



Naapu Indigenous Women Fund Advocacy Strategy

2022 - 2025



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Naapu Indigenous Women Fund

Supporting indigenous women to address gender-based violence and end harmful cultural practices in their territories

Abbreviations

- ACERWC African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- ACHPR African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
- AU African Union
- AUC African Union Commission
- CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- CSOs Civil Society Organizations
- GTWG Gender Technical Working Group
- GBV Gender-Based Violence
- HRC Human Rights Commissions
- IWG Indigenous Women and Girls
- KNCHR Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
- NGECE National Gender Equality Commission
- UN United Nations
- UN CSW United Nations Commission on the Status of Women
- UN/ECOSOC United Nations Economic and Social Council
- UNECA United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- UNFPA United Nations Population Fund
- UNICEF United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
- UPR Universal Periodic Review
- WHO World Health Organisation

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NAAPU Indigenous Women Fund

NAAPU means *'uplifting'*, a Samburu name that derives from the indigenous women aspiration, hard work and resilience. NAAPU Indigenous Women Fund is a small basket fund facility which seeks to provide grants or seed capital to small and upcoming Indigenous Women-Led; Young Women-Led; and adolescent girls grassroot organization, who cannot easily access funding based on their marginalization and work in remote rural regions.

The grants aim to enable Indigenous Women and Girls (IWG) permanently transform harmful cultural practices, address inequality of funding opportunities as well as enhancing their inclusion, voice, and power of women to influence resources and leadership in decision making agenda.

NAAPU Indigenous Women Fund is a targeted and deliberate grant making facility; it's a flexible grant that enables vulnerable indigenous women; girls; single mothers; divorced women; young women, and women living with disabilities to develop and prioritize their own needs; to influence and negotiate on how indigenous women access resources in advancing their collective interest in spaces of decision making.

Evidence demonstrates that rural based indigenous women have difficulty to access, influence, negotiate and be in the table of funding opportunities. This glaring gap informed SWT to initiate conversation with grant makers to empower and increase the capacity of upcoming Indigenous Women and Girls (IWG) led institutions to be able to advance their collecting voices; rights and prioritize their aspiration in resource allocation and development agenda.



The Vision

A society in which Indigenous women and children fully enjoy their Human Rights free from harmful traditional practices.



Our Goal

To build a vibrant and flexible indigenous women led fund in Africa.

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Short description of the theme and why it is relevant

During the beginning of this advocacy strategy back in the year 2022, NAAPU indigenous women fund consisted of eight (8) IWG led organizations in seven (7) arid and semi-arid Lands (ASAL), and other indigenous peoples inhabited counties of Kenya. The network consists of IWG from pastoralists, hunters and gatherers, fisherfolks communities as well as deliberate inclusion of vulnerable indigenous women like those living with disabilities and young mothers. The basket fund is a flexible grant managed by Samburu Women Trust (SWT)¹. The fund convenes indigenous and minority women with a common objective - to improve indigenous and young women livelihoods, develop, organize capacity and pursue possible collective actions to advance basic rights and freedom of IWG.

IWGs in Kenya are already living in a vulnerable context, where development, access and participation in the society is still minimal. Indigenous women further experience inherent threats through harmful cultural practices, like early girl marriage, FGM, girl child beading, and cultural hold backs of women in decision making agency. NAAPU indigenous women fund members purpose to have a multi stakeholder advocacy, information and sensitization of communities, religious leaders, traditional cutters, information, and communication professionals (traditional and modern), political leaders, legal and health professionals, teachers and educators, members of parliament, men and women, the youth, and corporations. State agencies at national and county levels have further left out IWG in public participation, process of policy development, and implementation.

The level of impunity is affecting service delivery and health, with weak or non-existent state control causing or exacerbating GBV and the violation of human rights. This hampers judicial processes of holding perpetrators to account and the establishment of law in indigenous people's communities. This is usually worse in times of crisis like drought, conflict, and humanitarian emergencies.

Violence, particularly intimate partner/ sexual violence against IWG is a major concern, hastening health problems and violations of women's human rights in Kenya. Traditional/ cultural values, societal norms and attitudes, lack of stringent measures and timely protection mechanisms continue to further expose women and girls to violations. These violations occur at family level and social places regardless of one's religion, gender, age, ethnicity or political persuasion and inclinations.

Harmful cultural practices affect IWG as rights holders on security, health, development, surrounding environment, violations, and violent conflict, etc. The NAAPU indigenous women fund members strategy is designed to enhance fact-based advocacy, protection of gender-based violence, access to Justice, girl's mentorship and sponsorship, engagement with policy makers and other partners for development of conducive laws that support advancement of women and girl's rights.

NAAPU indigenous women fund members are the best placed to address the gender inequalities, noting that they are all indigenous women and girls led from the most affected marginalized communities. The leaders have experiences, skills, and knowledge on the negative effects of harmful cultural practices.

The objective of this advocacy strategy is to promote positive culture, elimination of harmful cultural practice, promotion of women leadership and economic empowerment of women and girls from the indigenous communities.

¹ <https://www.samburuwomentrust.org/>

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Justification: Why NAAPU Indigenous Women Fund?

The legal framework within Kenya on GBV presents an excellent opportunity to educate and influence legislators and CSOs actors to have laws that ensures the protection of human rights among IWG and incorporates a general rights holder perspective on GBV. In recent years we see positive IWG movement in support for such legislation. While the implementation of laws needs to be monitored, there are existing frameworks which are expected to cover more GBV prevention.

There are very clear synergies with other advocacy strategies, in particular the ones on human rights, due diligence, tax Justice, and defending and expanding democratic and civic space for civil society.

Together, NAAPU indigenous women fund members and Indigenous Women Council- IWC- can form a strong advocacy platform for change, bring a number of added values to the table. As often, IWG holds a unique position in being well connected all the way from the rights holder to stakeholders who could be allies in contributing to a safer working environment.

Through general advocacy work on human rights, NAAPU indigenous women fund members have also a large network of community led activists with the ability to speak truth to power. Another niche are the feminist principles and strong gender lens through which indigenous women movements analyses problems as much as solutions and not the least in the promotion of participation.

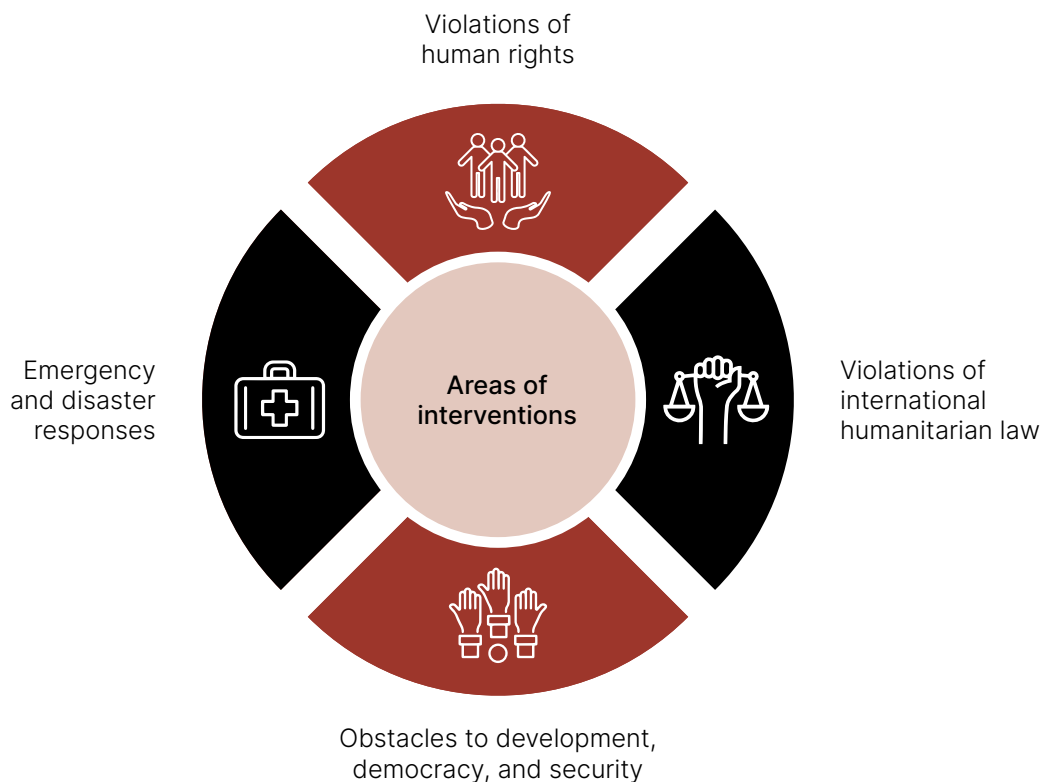
In recent years, indigenous women movement respectively have gained a name on indigenous women and girls' issues and is already a referent and go-to network for primarily media and CSOs. Due to the strong link to harmful cultural practices that affect women and girls, human rights and social movements including efforts to curb impunity, there is a relative interest for the issue among public and media.

The indigenous women movement is well networked in relevant county; national; regional networks. There is also a strong interest for the GBV and harmful cultural practice issues as well as collective action among indigenous women spaces. Together with all partnerships, the work has potential to build a strong base.

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Overall advocacy goal

To forge the links between cultural beliefs; harmful cultural practices, in particular GBV, and:



To create awareness among general public, media, private sector, and decision makers about:

- The link between indigenous women movements initiatives and the situation of harmful cultural practices within indigenous communities
- The situation for indigenous women and girls; young women; women living with disabilities; young mothers and widows within indigenous people's communities
- NAAPU indigenous women fund members work to improve and change the situation for indigenous women and girls by increasing visibility of the fund and why it's important for funders to support the facility

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Interim milestones

Within 1 year

- NAAPU indigenous women fund members and the IWC respectively have at least 2 ongoing projects where specific programs on GBV are integrated with national and county policy work
- NAAPU indigenous women fund members arrange a workshop on harmful cultural practices with Article 59 independent commissions CAJ (Ombudsman), NGEC, KNCHR and CEDAW on all UPR recommendation on the rights of indigenous women and girls²
- NAAPU indigenous women fund members has specified and IWG rooted advocacy goals regarding harmful cultural practices on women and girls
- NAAPU indigenous women fund members has defended its position as a referent for the issue in Kenya-indigenous communities
- NAAPU indigenous women fund members have mapped and established contact with cultural leadership they wish to engage in all the regions that they work in

Within 2 years

- NAAPU indigenous women fund members have the competence to include the ability to integrate specific programs at the county on GBV with relevant policy work
- NAAPU indigenous women fund members and IWC are a leading actor in Kenya on integrating specific programs on GBV with relevant policy work
- NAAPU indigenous women fund members have increased knowledge and support for the issue among the cultural forums in Kenya for strong legislation
- NAAPU indigenous women fund members have increased knowledge and support for abolishing harmful practices within communities
- Awarded state recognition due to the fight against harmful cultural practices; elected to seat in county technical working group to advice on how best to address harmful cultural practices.

Within 5 years

- NAAPU indigenous women fund members and IWC have, in collaboration with partners, developed concrete policy positions including suggested changes of the laws on GBV.
- NAAPU indigenous women fund members have, in collaboration with partners, developed concrete policy positions regarding the law on strategic harmful cultural practices by 2025.
- All positions have been analyzed and designed with a feminist lens and aim at increasing gender equality.
- NAAPU indigenous women fund members have increased knowledge and support in county assemblies and parliament for strong legislation in accordance with agreed positions

² <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/ke-index>

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Change sought per target group within the foreseeable future

TARGET GROUPS	TYPE OF ALLY/ OPPONENT	THE CHANGE WE WANT TO ACHIEVE (CONSIDER, KNOW, FEEL, DO)	BRIEF GENERAL THEORY OF CHANGE AND HOW TO ACHIEVE THE CHANGE
Actively engaged Indigenous people's base <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous Women Council Indigenous People's Rights CSOs 	Active ally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take active role in defining change Reach out to men including fathers to use their power and authority in support for accelerating abandonment of FGM/C and child marriage Establishment of community groups or strengthening existing community groups to support advocacy on FGM/C and child marriage Community leaders mainly chiefs, village elders, teachers and religious leaders are brought on board in accelerating abandonment of FGM/C and child marriage Creation of awareness to the community members of the challenges that young and single mothers experience in the community Conduct community-level workshops, educational programs, and localized campaigns to sensitize community members on harmful and negative gender stereotypes that exacerbate GBV and involve men and women to combat harmful social norms aimed at challenging toxic masculinities and dismantle harmful gender stereotypes Young mothers and widows to be included in community meetings and community activities Promotion of gender equality and contribution to the improvement of the health status, social, economic, political, human rights, and quality of life of IWG and children through elimination of harmful traditional practices and the promotion of beneficial ones. Incorporating livelihood interventions such as income generating activities (IGAs) and group savings and loans schemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate/engage Give tools, petitions, letters Barazas Developed strategies on how best to engage each actor at different levels

TARGET GROUPS	TYPE OF ALLY/ OPPONENT	THE CHANGE WE WANT TO ACHIEVE (CONSIDER, KNOW, FEEL, DO)	BRIEF GENERAL THEORY OF CHANGE AND HOW TO ACHIEVE THE CHANGE
County Governments	Passive allies (GTWG active ally)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increased number of supporters and active allies (not focus on active opponents) • An increased number of counties applying better than minimum standard • Attendant risks associated with these harmful practices is enhanced amongst health professionals in the target locations • Increased engagement with the local administrative officers and county government on their mandate on GBV and development of policies that can help county governments implementation • Increased compliance with current legislation • Provision of medical treatment and psychological counseling, easily available in every case of GBV • Prevent and eliminate traditional practices that are harmful to or impede the health, human development, and rights of IWG • Advocate for care for IWG who suffer the health consequences of harmful practices • Establish a coordination mechanism at the county level, bringing together state and non-state actors to improve service provision for GBV survivors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen and give a platform to positive actors, share best of practice • Educate county government actors showing will to change • Put counties pressure from public, and NAAPU indigenous women fund member's base • Research and publications

TARGET GROUPS	TYPE OF ALLY/ OPPONENT	THE CHANGE WE WANT TO ACHIEVE (CONSIDER, KNOW, FEEL, DO)	BRIEF GENERAL THEORY OF CHANGE AND HOW TO ACHIEVE THE CHANGE
Funders	Neutral/ passive allies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased understanding and support from willing but passive funders • Feminist action research into GBV with adequate funding in order to have standardized and longitudinal research findings • To bring together diverse local, national, regional, and international efforts working towards ending gender-based violence. • To be more active in flexible structures that deal with discriminating cultures within indigenous communities • Donor states and international organisations must do more to support civil society organisations and movements in their fight against harmful cultural practices and other GBV. This should include increased funding to those who are underfinanced by most donors, such as IWG local organisations or movements led by women • General operating grant making • Donors must do much more to prioritise long-term support based on IWG own analyses as an actor in its own right • Flexible grant mechanisms for (emerging) non-formal actors who play strategic roles in GBV spaces but lack the possibility to handle heavy administrative regulations; are refused official registration for political reasons; or do not formalize as organisations for security reasons or to prevent internal conflicts. • Increase funding to local CBOs and CSOs for GBV service delivery • Designate funding for supporting the capacity development needs of first responders, including training on organizing and proposal development for funding for their activities. • Increase resourcing for GBV services, including specific funding for GBV responses in emergencies • Fund first responders, including local CBOs and CSOs, for outreach and service provision to victims of GBV, as they are the first point of contact with this vulnerable population, which experiences high levels of violence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To highlight and advocate good practices of how the donor community can work with inclusive and responsible risk management in repressive contexts • Educate/engage

TARGET GROUPS	TYPE OF ALLY/ OPPONENT	THE CHANGE WE WANT TO ACHIEVE (CONSIDER, KNOW, FEEL, DO)	BRIEF GENERAL THEORY OF CHANGE AND HOW TO ACHIEVE THE CHANGE
Independent Constitutional Commissions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ombudsman • NGECC • KNCHR 	Mostly allied ideologically, but obliged to operate according to the present law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Article 59 commissions are more vocal and clearer on the present laws • Informally critical to lack of sanctions for non-compliance • Frameworks and mechanisms that address medicalization of FGM/C are strengthened • Collaboration between target communities, health facilities, police, and provincial administration, reporting protocols, and investigation and prosecution of cases involving health professionals in the practice of FGM/C • Cover legal and policy framework touching on harmful practices including areas such as sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) • Lobby the National Police Service Commission to deploy gender officers in all the police divisions. • Move to passive allies (support civil servants to understand and work for changes in line with our demands) • Promote human rights standards call for a holistic approach to the prevention and elimination of harmful practices. • The national government should develop national guidelines for the establishment and management of GBV Shelters for the protection of GBV survivors. The guidelines should include minimum standards and procedures for public and private actors running GBV Shelters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage Article 59 commissions to speak up where they can, convince them of the importance • Offer platforms for independent commissions to participate in discussions • Watchdog work
National Assembly Parliament/ Senate Parliamentary committees Pastoralist parliamentary group National women caucus	Passive opponent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be more passive in their opposition • Immediate commencement of project interventions that are targeted at the prevention of GBV at the household level. • Sustained civic education with a view to educating women on the right to protection against GBV. • Support legislation on service centers for victims of violence and their families • Working on policy programmes and actions to eliminate Harmful Traditional Practices • Adopt WHO guidelines on the management of health complications from female genital mutilation (2016). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet their arguments with facts and truth, make them ashamed of unfounded claims
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Assembly • Education (County service board) – on employment • County Assembly caucus 	Divided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be more supportive • Enhance sensitization and educational campaigns to equip girls and women as well as boys and men with the correct information about the FGM/C • Constant tabulation of child marriage and attendant effects in specific counties • Capacity building of key persons and institutions charged with responsibility of implementing child protection activities in the counties as well as enforcing existing laws that address FGM/C and child marriage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet them with their own discourse, e.g., by emphasizing the importance of legislation to ensure child and women protection, prevent harmful practices, to level the playfield

TARGET GROUPS	TYPE OF ALLY/ OPPONENT	THE CHANGE WE WANT TO ACHIEVE (CONSIDER, KNOW, FEEL, DO)	BRIEF GENERAL THEORY OF CHANGE AND HOW TO ACHIEVE THE CHANGE
Gender Technical Working Groups ³	Passive allies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt adequate traditional/alternative justice systems targeted to ensure that they are gender sensitive, have full knowledge of GBV so that they can be at the forefront of protecting women and girls against violence • Measures should be taken to increase knowledge and perception of GBV and the need to deal with it • Grassroots organizations working towards ending GBV should be supported to monitor implementation of GBV policies in their localities • Monitoring GBV facilities resourcing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide with information, arguments, and tools, stress the importance of levelling the playfield, emphasize the need for their action. • To support civil servants about the importance of NAAPU indigenous women fund members positions, emphasizing the importance of legislation, prevent impunity, to level the playfield.
<p>Cultural Entities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council of Elders • Custodiam of the culture – Naapo • Traditional birth attendance • Traditional Female cutters 	Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be more positive • To challenge and change existing social and individual attitudes that accept violence against women as ‘normal’ • To mobilize all sections of the family, community, and society to act to prevent violence against women • To build popular pressure on the County to formulate and implement gender-equitable policies; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To educate and engage through study trips and facilitation of meetings with civil society. • Consider setting up an award or stipend for alternative cultural practices to bring attention to harmful cultural practices
Council of Governance	Active opponent, but possible individual neutral or passive allies within	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That individual allies are vocal within CoG to at least make the active opponents more passive • Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and educate selected individuals about the need. Study trip? • Comparative analysis between counties where indigenous peoples live and other counties

³ <https://www.ngeckenya.org/Downloads/Guidelines%20for%20Managing%20and%20Establishing%20Equality-and%20%20Inclusion%20Technical%20Working%20Groups.pdf>

TARGET GROUPS	TYPE OF ALLY/ OPPONENT	THE CHANGE WE WANT TO ACHIEVE (CONSIDER, KNOW, FEEL, DO)	BRIEF GENERAL THEORY OF CHANGE AND HOW TO ACHIEVE THE CHANGE
<p>ACHPR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous communities' commissioners at the commission Commissioners working on specific issues e.g., women, child, land etc) AU AUC ACERWC 	<p>A mix</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That individual allies are vocal within commission to at least make the active opponents more passive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and educate selected individuals about the need. Study trip? Engage ACHPR accredited CSOs to take a stand and put pressure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRC UN CSW CEDAW UPR Treaty Bodies UN Special Rapporteurs UN/ECOSOC UNFPA WHO UNICEF UNECA 	<p>Active allies but with limitations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To become active allies Improve treaties and conventions monitoring Align UPR mechanisms with GBV United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution A/RES/67/146 "Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of Female Genital Mutilations" in December 2012⁴; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate and engage, emphasizing level playfield. Study trip?
<p>Political Parties</p>	<p>A mix of passive and active allies but with limitations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To become active allies Streamline Nominations for Indigenous Women Leadership and mentoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate and engage, emphasizing level playfield, gender, solidarity. Study trip?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSOs Indigenous led CSOs Non-Indigenous led CSOs Indigenous women led movement Regional CSOs 	<p>Passive to active allies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil society organizations and well-wishers to engage victims including young mothers and widows in their meetings Train victims on skills that they can use to gain the courage to participate in meetings and share their views 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage and educate, with focus on gender, solidarity, level playfield Study trip? Networking with likeminded organisations and partners

4 <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N12/487/36/PDF/N1248736.pdf?OpenElement>



Positions and messages

Positions and messages will be developed with partners (see 5 above). Tentative headings:

- Indigenous Women and Girls must be protected
- Local indigenous women and girls must be involved and consulted
- Cultural practices must not be at the cost of human rights and GBV
- LAW: Expand GBV law:
 - i) That includes marginalised persons
 - ii) That includes sanctions for violators
 - iii) That has a strong gender perspective really be effective and relevant
 - iv) That is linked to constitutional law and justice for victims
 - v) Includes measures to allocate budgets
 - vi) Accommodating rising matters of human rights of IWG
- Apply better than minimum standard
- Increased/resources support for indigenous women and girls
- Highlight the conflict between injustice/Culture/Law/ Policy



Other relevant information

The very fast change to focus on the holistic participation by indigenous women as the most affected persons, connecting indigenous people's rights with global human rights standards. Transition to IGW friendly policy and devolution governance. Understand new challenges as a driver of HR violations and in many cases a driver of shrinking space for civil society.



Important events during the year providing entry points and opportunities for action and change

- This section aims at facilitating strategic timing of advocacy action.
- To include externally driven events like regular parliamentary meetings, conferences, party initiatives, etc.
- To include civil society driven initiatives like report releases, campaign launches, etc.

ENTRY POINT / OPPORTUNITY	WHEN
County Assembly women caucus – quarterly breakfast updates forum	Quarterly meetings
PPG quarterly updates breakfast forum	
National days events	
IWC Quarterly updates meetings	
SWT annual indigenous women conference	
International day’s celebrations	
Defenders coalition human rights awards spaces	10th December
UN International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	6th of February
The 16 days of Activism against GBV/ International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	25th November – 10th December
UN Secretary-General’s UNiTE by 2030 to End Violence against Women campaign (UNiTE), is a multi-year effort aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls (VAWG) around the world	



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