

## HUMAN RIGHTS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES

### THE SITUATION

The unanticipated emergence of Covid-19 threat in December 2019 and its spread at a global scale has caused a lot of pain and changes in the society prompting emergency responses including responses by national governments who introduced movement restrictions, closure of schools, hotels/restaurants, public gatherings and religious meetings among others and introduced strict public health guidelines to control its spread in the populations. In Kenya, from 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 when the first corona virus case was detected, the Covid-19 threat became real with cases of infections increasing rapidly by the day. The cases of those who test positive of corona virus have continued to rise. On 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the President of the republic of Kenya announced several measures in response to the corona pandemic. Since then, the measures have been tightened with additional measures, rules and guidelines.

Key among the measures announced by the President and Ministry of health have been the national curfew on unauthorized movement between 7pm to 5am every day, cessation of travel in and out of Nairobi City and, by extension, between some counties except for essential service personnel, limitation of visitation to hospitals, passenger distancing in public transport vehicles, working from home policy and many others. Most of these measures are still in effect and even when they are eased out, they will have an after effect lasting for a long while.

In the above situation, the field team at persons with disabilities association – Kitui (PEWDAK) has reported numerous rights violations and challenges facing the persons with disabilities across the County and in particular the women and girls with disabilities.

Regarding the curfew against unauthorized movement, the women and girls with disabilities most of who have physical impairments, have had their already limited mobility further curtailed rendering them unable to get access to essential services and basic needs. The cessation of travel in and out of Nairobi and a few other counties has affected some cases that engage in business who obtain goods from the locked counties. Most cases of disability require company of care-givers to attend to their daily needs including medical services but given the advisory on social distancing and limitation of visitation to hospitals, they continue to be affected negatively. Passenger-distancing in public transport also limits their access to transportation given that they are, in the normal cases, usually discriminated. Many employed cases of women and girls with disability fall in the category of self-employment, private sector and government. With the decreased work volumes due to stay-at-home policy, the self-employed have practically lost their incomes; the private-sector-employed have been laid off or sent on unpaid leave, the government-employed are in-active and therefore unproductive.

The real or perceived violations of rights for women and girls with disability continue to increase with the escalation of covid-19 threat. Even when some of the measures taken by the government in response to the covid-19 pandemic ease up, the violations and impact will in all likelihood continue to be felt longer after.

In this regard, Disability Discovery Association of Kenya (DDAK) is convinced that the situation for women and girls with disabilities during the covid-19 pandemic and beyond requires action to protect their rights and ensure that all responses are mainstreamed and adapted to their needs.

### **THE URGENT ACTION**

#### **a. Proposed action**

Upholding human and legal rights, social and economic justice for women and girls with disabilities in Kitui County, Kenya in the covid-19 threat era

#### **b. Objectives.**

Disability Discovery Association of Kenya,

- In view of the efforts by the national government, county government of Kitui and related agencies/departments in the implementation and enhancement of the various measures to combat the covid-19 threat;
- In respect for UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities rallying call that “Nothing about us without us”; and
- In accordance with the UN 2030 agenda for sustainable development goals’ recognition that persons with disabilities should be included in plans to manage covid-19 corona virus outbreak,

Has the objective to:

**Objective 1:** Ensure upholding of the human and legal rights of women and girls with disabilities in the covid-19 era in Kitui County

**Objective 2:** Ensure the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all stages of covid-19 response especially in the prevention, mitigation and monitoring plans by the (national government and) county government of Kitui and related agencies/departments

**Objective 3:** Ensure the cohesion among women and girls with disabilities in the covid-19 era and cultivate encouragement and helping each other overcome the pandemic related challenges.

#### **c. Intended results**

The response to ensure rights and inclusion of women and girls with disabilities during the covid-19 threat era responses by county government of Kitui and related departments/agencies is expected to generate the following results:

**Objective 1:** Ensure upholding the rights of women and girls with disabilities in the covid-19 era in Kitui County

**Result 1:** Report of ongoing human and legal rights violations against women and girls with disabilities by the covid-19 threat responses mainly by oversight or omission

**Result 2:** Analysis of the survival and practical needs of women and girls with disabilities during the covid-19 threat era and attention to most pressing ones

**Objective 2:** Ensure the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all stages of covid-19 response especially in the prevention, mitigation and monitoring plans by the county government of Kitui and related agencies/departments

**Result 1:** Recommendation for disabilities inclusion in the prevention, mitigation and monitoring plans by the county government of Kitui and related agencies/departments

**Result 2:** Summary of strategic actions that can be undertaken to build sustainable livelihoods for women and girls with disabilities

**Result 3:** Framework of engagement during and post covid-19 pandemic to ensure improved status of women and girls with disabilities in employment, health, education, housing, mobility, information and social protection

**Objective 3:** Cultivate cohesion among women and girls with disabilities in the covid-19 era as a basis of encouragement and helping one another overcome the pandemic related challenges.

**Result 1:** Unity factors and how they can be exploited during covid-19 pandemic environment

**Result 2:** Information sharing methods among the target beneficiaries

#### **d. Target group**

This initiative target 500 women and girls with disabilities inclusive of their care-givers (where applicable) described below:

<b>Population</b>	Persons with disabilities
<b>Target beneficiaries</b>	Women and girls with disabilities, and their care-givers where applicable
<b>Quantity</b>	500
<b>Age distribution</b>	12 – 65yrs
<b>Types of disabilities</b>	All types
<b>Geography</b>	Kitui County

#### **e. Collaboration with other groups at the local, regional, or international level**

DDAK wishes to collaborate closely with Persons with Disabilities Association - Kitui, the county affiliate, for support with implementation of the project.

#### **f. Methodology**

The initiative to address the human and legal rights, social and economic justice for women and girls with disabilities will apply qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection as follows:

- 1> Online survey (email, face book, whatsapp) for those who have these services
- 2> Telephone survey (calling and text messages) for those who have these services
- 3> Physical interview (visiting the beneficiaries at their homes) for those who cannot be reached through online or telephone, or who, even when reached have peculiar challenges that require physical interaction or observation

#### **g. Activities**

The initiative to address the human and legal rights, social and economic justice for women and girls has the following activities:

- 1> Identifying the human rights violations against women and girls with disabilities
- 2> Identifying the pressing needs / challenges experienced by women and girls with disabilities
- 3> Responding to the most pressing ones
- 4> Recommending disabilities inclusion in county government of Kitui and related departments / agencies measures
- 5> Designing action plan on reduction of vulnerabilities and poverty
- 6> Designing framework for disabilities engagement during and post covid-19 threat to improve socio-economic status

- 7> Identify and give referrals
- 8> Action to unite the women and girls with disabilities

## h. Budget

The budget for the initiative to address the human and legal rights, social and economic justice for women and girls with disabilities is as follows:

Activity	Description	Period	Total Cost (USD)
Identify Human rights violations	Ongoing violations – direct / indirect in Kitui Central and Kitui Rural constituencies (2). List of live cases. Field work - Transport / site visits - Communication - Data collection	1month	8,000
Identify Social, economic needs	Ongoing escalations / deepening / deepened across Kitui Central and Kitui Rural Constituencies (2). Field work - Transport / site visits - Communication - Data collection		
Respond to most pressing needs	Needs whose lack is intolerable for selected cases (continuous). 100 women and girls with disabilities inclusive of their care-givers	6months (continuous in the period)	11,500
Enhance disabilities inclusion agenda	Factoring disability in the prevention, mitigation and monitoring plans by the county government and related departments/agencies. - Coordination - Participation in meetings - Information processing and communication	6months (continuous in the period)	5,000
Action plan	To reduce disabilities vulnerabilities and poverty, and unite the women and girls with disabilities in the long run. One (1) plan	2month	25,000
Ongoing engagement framework	A framework usable during and post corona virus pandemic. One (1) framework with social support systems, proper hygiene guidelines, training for care givers, reducing economic effects and health effects, suggestions on preparedness in corona like pandemics / situations		
Report writing and physical presentation	Including list of violations, socio-economic needs, responses to most pressing needs, disability inclusion agenda during and post covid-19, poverty reduction plan, framework for improved access	1Month	500

	to various social and economic resources		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>6months</b>
			<b>50,000</b>