



SILENT SUFFERING, LOST FUTURES

**SURVEY REPORT DOCUMENTING EXTENT, TRENDS AND
FACTORS BEHIND LOW ENROLMENT LEVELS IN SELECT
PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN KILIFI AND KWALE COUNTIES**

SILENT SUFFERING, LOST FUTURES

**SURVEY REPORT DOCUMENTING EXTENT, TRENDS AND FACTORS BEHIND
LOW ENROLMENT LEVELS IN SELECT PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN KILIFI AND
KWALE COUNTIES**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The research and development of this publication has been made possible through the efforts and support of many, including partners, stakeholders, staff and the communities we work with. We are grateful to those who sacrificed their time and resources to the development of this publication. In particular, we wish to thank The Ministry of Health, Kilifi and Kwale Counties, Ministry of Education, The National Government Administrative Officers (NGAOs) and especially the Assistant County Commissioners (ACCs), Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs in the project areas, for their support and cooperation. Their transparency and willingness to share their experiences shaped in a substantive way the contents of this publication.

We appreciate the support of the Children's Department, the Judiciary, especially Kwale Court and the National Police Service (NPS). Their input helped expand our understanding of the extent of the practice and challenges faced in the pursuit of justice. We further extend our appreciation to the Kwale and Kilifi communities for their cooperation in sharing their views. This endeavor would not have been possible without the pool of community champions and survivors who tirelessly told their stories with the hope of sustainable change within their communities and beyond.

We recognize the Haki Yetu staff who have been instrumental in community mobilization and raising awareness on gender inclusivity, child protection and safeguarding through the #MimiPia campaign. We especially appreciate Triza Gacheru, who coordinated this undertaking. Her expertise and diligence were instrumental in framing the research and guiding the consultant. She was ably assisted by Munira Chazike. We further acknowledge the team that reviewed the document at different stages including Fr Gabriel Dolan, Peter Kazungu and Astrid Lehner. We appreciate the financial and moral support received from our partners including Misesa Cara, GIZ-CPS, and Luminate.

Last but not least, we thank the consultant, Mr. Protas Njati Miriti who put all this together. We are grateful for the experience, persistence and professionalism he brought into the project. While acknowledging the wonderful work of the research team and partners, Haki Yetu takes full responsibility for all of the contents in the final product.

If you educate a man, you educate an individual. But if you educate a woman, you educate a nation.

AFRICAN PROVERB

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgement.....	2
Acronyms	4
Foreword	5
Executive Summary	6
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	8
1.1 Background.	8
1.2 Aim and Objectives.	10
1.3 Scope of the study.	11
CHAPTER TWO: METHODOLOGY.....	12
2.1 Study area.	12
2.2 Social economic characteristics of the households.	12
2.3. Study design and data collection methods.	14
CHAPTER THREE: FINDINGS.....	16
3.1 School enrolment trends for select schools	16
3.2 School dropout rates.	26
3.3. SGBV – Early Childhood Pregnancy	29
3.4. Access to key government services.	39
3.5 Summary of findings.....	42
CHAPTER FOUR: INITIATIVES CURRENTLY IN PLACE.	45
CHAPTER FIVE: RECOMMENDATIONS.....	47

ACRONYMS

AJS	Alternative Justice System.
ASAL	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands.
BOM	Board of Management.
CDF	Constituency Development Fund.
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
DCI	Directorate of Criminal Investigations.
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation.
IPOA	Independent Police Oversight Authority.
KEPSHA	Kenya Primary School Head Teachers Association.
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.
NG-CDF	National Government Constituency Development Fund Act.
PTA	Parent Teachers Associations.
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals.
SGBV	Sexual and gender Based Violence.
UNCRC	United Nations conventions on the Rights of the Child.
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework.
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme.
UNESCO	United Nations Education, scientific and Cultural Organizations.

FOREWORD

Kenyans do not need reminding that the economy is in disarray. Each new day seems to bring new punitive taxes and price increases on basic commodities. Most parents aspire to give their children a better life and education than they had. Each generation wants to move one-step up the ladder of prosperity and security. Yet, the past few years have severely curtailed the ambitions of many, for what was once affordable and expected is now becoming a luxury.

Twenty years ago, Kenya introduced free and compulsory education under the visionary leadership of Mwai Kibaki. Then there was a huge campaign and energy to ensure that every child was in school and receiving quality education. The campaign was successful as a million more children joined classrooms in one year. Progress has since been steady but there are still many illiterate children and far too many underequipped and understaffed schools in the Republic.

This is particularly so in the remote arid and semi-arid areas of Kenya. In this report, we focus on these hardship sub-counties in Kilifi and Kwale counties. We look at the enrollment and attendance rates as well as the dropout rate among primary going children. Despite the general belief that emphasis on the girl-child has brought significant results, we show that girls are less likely to complete primary education. Worse still, the teenage pregnancy rates are alarmingly high in all the schools that we documented. Yet, only a tiny fraction of these defilement cases ever reaches the courts.

Endemic and increasing poverty, left unaddressed by every sector in society, will result in losing the gains that were made in the early days of free education. We are less likely to see the majority of children in these marginalised realise their potential. Free Secondary Day Schools are set to become fee paying and the new Junior Secondary Schools are further understaffed, ill-equipped and unprepared to assist the next generation of learners.

We acknowledge the contribution that County Governments are making to address the crises in education, but they can and must do more together with the National Government to ensure that this generation of children are not the leftovers of what appears a very unequal society.

Fr Gabriel Dolan, Executive Director

December 2023.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Haki Yetu Organization commissioned this field study to document the extent, trends and factors that cause dropout among pupils in primary schools and the impact of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) on school going children in selected rural sub counties of Kilifi and Kwale Counties. The organization has been engaging with local communities for several years in **Bamba division, Ganze Sub County in Kilifi County and in Matuga, Kinango, Samburu and Shimba Hills Sub Counties of Kwale County**. They have engaged these communities on matters of human rights and governance while expounding on the need for citizens to access services and be included in decision making on development projects in their areas.

In these engagements, they noted with concern the high number of girls under 18 years of age who were dropping out of school after getting pregnant and boys of a similar age engaging in casual labour instead of advancing their education. The organization further noted that there were challenges experienced when seeking redress and justice and other government services and this had a negative impact on the quality and access to basic compulsory education among all children, but especially girls, living in these communities.

This report gives a detailed account and analysis of the data and information collected through interviews with key informants and stakeholders, focused group discussions, data from the Ministry of Education, County Health department and police stations between the months of June 2023 and August 2023.

The study shows that thousands of children are dropping out of school due to parental neglect and indifference to education or because of the many financial problems households are facing in these regions. The study deliberately concentrated on the **semi-arid parts** of the two counties and discovered that up to half of school going children do not attend class on a regular basis.

The cases of sexual and gender-based violence among children under 18 years of age and reported to police, health centres, dispensaries and schools are alarmingly high and a cause for national concern. However, those recorded are just the tip of the iceberg as interviews revealed that the vast majority of cases go unreported. Moreover, in many instances the victims are advised by their parents or guardians to inflate their ages to between 19 to 23 years to circumvent the law when they go to health facilities for antenatal clinics. We are talking about a crisis here.

Also disturbing is that in these remote, impoverished and neglected areas Kenyans have to travel long distances to access education, health, courts and police stations. There are, however, signs that things are improving gradually in these areas thanks to the efforts of the County Governments. Devolution is assisting but change is coming very slowly, and not fast enough for the thousands who drop out of school each year due to poverty, early pregnancy, forced marriage and poor motivation. Schools remain short of infrastructure, food, water and trained teachers, and CDF is contributing little or nothing to improve basic facilities in these selected schools.

Although the sampled sub counties of Kilifi and Kwale were the focus of the study the challenges encountered in these regions is a reflection of the reality of many arid and semi-arid areas of the Republic, six decades after independence.

No country can ever truly flourish if it stifles the potential of its women and deprives itself of the contributions of half of its citizens.

MICHELLE OBAMA



CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background.

Kenya has a very young population with children below 14 years accounting for 39.0% of the population while adolescents aged between 10 and 19 years of age are 13million or 24.5% of the total population.

The UNDP SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) No .4 outlines the following global targets on education among others:

- i. 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
- ii. 4.5 To eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training from vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.
- iii. 4.3 Ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education including university.
- iv. 4.6 Increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing states

The UN and its partners are committed to supporting the SDGs in Kenya through seventeen goals that have been identified and are interconnected. These address the major development challenges faced by people in Kenya and around the world. The current UNDAF (The United Nations Development Assistance Framework) (2018-2022) is anchored in the country's blue print for development, the Kenya Vision 2030, and the national priorities as outlined in the Medium-Term Plan III, the Big Four Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). All the 14 outcomes of the UNDAF are anchored in at least one of the 17 SDGs.

The right to education therefore is a vital right that also has international recognition, Furthermore, the UN and UNESCO are obliged to encourage international co-operation in matters of education. All children have a right to free, compulsory, and easily accessible education without discrimination of any nature. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is a legally binding agreement setting out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every child, regardless of race, religion or abilities It consists of 54 articles that

sets out children rights and how governments should work together to make them available for all children. The Convention guarantees the right to –

- Life, survival and development.
- Protection from violence, abuse and neglect.
- An education that enables children to fulfill their potential.
- Be raised by, or have a relationship with, their parents.
- Express their opinions and be listened to.

Since it was adopted by the United Nations in November 1989, 196 countries have signed up to UNCRC and all countries that sign are bound by international law to ensure it's implemented by the committee on the rights of the child.

According to UNICEF 2021, there are 24.43million children in Kenya aged below 18years representing 51.40% of the Kenyan population. In other words, half of the country's population are of school going age. It is then the responsibility of both the national and devolved governments to ensure that every child has access to quality education to assist them to achieve their full potential.

Kenya has classified Education under Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in the 2010 Constitution. As such, education is a right for all children and its protection and promotion is a major responsibility of the government. Under articles 43(1) and 53(1) (b) education is classified as a basic human right in the hierarchy of claims. The children's Act No.29 of 2022 stipulates that: -

- a) Every child has the right to free and compulsory basic education in accordance with articles 53(1) (b) of the constitution Kenya.
- b) It shall be the responsibility of every parent or guardian to present for admission or cause to be admitted his or her child, as the case maybe, to a basic education institution.
- c) The Cabinet Secretary shall, in consultation with the cabinet secretary responsible for education, develop and implement policies for the realization by every child of the constitutional right to basic education.

The Constitution of 2010 as per articles 185(2), 186(1) and 187(2) distributes the functions of education to both national and county governments. Basic primary education is the preserve of the national government while pre-primary education i.e., ECDE classes, the village polytechnics, the home crafts centers, farmers training centers and child care facilities are devolved functions in the education sector according to the Ministry of Education.



Figure 1: Engaging children, Vigurungani Primary School, Kinango Subcounty, 2022

The focus on basic education and children is therefore paramount and the findings of this study should impact on the planning and development of both national and county governments. Children who drop out of education early will have a devastating effect on the political, social and economic well-being of this country and especially the two counties that are part of this study.

1.2 Aim and Objectives.

The research study involved consultations with the relevant stakeholders in the education sector i.e., headteachers, deputy head teachers, senior teachers, school board of management, parent teachers' association members, education officials, health officers, community health promoters, local administration. The research aimed to fully analyse and document the following: -

- a) Extent of school dropout rate in the selected sub-counties.**
- b) Factors that contribute to pupils not completing their primary education.**
- c) Extent of sexual and gender-based violence and offences in these areas and collection of statistics on early childhood pregnancies.**
- d) Evaluation of Sexual and Gender Based Violence reporting and procedures currently in place.**
- e) Access to basic public services including education, health services, water, the courts and police stations.**

The overall aim then was to ascertain the major causes contributing to the dropping out of school by children in rural primary schools with a special focus on girls. The study was also conducted to assist Haki Yetu to review and evaluate their current interventions that support school going children and offer recommendations that can be adopted to improve every child's chances to remain in school and receive quality education.

The field study can also form a basis for future research or interventions that government agencies and philanthropic organisations might find helpful to support vulnerable and needy children in the remote areas of Kilifi and Kwale Counties or in other areas with similar challenges. These interventions can help reduce the burden on parents/guardians, teachers and the children in their endeavours to access learning materials and support their quest for getting quality basic education.

1.3 Scope of the study.

The study analysed the problems faced by the local communities as described during interviews with key informants, focused discussion groups, data analysed from schools including enrolment rate and dropout rate as well as records acquired in selected health facilities and police stations. We also discussed challenges faced by these pupils, interventions currently in place and possible solutions that can be adopted to ensure that children complete their basic education. The report includes the following data and information: -

- i. Primary Schools enrolment rate.
- ii. School Dropout Rates
- iii. Factors that lead to the pupils dropping out of school.
- iv. SGBV – Early Childhood Pregnancies.
- v. Sexual and gender-based data and statistics.
- vi. Causes of gender-based violence and early pregnancies.
- vii. Overview of Health, Social Support and Governance in Kilifi and Kwale.
- viii. Accessibility in seeking health care, legal justice, schools, police services and water.
- ix. Conclusions of the findings.
- x. Intervention currently in place to reduce early pregnancies and prevent dropping out
- xi. Recommendations

CHAPTER TWO: METHODOLOGY.

2.1 Study area.

The study was based in selected sub counties in Kilifi and Kwale Counties and the two are among the six counties that makes up the Kenyan Coastal Counties.

Kilifi County

Kilifi County has 7 constituencies and 35 wards and it covers a land area of 12,245.90 sq km. It borders Tana River County to the North, Taita Taveta to the West, Mombasa and Kwale to the South and the Indian Ocean to the East. It has seven sub counties namely Kilifi North and South, Kaloleni, Rabai, Ganze, Malindi and Magarini and the county headquarters are based in Kilifi town. The field study took place in Ganze Sub County with the focus on schools in the rural areas of Ganze and Bamba Wards which are the arid and semi-arid (ASAL) parts of this vast county and where there are very few productive economic activities.

Kwale County

Kwale County is located in the South of Kenya and borders the Republic of Tanzania to the South West, and Taita Taveta County to the West, Kilifi County to the North, Mombasa to the North East and Indian Ocean to the East. It has four constituencies and 20 wards with five sub counties namely Msambweni, Matuga, Kinango, Samburu and Lunga-Lunga.

According to the National drought Management Authority report of 2022 on the drought situation in Kenya, Kilifi and Kwale were classified among the counties that were facing acute food shortages both in the short term and long-term periods.

This study commenced in June 2023 and three months was spent recording, analysing and documenting the findings that will be disseminated and implemented by HAKI YETU in collaboration with other stakeholders, partners, National Government and the respective County Governments.

2.2 Social economic characteristics of the households.

Kilifi County

Kilifi County has a population of 1.454 million people as per the Kenya Population and Housing Census report of 2019, of which 704,089 are males, 749,673 are

females and 25 are intersex persons. There are 298,472 households, with 4.4 persons per household on average, and a population density of 116 people per square kilometer. Ganze Sub County has a total population of 143,906. According to the County Integrated Development Plan 2022- 2027 the under age (0-5years old) population was 200,831 in 2019(KNBS) and schooling age (6-19years) are 584,371 representing around 40.2% of the total population.

The children under5s mortality rate stands at 131.66 per 1000 live births while the national figure is 74 per 1000 live births. The increase in school going population in the county in general has put pressure on existing primary school capacity as well as the teaching personnel and school infrastructure. The free primary education program and education enrollment drive introduced in the country has caused high educational demand.

The communities in the areas of field study experience severe water shortages and poor rainfall with households and schools very dependent on rain harvesting and water pans which are sparsely distributed in these needy areas. The Kilifi coastal belt receives an average annual rainfall of about 900mm to 1,300mm while the area we are researching receives on average 300mm to 900mm.

Kwale County

Kwale County has a land mass area of 8,267.1 square kilometers and a population of 866,820. There are 173,176 households, with 5.0 persons per household on average and a population density of 105 people per square kilometer KNBS (2019 census). The field study targeted Matuga, Kinango and Samburu Sub-Counties. Matuga has a population of 194,252 people, Kinango has 94,220 and Samburu a population of 202,235.

The total population of children under 4 years was 130,310 as at 2019 (KNBS) and was projected to rise to 135,262 in 2022. The population of the age group 5 to 14 years was 257,031 and projected to be 266,798 by 2022 (CIDP2022-2027). All these children should be absorbed in primary school courtesy of Free Primary Education (FPE). Kwale County has 471 primary schools comprising of 392 public and 79 private schools respectively with a total enrolment of 178,166 pupils. The primary school teacher population is 4,892 which translates to a teacher/pupil ratio of 1:36. The performance of the county in national examination has been very poor due to poor and inadequate school infrastructure and staffing.



Figure 2: Distribution of Sanitary bags to girls, Mwasoni Primary School, Lunga Lungu Subcounty, 2020

Most schools have dilapidated infrastructure and an inadequate number of teachers while another factor attributed to poor performance is malnutrition among school going children (CIDP 2018-2022) The county has the potential to feed its population and even export food to neighboring counties but it has faced food insecurity caused by low productivity and as a result less than 30% of the population in both urban and rural areas are food secure. Farmers lack access to farm inputs, high quality plant and animal breed so production is very poor.

2.3. Study design and data collection methods.

The study design was descriptive. Data collection methods involved key informant interviews, questionnaires and focus group discussions. **The field study population targeted a sample of 20 schools in both Kilifi and Kwale counties.**

Limitations:

- i. Due to cultural factors and taboos in some communities a few respondents were economical with the truth and not ready to share information due to fear of victimization and stigmatization. This was especially true of the responses from Kinango and among the Maasai community.

- ii. Lack of response and difficulties experienced in getting data from government offices and departments with some reluctant to respond due to bureaucratic hurdles.
- iii. Some of the data published in this study was not documented and we acquired it through qualitative methods like face-to-face interviews and group discussions. We have however interrogated and compared it with official data provided by other stake holders.



CHAPTER THREE: FINDINGS.

In this section, we focus on information on School enrolment, School dropout Rates, Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Health and Social Support plus Access to key Government Services.

3.1 School enrolment trends for select schools

Ganze Sub-County

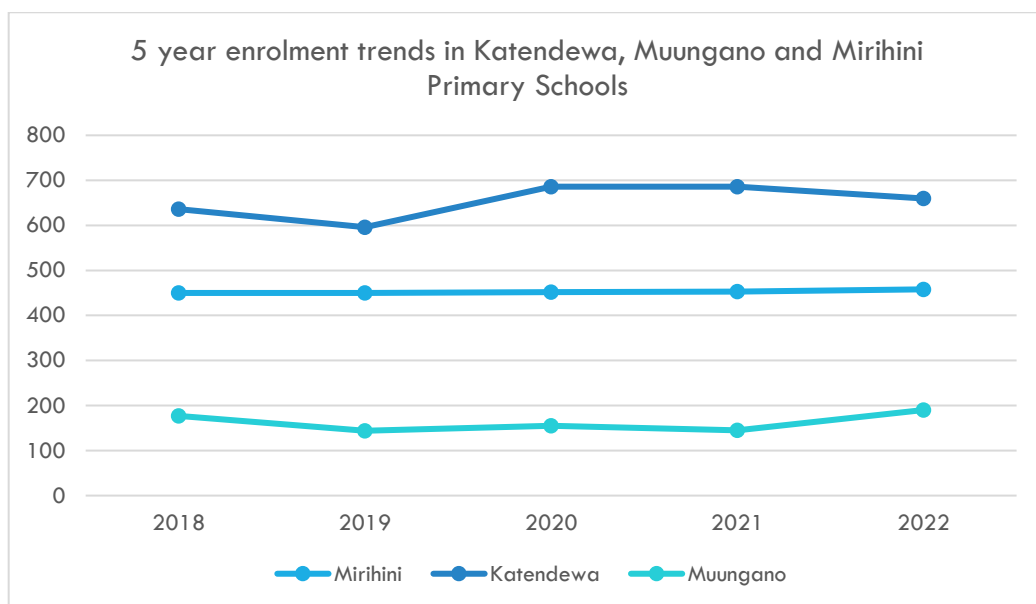
Ganze is one of 7 Sub-counties of Kilifi County. In Ganze Sub-County, we focused on three rural, public primary schools in Bamba Division: **Mirihini Primary School**, **Muungano Primary School** and **Katendewa Primary School**. The table below relates to enrolment records for the three primary schools in Ganze over a period of 5 years.

School	Gender	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Average	Ratio
Mirihini	Boys	223	226	227	227	230	226.6	50%
	Girls	227	224	225	226	228	226	50%
Katendewa	Boys	295	267	338	338	319	311.4	47.7%
	Girls	341	329	348	348	341	341.4	52.3%
Muungano	Boys	79	80	85	65	91	80	49.3%
	Girls	98	64	70	80	99	82.2	50.7%

Table 1: Five-year school enrolment for Mirihini, Muungano and Katendewa Primary Schools

The above primary schools are located in the semi-arid parts of Ganze Sub County in Bamba Division. The enrolment is quite low in all the schools with Muungano being the lowest at an average of 166 pupils over the five-year period.

At Mirihini Primary, despite the rather good enrolment, the head teacher indicated that almost half of pupils are not in school at any one time due to a myriad of problems encountered by their parents/ Guardians. There is a slight increase in the total number of pupil's in only two years (2020 and 2022) at Katendewa Primary, but the overall population declined in 2022. Katendewa primary school also lacks adequate infrastructure and pupils in grade three were learning under a tree. Muungano Primary, registered a sluggish growth in enrolment during the period under consideration, upto 2021, with the number of girls dropping significantly in 2019. The number has increased however since then.

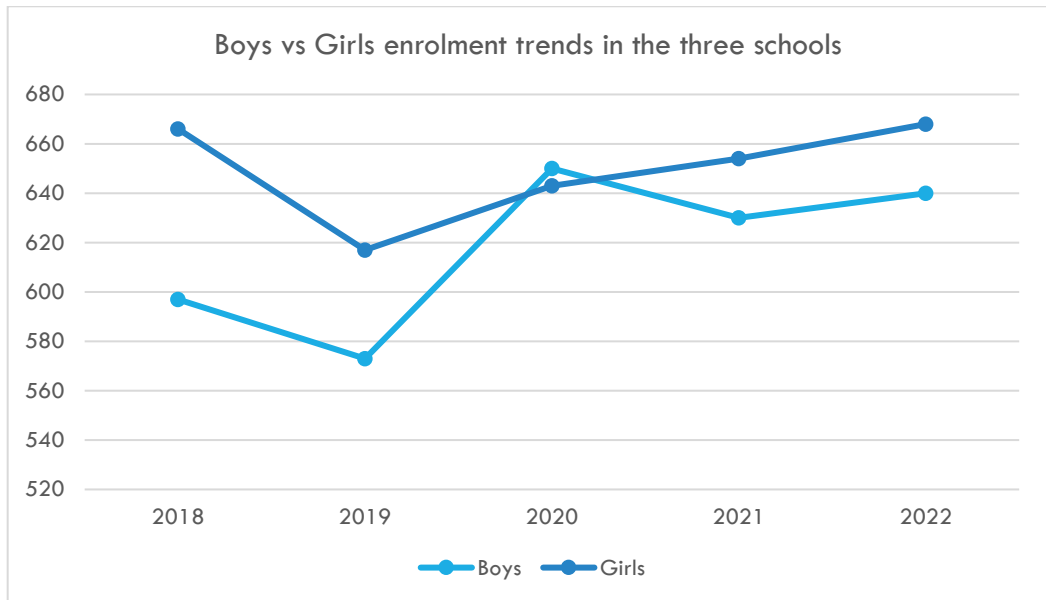


Graph 1: Enrolment trends for Mirihini, Katendewa and Muungano Primary Schools in Ganze

The schools do not show any significant growth in enrolment over the period in consideration, despite the CIDP projecting a significant increase in the population of children in the county. The Kilifi CIDP 2018-2022 puts the total population of children under 14 years at 370,706 in 2018, and projected to rise to 419,645 in the year 2022, a growth rate of 13.5%. The anticipated increase in the school going population is not reflected in the schools above, meaning there could be many children out of school.

It is worth noting that, except at Mirihini, where the number of boys is marginally higher than that of girls, the overall enrolment for girls in these schools over the 5 years is higher than that of boys. Respondents attributed this trend to the rising number of boys dropping out of school to join the bodaboda industry and other menial jobs to support their parents. It could also be an indication of progress made through campaigns and efforts to promote girl child education.

According to the Kilifi CIDP of 2018-2022 the transition rate from pre-primary school to the next level was a mere 45% implying that an estimated 55% of the pupils do not proceed to primary level.



Graph 2: A comparison of the enrolment trends between boys and girls in Mirihini, Muungano and Katendewa Primary Schools in Ganze Sub-County

The requirement of birth certificates in the enrollment of pupils in primary school is also affecting school enrollment since the majority of children do not have this important document. Many children are joining Grade One when aged 8 or 9 years and often feel uncomfortable when learning with others who are five years old. There is no feeding programme in these schools and the respondents indicated that, if introduced, the schools would attract more pupils that are at home and have never enrolled in school. They also attributed the low enrolment of pupils to the poor weather conditions in the area that leads to lack of basic needs and sustainable economic activity by the communities living here. Most villagers live in deplorable conditions and depend on charcoal burning in forests that are far away from their villages; harvesting local brew (Mnazi) for sale while others travel long distances to towns like Mariakani to look for casual labour. Most who migrate to towns, especially the young men, do not return and they abandon their children with their wives or their aged parents. This, it was noted, also contributes to the rising cases of single parenting in the region. Irresponsible parenting in turn leads to children dropping out of school and girls lured to early marriages to meet their basic needs of survival.



Figure 3: Distribution of Sanitary bags and awareness raising on child protection, Kidongo Primary School, Matuga Subcounty, 2020

The drought of the last four years was also cited as a major cause of pupils dropping out of school and most of the limited household animals that the residents keep for livelihood also died during this period. The education officials and stakeholders have been advocating for Disco Matangas (fund raising ceremonies held at night when a person dies) to be outlawed and declared illegal activities, but the local politicians both at county and national level in the area have been supporting the proprietors of these sound systems. We were however informed that the main reason for their support is because the same politicians either hire or are given the sound systems for free during campaign periods. These ceremonies are done in the evening and late into the night and attract school children who frequently engage in pre-marital sex.

The shortage of drinking water means that many girls have to travel long distances to fetch and often miss attending school as a result. Finally, the tendency to have large families both increases the poverty level and reduces the chances of children completing education.

Matuga Sub-County

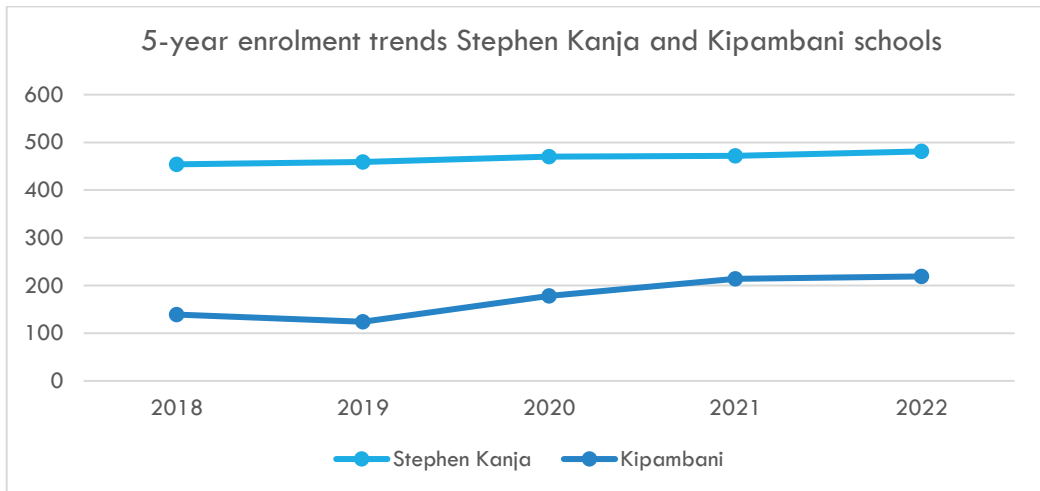
In Matuga Sub County, Kwale County, focus was on two schools: Stephen Kanja and Kipambani Primary Schools. The table below records the enrolment trends for the two schools over a period of 5 years to 2022.

School	Gender	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Average	Ratio
Stephen Kanja	Boys	245	236	260	259	263	252.6	54.1%
	Girls	209	223	210	213	218	214.6	45.9%
Kipambani	Boys	69	62	89	113	114	89.4	51.1
	Girls	70	62	89	101	105	85.4	48.9

Table 2: School enrolment statistics for Stephen Kanja and Kipambani Primary Schools in Matuga Sub-County

Stephen Kanja Primary School

This school is in Kwale County but repeats the trend we witnessed in Kilifi County schools. This school would be expected to accommodate many children since it serves a large area with some children travelling 15 kilometers to access education. The table above shows the number of boys in the school is slightly increasing compared to girls but there is no significant growth in the school population as illustrated in the graph below.



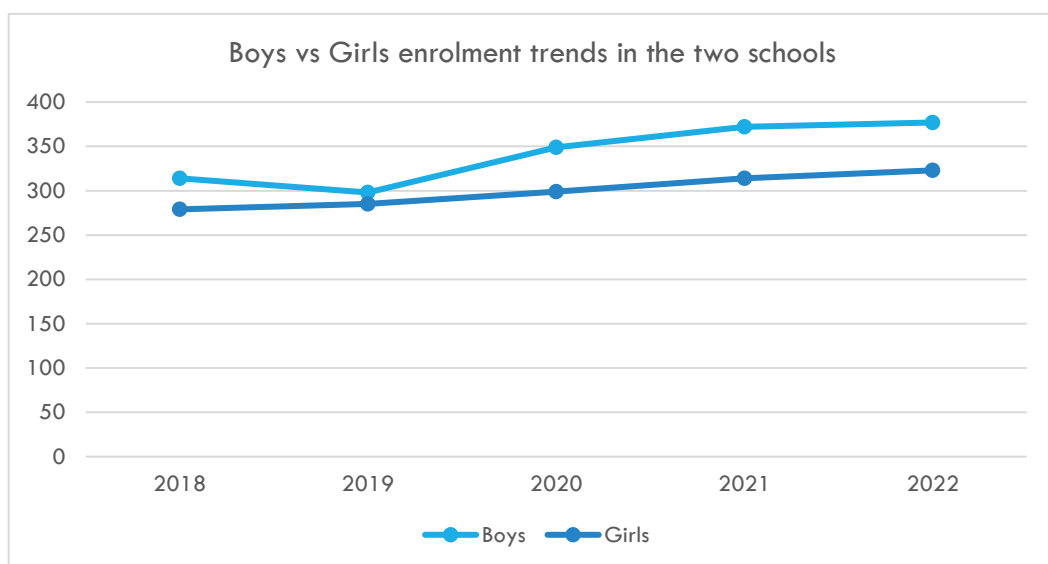
Graph 3: Enrolment trends for Kipambani and Stephen Kanja Primary Schools in Matuga Sub-County

Stephen Kanja is a private institution founded by Mr. Stephen Kanja who sponsored the school through construction of buildings and inviting donors to equip and support learners. As such, the school does not receive support from the government or local leaders. The parents also are reluctant to contribute to PTA levies because they have been used to the sponsorship from the founder and an NGO that no longer assists the school since they moved out of the county. Many parents also think that primary school education is free and most of them do not take their children to ECDE classes since they are charged tuition fees. This has affected the performance of the learners since many lack basic foundations of pre-primary school learning.

Kipambani Primary School

This is a school that suffers greatly from absenteeism as the head teacher indicated that they miss 60 to 70 pupils every day in the entire school. That is roughly a daily absentee rate of 30%. The teachers also indicated that an excessive work load is heavily impacting on their performance. The Junior Secondary has only one teacher and has to be assisted by others who also have their daily duties. The obvious result of understaffing is poor performance and lack of time to monitor deviant behavior. The school has very low enrolment because the area is sparsely populated, although the overall graph shows increasing numbers from 2020 to 2022. On separate figures given by the school it shows only two girls and one boy left the school in year 2022.

In terms of girls to boys ratio in enrolment, the number of girls enrolled in the two schools is marginally lower than the number of boys, a departure from the trends observed in Ganze sub-county.



Graph 4: A comparison of the enrolment trends for boys and girls in the two schools

Kinango Sub-County

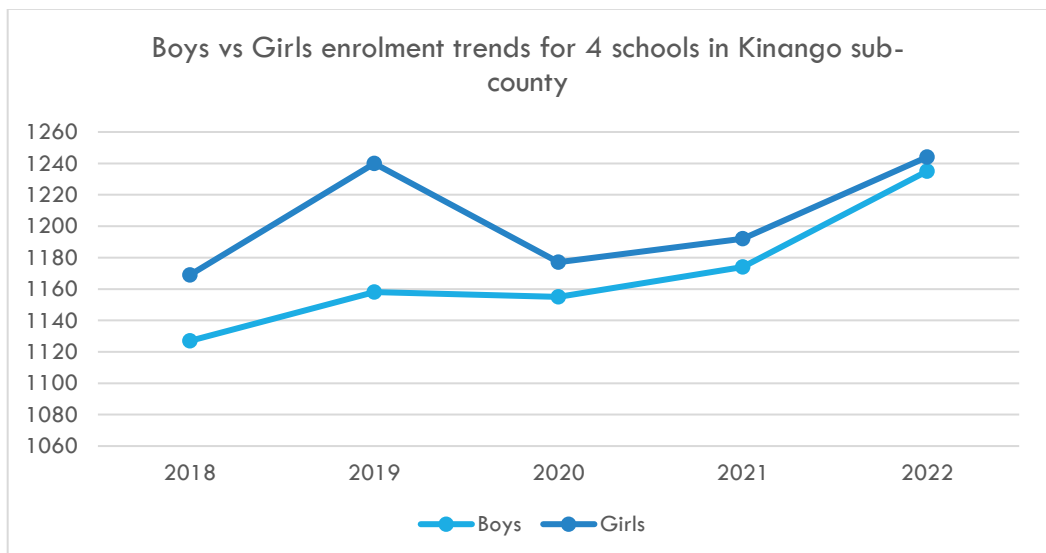
In Kinango Sub County, Kwale, we focused on five schools: Mwaluvuno, Mwachanda, Kilibasi, Taru and Mwandimu Primary Schools. The table below shows the enrolment trends for the schools over the period in consideration.

School	Gender	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Average	Gender Ratio
Mwaluvuno	Boys	155	145	131	140	125	139.2	48.2%
	Girls	163	164	135	143	144	149.8	51.8%
Mwachanda	Boys	359	371	364	374	338	361.2	51.1%
	Girls	353	357	347	340	330	345.4	48.9%
Kilibasi	Boys	161	170	165	158	180	166.8	45.1%
	Girls	198	218	220	194	186	203.2	54.9%
Taru	Boys	452	472	495	502	592	502.6	49.8%
	Girls	455	501	475	515	584	506	50.2%
Mwandimu*	Boys	0	0	0	199	136	167.5	47.2%
	Girls	0	0	0	204	170	187	52.8%

Table 3: School enrolment statistics for Mwaluvuno, Mwachanda, Kilibasi, Taru and Mwandimu Primary Schools in Matuga Sub-County

*Mwandimu Primary School did not have records for years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

It can be observed that overall, there is a higher average enrolment for girls than for boys. School enrolment rose significantly from 2018 to 2019, but then enrolment girls' enrolment dropped sharply in 2020. There has been a steady rise in enrolment since then.



Graph 5: A comparison of the enrolment trends for boys and girls in the five schools

Mwaluvuno Primary School.

The school shows a negative growth in enrollment which means that the school is losing pupils at an alarming rate. The school has lost 15.4% of its pupils in the last five years. The decline is highest among boys where 19.4% have dropped since 2018. This school has no female teacher and is located in a remote area in the borders of Kinango and Lunga- Lunga. A group discussion here noted that about 10 to 15 pupils disappear from school every year and their whereabouts are unknown as there is no follow-up, despite every child being given a NEMIS number when they join pre-primary school. Most kids here lack school uniform and are forced to use home clothes. The teachers indicated that some classes are highly congested because classrooms are few.

Mwachanda Primary School.

This is also a case of negative growth in enrollment and pupils have dropped from a high of 712 in 2018 to 665 in 2022 representing a 6.6% decline. Apart from the year 2019 that experienced a slight increase in the number of pupils, all the other consecutive years have experienced a declining trend. However, the school population is high in this region compared to others in the same locality.



Figure 4: First engagement with young mothers of Lukore Location, Kwale County, 2022

Kilibasi Primary School.

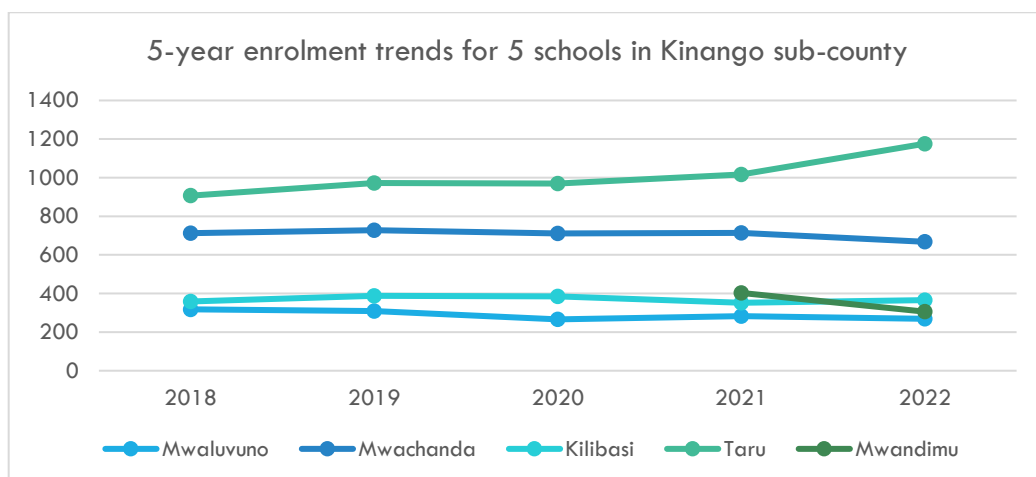
The school shows a declining trend in pupil's enrollment in school peaking in 2021 with 385 pupils. The school is located in Nyango division which is predominantly occupied by two communities, namely the Maasai and the Duruma with the latter accounting for most of the pupil population. The Maasai children in school are fewer due to their cultural practices including early childhood marriages, FGM, lack of proper information on education and migrating to different areas in search of pasture for their animals.

Taru Primary School.

This school is located in Kinango Sub County Samburu Zone, a cosmopolitan urban area in Kinango district. It is the preferred home for most employees and business people working in nearby towns and along the Mombasa - Nairobi highway. The school shows a positive growth rate of 29.6% from 2018 to 2022. We note that the number of girls dropped from 501 in 2019 to 475 in year 2020 during the Covid-19 lock down period but have increased in subsequent years to close at 584 girls in year 2022 in stark contrast to other schools in rural areas in Kinango. This figure shows that in town schools, with more trained teachers and parents with regular income and valuing education, girls education flourishes.

Mwandimu Primary School.

The school did not have data for the years 2018 to 2020. The enrollment dropped in 2022 with 97 pupils exiting school in one year alone although there is a slight increase in 2023 of 15.7%. The school is approximately 65km from Kwale town and has daily high cases of absenteeism with between 50 to 60 pupils missing school on an average day due to lack of food since there is no feeding programme and the area was severely hit by drought for the last 8 years. People here also depend on charcoal for their livelihood and travel long distances to acquire it from the forests. Most parents are illiterate and move with their children to seek opportunities elsewhere when weather conditions become unbearable.



Graph 6: School enrolment trends for Mwaluvuno, Mwachanda, Kilibasi, Taru and Mwandimu Primary Schools in Matuga Sub-County

Kwale County rural areas also experience low enrolment among ECDE learners because of levies charged and many are not able to transition to class one due to accumulated fees arrears in ECDE classes. As a result - as in Kilifi - many children never join Grade one. The pre-primary education or ECDE schooling is supposed to be fully free but due to lack of sufficient teachers and meals for the kids, school managers employ teachers and the burden of payment goes to parents. In most cases the county government employs only one teacher whereas the school has up to three ECDE classes.

The schools in these sub counties have various PTA charges with schools in Kinango charging parents Kshs. 450/- per term and others at Kshs.1, 350/-. Matuga Sub County PTA charges are Kshs.300 per parent per month which is a burden for many parents with meagre earnings. Many pupils drop out or don't return when sent home to collect fees. Lack of accountability and transparency on the use of PTA levies collected from parents was a problem cited in many schools with management blamed for diverting money to other non-essential projects.

There is also a high prevalence of malaria and pneumonia infections mostly during rainy and cold seasons and the residents decried lack of basic drugs in the local dispensaries and health centers indicating that they are only administered pain killers and advised to source other medications from private pharmacies. Drunkenness among men leads to their failure to attend school meetings and keep abreast with their kid's performance and also explains the high number of homes headed by women. We also recorded reports that indicate a steep rise in family conflicts, domestic violence and separation among couples.

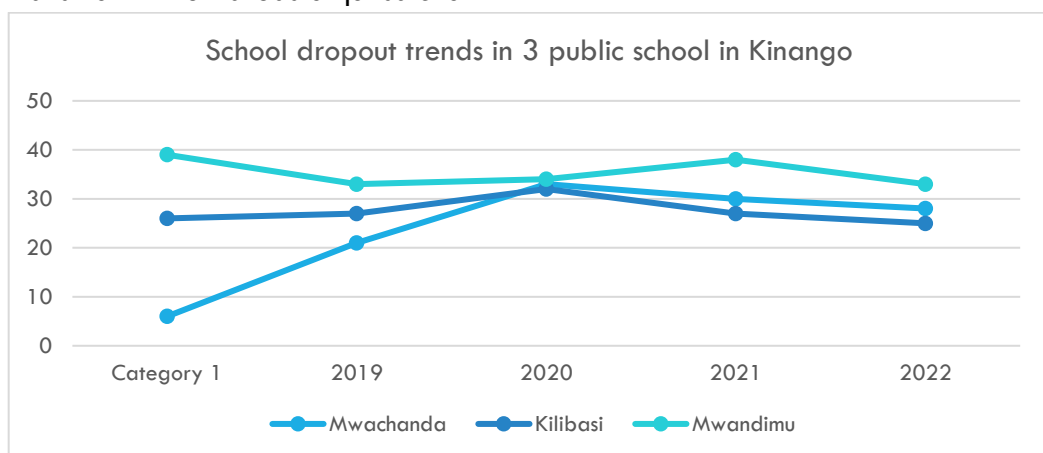
3.2 School dropout rates.

In trying to understand the extent and trends in school dropout rates, we focused on three schools in Kinango Sub-County, Kwale county, i.e. Mwachanda, Mwachanda and Kilibasi. The table below show the number of pupils who dropped out of school in the last five years in the selected primary schools.

School	Gender	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Average
Mwachanda	Boys	4	10	14	6	18	10.4
	Girls	2	11	19	24	10	13.2
Kilibasi	Boys	12	13	21	14	16	15.2
	Girls	14	14	11	13	9	12.2
Mwandimu	Boys	19	15	14	20	16	18
	Girls	20	18	20	18	17	17.5

Table 4: Drop out statistics for Mwachanda, Kilibasi and Mwandimu Primary Schools in Kinango Sub-County, Kwale

We noted that most primary schools do not keep this data although they are required by law to forward the same each year to the area chief and divisional education offices for follow up. The ministry of interior and coordination of national government has previously issued directives to Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs and Ward Administrators to enforce the free compulsory primary education and ensure 100% transition in their areas of jurisdiction.



Graph 7: School drop-out trends for the three schools compared.

Mwandimu Primary School.

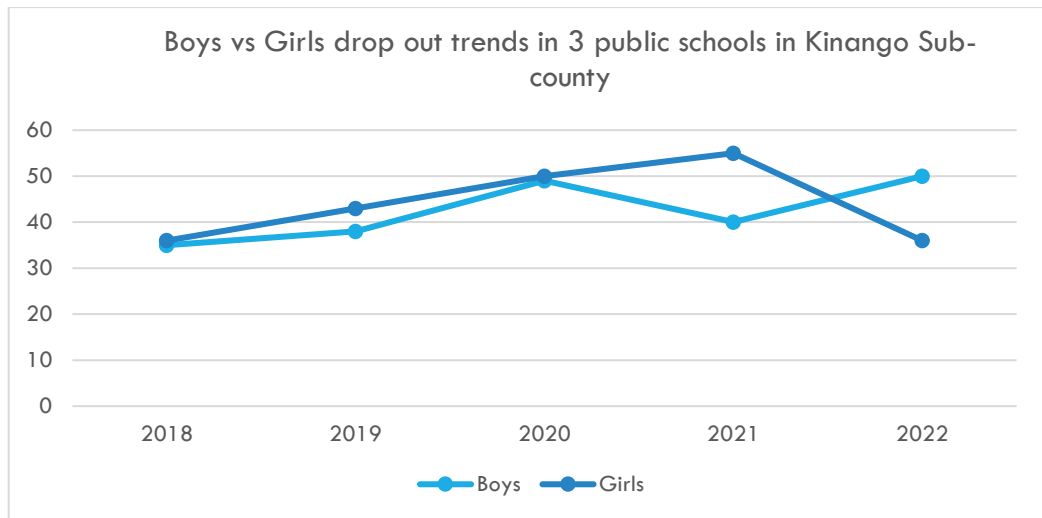
At Mwandimu, the statistics shows that on average 35 pupils left school every year. That represents a dropout rate of roughly 10% each year when we compare it with the enrollment figures above. This is a very high figure and one that the Ministry of Education must attend to.

Mwachanda Primary School.

The graph below for Mwachanda Primary indicates that the dropout rate is around 5% but what is of greater concern is that girls are much more likely to drop out than boys.

Kilibasi Primary School.

The Kilibasi Primary School graph shows on average around 27 pupils left school every year for the last five years under consideration, roughly 8% each year. Boys are more likely to drop out in this school than girls.



Graph 8: School drop-out trends for girls and boys for the three schools compared.

Summary of main causes of school drop-out across the two counties

The interviews held with key informants, group discussions and questionnaires highlighted the following causes of high school dropout rates in the studied schools: -

- Children lack basic learning materials like uniform, exercise books and pens.
- Pupils travel long distances to access learning institutions.
- Lack of sustainable feeding programmes in needy schools
- Irresponsible parenting and high illiteracy levels among parents/guardians.

- Lack of sanitary pads among girls and boys used as bread winners to supplement their family income.
- Children not able to attend school during rainy season as they work on the farms
- Seasonal migration to other areas by families in search of fertile lands or grazing fields for the animals.
- PTA charges are a burden to most parents.
- Cultural Beliefs and entrenched traditions like early marriages and FGM
- Early introduction to sexual activity among the adolescents together with Disco Matanga contributing significantly to early pregnancies.



Figure 5: Procession to Launch of Service Month of Children Cases at Court, Gulanze Primary School, Ndavaya ward, Kinango Subcounty, 2022

CDF Contribution to School Infrastructure Development:

The Constituency Development Fund (CDF) was established in 2003 and is designed to support grass root development projects identified at the constituency level through public participation (NG-CDF Act, 2015). The aim of the fund is to achieve equitable distribution of development resources across regions and to control imbalances in regional development brought about by partisan politics.

The CDF Act provides that the government sets aside at least 2.5% of its ordinary revenue for disbursement under the CDF program. Three quarters of the above amount is divided equitably between Kenya's 210 constituencies whilst the remaining 25% is shared on a poverty index to cater for poorer constituencies.

The three constituencies visited during the field study were allocated funds as follows during 2023 to 2024 financial year namely Matuga Kshs.175.4million Kinango 193.0million and Ganze 167million. In the East African Standard newspaper of 21st June 2020 Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro was hailed for proper use of CDF funds by rehabilitating around 70 out of 112 primary schools that were targeted in his constituency.

In the constituencies of Matuga, Kinango and Ganze where the field study was conducted it was discovered that there were no notable CDF projects in the primary schools that were visited. We witnessed neglect, decay and overcrowded facilities. The political leadership in all areas must take responsibility for the poor standard of education and the huge dropout rate as their budget if used wisely could really improve the education standards in their areas.

3.3. SGBV – Early Childhood Pregnancy

In this sub section we analyze the data from dispensaries, health centers and police stations in the two counties on SGBV cases recorded for the years 2018 to 2022. The data was gathered through face-to-face interviews with key informants, questionnaires and emails sent to respondents.

Kilifi County - Ganze Sub County

In Kilifi County the social worker and community health promoters in the areas of Katendewa, Bamba and Mirihini provide good support to victims of gender-based violence. Two cases of teenage pregnancy were reported at Mirihini primary school; one in 2019, a 16-year-old girl while the other in 2022 was below 14 years. The head teacher involved the Nyumba Kumi plus the community elders who assisted in getting the girls to the police and having the cases recorded. At Muungano primary school two cases of early pregnancy were recorded one in 2019 of a girl under 14 years of age and another one in 2021 of a 15-year-old girl. The major causes of early childhood pregnancies and early marriages in this area were said to be poverty, Disco Matanga and lack of reproductive health knowledge among many girls.

In Ganze Sub County we analyzed data for Mirihini dispensary, Bamba Health Center and Bamba Police Station. The data was obtained from the officers in charge of SGBV cases in the institutions and are cases reported from 2018 to December 2022.

Health Centers in Ganze Sub County.

Mirihini Community Dispensary - Bamba Division.

The figures below show the reported cases of teenage pregnancies between the ages of 15 to 18 years at the facility for the last five years. The cases peaked in 2020 at 21 and we note that this is the period the schools were closed due to Covid-19 pandemic. Although they declined in year 2021 to 11 cases, they increased again in 2022 to stand at 17.

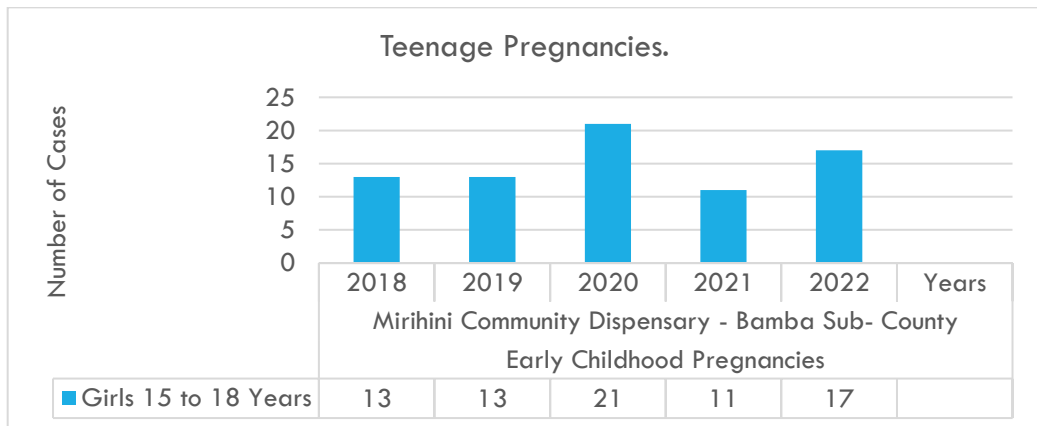


Chart 1: Teen pregnancy trends as collected at Mirihini Dispensary, Bamba Sub-County

The nursing officer does not fill in the P3 form because these are obtained from police stations and filled at the sub county health center in Bamba. The nursing officer also disclosed that victims do not come with any documentation showing that they have reported the matter to the police or the chief since they are underage. The two primary schools in the same vicinity i.e., Mirihini and Katendewa had only four cases reported during the five years under consideration.

Bamba Health Center.

This is a sub county health center and the officers indicated that those SGBV victims that come without having obtained a P3 are referred back to police after getting the necessary health assistance. The victims are advised to bring the police report and the p3 forms in their next clinic visit. Most cases handled here lack that documentation but they are still attended to by the health officers at the hospital.

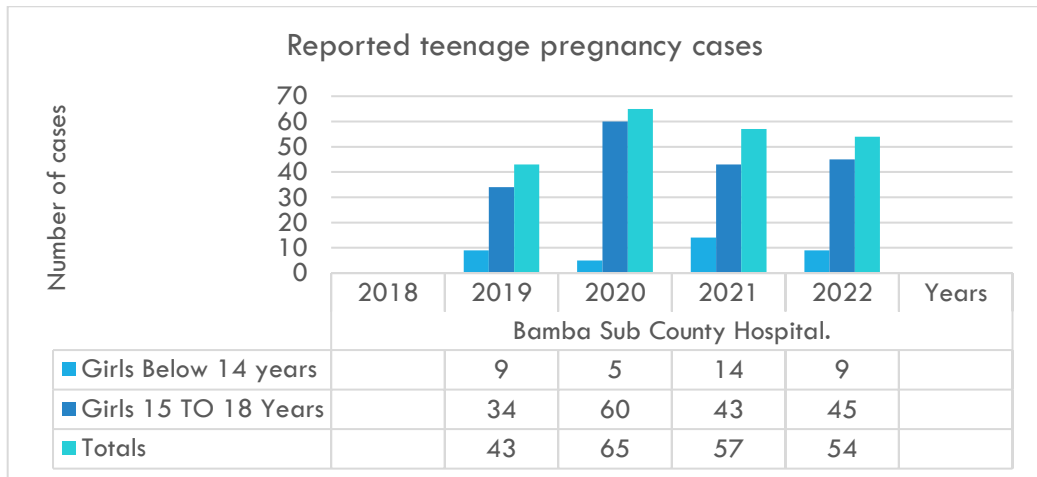


Chart 2: Teen Pregnancy trends as recorded at Bamba Sub-County Hospital

The above table shows reported cases of early childhood pregnancies from 2019 to 2022, with cases reported in 2020 highest at 65. Again, that was the year when schools were closed due to Covid. The figure for under 14 year olds is worryingly high with an average of 7 cases per year. The graph shows a worrying trend for both age categories.

Police Station in Bamba Division.

Bamba Police Station.

The data analyzed below shows that the cases reported at Bamba Police Station are higher than those reported at Bamba Sub County Hospital yet the two are very near to each other. This means that many cases are occurring in the villages that are not seeking the necessary medical care or antenatal clinic visits. The highest number of cases was reported in 2018 with a total of 132. There was an increase in both age categories in the year 2021 with those below 14 years recording 9 cases and girls between 15 to 18 recording 72 cases respectively for a total of 81. We also note that the under 14s cases were highest in year 2019 at 12.

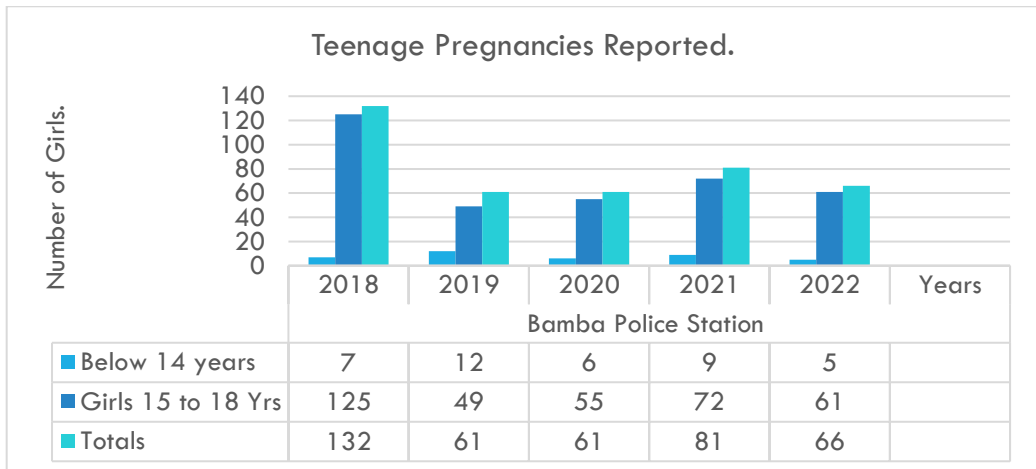


Chart 3: Teen pregnancy statistics as recorded at Bamba Police Station

On average in Bamba Division more cases were reported at the police station in the last five years than those reported at both the dispensary and the health center. This shows that most pregnant teenagers are not seeking medical attention in this area. It would appear that many of these teenage pregnancies are out of school girls. The officer manning the SGBV desk disclosed that they had around 86 cases in court and an estimated 21 cases not in court since the alleged perpetrators could not be traced.

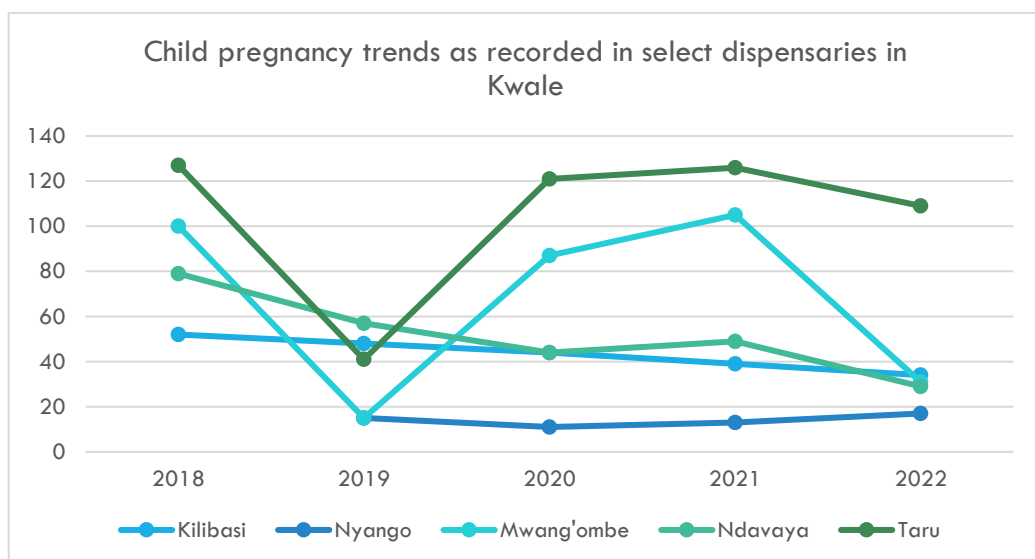


Figure 6: Meeting with ChildRights-Clubs, Bangladesh, Mombasa County, 2021

Kwale County – Kinango Sub County

Health Centers in Kinango Sub County.

In Kinango Sub-County, we analysed data from 5 dispensaries: Nyango, Mwango'mbe, Kilibasi, Ndavaya and Taru. The graph below illustrates the trends for pregnancy cases as recorded in the selected health centres. There is a definite drop in cases reported in 2009, followed by a sharp spike in Taru and Mwango'mbe areas.



Nyango Dispensary.

This dispensary is located in Puma Ward. The highest number of cases was in 2022 but during our visit in June 2023 five cases had already been reported of girls aged 15 to 18. The nursing officer indicated that the victims and expectant mothers do not normally come to hospital for clinics and they are forced to go to the villages to attend to them. The SGBV victims mostly do not come with any documents from the police unless it's a rape case because most of the cases are already negotiated between the two families. Still, the officers encourage them to report the matter to the police. The health officers disclosed that the cases could be much more because when the girls come for antenatal clinic, they exaggerate their age to between 19 years to 23 years so that they can circumvent the law yet most of them do not have national identity cards. The dispensary is located within the Maasai ethnic community where early marriages and FGM are rampant and homesteads usually have very large families. Parents then decide which children go to school and who will take care of the animals.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Girls Below 14 years	0	1	2	1	0
Girls 15 -18	0	14	9	12	17
Total	0	15	11	13	17

Kilibasi Dispensary.

The dispensary is located in Kinango Sub County, Samburu Division/ward. The health officers gave us the total number of SGBV cases from 2018 to 2022. The data shows a declining trend with 2018 recording 52 cases and 2022 recording 34 cases. They attributed this decline to the sensitization programme to school children and women groups in the community being undertaken by Haki Yetu and other stakeholders in the community.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total	52	48	44	39	34

Mwangombe Dispensary

This dispensary is also in Kinango Sub County and shows that cases in 2018 were extremely high at 100. Although there was a huge decline in year 2019 to 15 cases from a high of 100 cases the previous year, the reported cases increased significantly again in 2020 and 2021 to reach 87 cases and 105 cases respectively. We note that the cases have substantially declined in 2022 to 31.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Girls Below 14 years	0	1	2	0	1
Girls 15 -18	100	14	85	105	30
Total	0	15	87	105	31

Ndavaya Dispensary

The chart shows that the reported cases have been declining since 2018. The year 2018 recorded the highest number of cases at 79, followed by 2019 at 57 cases. We note that there were no cases recorded for girls under 14 years during the entire period under consideration. Although there was a slight increase in cases in 2021 the number has considerably reduced again in 2022 to 29 cases. No reason was proffered for the reduction in numbers.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Girls Below 14 years	0	0	0	0	0
Girls 15 -18	79	57	44	49	29
Total	79	57	44	49	29

Taru Dispensary.

The data below shows cases in this particular dispensary are extremely high. It was only in 2019 that the number didn't exceed 100. The cases increased during and after Covid-19 period with 2022 closing with 109 cases one of which was under 14. The average number of cases per year in the period under review was 108, which means that large numbers of children are having children and missing out on their education.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<i>Girls Below 14 years</i>	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Girls 15 -18</i>	127	41	121	126	108
<i>Total</i>	127	41	121	126	109

Police Stations in Kinango Sub - County.

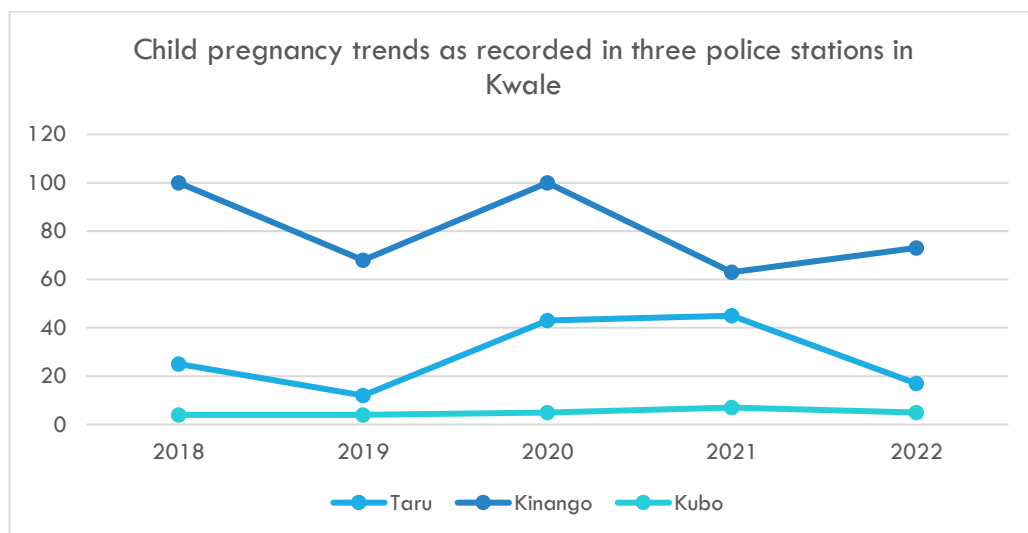
In Kwale county, we looked at 3 police stations: Taru, Kinango and Kubo. The table below documents the statistics collected with regard to early pregnancies for two age groups (below 14; and 14-18 years).

<i>School</i>	<i>Age group</i>	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<i>Mwachanda</i>	Below 14	4	5	2	4	2
	14-18	21	7	41	41	15
<i>Kilibasi</i>	Below 14	20	18	15	12	25
	14-18	80	50	85	51	48
<i>Mwandimu</i>	Below 14	1	0	1	2	1
	14-18	3	4	4	5	4

Table 5: Child pregnancy statistics from three police stations in Kwale County.

Taru Police Station

This police station is located in Kinango Sub County Samburu division/ward. The sharp increase in years 2020 and 2021 could have been occasioned by the Covid-19 lock down and closure of schools. Taru Dispensary and the police station are in the same town but we note that the cases at the dispensary are much higher on average recording 108 cases per year while the police station has an average of 28 cases each year. This shows that most girls are opting to go and seek medical attention and are not recording the matter with the police. However, it should be noted that the opposite was the case in Bamba where more cases were recorded at the Police than at the local health facility. One wonders why.



Graph 9: Child pregnancy trends as recorded at Taru, Kubo and Kinango police stations.

Kinango Police Station.

This station is located in Kinango Ward/Division. The above cases were reported at Kinango Police station and show very high rates for both age groups, with both 2018 and 2020 listing figures of 100 teenage pregnancies. The high number of cases of those under 14 years of age are particularly disturbing. The figures would also indicate that the police are more diligent than those in Taru in recording the cases and that the victims and their families have more confidence in reporting.

Kubo Police Station.

This police station is located at Matuga Sub County and the cases reported are less compared to other police stations in Kinango Sub County.

Primary Schools in Kinango Sub-County

The data shows four cases of teenage pregnancy were recorded in Mwandimu between 2018-22 and none of the girls was below 14 years of age. However, in the first six months of 2023 they have already recorded two cases. Ziaradundo had four cases in the past two years. In Kinango Sub County the other schools that reported cases were - Mwaluvuno had two cases and Mwanchanda one case all in 2022.

An analysis of the above would suggest that schools are being very economical with recording and reporting cases of early pregnancy when in schools. Reporting real figures might get the school administration in difficulties with their supervisors at all levels. The high percentage of female dropouts together with cases recorded

at police stations and health facilities suggest that many girls drop out when pregnant and that schools don't follow up or don't bother to record. On the other hand, many girls have never accessed formal education and we may be raising another generation of illiterate Kenyans. It also confirms the belief that for many communities, girls are a source of wealth and dowry and their education is not a priority.

But there is some good news and reason for hope and that concerns the figures below supplied to us by the Ministry of Health, Kwale County. The figures reveal that while still worryingly high, the number of teenage pregnancies recorded in the County's Health facilities has reduced by more than half in the past four years. This is a very positive trend and one that indicates that work done by all stakeholders is bearing fruit and a reason to continue with the many interventions that support girl's education.

Kwale County: Ministry of Health

Early Childhood pregnancies	2019	2020	2021	2022
Below 14 years	447	99	173	154
Between 14 to 18 years	10804	8180	6467	5185
Totals	11,251	8,279	6,640	5,339

Table 6: Ministry of Health, national statistics

It is interesting to compare the above figures with the national figures. **According to the Government agency the National Syndemic and Disease Control Council (NSDCC), in the year 2022 there were 15,279 pregnancies recorded in the republic among girls 10-14 years old, and 245,455 among those aged between 15-19. But the Kwale figures are now more in line with the national average, still worrying but progress has definitely been made.**

The law courts in Kwale recorded on average 20 cases of teenage pregnancies each year which is a mere 100 for the past five years. Considering the data reported in various police stations and health facilities, these figures reflect an extremely low uptake of these cases in the justice system.

Overview of Health, Social Support and Governance in Kilifi and Kwale.**a) Kilifi County**

According to Kilifi County CIDP 2013 – 2022 the Doctor patient ratio is 1: 10,000 citizens while the Nurse patient ratio is 4 per 10,000. There are 83 functional community health units but they require a further 193 facilities to meet the county needs. The county medical department of health is highly under staffed with health workers in all cadres totaling 1,426 in the entire county during the period under review. This makes it difficult for SGBV cases to get the attention they require in terms of counselling and other psychosocial support.

In Kilifi, children face additional risks of forced child marriage, teenage pregnancy, child labour, child sexual exploitation and transactional sex especially within the tourism industry. With such risks of exploitation, children's right to survival, education and protection is compromised and particularly so for girls. The County has one fully functional child protection center located in Malindi and a second is being constructed with financial support from development partners. There is one correctional rehabilitation center established at Malindi town to serve as a detention center for the underage. The County government has however established child desks in almost all police stations to address issues related to the protection of children. Kilifi County has a shortage of primary school teachers and according to the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) the county needs an additional 3,344 primary school teachers. In order to improve the quality of education, the county had planned to expand the infrastructure of ECDE centers, recruit qualified and competent staff although we noted that is far from being actualized.

b) Kwale County

The County CIDP 2018 – 2022 indicates that it has a total of five (5) government hospitals, ten (10) health centers and ninety (90) dispensaries distributed throughout Msambweni, Matuga, Lunga-Lunga and Kinango Sub-Counties. The doctor and nurse population ratio stands at 1:76,741 and 1: 3,133 respectively and there is a high malnutrition rate among under 5s. Currently the county does not have an operational gender-based violence recovery center. The buildings do exist but they require renovation to be used as a rescue center. Victims of SGBV are only attended to in hospitals and sub county health facilities and are released to go home where they live alongside the same perpetrators.

The county completed the construction of 238 new ECDE centers during the period (2018-2022) although it is noted that most primary schools lack adequate school infrastructure such as classrooms, toilets and desks. The county also requires an

additional 1,571 primary school teachers. The education sector in general has dilapidated infrastructure and insufficient teachers and this has resulted in very poor performances in national examinations. Although primary education is the function of the national government, the County intends to liaise with the national government to improve on classrooms and explore possibilities of offering feeding programs to retain pupils in school in collaboration with NGOs and other development partners.

3.4. Access to key government services.

The study also reviewed the availability of various public service institutions including schools, health centers, courts, police stations and local dispensaries. This was to ascertain the approximate distance in kilometers that a person has to travel to access these services. These basic services include getting a P3 form, medical attention, access to the courts plus basic needs like fresh drinking water and a nearby school. It was observed that in most cases of SGBV the victims are not able to meet the costs associated with travel expenses hence victims despair and abandon their cases and their quest for justice. Others don't get the attention in government offices because they arrive late having travelled long distances and the officers rarely understand their predicament.

Schools

Name of School	County.	Furthest Village served.	Distance in Kms.
Mirihini	Kilifi	Mirihini B village	6
Katendewa	Kilifi	Ndungicha or Majengo B	7
Stephen Kanja	Kwale	Mwaweche	15
Kipambani	Kwale	Kaseveni	6
Mwandimu	Kwale	Mbwaleni	6
Mwaluvuno	Kwale	Masiani	10
Mwalukombe	Kwale	Banga	10
Mwachanda	Kwale	Jitaakili	7

Table 7: Distance from school to furthest village served

The above table shows the furthest village served by each school. Stephen Kanja Primary school serves a village that is 1.5 kilometers away known as Mwaweche village and children have to trek home daily to and from school. Other schools like Mwaluvuno and Mwalukombe have their pupils coming from 10 kms away.

Health Centres

Name of School	County.	Nearest Dispensary/Health Center.	Distance in Kms.
Mirihini	Kilifi	Mirihini Dispensary	2
Katendewa	Kilifi	Mirihini Dispensary	5
Stephen Kanja	Kwale	Majimboni Dispensary	20
Mwandimu	Kwale	Ndevaya Health Center	12
Mwaluvuno	Kwale	Kinango Health Center	25
Mwalukombe	Kwale	Mkangombe Dispensary	5
Mwachanda	Kwale	Ngulanze Dispensary	4

Table 8: Distance from health centre to furthest village served

The above graph shows the distance in kilometers one has to travel from each school in order to access the nearest healthy facility. Dispensaries cannot fill in P3 forms so victims of SGBV have to travel far distances to a sub county health center.

Police Stations

The diagram below shows distances between schools and the nearest police station. A person at Mirihini Dispensary has to walk approximately 25 kilometers in order to get police services at Bamba Police Station while pupils and teachers of Mirihini, Katendewa and Mwaluvuno Schools walk over 20 kilometers to the nearest police station.

Name of School	County.	Nearest Police Station	Distance in Kms.
Mirihini	Kilifi	Bamba town	20
Katendewa	Kilifi	Bamba town	10
Mirihini Dispensary	Kilifi	Bamba town	20
Stephen Kanja	Kwale	Shimba Hills Station	7
Mwandimu	Kwale	Ndavaya	12
Mwaluvuno	Kwale	Ndavaya	20
Mwalukombe	Kwale	Ndavaya	10
Mwachanda	Kwale	Ndavaya	5

Table 9: Distance from police station to furthest village served

Courts

Name of School	County.	Nearest Law Court	Distance in Kms.
Mirihini	Kilifi	Kilifi town	70
Katendewa	Kilifi	Kilifi Town	80
Mirihini Dispensary	Kilifi	Kilifi Town	60
Stephen Kanja	Kwale	Kinondo	25
Mwandimu	Kwale	Kwale town	60
Mwaluvuno	Kwale	Kwale town	35
Mwalukombe	Kwale	Kwale town	45
Mwachanda	Kwale	Kwale town	40

Table 10: Distance from court to furthest village served

The above diagram shows approximate distances covered by villagers and victims of Sexual and Gender Based Victims to access justice in the courts. If you take a hypothetical case of a victim living at Katendewa Primary School who has to report her case at a police station 20 kilometers away at Majengo then get a P3 form filled at a health facility located another 15kms away and return it to the police station, then the victim will have covered over 70km. This person is then expected to testify in court at Kilifi some 80km for a round trip of 230km.



Figure 7: Community Outreach on GBV, Nyango, Kwale County, 2022

Kilifi County has 15 courts situated in the three towns of Malindi, Kilifi and Kaloleni. Considering that many cases take up to 4 years for completion in courts, then to access justice is both expensive and time consuming. These areas have poor road networks and inadequate public transport so most depend on motorbikes for travel. The majority of victims are unable to meet these costs and eventually abandon their cases while the perpetrators are left roaming the villages waiting to pounce again.

3.5 Summary of findings.

The data analyzed and the responses received from the respondents collated the findings into three main areas that are mostly affecting the communities in the sampled sub counties: **accessing justice, socio-economic and cultural factors.**

On the distribution of the three factors in terms of importance, the respondents answered as follows:

Factor	Weights (Total 100%)
Accessing Justice	55%
Social Economic Factors	20%
Cultural Factors	25%
Total	100%

Access to Justice.

- Police inaction in investigating and prosecuting cases of SGBV victims.
- Victims trek up to 25kms to the nearest police station and up to 80km to court
- Police serve very large areas so their presence and impact not really felt in communities.
- Corruption and negligence in police stations and courts hamper the prosecution of cases with many suspects set free for lack of evidence or witnesses.
- Communities reluctant to pursue justice insinuating that if the perpetrator is jailed then the pregnant girl would have no one to take care of her and her baby.
- Despite government waiving charges on P3 Forms, this is yet to be implemented in some hospitals and health centers.
- Dispensaries don't fill P3 forms so victims travel long distances to hospitals

- No proper procedures in place when a girl gets pregnant and needs to pursue justice or has given birth and wants to return to school to continue with her education.
- Victim protection when reporting and during investigations absent in rural areas.



Figure 8: Court Users Meeting, Msambweni Subcounty, 2022

Social Economic Factors.

- People lack basic needs so victims would prefer to use the little money they have to buy food rather than spend it on transport or other charges to report SGBV case to police.
- Lack of employment and reliable income impacts negatively on the quality of life and expectations in the community.
- Parents with low levels of literacy often don't appreciate the importance of education
- Most areas in the research were affected by the prolonged drought of the last five years.

Cultural Factors.

- Traditional beliefs and deep-rooted traditions like early marriages and female genital mutilations contribute greatly to many girls not completing their education.
- Traditional system of handling and solving disputes especially defilement cases commonly referred to as “Kangaroo courts”
- Disco Matanga leads many girls to promiscuous behaviour and teenage pregnancy.
- Most parents view sex as a taboo subject so ignorance of reproductive health is prevalent
- Many communities view the girl child as a source of wealth in the form of dowry.



CHAPTER FOUR: INITIATIVES CURRENTLY IN PLACE.

National and County Governments:

- School feeding programme done by the national government in some schools but is very irregular.
- Provision of sanitary towels in a number of primary schools visited by the National Government through the Ministry of Education. Again, it is not reliable or consistent.
- Construction of class rooms and other infrastructure in some few primary schools by CDF in Kilifi but little in Kwale.
- Provision of water to some primary schools through water bowzers by Kilifi County Government.



Figure 9: Community Outreach on GBV, Nyango, Kwale County, 2022

Haki Yetu Organization:

- Haki Yetu conducts free legal aid clinics in the forgotten areas and provides legal advice to walk-in clients in all their offices as well as legal representation in some SGBV cases
- The organization has a small kitty to assist poor victims with transport in their quest for justice at medical facilities, police stations and the courts.
- The organization is a member of Court Users Committees and Area Advisory Councils in the Coast region which is key towards representation and lobbying.
- Haki Yetu has a vibrant child protection and safeguarding policy and advocates that all institutions including religious have in place a child protection and safeguarding policy.
- Provision of reusable sanitary towels, mentorship and counselling programmes by Haki Yetu Organization as witnessed in a number of primary schools visited.
- They have formed and facilitated capacity building of grass root women and mothers' groups for networking and self-reliance.
- Community Health promoters and BEACON Teachers recruited by Haki Yetu Organization are assisting them in creating awareness on SGBV.

Other Non-Governmental Organizations and Well Wishers:

- World Vision provide books, pens and other learning materials in many primary schools
- Provision of sanitary towels, water and counselling services by Plan International.
- Sponsorship programme and building of infrastructure at Stephen Kanja Primary School by the founder Mr. Stephen Kanja and Camp Kenya Ltd.

CHAPTER FIVE: RECOMMENDATIONS.

The following recommendations emerged from our key interviews and in-group discussions.

Kenya Judiciary

- Judiciary should introduce mobile courts to places like Kinango, Samburu and Bamba to bridge the gap for people travelling long distances to access justice.
- Increase the financial and human resource capital in all stations handling criminal matters
- The judiciary should collaborate with the county government and CUCs in acquiring land to build more courts.
- Organise community outreaches and sensitization forums to ensure prompt reporting of cases and prosecution.
- Give priority to children's needs when registering cases for hearing
- Alternative justice system is incorporated in traditional methods of solving disputes. Actors in the justice sector should be strategic in ensuring defilement cases are not solved through AJS "Kangaroo Courts" but find their way in the courts for prosecution.

National Government

- Government agencies such as IPOA, Victims Protection Agency, Child Protection and Anti-human trafficking unit under the DCI should work closely with stakeholders and community persons when handling SGBV cases.
- Strengthen witness protection at the grass roots level to ensure safety of victims.
- Increase police posts and gender officers who can handle SGBV matters professionally.
- Ensure full implementation and enforcement of existing laws on basic compulsory education, female genital mutilations and early marriages.

- Construction of additional classrooms and a major recruitment of TSC and ECD teachers.
- Introduction of alternative sources of income to communities through affirmative action (Women Representative) or a stimulus economic programme.
- Introduction of feeder schools and provision of adequate facilities to fully implement the CBC extra curriculum activities in schools.
- Introduction of a feeding programme in primary schools that is sustainable, this can be as simple as school milk or nutritional porridge.
- Ensure that capitation fees are paid regularly, on time and used transparently
- With a shortage of 5,000 trained teachers between the two countries, TSC and Ministry of Education must urgently address this crisis.

County Governments

- Sub County security teams should be actively engaged in protection and safeguarding of children at the community level.
- Support and fully equip mental health and psychosocial support departments in public hospitals to assist all victims of SGBV with proper laid down procedures and follow ups.
- Elevating ECDE centers into fully fledged primary schools with phased development plans in collaboration with MPs who are the patrons of CDF funds.
- Fencing of schools – the county governments are custodians of public property in their areas, the schools sampled in the study are not secured.
- Supply of piped water or construction of boreholes near to schools will alleviate the problems they currently face since most depend on unreliable rain water harvesting.

Haki Yetu Organization

- Mobilize communities to participate fully in CDF and County Government public participation forums on projects to be implemented in their areas.
- Through the Court Users Committees and Area Advisory Councils the organization should lobby for the establishment of mobile courts in Kinango and Ganze Sub Counties.
- Organize education tours for bright pupils to visit higher education institutions, museums, historical sites and government institutions. This will expose the pupils to the outside world and encourage healthy competition in class work.
- Continuous sensitization programmes on self-reliance for women and men groups in civic education to support the girl child and change the mindsets of people.
- Champion for the protection of community health promoters as some are viewed as enemies when they pursue SGBV cases.
- Liaise with philanthropic organizations who can assist the very needy pupils.

Other Non-Governmental Organizations

- Continuous sensitization of communities on the value of education to ensure children are enrolled in school.
- NGOs should recruit fearless community volunteers and strong groups that can stand up to community elders and advocate for child rights especially when they are being abused through cultural practices like early marriages and FGM.
- Introduce programmes to sponsor bright pupils from disadvantaged families to join secondary schools in order to motivate those in lower classes.

“If we are going to see real development in the world then our best investment is WOMEN”

Desmond Tutu



Haki Yetu Organisation

C/O Star of the Sea Primary School,
Nyerere Avenue, Mombasa
P.O Box 92253-80102 Mombasa

🌐: www.hakiyetu.ke

☎: 0800 723 544 / +254 740 335 236

✉: info@hakiyetu.ke

🐦: @HakiYetuOrg

'... act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with thy God.'

Micah 6:8