

# Annual Report

2022



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

A  
B  
C  
D  
01  
02

MESSAGE FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND  
PROGRAMS COORDINATOR  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
OPERATING CONTEXT  
ORGANISATION BACKGROUND  
DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS  
REALIZED IN THE SCOPE OF  
PROGRAMMES  
OTHER HIGHLIGHTS  
FOR THE YEAR

05  
06  
07  
08  
09  
10

OUR WORK IN MENSTRUAL  
HYGIENE MANAGEMENT  
CHALLENGES  
LESSONS LEARNT  
CONCLUSION  
OUR PARTNERS  
PHOTO GALLERY



# A

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



**Shirleen Adhiambo**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

### Executive Director

We began 2022 with a lot of hopes for the year. Indeed, the year has been one of its own kind with great achievements that we are proud of as SIMUN family.

As we reflect back, looking at the political events in the country, we appreciate the commitments by our staff and board members to ensure we realize achievements in our work of promoting women and youth socio-economic growth and development in Siaya County.

My sincere appreciation to our partners and stakeholders for their commitment and dedication to promote sustainable communities where adolescent girls, women and youth can attain and enjoy their social, economic and political rights.

We are looking forward to continuous partnership in progressive years to come.



**Hillary Omondi**  
PROGRAM  
COORDINATOR.

### Programs Coordinator

It is another year and a great moment to take stock and reflect on the gains we have made in amplifying Adolescent girls, young women and youth voices in Siaya. Looking back, 2022 was a year coupled with elections but we made great strides and are proud of our achievements. This would have not been easy without the sustained partnership and support from the community, County Government of Siaya and other stakeholders. We sincerely thank them for their support. We also wish to acknowledge and thank our donors for the continuous support in the realization of the achievements.

We are cognizant of the fact that there is still more that needs to be

done to elevate the voices of adolescents, women and youth in Siaya. We continue to be committed to advance their rights through our interventions.

In the review of our work for the last one year, our staff's commitment and vigor saw us increase the magnitude of our work and our visibility leading to organizational growth and development. We continue to affirm our commitment in building a society where adolescent girls, women and youth live in dignity, enjoy equal rights and influence decisions on the change they desire in their lives and those of their community. We look forward to continuous partnership in advancing adolescents, girls, women and youth rights in Siaya.

# B

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Siaya Muungano Network (SIMUN) Annual report outlines our operational context, intervention areas, programmatic achievements, steps made and progress realized in 2022. The report also highlights lessons learnt, challenges experienced, best practices, opportunities realized and the organization's financial performance for the year 2022.

In 2022, the organisation had 4 projects running namely Power to Youth project supported by AMREF Health Africa and NAYA Kenya, Increasing Widows knowledge on Land and Property Rights supported by Urgent Action Fund, Women Voices in Climate Action and Governance supported by Akina Mama wa Afrika and Strengthening Women Voices in Governance supported by Uraia Trust.

During the year under review, the following results were realized in different projects; On matters widows access to land and property rights advocacy; 1124 widows in Alego-Usonga acquired civic knowledge on land and property rights through community forums and legal aid clinics, more than 20 cases of land rights violations were documented for follow-up with existing Government Institutions in partnership with Transparency International, strengthened community led widow spaces and groups to sustain advocacy on access to land and property rights for widows, 50 chiefs, assistant chiefs, village elders and Nyumba Kumi members were mobilized and sensitized to support widows access to land and property rights, lobbied and advocated for the incorporation of widows matters in existing gender related structures and TWG's in Siaya, In line with our work on promoting climate education and justice, 1087 women were reached with information and knowledge on existing climate change information, local climate legislations, role of women in climate actions and the existing locally led climate action initiatives; trained and launched 20 women champions on climate action advocacy at the grass root; we developed and disseminated a report highlighting existing locally led climate solutions in Siaya and the contributions of women in Siaya in responding to climate change.



On promoting youth and women participation in governance processes, we supported women who developed and submitted charter and memorandum with priorities on climate change response for consideration into the Siaya County Integrated Development Plan 2023-2027; engaged youth led and youth serving organizations in Siaya who developed and submitted 9 pillar Siaya County Youth Charter with youth empowerment priorities and strategies for consideration in the Nyalore Manifesto; mobilized and engaged youth and youth led organisations who developed and submitted civic actions in form of memoranda and press statements to the County Government of Siaya to influence budgetary allocation for youth empowerment, women empowerment, reproductive health and rights financing, climate change financing and empowerment for persons with disabilities in Siaya; supported 208 youth to participate in the development of the 3rd generation Siaya County Integrated Development; facilitated social contracting with South East Alego MCA and young people through "Bonga Na Mhesh" initiative; supported 22 young women to track availability, access and uptake of family planning commodities and services at Kapiyo Dispensary in West Sakwa Ward.

Under institutional strengthening, Siaya Muungano Network reviewed and adopted SIMUN Strategic plan 2022-2026; appointed new board members to oversee organizations operations and support its growth; linked staffs and volunteers to existing capacity building opportunities to strengthen their performance and delivery of their roles and responsibilities; and reviewed the organization staff appraisal template and approach for effectiveness in the appraisal process.

Best practices adopted in 2022 included; gathered and documented information for evidence-based advocacy, leveraging on existing community structures such as women groups and chief barazas to disseminate information; identification of referral pathways to promote wider adoption of local climate solutions; facilitating exchange learning visits for the targeted women groups and women co creation sessions; collaboration with local media groups in Siaya and targeted advocacy approach and integrating service based interventions to address community expectations.

Key learnings during the year under review included; advocacy interventions needs an Integration of economic models to holistically address community expectations with regards to livelihood development; working with existing community structures presents a window for developing effective project exit strategies for sustainability; innovations and models in programing especially for interventions targeting community members creates platforms for learning and documenting information that would inform designing of new projects and programs and partnerships and collaborations with state actors and government institutions promotes and strengthens good will for synergy and mainstreaming project results into government planning processes and documents.

Challenges and opportunities included; Political environment associated with the 2022 general elections that slowed down implementation due to shift of priorities by both state actors and the community members and competing interests among Civil Society Organizations leading to a challenge in building synergy and complimenting one another to create more impact; the existing County and National government structures that provided support and linkages to tap into other platforms for enhanced visibility and scaling up of the organization interventions in Siaya County and beyond.



# C

## OPERATING CONTEXT

Siaya County has a land surface area of approximately 2,530 km<sup>2</sup> and water surface area of approximately 1,005 km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 993,183(2019 census) with males at 47.5% and females at 52.5%. Youths account for more than 60% of the total population. The County performs below the national average on most socio-economic indicators. The Human development index (HDI) is 0.46% as opposed to the national one at 0.56% while the Gender Development Index is 0.42% against the national one at 0.49%, whereas the monetary poverty rate is 33.1%. Poverty is prevalent in the county and manifests itself in other socio-economic outcomes such as poor nutrition, health, and education, as well as a lack of access to basic services. Unemployment is a major challenge in the county, especially among the youth. The majority of the population is employed in fishing and agricultural activities, with limited opportunities in commercial ventures and public service.

Women and youth face multiple challenges ranging from unemployment, marginalization and impediments to accessing facilities and services such as employment, education and health care including sexual and reproductive health rights, information and services which is severely affected by low health budgets allocated. Despite these groups making up a significant % of the population of Siaya, they remain excluded from leadership and decision-making spaces and their priorities and needs are always not taken into consideration in policy and practice.

During the National General election held in August 2022, women candidates contesting for the different elective seats faced greater opposition from their male counterparts ranging from propaganda attacks, abuse and threats. No single woman was elected in the top elective positions. Out of the 30 wards in Siaya, only four women were elected as members of County Assembly. This showed that despite our efforts in advancing women rights in leadership and governance, the patriarchal nature of the society in Siaya impedes women leadership.

In regards to climate change, Siaya County has a climate change Policy 2020 and a Climate Change Act 2021 that guides on legal and institutional framework to mainstream climate change responses, measures and actions into County development planning and decision-making processes, mobilization and facilitation of the county government, communities and other stakeholders to respond effectively to climate change through appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures and actions and for connected purposes. Despite the existing legal frameworks, their implementation has not been successful. Inadequate funding and limited human capacity bar effective climate risk management, planning and implementation. The climate change effects experienced significantly affects the livelihoods of the population who majorly depend on fisheries and rain-fed small-scale farming, practices that are highly vulnerable to environmental degradation and the effects of climate change.



Women and girls are more vulnerable and highly affected with the climate crisis with low coping mechanisms. This continues to expose them to other risks including gender-based violence. Teenage pregnancy and GBV cases reported in 2022 continued to rise due to the Covid 19 Pandemic faced in the previous year.

The high inflation experienced in the country led to increase in prices of commodities such as fuel and food. Procurement of services and other resources for use in our implementation became a challenge due to already pre-determined budgets. Volatility in exchange rates led to reduction of funds for implementation forcing us to reduce the number of our activities and targets.

Lastly, the pre- and post-election situation in the country including the increasing political temperatures experienced and the shift of priority to elections by the targeted population slowed down our implementation forcing us to cut down on a number of activities planned and reducing targets.

This context impacted on our work both internally and externally. However, we tightened our belts and remained steadfast and committed to promote rural growth and development while advancing gender equity and equality in Siaya.





# D ORGANISATION BACKGROUND

Siaya Muungano Network (SIMUN) is a youth led women's right and youth development organization dedicated to ensuring women and youth voices are amplified in spheres of development, governance and decision making from the community to county level. SIMUN is based in Siaya County in the western part of Kenya and was registered in July 2013 under the laws of Kenya as a Community-Based Organization in the Department of Social Services.

Siaya Muungano Network endeavors to empower adolescent girls, women and young people by providing them with the right tools for positive growth and development and take charge of their lives by influencing decisions on the change they desire in their lives and communities. The organization is mandated to implement interventions in the areas of leadership and governance, women and youth engagement and economic empowerment with a focus on adolescents, girls, women and youth including people with special needs.

The current strategic plan (2022-2026) specifically outlines SIMUN's BIG FIVE commitments to amplify women and youth voices to promote social justice and challenge inequalities in our community

## VISION

A society where women and youth live in dignity, enjoy equal rights and influence decisions on the change they desire in their lives and those of their community



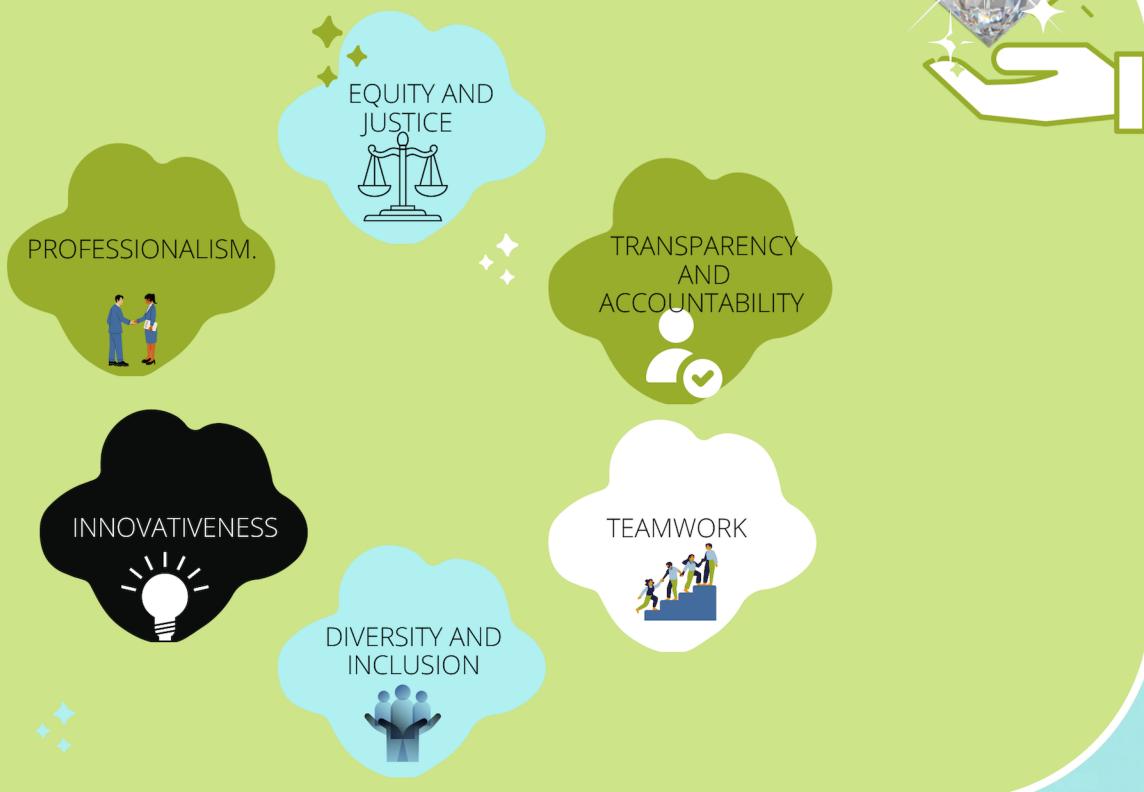
## MISSION



To amplify women and youth voices to promote social justice and challenge inequalities in our community

## CORE VALUES

Siaya Muungano Network commits itself to the following six core-values in all activities:



## KEY THEMATIC AREAS

GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT

GOOD GOVERNANCE, BUDGET ACCOUNTABILITY AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS

CLIMATE JUSTICE, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND LIVELIHOODS



## 01 DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS REALIZED IN THE SCOPE OF PROGRAMMES

### Increasing civic knowledge for widows on access to land and property rights to reduce gender-based violence amongst widows in Alego Usonga Sub-County, Siaya County

#### 1.1. Project Background

The project sought to address the increasing widows' rights violations in Alego Usonga and extreme form of discrimination against widows, linked to harmful gender norms which continuously accelerates gender inequalities and limits opportunities for widows to realize their full rights and potential to socio-economically empower themselves and take care of their children.



#### 1.2. Intended outcomes

1. State actors enforce measures to reduce land and property rights violations against widows in Siaya
2. Widows acquire civic knowledge on land and property rights including how and where to report cases of land and property rights violations.
3. Increased agency amongst the widows to advocate for access to land and property rights through community led spaces in Alego-Usonga sub-county

## 1.3. ACHIEVEMENTS

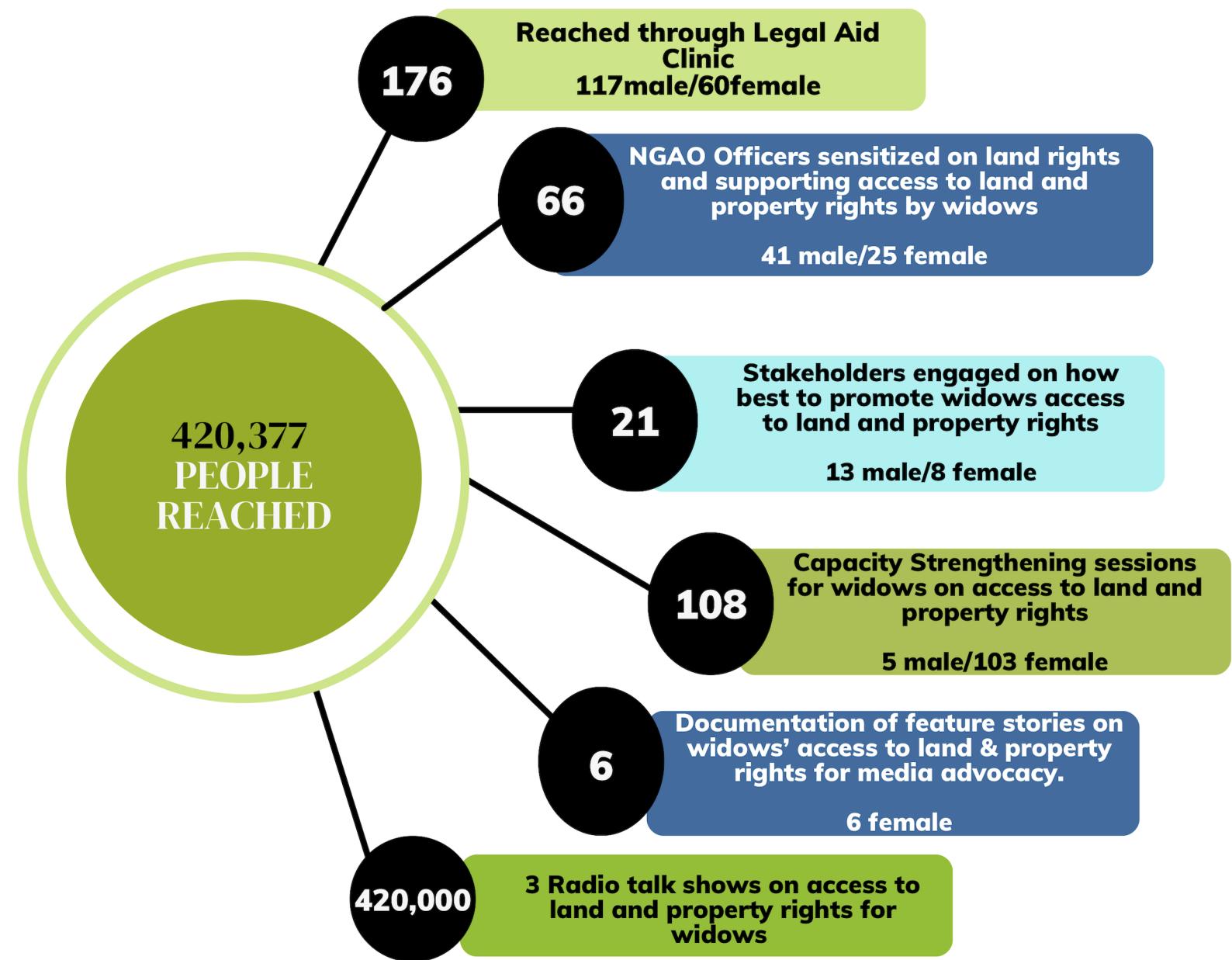


1124 widows in Alego-Usonga acquired civic knowledge on land and property rights through community forums and legal aid clinics supported by the project.

- Over 20 widow cases of land rights violations documented and profiled for follow-up with existing Government Institutions
- Increased and strengthened community led widow spaces and groups to sustain advocacy on access to land and property rights for widows and build solidarity to challenge & fight existing widow discrimination in our community.
- Widow matters incorporated in existing gender related structures and TWG's in Siaya. E.g. Siaya County Intergovernmental Gender Sector working Group.
- Digital spaces for sharing emerging widow related cases on rights violations formed to facilitate quick access to information and joint response mechanisms. E.g. WhatsApp page hosts champions for widow rights
- Increased commitment by the chiefs and assistant chiefs to undertake mechanisms and measures in their jurisdictions that support widow access to land and property rights. This was demonstrated through public barazas in Usonga, West Alego and Siaya Township by the authorities to specifically condemn and enforce measures to respond to emerging cases of widow discrimination and violations of land rights.
- One widow elected as a Member for County Assembly for South East Alego in the 2022 general elections. This provides for opportunity for her to champion for widow's rights, inclusion of widow agenda in the county budgets and widow protection legislations in the County Government of Siaya.



## DATA OF PERSONS REACHED BY THE PROJECT.



## Women Voices in Climate Action and Governance

### 2.1. Project Background

Siaya Muungano Network is implementing a 5 years' project on; "Women Voices in Climate Action and Governance", in three sub-counties of Siaya namely; Gem, Siaya and Ugenya supported by Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA) under the auspices of the Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA). The project seeks to onboard more women voices in the climate action agenda in Siaya County through feminist and systemic approach, increase their participation in environmental and climate governance and promote sustainable locally led climate actions.



### 2.2. Intended outcomes

- a.**Increased women participation in environmental governance and climate change response spaces in Siaya County.
- b.**Improved attitudes and behaviors of duty bearers for upholding gender equality and promoting women participation in climate action priorities and plans in Siaya County.



## 2.3. ACHIEVEMENTS



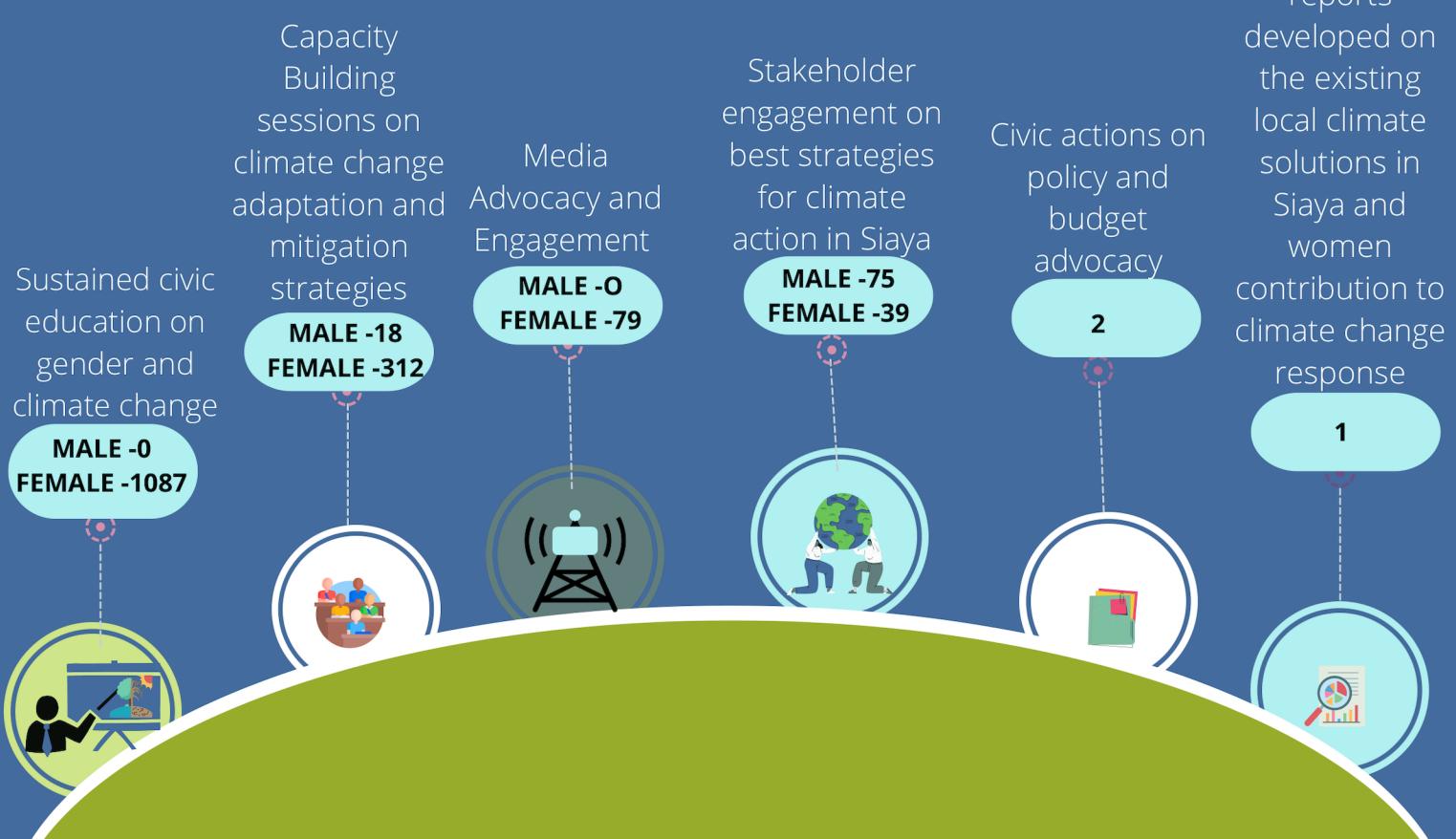
- 1087 women identified in 20 community women groups acquired civic information and knowledge on existing climate information, local climate legislations, role of women in climate actions and the existing locally led climate action initiatives through group level engagements.
- 20 identified women from the community were trained and launched as climate action champions for climate change advocacy at the grassroot level.
- A report highlighting existing locally led climate solutions in Siaya and the contributions of grass root women in Siaya in responding to climate change developed for wider scale dissemination, policy influence and advocacy
- Women mobilized through community groups to engage in preparation of Siaya County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2023-2027 as an opportunity to influence women climate action priorities into the CIDP for implementation.
- Developed and submitted a memorandum with women priorities in climate change response to the County CIDP Secretariat for consideration in the development of Siaya county 2023-2027 CIDP.
- Increased agency amongst grass root women groups engaged in the project to speak out their concerns and proposals on climate matters to the duty bearers from the ward level for inclusion in their development agenda
- Increased number of grass root women in the project targeted locations in Siaya adopting local

climate solutions to build their resilience to climate change. Example, climate smart agriculture, use of energy cooks stoves and jikos to save on firewood, village saving and loaning mechanisms among others.

- Stronger collaborations with the County Government of Siaya (County Assembly of Siaya and Executive-especially Department of Environment & Natural Resources) to fast-track process, systems and put in place regulations for implementation Siaya County Climate Change Act, 2021 and facilitate adequate climate financing through budgetary allocation and rein fencing of resources set for climate change programs in Siaya.



## DATA OF PERSONS REACHED BY THE PROJECT



## Power to Youth

### 3.1. Project Background

Supported by Amref Health Africa in Kenya and Network for Adolescents and Youths of Africa, the Power to Youth Project is designed to empower and create space for Adolescent Girls and Young Women and youth from underserved communities to be able to make informed choices, enjoy their rights free from harmful practices and have violence free societies. Siaya Muungano Network in the period under review, implemented the project interventions in the following areas: Bondo Sub-County (West Sakwa & West Yimbo ward) and Alego-Usonga sub-county (Siaya Township, South East Alego and North Alego wards)

The project has four pathways which include;

- Young people demand accountability and responsiveness on harmful practices, Sexual Gender-based Violence and Unintended pregnancies.
- CSO's amplify young people's voices to claim, protect and expand civic space.
- Societal actors support and promote youth rights and progressive social norms.
- State actors improve policy making, budgeting and implementation at the local,



### 3.2. ACHIEVEMENTS/MILESTONES



- Collaborated with North Alego Pastors Religious forum to facilitate joint community engagements, intergenerational dialogue forums and youth engagement through the church to promote community progressive social norms and facilitate youth -religious leader's partnership in addressing Sexual Gender Based violence and dissemination of Sexual Reproductive Health information to young people in North Alego ward.
- Convened youth led and youth serving CSO's in Siaya who developed and submitted Siaya County Youth Charter with youth priorities and strategies for youth empowerment to the campaign secretariat for His Excellency Hon James Orengo for consideration in his Nyalore Manifesto for developing Siaya County.
- Supported 208 youths to participate in the development of the 3rd generation Siaya County Integrated Development Plan through pre-budget forums; development and submission of memoranda for inclusion of the youth agenda and make more inputs on priorities and strategies that will address women and girls' issues especially Gender-based Violence and Affirmative Action priorities to support women empowerment in Siaya.
- Facilitated social contracting with South East Alego MCA Hon. Scholastica Madowo and young people through "Bongs Na Mhesh" initiative as commitment to advocating and championing for youth agenda in South East Alego ward. The social contract will inform





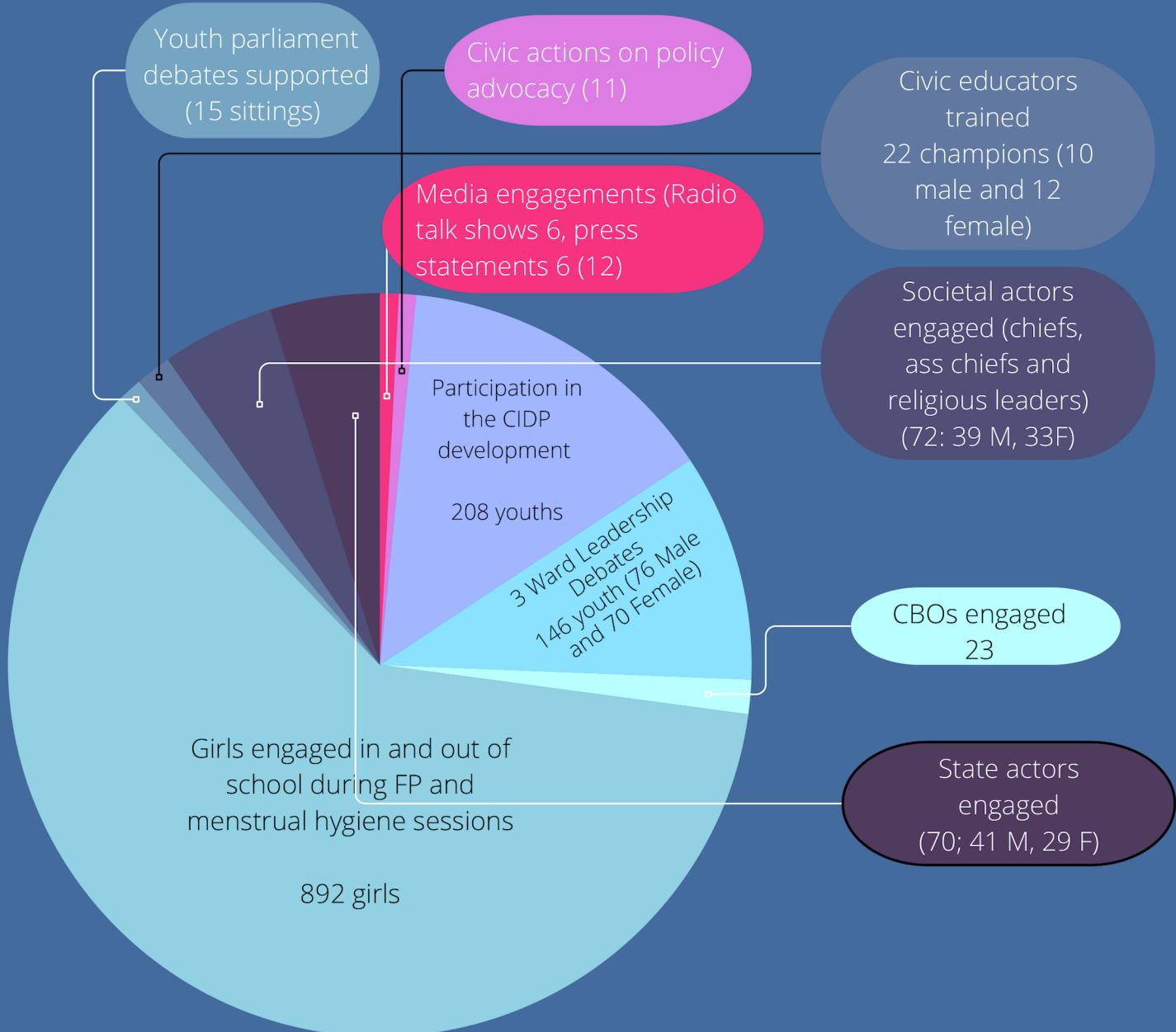
a scorecard for the MCA in terms of the extent to which her office has facilitated opportunities for youth empowerment in South East Alego after 5 years.

- Strengthened Chanukeni Youth Group in West Sakwa ward to conduct a social audit at Kapiyo Dispensary in West Sakwa on family planning services and commodities using a performance/service monitoring tool developed by themselves.
- Supported youth and AGYW led scalable innovations (The Husika Dada Initiative and Youth Space Initiative) that promoted debates and co-creations of sustainable solutions and mechanisms to addressing teenage pregnancy, reporting and referring GBV, strengthening youth and AGYW's voices from the community levels and enhancing youth/AGYW's-duty bearer's engagement in Siaya.
- Supported related technical working meetings and activities (e.g. commemoration of international days) in Siaya to discuss, develop strategies and review progress made in addressing teenage pregnancy, GBV and promoting gender equality in Siaya. Examples; Siaya County Intergovernmental Gender Sector Working Group, Alego-Usonga GBV Technical Working Group, Bondo Sub-County GBV Technical Working Group among others
- Supported development of Bondo sub-county GBV technical working group to develop its Terms of Reference (TOR) to facilitate effectiveness in its membership, leadership, operations and feedback mechanisms
- Mobilized and organized more than 200 youth and AGYW's through forums and community discussions to influence SRH financing including Family Planning financing in the county annual budgets through development and submissions of memoranda to the Department of Finance & Economic Planning, Budget & Appropriation Committee and Health Committee in the County Assembly of Siaya.





## DATA OF PERSONS REACHED BY THE PROJECT



# Women Voices in Leadership



## 4.1. Project Background

Strengthening Women Voices in Governance project was a project supported by URAIA Trust that sought to strengthen the capacity of Siaya Muungano Network as a woman rights organisation in Siaya to grow into a strong institution that would advocate for women voices and agenda in Siaya County. It addressed issues in the organisation that included; organisation leadership and management, advocacy and policy understanding in relation to women rights, gaps in the internal control systems for the organisation and strengthened the organisation linkages in other platforms for women voices in Kenya.

## 4.2. Expected outcomes

- a.**Increased ability of Siaya Muungano Network to develop clear vision, mission and strategic plan that align with priority of women & girls in Siaya County
- b.**Increased ability of Siaya Muungano Network to make transparent, accountable and sustainable decisions, process and systems for internal and external risk management
- c.**Strengthened capacity of Siaya Muungano Network to create, monitor and improve on its basic organizational processes and systems.
- d.**Strengthened ability of Siaya Muungano Network to reach grassroots marginalized and vulnerable groups with high quality service delivery.

## 4.3. ACHIEVEMENTS

- Review and adoption of Siaya Muungano Network Strategic Plan 2022-2026 for steer up the organisation plans and practices in realization of its vision.
- Appointment of new board members to provide overall strategic leadership of the organisation towards realization of its vision and core mandate to the community.
- Development and dissemination of board members Terms of Reference that clearly outlines the roles and responsibilities of the board.
- Review of the organisation staff appraisal approach to improve the effectiveness in the process. The organisation in the year under review through the support of the board adopted a 360 degrees' appraisal approach.
- Increased accountability of SIMUN with regard to its operation and decision making that enhanced internal controls and minimized risks as a result of capacity building training and mentorship provided





with support of WVL project. Example; Restructuring the organization with clear roles of the board and secretariat, integrating oversight committees within the board.

- Mentorship and learning opportunities provided to young women leaders through exchange visits to other like-minded organizations and mentorship sessions with adolescent girls and young women in schools through Husika Dada, an innovation platform for women.

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## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT



- **TRAINING OF STAFF**  
12 female and 4 male staff members received training on stakeholder analysis and theory of change for project design.
- **EXCHANGE AND LEARNING VISIT**  
In a productive exchange and learning visit to Lwala, we had a diverse group consisting of 8 females and 1 male. This visit provided valuable opportunities for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and experiential learning, contributing to our overall growth and development.



## 02 OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEAR

- Participation in the Youth Participate! a youth conference with a goal of enhancing meaningful youth participation in advocacy through dialogue supported by Youth Alive! Kenya in partnership with YETT and DUF
- 9 members of our staff participated in Exchange learning and knowledge sharing visits at Declares Kenya in West Pokot (2 staff) and at Lwala Community Alliance in Migori County (7 staff) supported by Youth Alive! Kenya and Uraia Trust respectively.
- Hosted 22 students from Villanova University Philadelphia USA from the Department of Communication. Through documentation of SIMUN's work and development of a film, they provided an opportunity for increased visibility of SIMUN's work and an opportunity to raise funds to sustain implementation of PTY thematic areas beyond the project lifetime.
- The Programs Coordinator was decorated as a National Hero through the National Heroes Council in Kenya during the 2022 Mashujaa Day Celebrations in Kenya for his community work in promoting empowerment and giving voice to women, girls and youth in Siaya.
- SIMUN Executive Director and the Monitoring and Evaluation officer participated in African Women Leadership Institute (AWLI) organized by Akina Mama wa Afrika on Intersectional Feminism in Climate Action and Advocacy and Feminist Transformational leadership while the project officer participated in Feminist Leadership Institute by Akili Dada which is a platform for transformational leadership development.



- Held consultative meetings with the Siaya County Governor Hon. James Bob Aggrey Orento twice together with other youth led and youth serving organisations in Siaya County for discussions on how to promote inclusive governance, strengthen health systems, facilitate effective public participation and shape development agenda in Siaya County.
- Through the support of Youth Alive! Kenya, SIMUN trained Chanukeni Youth Group on savings for transformation which has led to strengthening of the group systems and structures.
- Partnered with IPF Kenya and TI Kenya Western Region Office to train 20 budget champions on the budget making process and the Public Finance Management Act and women and persons with disabilities on budget making process and anticorruption reporting under the Usawa Mashinani Project respectively.
- 2 staff from SIMUN represented Siaya County in the launch of the 2021 Kenya County Budget Transparency survey by IBP Kenya themed "How open is the budgeting process in Kenyan Counties" at the Nairobi Serena Hotel.



## 03 OUR WORK IN MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT

In 2022, we continued to educate women and girls on menstrual hygiene management while also advocating for menstrual health and better response to the needs of menstruating girls and women through various platforms such as radio and social media. Through our model, Husika Dada platform, we conducted mentorship and awareness creation sessions on menstrual hygiene through parliament debate sessions, intergenerational dialogue sessions, radio talk shows and involvement of men as champions of change in ending period poverty and stigma. In addition, we visited schools and other available spaces to create awareness on menstrual hygiene and management. A total of 110 dignity kits and 98 sanitary towels were distributed to in and out of school girls as we worked towards training them on making reusable sanitary towels.





## 3. CHALLENGES



1

Political environment associated with the 2022 general elections that slowed down implementation due to shift of priorities by both state actors and the community members

2

Competing interests among Civil Society Organizations leading to a challenge in building synergy and complimenting one another to create more impact;

3

Limited resource envelope to address emerging community expectations

4

Inadequate and inaccessible data to inform evidence-based advocacy caused by custodians of data's unwillingness to share the data with partners while in other scenarios comprehensive research has not been done.

5

Inadequate technical skills and knowledge on policies amongst team members and policy gaps in Siaya county to strengthen the existing mechanism and strategies in responding to youth and AGYWs agenda and challenges

6

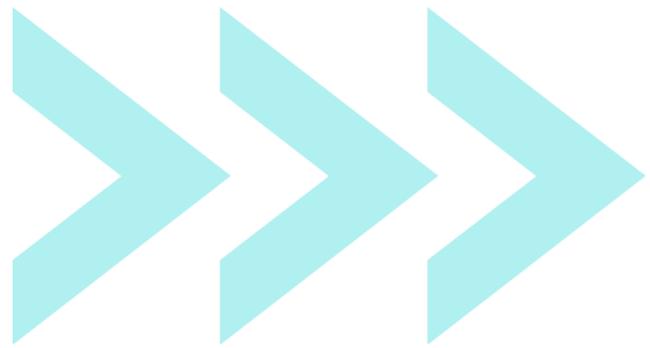
Weak complaints and feedback handling mechanism in the relevant County Government departments that leads to prolonged feedback mechanism from duty bearers and delays results of the existing advocacy agenda.

## 4.LESSONS LEARNT



- Advocacy initiatives on promoting gender equality needs adequate resources to facilitate intensive and continuous information gathering and generation of issues from the community through subsequent forums to build on desktop information to inform strategic meetings and engagement with duty bearers to address women and girl's agenda
- Working closely with Government structures and duty bearers is critical in enhancing good will for interventions, promoting linkage to existing opportunities within government frameworks and operating an environment relevant to the projects and access to information for evidence- based advocacy including value in engagement.
- Evidence based advocacy and documentation of experiences during implementation informs one of the best practices of holding leaders accountable to adolescent girls, women and youth issues. This therefore calls for continuous documentation of experiences for wider advocacy.
- Continuous engagement and follow-up with duty bearers on the significant actions developed during advocacy meetings and forums provides an avenue for tracking adoption and considerations of the developed actions into government plans.
- Male involvement in advocacy initiatives and activities towards promoting gender equality contributes to breaking the gender norms that hinder women and girls from participating in decision making spaces especially in a patriarchal community like Siaya.
- Integration of economic models in advocacy interventions as strategy of engagement presents an opportunity of holistically enhancing skills of the AGYW and is an effective way to promote sustainability of organization interventions.
- Resource mobilization to support realization of organisation vision and mission is not only attached to monetary support but also building more partnerships for joint efforts to create more impacts and sustainability of projects with regard to the issues the organisation is responding to.
- Responding to community matters and bridging gaps to realization of a just society that is cognizant of women and youth agenda including inclusion requires partnerships with existing structures at the community level, National and Local CSO's and media groups. Case study of the legal aid outreach and awareness activity that Siaya Muungano Network was at the center point to ensuring the success by mobilizing community structures and using media as a channel to advance communication on the planned activity including mobilization.





## 5.CONCLUSION

Siaya Muungano Network recognizes the need to continue building and strengthening the capacity of AGYWs, women and Youth in Siaya by building a framework for their meaningful engagement with duty bearers and relevant government actors for their inclusion and integration of their priorities in Siaya County plans and policies.

In its new strategic plan (2022-2026), SIMUN rolls out the strategies to achieve its vision and Mission as well as addressing identified gaps during the delivery of its programs that will help SIMUN be efficient in delivery of its mandate.

## OUR PARTNERS



## 6. ANNEX PHOTO GALLERY



A photograph of a woman with short, curly hair, wearing a red top, speaking into a microphone. She is in the foreground, looking upwards and to the right. Behind her is a group of people, mostly men, sitting in rows, suggesting a meeting or conference. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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