

Gender Development Project (GDP) Activities

HERAF envisages a Kenya where health is upheld and enjoyed as a fundamental human right, with access to equitable and affordable health services for all. Her mission is to be a leading human rights organization that promotes and empowers Kenyans to realize the right to health for all and her goal to be a visible leader in promoting, protecting and empowering Kenyans to enjoy the right to health at all times.

HERAF in the effort to fight against HIV/AIDS epidemic which is a major threat to the health of Kenyans, has relentlessly engaged in collaborative activities that seek to address various causes of the increased rate of HIV infection. Among the major leading causes of HIV infection is Gender based violence which is a grave form of human rights violation and a major cause of increased vulnerability among women and young girls to HIV infection.

The link between women's economic disempowerment and their vulnerability to HIV and AIDS in Kenya is made worse by perceptions and attitudes towards women and girls. The situation is further complicated by continued perpetuation of harmful traditional practices that include widow inheritance, early girl child marriages and denial of property inheritance rights. Land ownership among women can for example be equated to economic freedom without which women will be powerless and cannot decide when, with whom, and how to have sexual relations.

In deed the need to address human rights in HIV and AIDS is important in reducing women and girls vulnerability to HIV infection. Unfortunately, deeply held negative community's perceptions and attitudes towards women and girls continue to increase human rights violations thereby perpetuating their vulnerability to HIV infections.

In response to this HERAF runs a Gender Development Project in facilitating target communities to comprehend the effects of these negative perceptions and attitudes in order to reduce women's vulnerability to HIV infections through a right based approach.

GOAL OF THE PROJECT

To transform negative gender attitudes, behaviors, norms and practices as a means to reduce women's risk to HIV infection.

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

- To promote egalitarian gender based attitudes, behaviors and norms to prevent HIV infection among women and girls.
- To promote women's rights.

- To provide learning opportunities to coalition members and other stakeholders through documentation and dissemination of information on the project outcomes.
- To facilitate legal redress to those affected by gender violence.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Community Dialogue Forums
- Legal Aid Clinics
- Collaborative meetings
- Research/ Fact finding Mission

TARGET REGIONS COVERED

- Eastern province- Machakos District
- Central Province – Sagana and Nyeri
- Rift Valley Province – Kajiado District

Target Audience

- Women and young girls
- Women group leaders and representatives
- Youth group leaders
- Men and young boys
- Teachers
- Religious leaders
- Political leaders – civic leaders, party leaders
- Provincial administration – Chiefs, Assistant chiefs, Dos, Community elders
- Non Governmental Organisations/ Community Based Organisations
- Organisations of People Living With HIV/AIDS
- Human Rights Organisations
- Government Officials – Within the Ministry of Gender