating for the adoption of ANTI- FGM policy and participation in the EAC SRHR bill, making recommendations on the need for sexuality education. The champions participated in the development and community sensitization of the Meru County SRHR policy that seeks to ensure elimination of all forms of gender based violence (GBV) and improve the quality of life for women and girls.

2) Tanzania: YWCA Tanzania, a member of the Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network (TECMN) CSO network, championed and participated in review of the Marriage Act Law which was changed from age 15 to 18 for girls. This sealed the loopholes which delayed justices especially to the girl child and women. The MA has also been at advocating on the Regional FGM Law, which was enacted In 2016 by the East Africa Community (Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda), East African Community Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act (EAC Act) 10 meant to promote cooperation in the prosecution of perpetrators of FGM through the harmonization of laws, policies and strategies to end FGM across the region. In Kenya, Kuria community, for instance, circumcisers reportedly continue to cross from Kenya in the knowledge that the law in Tanzania is not as strict and they may avoid prosecution. The EAC Act aims to raise awareness about the dangers of FGM and provide for the sharing of information, research and data to combat the harmful cultural practices.

3) Mozambique: YWCA Mozambique has been part of the Coalition for Elimination of Child Marriage in Mozambique (CECAP) that spearheaded the process of piling pressure on Mozambique's National Assembly to make an important step toward ending the country's sky-high rate of child marriage by unanimously adopting a law banning the practice. The new law prohibits marriage of children younger than 18 years old, without exception, and awaits the president's signature to go into effect. The MA, YWCA Mozambique together with the consortium has proved their commitments to FP2020 which is one of the most significant goals set by the Government is to have sexual and reproductive health counselling corners (providing information, testing and access to contraceptives) in all secondary schools.

4) Ethiopia: YWCA Ethiopia Champions have been engaged in addressing the critical gaps in sexual and reproductive health services for women of reproductive age- 90% of all adolescent unintended pregnancies in Ethiopia occur among young women with an unmet need for modern contraception. The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (1995) does not directly address FGM but contains several statements relevant to the practice e.g. Article 16 protects all citizens against 'bodily harm'. At the same time the Criminal Code does not specifically criminalize the failure to report FGM, whether it is planned or has taken place. However, more generally, Article 443 sets out the punishments for failing to report certain crimes championed for two policy frameworks that are not protecting women and girls on harmful practices and the rise in Sexual gender based violence among teenage and college going youths. YWCA Ethiopia is fighting to change the social norms that have sustained SGBV for a long period while pushing for review of SRH and FGM policy to safeguard the rights of girls and women. The champions have also embarked on advocating for enactment of sexual harassment policy in institutions of higher learning.

5) Zimbabwe: The legal and policy provisions on sexual and reproductive health services in Zimbabwe states that: “Every citizen and permanent resident of Zimbabwe has the right to have access to basic health-care services, including reproductive health-care services”, existing legal and policy guidelines limit access. Added to this, the National HIV Testing Guidelines of 2014 state that a child under the age of 16 is unable to consent to HIV testing and counselling (HTC). YWCA and the Civil society organizations working with adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), have been calling for the removal of age restrictions on access to reproductive health services at the same time creating awareness and advocating for community participation during the public hearing, to change the Marriage law which allows for marriage of girls at the age of 16 to be pushed to 18 years. The champions have also been working on the implementation of improved access to maternal health services. Young women and child mortality has been on the high rise.

6) Uganda: EAC SRH bill - The East African Community (EAC) is one of the eight regional economic communities recognized by the African Union. This community was established in 1999 by three of its original founding members, which are Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The Bill seeks to provide a framework for the protection and advancement of sexual and reproductive health and rights as framed on the Maputo Plan for Action for the operationalization of the African Continental Policy Framework for universal access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services. YWCA Uganda has been in the forefront to promoting reproductive health education packages to promote positive healthy behaviors extended to parental obligation to provide comprehensive sexuality education to their children. The delayed process in the enactment of the bill is due the controversial issue of Access to and acceptance of safe abortion and Enhancing the sexual rights and health of marginalized groups, such as sex workers, men who have sex with men (MSM), lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual people (LGBT). YWCA Uganda in the fight of HIV has also been promoting access to contraceptives, family planning services and reproductive health technologies through the Health Policy in Increasing age-appropriate information, access, and use of family planning amongst young people, ages 10–24 years”

7) Madagascar: Despite the adoption of a new law setting the minimum age for marriage at 18, customary laws and traditional social practices still favor child marriage. Madagascar has the 15th highest prevalence of child marriage globally . 40% of girls in Madagascar are married before their 18th birthday and 13% are married before the age of 15. While 13% of boys in Madagascar are married before the age of 18. In 2019, at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, Madagascar committed to intensify prevention and victim support measures to end gender-based violence including child marriage. YWCA has been at the fore-front in promoting the Policy on GBV and Child Marriage through advocacy training and inter-generational dialogues by the local coalitions.

8) Lesotho: The notable gaps in Lesotho’s national legislation pertain to discriminatory traditional and cultural laws and practices of early child marriages, inheritance and succession to chieftainship. The proposed Domestic Violence Bill of 2018 will be another step to close the existing gap in the legislation as it will address some traditional and cultural laws that continue to promote the minority status of women and increase their vulnerability to GBV. The CSO forum has been pushing for the enactment of the proposed bill aims to provide for protection, prevention and criminalization of domestic violence as well as advocacy for rights of victims of domestic violence and related matters. It incorporates a multidisciplinary approach to addressing violence against women such as provision of collaboration between the police, social services and health providers.

9) Ghana: The MA has been at the forefront to push for the policy to end Teenage pregnancy and child marriage, Advocacy to change the age of consent to sex. There is a clear National Strategic Framework on Ending Child Marriage in Ghana 2017-2026 however the implementation of the strategy has been challenged by the age of consent to sex and even to marriage by the parent. The legal age of marriage is 18 for both boys and girls but they can marry as young as 16 with the consent of their parents. The Ghanaian cultures have been identified as deeply traditional and patriarchal, a trend that continues to date to promote violence against women and girls. Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) show that attitudes that tolerate violence against women have become more prevalent in Ghana despite efforts made to reduce VAWG. The MA, YWCA Ghana together with Accra Metro Assembly continue to advocate for end of VAWG.



YWCA Youth Join UNICEF in Launching National Strategic Framework on Ending Child Marriage in Ghana 2017-2026.

10) Nigeria: YWCA Nigeria together with Women’s rights activists have been championing for a Policy to end GBV and the need of strong legal actions against perpetrations. VAWG in Nigeria include sexual harassment, physical violence, harmful traditional practices, emotional and psychological violence, socio-economic violence and violence against non-combatant women in conflict situation. Some reports show women being maltreated by law enforcement agents. Challenges in efforts to eliminating violence against women in Nigeria has been attributed to legal or cultural complacence. A section of the penal code applicable in Northern Nigeria permits wife battery as chastisement if grievous harm is not indicted. A provision in the Labor Act prohibits women from working at night. And where the law is applicable, there is a lax enforcement of violence against women laws.

11) Benin: Policy to end Teenage pregnancy and child marriage so as to enhance school retention and promote inequality. According to UNICEF 31% of girls in Benin are married before their 18th birthday and 9% are married before the age of 15. While 5% of boys in Benin are married before the age of 18. In 1997 Benin ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, including Article 21 regarding the prohibition of child marriage. In 2017 Benin launched the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa. YWCA and the CSOs in Benin have promoted this campaign especially on changing the law that allows minors to marry before 18 years with parental consent or in some cases judicial consent.

12) Burkina Faso: Policy to end FGM and child marriage. There is sustained retrogressive culture that has sustained inequality. To date, the anti-FGM laws of Burkina Faso have been more strongly enforced than those of some of its neighbors, raising concerns that families are taking their daughters across borders to avoid prosecution in countries where laws do not exist or are weakly enforced (including Mali, Niger, Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire). Cross-border FGM remains a challenge across the whole of West Africa. While the Penal Code in Burkina Faso does not yet specifically address FGM carried out on or by their citizens in other countries, it does refer to cross-border crimes in general. The innovative approach to legal proceedings undertaken in Burkina Faso is the use of mobile community courts, which takes the enforcement of the law directly to the practicing communities. The MA YWCA Burkina Faso have taken advantage of this in their advocacy work. These have been highly successful in raising awareness of the law and involving all members of the community and local media in the sentencing process of FGM cases. Burkina Faso also lacked adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) policies and access to accessible, affordable, and appropriate health services. The cost of contraception was frequently cited as a barrier by women interviewed. This advocacy for the FP pushed the government to commit in providing free family planning services, including contraceptives and medical consultations in June 2019.

13) Gambia: Policy to end child marriage and FGM. 26% of girls in The Gambia are married before the age of 18 and 8% are married before their 15th birthday. According to reports from the YWCA community outreach, Child marriage is generally considered a positive part of life and tradition in society, which is perceived to prepare girls for life. In July 2016, the Children's (Amendment) Act was enacted, which prohibited child marriage and establishes the minimum age for marriage as 18 years. However, there is no minimum age of marriage under Islamic Sharia law, which is the dominant tradition governing family law in The Gambia. Advocacy has been around the Sharia Law being reviewed. The Constitution of Gambia (1996) does not explicitly reference harmful practices or FGM. Activists widely welcomed the introduction of the Women's (Amendment) Act 2015 by former president Yahya Jammeh, but with a change of leadership in 2016 supporters of FGM claimed that the new law would no longer be applicable. In reference to FGM legislation, together with other NGO partners, YWCA Champions in The Gambia have been disseminating information on the law.

14) Liberia: The MA and Champions have been advocating for an end of Retrogressive Socio-cultural norms that have sustained gender inequality through training, inter-generational dialogues. YWCA Liberia participated in the United Nations Joint Programme on Sexual and Gender-based Violence and Harmful Traditional Practices to address the escalating cases of SGBV and cultural practices affecting women in the communities. The Constitution of Liberia (1996) is limited in its commitment to protect women and children: it does not address violence against women and girls, harmful practices or FGM. There is currently no national legislation in Liberia that expressly criminalizes and punishes the practice of FGM. Due to advocacy pressure by the CSOs, then outgoing president of Liberia in January 2018, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, signed Executive Order No. 92 banning FGM for girls under 18 years of age as originally proposed in the Domestic Violence Act (but effectively allowing women over 18 to consent to FGM), stating that its omission undermined the law. The advocacy by the CSOs has been to push for the review of the existing National laws in Liberia that

makes no provision for punishment of cross-border FGM.

15) Malawi: YWCA Malawi participated in the development of SRHR policy and since 2018 they have been lobbying for its implementation due to sustained trend of early marriages and teenage pregnancy. The Malawi Government has also adopted several policies and legal frameworks to address gender-based violence issues, including the National Gender Policy and National Action Plan to Combat Gender Based Violence in Malawi (2014-2020), yet, Sexual and Gender Based Violence and child marriage remains a serious problem in Malawi, with the Country having one of the highest rates of child marriages in the world. The Champions have been advocating for the implementation of the Maputo Protocol with the fact that despite Malawi having ratified and signed the declaration to protect women and girls rights implementation has been a challenge. This is similarly the same enforcement challenge on child marriage - despite the age mark for marriage in the constitution being revised to 18.

ADVOCACY STRATEGY ADOPTED BY MA'S FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Public panel discussions:

Malawi and Ghana MA's invited young people and organizations with knowledge on SRHR to a panel discussion. The department of Gender and Health participated in the discussions to respond to concerns on the access and Utility of SRHR services.



Policy briefing paper

The Champions of Kisii County in Kenya and Malawi brought together the youth and developed a position paper seeking for the intervention of the government in ending VAWG and enhance access to SHR services, allocating resources and support to women and girls

Mobilize others via petitioning:

YWCA of Ghana collected signatures from all school going adolescents and teachers in the advocacy process of changing the age of consent to sex from 16 years to 18 years.



Arrange lobbying meetings:

YWCA Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso and Nigeria together with coalitions of CSOs organized several meeting with the parliamentarian committees at the local and national levels to lobby for amendment of SRHR and GBV policies.

Distribution of information and education materials

YWCA Kenya shared the SOAW research report published in 2018. All the MAs made reference to the report in the policy campaigns. Country specific fact sheets were also developed to support respective MAs.



Hon. Dennitah from Kenya poses with a T-shirt before court advocacy.

Use community radio

Most MAs used local radio platforms influenced public opinions using their local languages. YWCA Ghana and Kenya were in the fore-front of using radio to reach the grass-root communities.



Awards to the Outstanding Champions.

To enhance advocacy work, YWCA Kenya created an advocacy challenge for a period of 4 months to establish the outstanding work carried out by various champions. Winners were from Malawi, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Ghana.



Use social media by the champions

YWCA Kenya used the social media strategy developed by the consortium to influence the advocacy work of the MAs. Campaign hashtag, #RightByHer was greatly amplified widely in the, websites, blogs and social media platforms to connect and reach a large audience and enable fast communication. YWCA Champions have been continuously capacity built by YWCA Kenya on digital advocacy and they have shown tremendous results through engaging policy makers and rallying support of global SRH champions to #RightByHer.

Campaigning

YWCA Kenya together with the Anti-FGM coalition mobilized other CSOs and the public around the FGM advocacy issue to change perceptions, and build support to influence decision-makers and stakeholders on the approval of Amended policy which was being challenged in court.



Research/ publications

The SOAW Research Report was used by the MAs and the Champions to illustrate the underlying causes and policy gaps, and made recommendations to be addressed by decision-makers and stakeholders.



Hon. Ayisha Adam, Dep. Speaker Malawi officially Launches the SAOW report and RightByHer Campaign

YWCA through YWCA brought together a variety of stakeholders and decision-makers to highlight the causes and identify the solutions to the issue, with follow-up that includes concrete and immediate action.



YWCA Kenya, Mozambique, Ghana and Malawi through coalitions, generated organizational support and momentum behind issues, connect messengers with decision-makers, and utilize diversity to achieve common advocacy goals affecting public opinion via mass media



9. MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION

- The monitoring system WebMo was used for collecting comprehensive information quarterly at the consortium level. Though the tool was comprehensive, it posed a lot of challenge in analyzing all the target levels.
- At the institutional level, YWCA collected information at the activity level which was collated into a monthly reports hence feeding into the quarterly reports. The champions from the 15 MAs report to YWCA Kenya on all the initiatives and activities carried out from their MA countries.
- YWCA also kept track of the social media counts on all the advocacy campaigns engaged online and collected the views which formed some of the policy discussions in the conferences and events.
- A Result Oriented Monitoring was carried out in 2019 by an independent Consultant to review the extent of the project implementation.
- Other than the OAPA which was carried out in July 2019 by DSW, YWCA took an opportunity to carry out an end of project evaluation in August 2020.

10. SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES OF THE PROJECT

The skills and the institutional will is there to continue working on SRHR advocacy across all the Member Associations. In the field many of the champions also express an interest to continue to promote the issues at grass-roots and policy level. The policy makers have political imperatives to continue work in this area to ensure SRHR is incorporated in policies and legislation.

Many of the YWCA MAs have ensured inclusion of SoAWC focus areas in the Strategic plan. For instance the YWCA Kenya Strategic plan for 2019-2023 established with clear deliverables on policy advocacy on harmful practices and Gender Violence against Women that strongly aligns to the SoAWC.

Led by YWCA Kenya, Champions from YWCA MAs have a vibrant smartphone collaboration platform SOAW Champions 'WhatsApp' group where they share emerging issues and advocacy strategies around their focus areas in addition to social media campaigns using the hashtag, #RightByHer.

Through the YWCA MA lead YWCA Kenya, a SOAW Campaign mobile application accessible on Google Playstore via Android smartphones and iPhone App Store was developed, distinct from the websites, rightbyher.org and ywcaKenya.org website. The App offers a portable reference database for the YWCA SoAWC champions to access resources and connect with each other beyond the project period. YWCA Kenya will endeavour to ensure successes in policy wins that the champions took part in advocating for their achievement will be updated.

Various YWCA MAs have also formed coalitions with like-minded CSOs supported with advocacy strategies from the SoAW Campaign to start conversations around policy change that might yield results way after the campaign.

11. COOPERATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

During the process of developing the advocacy manual, YWCA consulted different stakeholders and consortium members including; Faith leaders forum, F2A and IPPFARO. YWCA Kenya has had good support from the ANTI-FGM board and other actors in the campaign against FGM and FGM related consultations. There has been a good working and consultative relationship with the MAs working on the project with special reference to resource mobilization, champion engagement and policy related support.

During the Launch of RightByHer Campaign in Malawi, The YWCA Champions award were supported extensively by IPPFARO team working with YWCA Kenya to ensure the award ceremony was the successful. IPPFAR continued to support the Young Women Champions across all the MAs to participate in conferences and events at the AU level in addition to forming campaign communication strategies to better amplify International Days.

12. COMMUNICATIONS AND VISIBILITY MANAGEMENT

Effective communications for the SOAW project were critical in successfully managing the young women's network across the 15 MAs.

All produced material followed the set-out guidelines on EU and SoAWC visibility. Visibility for the campaign has been enhanced after the MA's and Champions were trained on Messaging and particularly use of the campaign hashtag #RightByHer. A media statement was developed by the National General Secretaries representing the MA's of Eastern and Southern region (Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe) and aired on Malawi National Television and published on a local newspaper expressing the stand of the joint YWCA's on women's rights and against harmful practices, child marriage and GBV against women and girls' as enshrined in the Maputo Protocol. The Champions are using the Campaign Materials produced to carry out their advocacy.

Reference to the SoAW Campaign and Maputo Protocol during media interviews by YWCA SoAW Champions and MAs staff.

YWCA Kenya website was re-constructed to incorporate YWCA Champions Advocacy activities to highlight the successes of the SoAWC project



Screenshot of the redesigned YWCA Kenya website: www.ywcakenya.org

The Champions from all YWCA MA's have incorporated the campaign into their other advocacy initiatives, using #RightByHer to champion for women's rights on other campaigns. The #RightbyHer campaign has vastly outperformed its target of 58,000 twitter and facebook messages with 1,268,959. YWCA Champions from across the continent played a significant role in this following various digital advocacy trainings on how to leverage on technology in their advocacy. The SOAW project was able to leverage an already existing network and relationships between the MAs

Working with the Young Women Champions

In line with the SDG 5 global framework aimed at Empowering All Women and Girls, the SoAW Campaign has made a significant impact in the lives of YWCA Young Women Champions who have risen to make noticeable great strides in their communities as they champion for policy changes to ensure lasting impact. As YWCA Kenya, it was a big responsibility as we developed holistic approaches to support and capacity build them and at the end of the project, we have the champions selected to various leadership positions around empowerment in the SoAW rights areas.

13. RISK MANAGEMENT

Upon commencement of the project the YWCA Project lead engaged the MAs and the young women champions to advise the project on the correct risk documentation for the project. This work was useful in scoping the range of risks, their likelihood and potential impacts. Most risks were classified as Minor, with a low or moderate likelihood of occurring and a low impact on the success of the project.

The major risk was highlighted by Tanzania, Burkina Faso and Ethiopia on the volatile environment for advocacy. Sensitization was done for the champions on the personal protection tips in terms of advocacy tactics.

Key assumptions and risks were identified in terms of backlash into the retrogressive social norms despite the gains made in the legal framework. All parties continued with their activities as best they could.

The unforeseen risk was the change of political leadership which slowed down some of the process that had begun on Gender Equality process. Lesotho and Liberia were affected by the change in leadership which never gave priority to domestic violence Acts.

14. LESSONS LEARNT

Lessons Learnt / Special Experiences, Achievements, Major Events / Developments

Lessons learned related to effectiveness

- a) **Training of the other CSOs-** The implementation of the Project would have been improved if there was adequate training for other CSO actors on gender equality at commencement and during implementation. Advocacy training in Malawi and Ghana revealed that it was necessary to build youth skills and knowledge on harmful practices so as to enhance effective participation of youth and promoting their voice to reach the communities. Most of the MAs also confirmed that academic institutions are the point of convergence where most youth meet, and it is necessary to engage with them to discuss FGM issues and attitude and behavior change through promotion of youth dialogues. Most of the advocacy action plans for the MAs captured this. See the action plans attached.
- b) **Knowledge of the donor resources allocation rules within the Project components and activities-** Prior knowledge of the flexibility of the EU resource re-allocations rules in procurement and activity implementation among the project consortium would have enabled more champions to be engaged with undisbursed resources available for other components. The resources could have also been used to increase the number of champions sensitized on AU policies.
- c) **Technical Support Supervision-** Though all the planned support supervision were under the mandate of the consortium partners, at the close of 3 years, there was no linkages among the consortium partners because of problems of disconnect between the youth champions and the faith leaders and the parliamentarians, the journalist and the first ladies. Joint platforms and deliberations would have ensured harmonized operation for better results. For example the activities done by partners would easily have been covered by the journalist champions seamlessly.

- d) Advocacy Strategies-** not every strategy will work in every place, every village, every tribe and every country. The focus must be on holistic, integrated, multi-sectoral approaches that bring together the advocacy, policy-level work, and community-level transformation of social norms. Best practice on stakeholder engagement was seen from Mozambique's and Tanzania's approaches their policy analysis was done in a network and key messages and communication done through networks and coalition at various levels. Social media is sufficient for advocacy in urban set-up. There is need for a comprehensive campaign roll out strategy with our MAs to do the campaign adequately at all levels.
- e) The YWCA Champions Awards** acknowledged young women champions from across the YWCA member Association's in Africa that have not only achieved success in advocacy but have also helped their MAs achieve significant milestones in Advocacy on the SoAWC Campaign key focus areas. The event saw the appreciation of Zimbabwe, Malawi, Kenya and Ghana Champions.
- f) Implementation Team composition-** The implementation team composition at commencement should have included a project coordinator, a financial management specialist and an M&E officer dedicated to the Project. This would have improved the implementation effectiveness and avoided the implementation delays.

Lessons learned related to efficiency

- a) Implementation delays-** Implementation delays, particularly related to delayed reporting and funds disbursement in 2018 would have been minimized if the overall Project Management Team was adequately constituted and trained on the project implementation from the commencement.
- b) Effective collaboration between the Consortium-** The collaboration was average and this would have been improved by synergies creating synergies and linkages among the champions. The jointed initiatives would have pushed the project to greater heights.

Lessons learned related to sustainability

- a) Ownership and prioritization-** The sustainability of the outcomes of the Project is improved by the MA's ownership of the Project as demonstrated by the support they provided in the form of counterpart funding and supervision of the champions. The outcomes are also sustainable in time due to the most of the Government's prioritization on SDG 5 with continued financial and institutional support. This was well demonstrated in the government of Tanzania on the change of Marriage Law Act, Mozambique and Ghana.
- b) Implementation Team Complement-**the Implementation Team lacked a legal component, who could have contributed to the interpretation and enhances access to justice. The improvement of the legal environment for YWCA would have supported the enforcement of policies on cross-border FGM, early marriages witnessed and the rampant GBV cases. The champions in most cases lacked the right information and lacked capacity on holding the GBV perpetrators accountable.
- c) Comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation of the performance of Consortium-** Project Management Team should include a monitoring and evaluation specialist to monitor the performance of all the consortium on all activities pertaining to the sustainability of the project outputs and outcomes. At the commencement of the project, most of the YWCA MAs were not sure on moving the grass-root activities into policy actions and the M&E component would have been of great support in this regard

15. CHALLENGES

- a) **Lack of adequate skills and capacity by the champions** to do advocacy messaging especially at high levels. This was partially addressed in the second training of the champion in May 2019.
- b) **Attrition of champions-** The MA's have not been able to sustain the same champions within the project ; some have moved to other places, others gotten other opportunities, therefore slowing down the champions expected deliverables within the project timelines. It is a process to build the capacity of champions on developing key messages and using the right strategy for a particular advocacy.
- c) **Non-friendly environment for policy advocacy.** For example Tanzania, Ethiopia and Bukina Faso MAs have had a difficult political environment to organize advocacy campaigns against the inadequate policies (Marriage law act in Tanzania). The implementation of SOAW project in Tanzania was greatly hampered by non-political good will.
- d) **Social Cultural Norms-** Patriarchal and gender norms have continued to constitute barriers to access to justice and support for GVAW / FGM survivors. This leads to GVAW/HP cases being settled within and between families, and outside court, without guarantees of the respect of the human rights of women and girls. Many YWCA Mas have expressed this as a great barrier to ending GVAW and harmful practices.
- e) **Social media and digital advocacy-** Despite the #RightByHer being a digital campaign, from the Project launch there was a gap in lack of extensive capacity building of the MA's and the SoAWC champions to maximize on social media to amplify the campaign.

16. OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE PROGRAMING.

a. Enforcement

Putting new laws on the books is not enough. Law enforcement and court mechanisms also have to be made friendly and accessible to women. There is a need “to ensure that all those who respond to violence against women – whether they are police officers, judges, lawyers, immigration officials, medical personnel or social workers – are sensitized and trained to provide a response that is compassionate and comprehensive.”

In Rwanda, gender desks have been established at police stations, staffed mostly by trained women who help victims of sexual and other violence. They investigate cases and ensure that evidence is available for court proceedings. The gender desks have “improved reporting and response to these crimes,” Ms. Josephine Odera, UN Women’s director for West Africa, told Africa Renewal. “What we need now is to expand this approach to more countries.”

b. Focusing on Prevention

Violence against women and girls is rooted in gender-based discrimination, social norms that accept violence, and gender stereotypes that continue cycles of violence. To date, efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls have mainly focused on responding to and providing services for survivors of violence. However, prevention—addressing the structural causes, as well as the risk and protective factors, associated with violence—is pivotal to eliminating violence against women and girls completely. Prevention is the only way to stop violence before it even occurs. It requires political commitment, implementing laws that promote gender equality, investing in women’s organizations, and addressing the multiple forms of discrimination women face daily.

c. Transformative Engagement

Engagement of men and boy child, traditional and religious leaders is also critical in order to achieve sustained change considering their influential role at household and community levels.

17. APPENDICES

LIST OF YWCA SOAW CAMPAIGN CHAMPIONS

	NAME	COUNTRY
1.	Christina Barnabas	Tanzania
2.	Vivian Richard Lyimo	Tanzania
3.	Patience Angwech	Uganda
4.	Maria Nannozi	Uganda
5.	Meti Gemechu	Ethiopia
6.	Daisy Chirawu	Zimbabwe
7.	Tembani Runyararo	Zimbabwe
8.	Maida Cossa	Mozambique
9.	Maria Amelia Hagas	Mozambique
10.	Julia Khali	Lesotho
11.	Mamathe Luzzert Mathe	Lesotho
12.	Carolyn Chidandale	Malawi
13.	Josephine Chikhwana	Malawi
14.	Sowe Juldeh Penda	Gambia
15.	Nichol Lucy Madan	Gambia
16.	Samlyn Abigael	Liberia
17.	Sendolo Antoinette	Liberia
18.	Mercy Owuso	Ghana
19.	Pamela Akosu Lartey	Ghana
20.	Assiongbon Louise	Benin
21.	Allagbe Noellie	Benin
22.	Rejoice Arinse	Nigeria
23.	Adaeza Chidinma	Nigeria
24.	Sawadogo Myriam Fabeanne	Burkina Faso
25.	Yasmina Pagdamba	Burkina Faso
26.	Christina Rajaonarivelo	Madagascar
27.	Tovomiantra Vonitsiaro	Madagascar
28.	Mary Mwasi	Kenya
29.	Rosemary Osano	Kenya

LIST OF YWCA SOAW CAMPAIGN MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS AND LEADERSHIP:

MA'S NAME /COUNTRY	CONTACT PERSON	DESIGNATION
YWCA Kenya	Deborah Olwal-Modi	National General Secretary
YWCA Ethiopia	Bemnet Behailu	National General Secretary
YWCA Malawi	Nettie Dzabala	National General Secretary
YWCA Mozambique	Estrela Monica	National General Secretary
YWCA Lesotho	Masentle Selikane Amelia	National Director
YWCA Liberia	Roseline Kwitaa-Toweh	National General Secretary
YWCA The Gambia	Jones Armisticia	President
YWCA Ghana	Margaret A. Dowuona	National General Secretary
YWCA Benin	Peggy Amoussouvi	National General Secretary
YWCA Nigeria	Nweke Otuodichinma Ijeoma	National General Secretary
YWCA Burkina Faso	Coulidiati Bandri Mariama	Présidente Nationale
YWCA Madagascar	Dina Fanoharana	National Project Coordinator (SoAW)
YWCA Tanzania	Grace Soko	National General Secretary
YWCA Uganda	Jennifer Akenya	National General Secretary
YWCA Zimbabwe	Mukamuri Muchanyara	National General Secretary



YWCA SoAW Member Associations

YWCA Uganda
YWCA Tanzania
YWCA Malawi
YWCA Burkina Faso
YWCA Ethiopia
YWCA Ghana
YWCA Nigeria

YWCA Zimbabwe
YWCA Mozambique
YWCA Lesotho
YWCA Madagascar
YWCA The Gambia
YWCA Liberia
YWCA Benin

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