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| **[Women’s Rights: Enforcement & DEfilement in Kibera, Kenya]** |
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***Research Findings\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

***Wakuu ni wanaume aliona ni kawaida anapomnyanyasa mkewe***

*The chief is a man, he sees it as normal, even he is abusing his wife*

-Woman in Kibera

***Demographics and Findings***

Although the women were not asked to provide their home estate to the researcher, it was determined through conversations with the recruiters and translators that the female participants came from all sides of Kibera. Those who attend churches also came from a number of different churches within the network.

These results are based on the personal interviews, focus group discussions and interviews with community leaders working within Kibera. Many of the themes which presented themselves in the personal interviews and focus groups were disclosed in the community leader interviews as well.

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| INDIVIDUAL FEMALE PARTICIPANTS | |
| Average Age | 37.5 |
| Average Education Level | Form 1 (9th grade) |
| Marital Status: |  |
| Married | 12 |
| Remarried | 2 |
| Widowed | 7 |
| Divorced | 7 |
| Single | 4 |

Table 1*: General information for the 30 females interviewed*

**Personal Interview Findings**

Based upon the personal interviews conducted with 30 women from the community, these findings will highlight responses to the original research question: *to what extent are women’s legal rights to be protected from sexual and physical abuse understood and enforced in Kibera?* These responses will also bring out answers regarding types of abuse most common, women’s knowledge of their rights and experiences with law enforcement.

**Known Cases of Abuse**

Prior to asking the women personal questions about their own experiences of abuse, the participants were asked general questions about their knowledge of abuse in the community. Most of the women had examples to share of abuse experienced by female friends, family members and neighbors.

It was determined that 29 of 30 participants know someone (family, friend or neighbor) who has been physically or sexually abused within Kibera. Most of the women (23) know at least several women who have experienced abuse, 6 of the women interviewed know at least one other woman who has experienced abuse and 1 of the women said she does not know of any other women experiencing abuse.

Those who knew someone who had been abused expressed that the abuse was almost always at the hands of the husband. Though they were not asked for specific accounts for all known cases of abuse, the women shared generally that the cases of abuse for neighbors and friends were domestic abuse cases of beatings and/or spousal rape. Very few shared instances of abuse occurring outside of the home.

Of those women outside of the study who were known to have experienced abuse, it was shared that most chose not to report to authorities or anyone else. Their reasons for not reporting included the following:

* It is shameful to report your husband for abuse
* There will be no one to provide if you turn in your husband
* You cannot jail your husband—culturally this is bad
* Police and chiefs will not help without “something small” (money)

Each of these reasons was mentioned more than once in response to questions about the abuse others have experienced. The overall consensus regarding other women who had been abused was that it is culturally shameful to report one’s husband. “If they go to the police or chief they would not do anything because of the culture” (Interview 5). Although the behavior is illegal according to Kenya law, because of the culture, the police and chief often send the woman away to reconcile without taking any action.

Furthermore, it was mentioned by 13 interviewees that police and chiefs do not handle their cases because, “You have nothing to say without money” (Interview16). If “something small” was given out, it was much more likely that the case would go somewhere.

***What it means to be a Female in Kibera…***

**It is found in our houses, especially when the men are drunkard they can do anything to us. We come in the house there is no money and no peace. He comes in abusing. He can do whatever he wants. And you see, it is not at the right time. If you are a woman, a man is just there to ask you “what have you cooked.” And you do not have any money. If you don’t give food he just beats you.**

**He is a man and you cannot control him. When you try to control him…at this age of ours we don’t stay with them because of how the man is. We take care of the kids on our own. The community has so many problems because our men don’t go to church. They say the pastors are your husbands.**

**You are always stressed about what you are passing through. He just wants your body. He can used your body in the way he likes. You are there for him and nothing else. That is a very big mistake. You cannot settle. He doesn’t care what you are facing or what you need to do, he just wants you (your body). You find you are very sorry to be with someone who doesn’t care about the child or with you. When you come with the pay, he is near you.**

**Our community is going to be bad, very worse, because of that. My future will not be good because 2 people could not work and now I am only 1. I cannot do everything alone and often cannot be there for my kids. My husband beat me and sold everything I had. It is not easy to separate at this age, but I wanted to see these children get education, but they don’t get that when we are staying with the man.**

**I thank God for his mercy. I sleep in peace because of God. Pray for my children. I don’t see properly because of the beatings I received day and night.**

*Figure 8: Personal story of abuse*

**Personal Experiences of Abuse**

Of the women interviewed individually, 19 of 30 had personally experienced domestic abuse—of those 19, 4 also experienced abuse outside of their homes at the hands of a man in the community. One of those interviewed had experienced abuse outside of her home, but none domestically. Thus, 20 out of 30 women had experienced some kind of abuse, mostly at the hands of their current or previous husbands.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Types of Abuse Experienced | | |
| Domestic Abuse |  | **19** | |
| Physical |  | 9 |
| Sexual |  | 2 |
| Both |  | 8 |
| Abuse Outside of Home |  | **5** |
| Sexual |  | 3 |
| Physical |  | 2 |

Table 2: Types of abuse experienced by the women interviewed

Very few of the women only experienced sexual abuse at the hands of their

husbands. Instead, sexual abuse (marital rape) was consistently experienced in addition to physical abuse in the form of beatings. Outside of their homes, both physical and sexual abuse was experienced by 5 of the women both at the hands of strangers as well as a neighbor or relative. This also aligned with the findings for the other women known as well. Almost all of those women’s experiences were of abuse—both physical and sexual—at the hands of their husbands or an intimate partner. It was much rarer that they should experience abuse outside of their homes.

Six of 30 women interviewed stated that, “The police and chiefs do protect women and will help if abuse is reported” (Interview 17). However, of those 6 women, none of them had ever attempted to report any abuse (although 3 of 6 had experienced spousal abuse). The remaining 23 women, even those who had not experienced abuse, stated a variety of reasons why reporting to the police or chief was not actually helpful or would not be helpful if attempted.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Reported a Case of Abuse | |
| Yes, to Police | 6 |
| Not to Police | 13 |
| Only to Family | 9 |

Table 3: Cases of abuse reported

Based upon these interviews, none of the women fully know their legal rights in relation to physical or sexual abuse. Those who do know their rights only know generally that beatings or rape are illegal and they should report abuse if it occurs. However, none seem to have a concept of any laws or rules beyond this. For example, although the women obviously do not like the police expecting bribes to help them, most don’t recognize that this is illegal. In addition, most women do not understand that domestic abuse is just as illegal as abuse from outside of their homes. Several explained that such abuse at the hands of the husband “Is just normal” (Interview 25).

Out of 30 women, almost a third of them admitted that they do not have *any* understanding of their legal rights at all.

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| Women’s Knowledge of Rights | |
| Generally Know | 7 |
| Know Very Little | 15 |
| Don’t Know | 8 |

Table 4: Women’s knowledge of legal rights

One third of the participants (10) had not completed primary school at all, but only one of the male abusers (husbands) had not completed primary school. Although the educational gap was not significantly wider, on average, the perpetrators of abuse averaged higher education (11th grade) versus the females survivors of abuse who averaged 9th grade education. Not all of the women knew or were able to recollect the educational status of their abusers and not all of the women had experienced abuse; however, it can be shown that in general the men were more educated than their wives. The implications and outcomes of this educational gap will be discussed further in the analysis.

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| Educational Levels | Female Participants’ Education Levels | Domestic Abusers’ Education Levels |
| Did not finish primary | 10 | 1 |
| Finished primary only | 4 | 4 |
| Completed at least 1 level of high school | 7 | 0 |
| Completed high school | 8 | 5 |
| College | 1 | 2 |
| Average Level Completed | Form 1 (9th grade) | Form 3 (11th grade) |

Table 5: Education levels: Not all female survivors of abuse were able to provide

**Focus Group Findings**

Twenty women participated in three focus groups for this study. These findings are based on those interviews. While some of those women were also participants in the personal interviews, 12 of these women were not personally interviewed due to time constraints. During the interviews, all of the women participated in the discussion and gave feedback—all were in agreement on the main points and added to or reiterated what the other women were saying in response to the questions. These results will be stated generally due to the fact that not all of the women responded to every question, and the interviews were discussion-based.

Those women participating in the focus groups also reported having experienced abuse, and all of them knew of at least one other female in Kibera who had experienced abuse as well. As with the personal interviews, this abuse was largely at the hands of their husbands and was both physical (beatings) and marital rape (forced sex).

Again, in the focus groups as in the individual interviews, the women shared that they “know about their rights,” but specifically they know very little. The women stated that they know to go to the chief or police and/or to a hospital if they experience beatings or sexual abuse, but they do not know what to do or where to go beyond this initial report. Furthermore, they do not know more specifically what rights they are entitled to beyond not being beaten or raped.

The women’s experiences with reporting were largely negative. Not all of the women had taken an issue to the police or chiefs; however, none of the women had anything positive to say about law enforcement within Kibera. Their responses to the question, “Do you believe that women’s legal rights are enforced and respected by authorities in Kibera?” are as follows:

* Group 1: “We have not benefitted from law enforcement even if we report, and when we do report we feel violated because there is no action taken.”
  + One of the women stated this and all nodded in agreement; however, they did not want to explain more beyond this.
* Group 2: Three specific quotes show themes in the second interview.
  + “The chief is a man. He sees it as normal. Even he is abusing his wife.”
  + “We don’t have any rights with the police. They want money, and if you don’t have money to bribe, they do nothing.”
  + “Unless you form a group and “bomb” the police, nothing will be done.”
  + These quotes were taken from individual women, but were reiterated and agreed upon by all of the women participating.
  + The general consensus is that abuse, especially by a spouse, is normal and even if a report is made, it is not likely that anything will be done. Because the women are dependent on their husbands for money or simply have very little, they give up on the case. It was suggested that the only way to see some results outside of paying is to go to the chief in a group to make more noise.
* Group 3: Again, a few quotes from the women demonstrate their feelings towards reporting cases of abuse.
  + “They may want something small [money].”
  + “It depends on who you are in the community and the amount you can provide. They don’t respect women’s rights or enforce them.”
  + “Most of the women who report, the husband comes and turns the tables on the woman and blame her for everything and the case is brushed off and they are asked to settle the case at home.”

Overall, the women were very negative about their interactions with or general knowledge of law enforcement within the community. This is further demonstrated by their comments about how they feel as a woman in Kibera. The women were asked to share their feelings and emotions related to being a female here, and their responses are summed up in the following words and phrases:

* Not good
* Insecure
* Unsafe
* Rejected
* Lonely
* It is hard to live in this community
* We need our voice to be heard
* It’s bad
* We are not comfortable
* The last group of women first shared that they feel great as women; however, they proceeded to state the following:
  + “We don’t feel safe but there is nothing we can do so we are just here.”
  + Feel safer in groups but not alone
  + Wouldn’t want anyone to know if they were home alone without the husband

Although the women love their families and call this community home, it was clear from the dialogue with them that they often feel unsafe in their homes and community. The women feel lonely as well because friends come and go and it is difficult and even dangerous to stand with a friend in a case of abuse. They do not feel supported in their rights by law enforcement or others who want to remain bystanders or who view it as normal so they often remain quiet about their abuse so as not to deal with those issues.

***Themes in the Data***

Several major themes appeared in this research both as a result of the personal interviews as well as in the focus group interviews. Some of the same themes were also reiterated in the interviews with community leaders, but those will be presented separately. Throughout the interviews, the main issues and needs raised by the women included: 1) Domestic abuse is very common for women in Kibera, 2) Finances and food insecurity were often tied to this abuse, 3) It is common for the chiefs and police to expect bribes, 4) Domestic abuse is still largely considered culturally normal in Kibera, 5) Most of the women do not have a clear understanding of their legal rights, and 6) On average, the male perpetrators of abuse were more educated than the female survivor.

**Prevalence of Domestic Abuse**

In the context of personal interviews and focus group interviews, a majority of the women had personally experienced domestic abuse in the form of beatings and/or forced sex from their husbands or significant others. Of the 50 women who participated in those discussions, about 39 of them had experienced abuse personally, and 49 of 50 knew of someone who had been abused. Following further questioning, the women shared examples showing that by and large the abuse was domestic in nature—very few of the women mentioned abuse outside of the home either for themselves or for others.

***“Sometimes I am not in the mood for sex, but he takes it by force”***

***-Interview 15***

The women were much more open about physical abuse. Most shared experiences of their husbands beating them. However, they were less open and/or understanding about sexual abuse—within the marriage, forced sex (aka marital rape). Although forced sex is now considered rape within a marriage in Kenya, many women are not aware of this and it had to be explained what the researcher meant by “sexual abuse” within the context of marriage. Sex is also a much more private matter here, making it difficult for the women to be as open about it. Despite these issues, a number of women shared their personal stories of both kinds of abuse.

**Food Insecurity**

Early on in this research, it became evident that there was a theme of food insecurity and its relation to domestic abuse. This “food insecurity” occurred in three different ways.

***“He did not buy food and he wanted sex so he beat me thoroughly”***

*-Focus Group 2*

The first was that women were often beaten or raped by their husbands who came home to find that food had not been prepared. Women are the caretakers of the home and are expected to handle most, if not all, of the cooking, cleaning and childrearing. Said one woman, “If you don’t give food he just beats you. He is a man and you cannot control him” (Interview 6).

Secondly, women shared that they often do not report the abuses they face with their husbands because they are concerned about the financial ramifications. In general, the husband is still the provider for the family. “He is the breadwinner of the house and now you are taking him in and you need him back and what will you do and it is just a cycle of continued abuse. You can’t live without him, you have the kids there.” Especially if she has children, she fears to report or anger the husband and lose her livelihood and children’s school fees. Even if the wife is also working, the man is often the main provider—at least in theory, but that leads to the final point.

Although theoretically the man is the provider for the family here, a number of women made comments about this not taking place. The reasons for abuse were not specifically asked of the women, but many of them shared anyway. Among other reasons, abuse often occurred when the women refused sex. Says another, “Sometimes you are not in the mood for sex, and he has not brought food, but he will take it by force” (Interview 15). The women shared that their reason for refusing sex was that they and the children were hungry and the husband was not providing (drinking instead, not working, etc.). One woman’s account was that, “My husband used to come home drunk and would beat me and not provide food and then he would force me to have sex” (Interview 8).

***“He (husband) was drunk everyday and forced sex and beat me”***

*-Interview 27*

***“He went away for 6 years and did not support us. When he returned, he wanted to sleep with me but he never brings food and I refused, so he forced me.”*** *–Interview 13*

**Expectation of Bribery**

Within the personal interviews, 14 women made mention of police or area Chiefs expecting money in exchange for looking at their cases. Moreover, the women in one focus group (5) all shared feeling violated by police and chiefs (though did not specify how), and the remaining two focus groups (15 women) emphasized this issue with law enforcement.

***“You have to use your money if you want rights. If you don’t have money, you are finished.”***

*-Interview 14*

According to those accounts, “If you don’t have a bribe, they won’t work on you. Your case will be thrown” (Focus Group 2). In follow-up to this statement and in pointing out the problems penniless women have in reporting, another woman added, “And yet, the government has money to fuel their car, but you are being asked to fuel the car” (Focus Group 2). Another woman shared that when the police sent her to the hospital, she was even forced to purchase the gloves used for her exam and was sent away for more when she purchased the “wrong kind.” Many of the women stated that even if they initially have the courage to report a case, they often give up after their first interactions with the authorities due to being shamed and/or pressed for money.

***“The police see female victims as failures. They ask, ‘What did you do to deserve that? And they call us prostitutes.”***

*-Interview 9*

**Culturally Normal**

Another reason women often face trouble in reporting or choose not to report is cited as “traditional culture.” While Nairobi as a whole seems to be moving away from certain aspects of traditional Kenyan culture, Kibera remains very conservative and culturally traditional. This applies to many aspects of society from dating, physical affection, and hospitality to the treatment of women and girls.

***“I never reported. My parents did not want me to report because they would look down on me and didn’t want my husband to leave me. They did not want the shame.”***

*-Interview 8*

Again, in both the focus group discussions and the personal interviews the women shared multiple examples of the discrimination they face as women from their intimate partners, from their friends and neighbors, from their families and from law enforcement. It is partially because of this discrimination that women experienced abuse in the first place, and that discrimination continues as the women’s cases often don’t get reported or handled according to the law. Referring to the cultural issues with reporting one’s husband, one woman commented, “If it could be reported, a husband and wife, that rate [abuse] is very high” (Interview, 14).

Several women mentioned that it is culturally more acceptable to leave one’s husband rather than to report him to the authorities. One said, “You can’t jail your husband. Culturally it is not appropriate to report. It is better to leave them than to report or jail him” (Interview 7). This is confirmed by the fact that 7 of the 30 women are divorced and 4 have chosen not to marry—one because of abuse by her boyfriend. When asked if she reported her boyfriend beating her, one girl responded, “No because you can’t go to the Chief to report a man who you have a child with, that is an abomination” (Interview 18). Another said, “You cannot jail your husband. If I report to the Chief, my husband will not be at peace and people will abuse me and say I have abused the family” (Interview 30).

According to others, “Neighbors do nothing. It is just normal” (Interview 25) and “The people where I live just take abuse as normal and take no action” (Interview 26). In one of the group interviews, the women shared that if one has a good relationship with her neighbors, they might be more likely to come to her aid in a case of abuse or support in reporting. However, it was also shared that witnesses to abuse often expect to be paid just like law enforcement. Law enforcement often won’t assist without a witness as well so many women give up before even attempting to report.

***“My first husband beat me some but not much because of the dowry. My second husband is the boss now. There is no agreement between the parents [it is an unofficial live-in arrangement] so he can do anything”***

*–Interview 15*

**Little Knowledge of Legal Rights**

Overall, the women interviewed in the personal interviews and focus groups did not have a very extensive knowledge of their legal rights in relation to abuse. Eight of the women interviewed said that they do not know their rights at all, and the remaining 22 said they had some general knowledge of needing to report to the police or Chief if they experience abuse. In the focus groups, the women responded similarly saying they new generally to report abuse, but little more beyond that.

Those who do have some knowledge of their rights have learned through a variety of methods; though few could name specific organizations or programs.

* Through school
* Through the teachings of NGOs or community programs (most commonly mentioned)
* Through TV or radio programs

All participants shared very strongly that they believe they and other women must be more educated on their legal rights and how to respond in instances of abuse. This will be discussed more fully in the section “Women’s Recommendations.”

***“It is important to know your rights since if you happen to stay in a marriage where you don’t know, the partner can take advantage of your ignorance and continue to do those awful things to you because they know you don’t know what to do if they continue”***

**-**Focus Group 3

**Lack of Education**

Prior to beginning the personal interviews, the women were asked to share their highest level of education. Those who had experienced abuse were asked if they knew the education level reached by the perpetrator of abuse. Of the women who experienced abuse and knew the abusers level of education, seven women were less educated than their husbands who were abusive. Two women were more educated than their husbands, four of the women had reached the same level of education with their husbands, and the remaining women (six) did not report.

Lower levels of education for women impact them in two different ways. First, the women are less likely to stand up to the abuse because they have less awareness of their rights as humans and as women. Second, many of the women are dependent on their husbands as the breadwinner. This is partly due to lack of employment, but that is also connected to lower levels of education which hinder them in the job market.

**Community Leader Interview Findings**

Community leader interviews consisted of two law enforcement officials, eight community workers (with local organizations) and two local pastors working with Life in Abundance.

**Officers’ Comments**

Contrary to the information obtained from the women (and other community leaders) the representative from the Chief’s office stated that abuse is more common outside of the family, and that it is common to receive reports of abuse. However, the officer representing the APS (Administration Police Service) in Kibera responded that they do not receive many reports of abuse, but reports they do receive show that abuse is much more common within the family.

According to the APS, reports of domestic abuse are commonly referred to the Chief’s office or the Social Department, unless there is extreme bodily harm and then the woman would be sent to another police station outside of Kibera. However, the Chief’s office reports that they normally send cases of domestic abuse to the police or to the Children’s Department. Another officer who spoke anonymously said that the office (APS) actually doesn’t get many cases of abuse nowadays, but if they do they refer them to the Courts —people usually handle their cases with the Children’s Department.

Both offices emphasized the importance of not breaking up the family regardless of the abuse which was taking place saying, “For the husband we must handle with great care because that can break a family. You can reconcile them and keep the family” (John Macharia, APS). Similar comments were made from the Chief’s office—“We cannot separate the family” (Dancan Odhiambo, Chief’s Office). These comments are supported by those of the women as well who emphasized the difficulty in reporting their husbands and seeing any justice in their cases.

***“If it is a stranger we will be more aggressive!”***

-Officer John Macharia

The additional comments from both offices will be analyzed with the other interviews as much of the information is the same.

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| ***Figure 9: Community Leader Responses on Abuse and Causes*** | | | | |
| **Name/Title** | **Office** | **Data Regarding Abuse?** | **Most common forms of abuse?** | **Factors leading to abuse of women?** |
| Officer John Machuria | APS | 1-2 reports of abuse per month, though does occur | Domestic Violence-beatings | -Poverty  -Irresponsibility of men drinking |
| Volunteer Dancan Odhiambo | Chief’s Office | Very common | Mostly outside the home | Did not respond |
| Pastor Michael Nyanga | LIA Network | Very common | Domestic Abuse-beatings | -Poverty  -Illiteracy  -Poor family communication |
| Pastor Godfrey Abitha | LIA Network | Very common | Domestic Abuse-beatings | -Women need to be empowered  -Men idle and not working—frustrated that woman is running the family  -Cultural—expressing love through beatings  -Drugs and substance abuse |
| Mobilizer -Jane Anyango | Independent | Very common | Domestic Abuse | -Customs and traditions more than anything else |
| Employee @ Center for Rights Education and Awareness | CREAW | Very common | Domestic abuse—probably 90% of cases. If outside of home usually still someone they know | -Economic status—vulnerable because dependent on husband  -Education of rights is laking  -Trradition and culture say it is okay—Chief and police often still tradiitonal |
| Dr. Zipporah Chume | ACK Clinic | Very common | Domestic abuse and people known to the woman | -Lack of education  -Poverty  -Don’t know their rights |
| Pastors/organizers Peter & Carol Mugeni | Angaza Community Project | Very common | Domestic abuse-beatings | -Poverty  -Cultural beliefs  -Lack of awareness of rights  -Ignorance and lack of sex education |
| Monitoring and Evaluating Officer-George Onyango | Laini Saba Project Centre and Homecare | Common | Domestic abuse and rapes of vulnerable women | -Drug and alcohol abuse  -Lack of education  -Don’t know rights  -Cutlural  -Community perception-beat to show love to a woman |
| Director Margaret Ocholo & Programs Offier Francis Maweto | LAPCA | Very Common | Domestic Abuse-beatings | -Poverty |

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| ***Figure 10: Community Leader Responses on Handling Abuse and Women’s Rights*** | | | | |
| **Name/Title** | **How do you handle reports of abuse?** | **Is there any written protocol for handling cases?** | **Is it important for women to know their legal rights?** | **Do you have any methods for educating women regarding their rights?** |
| Officer John Machuria | Send women to the Social Departmet or Chief. May send to Kiminani Police outside Kibera | None that he was aware of at that office. | Yes. Should understand family matters to handle husband, and know rights to report abuse. | None, but NGOs have come to teach the officers some—this is rare, but within the force, the police are trained when they become officers on how to handle cases of abuse. |
| Volunteer Dancan Odhiambo | Send a letter to the man to summon him—arrest if he refuses to come | None | Yes, so they can report cases of abuse. | None |
| Pastor Michael Nyanga | -If needed he will report to authorities  -Often puts fear into the man and normally they haven’t reoffended  -Bring couple together for counseling and monitor the situation | None | Yes. | With the women guardians they talk about girls’ rights and teach that boys and girls should be be treated the same—with same respect. |
| Pastor Godfrey Abitha | -Listen and counsel to see what has caused the problem  -Hear the man’s side of the story  -Talk to them about danger of physial abuse  -Report to authorities if no change  -Priority to keep family together | Handle Biblically but no written proceedure. | Yes. Rules are made to govern and protect so it is good for them to know them. | No education programs |
| Mobilizer -Jane Anyango | -Will take to the police and or hospital  -Take them through the Court if necessary  -Listen to both sides with DV and tries to bring together | None | Yes. Need to stand up for their rights rather than believing that the police or Chief are doing them a favor if they help them. | Uses some songs and forums to educate women and to hear their stories—refer women to other organizations for eduation such as CREAW |
| Employee @ Center for Rights Education and Awareness | -Check health and take to the hospital to be treated  -Services free of charge  -Find a safe place for her to stay  -Bring in a counselor  -Go to police, police doctor, get needed documents, find witnesses.  -Bring in a lawyer  -Follow-up on case | Yes likely at the head office, but not at this office—just knows from working in the office. | Yes! Women need to know what to do in case of abuse. Don’t go to the Chief—go to the hospital and to the police—crimes agianst human rights.  \*Women in villages even more need education. | -They have a brochure that they give out to women  -Do programs in schools in the community  -Different programs depending on the audience. |
| Dr. Zipporah Chume | Does not receive many reports—women don’t like to talk about it. | None—but if it is a rape must report to hospital within 24 hours | Very important so they can report. | Does not have any educational programs or materials |
| Pastors/organizers Peter & Carol Mugeni | -Talk to both to discover situation if domestic  -If violent take to police (bruises are considered non-violent  -Help them reconcile | None | Yes. Need to speak out. They need to be educated on their rights. | None |
| Monitoring and Evaluating Officer-George Onyango | -Partner with other organizations  -Usually community health workers handle  -Talk to them to see what the situation is.  -May take to the Chief or the Court if needed | None | Yes. Will make the husband fear to abuse her and some cases will be avoided. | None |
| Director Margaret Ocholo & Programs Offier Francis Maweto | -Partner with other organizations to handle these cases  -Help where they can with food and go with them to the Chief’s | None | Yes. Need to have more strength to report and know their rights in order to do that. | None |

**Summary**

The leaders who were interviewed represented both men and women; churches, NGOs, Community Based Organizations and law enforcement officials. All participants said that abuse of women is still common in Kibera, although one officer said that the office does not receive very many reports of that abuse. When abuse does occur, it is most commonly in the form of domestic violence. A volunteer with the Chief’s office disagreed saying that other forms of abuse are more common.

***“People beat their wives like a part of living in our culture.”***

-The Mugenis

However, other community leaders all emphasized that domestic abuse is prevalent and the female interviewees confirmed this in their responses as well. When asked for the main factors leading to abuse, poverty was mentioned by 8 of 12 participants. Other factors included: substance abuse, culture and tradition, lack of rights awareness and lack of education.

***“For the husband we must handle with great care because that can break a family. You an reconcile them and keep the family”***

-Officer John Machuria

All but one of the participants had been approached on more than one occasion with a situation of abuse. None of the individuals or organizations had any written protocol for dealing with such situations. However, each had various methods they would use in such cases. It was emphasized by all but 3 of the participants that there is a great need to keep the family together. From churches to law enforcement, the focus is on protecting the family. Local organizations and pastors in particular want to see an end to abuse and see women empowered, but they want to do this while keeping the marriage intact.

Some believe that as women gain more knowledge of their rights, more and more marriages will end in divorce which is a negative result of empowerment. When cases of abuse are reported a variety of supports may be utilized from counseling, meeting with both parties, legal aid, police reports, medical care and more. Besides CREAW, all of the participants primarily refer victims to other organizations and programs for resources and assistance.

Although all participants felt it is crucial for women to be aware of their legal rights in order to protect themselves and stand up against abuse, only three of the 10 offices represented offer any kind of awareness or education regarding women’s rights. Center for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) does the most work by far, followed by Jane Anyango’s forums for educating women and LIA’s occasional training/awareness for women in their programs.

However, outside of CREAW, the other programs are not offered regularly and there is little to no written documentation or educational materials for such events. The other interview participants do not do any work with awareness for women. Furthermore, most of them were also not aware of other organizations working with women in this capacity or any other.

***“Most are suffering but don’t take a step. They need to learn not to belittle themselves and to go for help.”***

-Pastor Michael

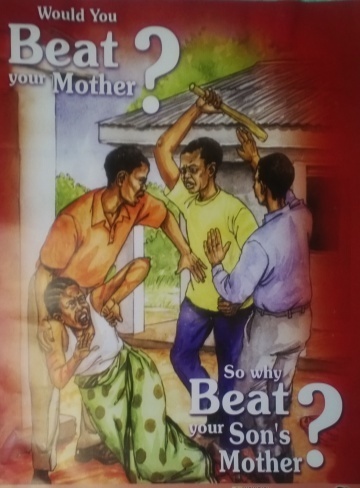
***Participants’ Recommendations***

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*Figure 11: “How do you see it?” Figure 12: Community prevention of violence*

During the focus group discussions and in discussions with community leaders, participants were asked to give suggestions regarding changes needed in the community in order to improve the treatment of women, and to make recommendations that may lead to greater enforcement and support of women’s rights on the part of local organizations and law enforcement. The following suggestions were made by the women themselves:

* We need to be more educated to know our legal rights.
* We need to know organizations and programs available to help us and our families, and we need to have access to those programs.
* We need to gain our voice, to speak out, so that our abusers don’t have the power.
* We need organizations on the ground working with women.
* We need women in positions of authority—women helping women—as lawyers, prosecutors, judges, Chief’s, police and more.
* We need women in these offices handling cases of abuse against women, and male and female police officers need to be aware of women’s rights.
* We need to have counseling and trainings in marriage to understand how to communicate better and to handle conflicts.
* We need to be empowered economically so we are not so dependent on the man and our husbands.
* We need to have greater access to education so that we do not feel inferior to the man or be treated as inferior because of our lack of education.



*Figure 13: Poster against domestic violence*

Suggestions for change were also made by a few of the community leaders as follows:

* We need to empower women through job skills training and support in business.
* We need to hold forums for men to understand womens’ perspective on marriage issues and abuse, and to train and mentor them regarding these things.
* We need to bring the gospel to couples and to families so that they have a Biblical perspective of marriage and family.
* We need to break down barriers in talking about sex. Men and women need to be educated about sex and what it is to violate someone sexually.
* We need to mentor couples to discuss their roles and issues within the marriage—learn to support one another in the home.
* We need to have forums which bring together both men and women to share their views and learn how to support one another.
* We need to change the mindset surrounding corruption/bribes. It is everywhere, and bribes are expected from everyone for most cases to be handled.

***“Abuse is perpetrated by men—need to deal with men and see why they are doing this. What is causing them to do this? Men need to be heard to know causes”***

-Pastor in Kibera