

THE GCERF CAROL BELLAMY LEADERSHIP AWARD 2023

AWARDEE REPORT: **WOMAN-KENYA**

AT A GLANCE: WOMAN-KENYA

Women Moving Agenda Network Kenya (WOMAN-KENYA) is a women-led civil society organisation (CSO), officially registered in Mombasa Kenya as an NGO since 2020. The organisation works to create space for women religious and ethnic leaders to participate in community Peace, security and development agendas. It aims to improve gender equality; raise awareness and sensitivity communities around gender issues and women's rights; strengthen and mobilize local mechanisms to prevent all forms of discrimination and violence against women.



WOMAN-KENYA
has operated in
Kenya since 2020

PROJECT OVERVIEW

WOMAN-KENYA's project consisted in establishing a physical presence of the organisation in Mombasa county, support the development of policies and support women initiatives on Prevention of Violent Extremism.

From there and with strengthened governance and programme policies, the organisation was able to support women's role in PVE within their villages by training a pool of women PVE influencers, who then organised psychosocial support to victims of violent extremism.

In parallel, WOMAN-KENYA also directly supported the economic autonomy of women farmers in the Ondo state by providing them with climate-resilient seeds. This allowed these women to stay engaged within the community



WOMAN-KENYA considers that religious and ethnic peace building spaces are still largely dominated by male leaders.

The organisation thus works towards sensitizing, training and empowering women to effectively address community challenges that affect women development and community well-being as a whole, notably vulnerability to violent extremism.

Considering the fact that women pay an important role in addressing violent extremism, WOMAN-KENYA targets women to influence them as change makers.



PVE PSYCHOSOCIAL SESSIONS

WOMAN KENYA identified two women religious leaders and two community care givers who had mobilised groups of 10 women each to support their initiative.

The religious leaders represented the Christian and Muslim religions. The two caregivers were paired with the two religious leaders to support their groups.

The sessions continue to improve women's self-esteem and understanding of their roles in protecting their families from VE activities in their villages.



ONE PVE CONSULTATIVE FORUM FOR WOMEN LEADER

A consultative meeting of women PVE actors in Kilifi County was held twice in the period: 17th October 2023 and 14th March 2024.

They brought together 15 women religious leaders and community caregivers to plan for the PVE support group meeting and share their experiences for learning purposes.

Each of these women has been working with several women survivors in their villages, and this opportunity was a safe space for them.



IDENTIFIED GOOD PRACTICES

- The initiatives established the need for more women influencers and caregivers. Most religious actors are male, and therefore, it is difficult for women victims to open up to them. The women religious leaders were helpful to the women in terms of clarifying certain religious teachings.
- Organisational policies depend on one another. For them to be effective, they need other policies in place, i.e. the fundraising policy cannot work without a good strategic plan. Since a strategic plan requires adequate participation of all stakeholders, the board is seeking funds to start the process.