



Children's Rights and
Violence Prevention Fund

Ending Violence, Building Power

Girl's camp 2023



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Background

53

participants were all peer mentors/leaders of safe spaces mentored by CRVPF partners who work in clusters across the four CRVPF operational areas (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda).

The Children's Rights and Violence Prevention Fund (CRVPF) is a regional grant-making organisation that works through partners in four East African Countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) to advance the rights of children and young people, particularly their protection from violence in general and sexual violence in particular, in various places where they **live, learn, play** and **work**.

Through the Adolescent Girl Power (AGP) Program, CRVPF works with partners in clusters to engage girls in social and economic empowerment activities to build their agency to stand up to and challenge social norms and practices that fuel violence and sexual violence. The Annual Girls Camp is a flagship event that brings together girls to network and deliberate on the learning gained from their roles as peer mentors and inspire each other with innovative ideas of working with girls in safe spaces. Safe spaces are linked to the work of partners in clusters and directly contribute to CRVPF's goal of fostering an Africa-wide movement **for girls, with girls** against violence and sexual violence.

The 2023 Annual Girls Camp was held between the 21st and 25th August 2023 at Mary Ward Centre, Loreto, Karen, in Nairobi Kenya. It was intended to provide a platform for girls' mentors/leaders to:

1. Reflect on their work in the safe spaces; successes, lessons and innovations to inform improvements in the AGP program.
2. Network, make friends and strengthen each other to provide empowering leadership to other girl in their clusters.

The 53 participants were all peer mentors/leaders of safe spaces mentored by CRVPF partners who work in clusters across the four CRVPF operational areas (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda). Throughout the 5-day fun-filled learning event, the girls networked and made friends; reflected on and shared their experiences about managing safe spaces for girls in their communities. They also shared stories about their cultures and contexts; played, danced and went on excursions. They were guided and supported by a team of 18 staff of partner organisations who oversee the various safe spaces that the girls lead or participate in. These staff guided discussions and supervised activities, managed time and ensured the girls' well-being in terms of feeding, healthcare, information and counselling.

Checking in

All the camp participants arrived on Sunday 20th August 2023 at Mary Ward Retreat Centre where they spent the next 5 days participating in camp activities. They received a warm welcome from the Kenya Host team of partners. After checking-in, participants gathered for an evening get-together, where they introduced themselves and received their camp materials which included a bag, a hooded jumper, a note-book, a pen, reading materials (stories of safe spaces) and a complementary pack of sanitary towels. The day concluded with girls enjoying dinner and a brief dancing session.



Arrival and check-in moments:
Top – Arrival of team
Uganda and Ethiopia, below,
introductions and distribution of
camp materials



Starting off

On 21st August 2023, the camp was officially opened by Ms. Salma Babu, (CRVPF's Adolescent Girls Power Program Coordinator) and Mr. Fassil Marriam (CRVPF's Executive Director). The girls received a warm welcome from these two CRVPF staff who appreciated their efforts in empowering girls in their safe spaces. They extended their best wishes for fruitful deliberations and lots of fun during the camp.

Ms. Salma Babu: *It feels great to be with you - girls who are creating change in your communities. We are excited about this year's girls camp because it brings together girls from all CRVPF operation countries in Eastern Africa. We are looking forward to hearing your views about how we continue the safe spaces as we extend the change to more girls in communities. Our goal is to reach more girls with our interventions and bring more girls from around the world to the annual camp in the coming years.*

Mr. Fassil Marriam (via video call): *You are warmly welcome to this year's annual girls camp. This is your opportunity to mix, make friends, discuss and share ideas on how to better manage safe spaces so that together we can co-develop and improve the programme for all girls.*



Hello moments: Welcome, introductions and camp overview session led by Ms. Salma Babu

Girls discussed in respective clusters and later shared their views in plenary, on what it means to be a girl, noting how this view changed after assuming leadership and mentorship roles in their respective safe spaces. They also discussed the issues affecting girls in their safe spaces, how they have been able to address them and future plans for themselves and for empowering girls in their communities.



Reflection and
sharing moments :
Top - Team
Ethiopia, Bdtom -
Team Nairobi



What it felt like being a girl before becoming a peer mentor?

Overall, it could be confusing to be a girl. In the same community where a girl might feel positive and happy about being a girl at times, and also feel down at other times.

then

mocked
scared
silent
alone treasured flower used caged protected
abused timid delicate denied hidden painful shy
unfortunate incomplete sensitive fearful oppressed
discriminated unable weak overwhelmed masikini
unrecognised ignorant powerless
unheard blamed

Girls voices



- In the coastal areas, girls are considered treasures and are treated delicately like flowers. Mothers protect them and provide them with nice things such as clothes.
- When a girl starts menstruation, she is educated about growing up over seven days and given gifts in a “Sherehe” celebration.
- Being a girl means responsibility, you are seen as a strong support to your family.
- It is depressing: girls are not listened to; they denied opportunity to go to school; burdened with numerous chores and married off early.
- In Arusha, being a girl is not favourable because they are not allowed to participate in family matters; speak in front of men; attend school; or engage in activities beyond household chores.
- Girls often remain silent because in the Maasai culture, they are not supposed to talk or do anything outside domestic chores. As a result, they hold back even when they are capable because they lack confidence.
- Being a girl can be tough, because in addition to dealing with painful periods, you may not have access to sanitary pads to manage your menstrual cycle and you may not have anyone to confide in about your feelings and pain.
- With increased advocacy for the rights of women and girls and affirmative action, girls are receiving more support, being heard, and gaining opportunities to attend school.
- Being a girl is challenging, especially in school, where it can be difficult to confront teachers who harass you. If you gather the courage to do so, you risk being treated harshly or expelled.
- Being a girl often means being blamed, especially when you become pregnant. Instead of receiving help, people often assume it was intentional and that you should not make mistakes.
- Being a girl means enduring mockery based on your looks, skin color, and body shape.
- Being a girl often means being judged. All eyes are on you; scrutinizing your appearance, dress, confidence, achievements, and failures. In some communities, people are surprised when a girl is successful.
- Living in Mathare, I felt scared and unsafe because many girls drop out of school and become involved in drugs and transactional sex. I didn't know myself, had no one to talk to, and finding solutions to the challenges I faced was difficult.

What does it feel like being a girl now that you are a peer mentor?

now

powerful
talented
hopeful
strong
cool
skilled
unique
aware
heard
loved
identity
superior
priority
smart
exposed
confident
empowered
pretty
purposeful
useful
industrious
blessing
enterprising
enlightened
inspirational
important
worthy
clean
responsible
alive
beautiful
special
enough
empathetic
courageous

Girls voices



- I used to blame young mothers for getting pregnant early, but now I have learned a lot about their experiences and have become more supportive.
- I was too shy to speak in public, but now I stand up and freely express myself, especially on issues that affect me.
- I used to be sensitive and closed off, but now I am confident about problem-solving.
- I used to take my parents for granted, but now I value them and appreciate the love and care they provide.
- I have participated in life skills, counselling and entrepreneurship training sessions. Now I see my life and things from a different perspective.
- I am happy and proud of myself for using my abilities and talents to empower other girls.
- I have gained self-control and feel confident that I can make the right decisions.
- I am hopeful about the future because we have opportunities to learn livelihood skills such as tailoring and we can participate in such activities like this camp.
- I feel confident and capable of doing things I never thought I would, such as speaking in public.
- When we started the safe space, we were supported by a CRVPF partner. Now, we are independently taking full responsibility; of planning, implementing and reporting on our activities. We are chewing the food and swallowing it ourselves.
- Girls' talents have been enhanced; they can speak in public about girls' issues and some use their talents to make money to meet their basic needs.
- The Community values and respects us and our safe space. They invite us to hear our opinion on issues affecting girls in the community.
- It is rewarding to see fellow girls; our parents and community believing in us. Initially, they didn't think we could be leaders; some thought we were spoilt kids with nothing to offer.
- It feels great to see that we have grown into responsible leaders; girls now appreciate the safe space. Initially, it was tiring to convince them to participate.

Issues	How they are addressed
Competition among girls and hatred associated with competition for leadership positions: When some girls fail at elections, they speak ill of their opponents, create enmity among the team and some leave the safe space.	Mentors consult affiliate partner organisations to help them resolve conflict. There is need to build capacity for healthy and fair competition for elective positions in safe spaces.
The space is not conducive We sit under trees, so when it rains it disrupts our activities	Some clusters in Tanzania and Ethiopia wrote proposals to mobilise money to support improvement of the conditions of safe spaces.
Unrealistic expectations of girls: Some girls come expecting to get money or other benefits e.g. formal education and money, which we do not provide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mentors live by example, which shows girls how the program is changing their own lives. - Mentors explain to the girls the services and benefits girls can receive from safe spaces and encourage them to join.
Rural-urban migration: Girls who migrate from rural areas to the city experience sexual violence in poor urban settlements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conducted a service mapping in Ethiopia to identify organisations that can help girls who need psycho-social support services to respond to violence. - Girls experiencing violence are counselled and guided on how to cope and address violence.
Poverty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Girls live in abject poverty making it challenging to meet basic needs and putting them at risk of sexual violence as they try to meet those needs. - In Tanzania, Girls are exploited in exposed to pornography when forced to dance Vigodoro (a highly sexualised dance) for little pay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Girls are taught livelihood skills and are encouraged to start income generating activities to earn income. - Girls are taught life skills to empower them to make informed decisions and earn income. - Hold conversations with girls to encourage them to be hopeful and resilient despite poverty.
Harmful social norms and traditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Girls are affected by several harmful practices, including exclusion from education, early marriage, early pregnancy and female genital mutilation. - Girls are not expected to walk anyhow in the community. So, participating in safe spaces is against the norm. - Girls not economically empowered so they sell their bodies to meet basic needs. - Girls do not strive for higher goals because they are socialised to believe they do not deserve to. - Girls have no positive examples of achievement from their mothers since they are also illiterate. - Girls are not valued or listened to. - Girls are expected to be submissive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct community sensitisation and campaigns through music dance and drama on harmful cultural practices. - Engage girls in livelihood skills training for economic empowerment. - Teach girls life skills to develop their resilience to cope and overcome challenging situations. - Engage community leaders in conversations about the dangers of early marriage - Report to affiliate organisations (CRVPF partners) to help solve issues that are difficult for girls to deal with in the safe space and in the community.

Issues	How they are addressed
Limited access to sanitary towels Sanitary towels are in high demand but expensive for many girls.	Safe spaces provide opportunities for girls to make their own reusable sanitary towels. "I am proud to have my periods because it makes me unique as a girl but it is challenging because it is difficult to get pads. I have to do all I can to save money so I can buy myself pads because it is difficult to ask my sister to buy me pads. However, I know not many girls are able to save money as I do".
Limited geographical scope The safe space and its activities are utilised/ accessed by only the girls in a small locality	- In Ethiopia, a mobile application was developed to reach out to girls beyond the safe space. - Conducted online trainings for girls outside the safe space. - Some safe spaces have written a proposal to mobilise funds to expand safe space activities to other girls in the community.
Limited opportunities to explore talents Girls are interested and active in sports and recreation activities but there are limited opportunities to explore and nurture talents.	- Engage girls in recreation activities (sports, indoor game) and conversations and consider expanding these opportunities to more girls in the community.
Girls have low self-esteem - Many girls in the communities hide and stigmatise themselves. They fear interacting with educated and exposed people. - Children from single parent households are stigmatised. - Girls lack confidence to seek help and/or take up opportunities.	- Give girls chance to lead discussions and be peer mentors so they can discover their strength and use them to empower other girls. - Encourage girls to have positive self-talk and affirm themselves. - Empower girls with information and life skills. they have a positive self-view and improve their relationships with the opposite sex.
Unsupportive community structures In Maasai culture, women are not expected to talk, they are expected to be submissive to their husbands. - Violence against girls is neither reported nor addressed. Only big issues such as famine, raids are reported and discussed to local authorities.	- Live by example to other girls in the community to earn the trust and respect of girls, community members and local authorities. - Reach out to girls and support them in dealing with the issues they face. - Create visible change that encourages parents to allow their daughters to join safe spaces. The District Council recently donated 3 sewing machines to boost tailoring activities in the safe space.
Early pregnancy: - Girls are exposed to early sexual activity as they are married off young. - Some girls are forced by their parents to sell their bodies to meet family needs.	- Sensitise communities through drama and dialogues on the risks and dangers of early pregnancy. - Encourage girls in the safe space to use condoms - Teach girls livelihood skills to be able to earn income.
Peer pressure: Some girls are discouraged by peers from attending safe spaces, believing it's a waste of time that they could otherwise use to make money.	- Follow-up with and encourage the girls to come to the safe spaces - Sensitise girls about the benefits of their participation.
Lack of accurate information: Myths about pads causing or portraying that men/boys are bad affect girls' perceptions.	- Provide adequate accurate information about reproductive health.

Stories of benefits of safe spaces



(Names withheld for protection reasons)

Miss UM from Arusha: My parents passed away when I was in standard four. My aunt refused to give me school requirements, fearing that I would sell them. With the assistance of a friend who used to give me books and soap, I managed to reach standard five but could not continue due to various challenges. I felt sad because I was bright; I was consistently ranked among the first 3 students in my class. I later learned that in my culture girls are not valued; they are treated like objects and not allowed to own anything, not even a cup or a spoon. Despite their hard work, women and girls do not have the right to own or inherit property or assets, leaving them without collateral.

Soon after leaving school, I was circumcised and married off at 18 years to a 20-year-old man, with whom I have one child. According to tradition, I moved to my mother-in-law's compound and built my own hut. Fortunately, my husband is not much older than me and he loves me deeply. He wanted to send me back to school but could not afford it. He supports me in my income generating activities and allows me to participate in safe space activities. He takes care of our child when I am away.

Thanks to the education and support we have received from our cluster, we are self-reliant and provide for our families. We have formed groups of four girls, each contributing Kshs5,000 a week and we give the total amount to one member weekly to boost their business. From this initiative, I have been able to buy five goats. I am determined to work hard so that my daughter can complete her education successfully — a dream I was not able to achieve.



Miss K from Ethiopia: Being a member of a safe space has made me strong and confident and prepared me to quickly adapt to challenging college life and to actively participate in leadership. In my first year I was elected a leader because of my confidence and expressiveness. I have had opportunities to represent my college in international meetings. I use my experience to motivate other girls in the safe space, encouraging them to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the safe space to improve themselves and other girls. This is important because it helps them grow and prepare for bigger leadership roles in higher education and in their communities.

Collective achievements

In Adama, Ethiopia, a girl was expelled from a public school but the safe space girls brought her back to school and provided her with scholastic materials.

In Tanzania, one girl was assisted to deal with cyber bullying. Her boyfriend was emotionally tormenting her and had threatened to leak her nude photos on social media if she did not give him money. As a safe space, we reported the case and followed-up with the police until the boyfriend was restrained.

In Arusha, girls supported a peer who was assaulted by the husband for using contraceptive pills. Through their efforts, the case was reported to the village office and subsequently escalated to court, where it now awaits judgement. People respect us because we are empowered to speak out to challenge practices that oppress girls. We are invited to speak in public gatherings and to work with partners in the health sector to promote reproductive health.

In the next five years and beyond, I want to . . .

The girls shared their personal, and safe space goals/dreams for the next five years. Generally, they aspired to be happy, economically stable, more confident and successful in their studies and careers. Some wished to complete their education or advance to the next level, in addition to enhancing their safe spaces.

5
years

1. Economic stability

- I aspire to be a 'boss lady'; selling clothes and handbags
- My goal is to open my own shop
- I aim to achieve financial independence to support myself and my family.

2. Improving safe space activities

- Our safe space will evolve into a fully-fledged organisation, not just a safe space.
- We want to attract more girls to our safe space
- Our objective is to reach out to more girls in the community

3. Marriage and family

- I plan to get married and start a family.

4. Advanced education and career

- I will pursue a Masters of laws degree at an international university
- I will graduate from the university with a good grade

5. Empowered and empowering other girls

- I will become more confident and advocate for girls' rights.
- I will become the best seamstress in town making the best quality clothes
- I will be a role model for young girls in the university

Longer term dreams

- I will own a re-usable pads factory
- I will become an accountant with enough resources to start a foundation to support girls.
- I will become a donor, supporting initiatives aimed at empowering girls.
- I will become an international journalist, advocating for the rights of girls on the global stage.
- Upon completing my teaching course, I will secure employment as a teacher and create space in schools to teach girls life skills.
- Our savings and loan association will transform into a bigger micro-finance facility, providing credit to girls.

I will be a lawyer fighting for the rights of girls, providing pro-bono legal services and prosecuting perpetrators of violence against girls and women.



Inspirational moments



Girls shared poems, quotes and songs to encourage each other to love themselves and to have confidence in their abilities to succeed in life.

You are not hot, I am not hot. No girl can be hot and no woman is hot!

Allow me to speak and bring you back on track. Your low self-esteem destructs your dreams. Your beauty obsession has blurred your vision. From your head to your feet, you feel incomplete. You distrust your mirror and believe it has errors.

Ati... my legs are straight, but just too skinny. My eyes hips are shaped, but just too tiny. My cheeks are cute but just too small. My face is pretty but hips too big. My belly is too fat, I am way too slim. My skin is smooth but just too dark. My eyebrows are nice but facing the wrong direction.

Eeeeeeeh! there is always a bad in everything. Listen to yourself ASENSA....

Your body shape can never be a shame. There is nothing wrong with your natural look. Your wide nose and big lips do not defame. You are a unique expression of beauty. To maintain and sustain it remains your duty.

Disconnect yourself from the wrong beauty book. You are a body so divine in flesh and blood. You are not temperature for you to be hot.

You are not hot. I am not hot. No girl can be hot and no woman is hot! We are not hot because we are not objects!



Team Kilifi reciting the poem –
“I am not hidden”.

I am a girl

I have beautiful dreams. I want to fly and touch the sky.

I am beautiful, I love my body and I am proud of who I am

I have a mind full of ideas. I want to change the world and make it a better place.

I have a voice that needs to be heard. I will speak for what I believe in and I won't be silenced I am powerful. I will use my voice and strength to make a difference in the world!

Poem by Team Luweero, Uganda



Song: We are strong and we are great

Every girl needs to be given her rights

Every girl is special and unique inside

We are strong in spirit, strong in faith, we are the super girls.

We have got dreams that need to be achieved

So, let us re-purpose and achieve our dreams.

We are strong in spirit, strong in faith, we are the super girls

We are confident and worthy of this space

We stand for ourselves with voices high

Chorus:

Cause we are strong and we are great, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Not forgetting Ethiopia. x2

Give us the peace we need, oooh,

Let us make the world... aaaaah

Very big thanks to CRVPF, for empowering us and transforming our lives

We are so thankful for your care and love, salute to you.

We are ambitious, we are strong, we are worthy, we are great.

We pray for blessings to be showered to you, Thank you.

We are confident and worthy for this stage

We are stand for ourselves and with our voices high,

Cause we are strong and we are great, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, not forgetting Ethiopia. x2

Give us the peace we need ... oooh,

Let us make the world... aaaaah

Composed and sang by Precious Fadhili, M-Town, Nairobi



Envisioning safe spaces in 5 years to come

In groups, girls reflected on their safe spaces and envisioned the changes they needed to implement to enhance the services provided. Broadly, they envisioned diversifying learning and recreational activities at the safe spaces; improving quality of their products; male partner and community engagement; knowledge sharing and improving collaborations with community actors and authorities.

Cluster	Vision for the safe space
Nairobi cluster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue offering short-term vocational skills courses • Develop talent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide varieties for girls to choose from (football, rugby, basketball, netball etc). - Provide equipment and costumes - Engage professional coaches to improve skills/talent. - Organise tournaments to show case talent and mobilise money to support talents • Promote menstrual health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organise monthly events where girls show-case their talents to mobilise money for sanitary towels and other personal needs. - Organise doo-to-door drives to mobilise pads/money to buy pads for girls or school fees/school requirements to enable girls return to school. • Empower boys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobilise boys, create awareness and build life skills so they can respect and protect the rights of girls. • Create awareness among parents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organise monthly parents' meetings to sensitise parents about positive parenting and the need to support their girls.
Uganda Central Cluster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct village-to-village drives to sensitise communities about issues affecting girls. • Create leadership committees to run the activities of the safe space and to motivate girls to actively participate in safe space activities. • Make savings groups and income generating activities more vibrant to enable girls earn more money to meet their basic needs. • Mobilise and encourage more girls to come to the safe space. • Conduct school outreaches to support girls in schools who are facing challenges. • Conduct parenting and financial literacy sessions with young mothers to build their capacity to safely and responsibly raise their children.

Cluster	Vision for the safe space
Luweero Cluster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve savings associations and economic empowerment activities to support girls to meet their basic needs. • Conduct school outreaches to reach out to girls in schools with information and life skills. • Create awareness on violence against girls in communities through drama. • Create more safe spaces to reach more girls in other communities.
Kilifi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote talent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage professional coaches to improve the knowledge and skills of girls to create and disseminate messages on girls' rights through sports and drama. - Introduce girls' football to prevent girls from joining bad groups and pornography trade. - Conduct awareness drives through sports and drama tournaments to disseminate messages on prevention of violence against girls. Through tournaments, girls can also get money for pads and other basic needs. • Improve access to ICT and information sharing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct ICT classes for girls in the safe spaces. - Create chat boxes to facilitate information sharing sessions with girls in other countries. - Provide computers, internet, applications and other necessary equipment. - Create and run digital platforms to showcase activities of the cluster. • Organise talent shows/modelling to show case and market clothes/designs made by girls. • Create more safe spaces in schools and far off villages to reduce distances and to reach out to more girls. • Expand opportunities/activities for girls to make money <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage out-of-school girls to engage in agriculture - Explore teaching skills in hospitality industry (e.g. catering, events management, ushering etc).
Mwanza Cluster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create safe spaces in new areas such as Magu and Tengerena • Start teaching girls age-appropriate sex education so they can recognise risky situations and protect themselves (e.g. teach them about bad touches). • Register girls' groups with authorities to be able to open bank accounts and streamline income generating activities. • Organise and participate in cross-learning with other clusters in Tanzania and other countries to pick ideas to improve our cluster activities. • Introduce more activities games in our safe space in addition to handball (e.g. football) and build skills of girls to compete in tournaments.

Cluster	Vision for the safe space
Ethiopia (Addooyyee, Ye Nigat Chora)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the safe space more conducive for girls • Introduce more skills (tailoring, crafts, pad making) to create more choices for girls. • Create online platforms to market products made by girls and show case safe space activities using online platforms. • Engage boys in sensitisation activities, so they appreciate the rights of girls.
Arusha Cluster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand/improve income-generating activities (clothes, soap making, etc.) to improve sales and make more money for girls. • Develop short- and long-term plans for the safe space. • Visit other safe spaces in Tanzania and other countries to learn new ideas/skills. • Strengthen collaboration with community elders to support girls to participate in safe space activities and to run their income-generating activities. • Expand awareness and skills training activities to girls in other communities. • Target male with gender-awareness trainings so they support their partners participate in income-generating activities and own livestock and property. • Start savings and credit schemes to enable girls to access friendly credit/capital. • Work with other partners to roll out awareness interventions e.g. on family planning to girls in communities.
Dar Cluster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue providing knowledge and skills to girls to reduce early marriage, teenage pregnancy and vulnerability to sexual abuse. • Improve the quality and packaging of products to make them competitive within Tanzania and on the international market. • Conduct sessions with parents of girls so they stop promoting early marriage and sexual exploitation. • Create more visibility of the girls work and safe space activities by registering with local authorities, inviting them to safe space activities and working with them to address issues affecting girls. • Work with stakeholders (teachers, paralegals, religious leaders, social workers) to address issues affecting girls in communities and to integrate messages on protection of girls in their work/teachings. • Start new high impact income generating activities (e.g. fancy salons, bakery, make up studio to expand opportunities for girls to earn income. • Conduct a market survey to inform development of a marketing strategy and teach girls marketing skills. • Mentor other girls to take on leadership roles as part of a succession plan. • Create new safe spaces to reach more girls in the catchment area. • Link out of school girls to vocational training institutes to learn skills and thereafter conduct step-down trainings of other girls in safe spaces. • Conduct parenting sessions to highlight issues affecting girls and to sensitise parents about dangers of abuse and exploitation of girls. • Conduct exchange visits to other safe spaces to learn new ideas and skills.




Girls Cheer on after listening to an
inspiring presentation

Spotlight Dar Es Salaam Cluster


Girls from the Dar Es Salaam cluster shared the story of their cluster; their achievements, challenges, and plans to improve their clusters for the benefit of the girls in their communities and beyond.



Team Dar Es Salaam share
the story of their safe space



Our aspiration is
that young girls
will come to love
the safe space and
sustain it for other
girls, who will
come long after we
are gone.



When our affiliate organization (KIWOHEDE) gave us the space to operate independently, we were challenged on how to proceed because we lacked confidence and did not have the skills to run the safe space, including report writing. Initially, we mistakenly thought a safe space was just a quiet place. Mobilising and motivating girls to attend the safe space activities was challenging because we had low self-esteem and could not speak out. Some girls expected to get money from the safe space and when it did not come through, they left because they felt it was a waste of their time. To overcome the challenges, we shared responsibility, developed rules, and agreed to work as a team.

We take pride in the fact that the safe space offers a vital opportunity for girls to achieve social and economic empowerment. Currently, our activities include sewing clothes, soap and batik making, in addition to providing life skills training, counselling, and information sessions for girls.

We have learned that as girls, we can stand and defend ourselves. We are popular in the community because we are the only girls' group. We support survivors of violence; and challenge social norms (especially early marriage) that reinforce violence against girls. The community trusts us; they refer girls to the safe space and also buy our products. The authorities appreciate our work, consult us, and even invite us to participate in community activities. The girls know that they can come into the safe space and discuss anything that concerns them. We welcome all girls; in and out-of-school adolescent and young mothers.

Our aspiration is that young girls will come to love the safe space and sustain it for other girls, who will come long after we are gone.

Campfire Conversations

During the fun-filled camp fires, that took place on three nights of the camp, girls conversed, danced and shared stories about their lives, countries and cultures.



Girls share stories

Team Ethiopia sings the Ethiopian national anthem after sharing about Ethiopia-s history and culture



Food games and music



Culture night

On Thursday 24th August 2023, girls showcased their languages, traditional wear, music and culture. They sang their national anthems, shared about their countries' history, culture, performed educational entertainment through cultural dances and exchanged gifts.



Team Arusha



Team Nairobi



Team Mwanza



Team Dar Es
Salaam



Team Ethiopia



Team Kilifi



Team Uganda



L-R: Cultural performances by Team Nairobi and Team Kilifi



Outbound excursions

On Friday 25th August, the girls had an exciting day out. They visited the Nairobi Giraffe Centre in Langata, where they learned about Giraffes in Africa and enjoyed the experience of feeding them. In the afternoon, they enjoyed recreational activities and swimming at the Aqua Fun Park at Karen Mall. Later they had a sumptuous lunch at Café Javas.



Girls at the giraffe Centre.

Girls ready to swim at the Aqua water park, Karen.



Camp experiences

Throughout the camp and during morning recapitulation rounds, girls shared their experiences of the camp. Overall, they were happy and stated that it was a fun, learning and sharing experience.



Girls share their experiences of the camp during morning recap exercises

- I have learned many things:
 - No matter the challenges, I can recover and succeed
 - Girls in the region face different challenges (early pregnancy, poverty, school drop-out etc) but with courage and willingness to seek help, these challenges can be overcome.
 - Girls can change the narrative; They have solutions to the problems they face, they also need to be willing to seek help and to support each other.
 - The challenges in the safe spaces are the same. So, we must persevere until we achieve our dream of empowering ourselves and other girls.
- Girls are making significant efforts in their safe spaces to change the narrative of girls' vulnerability. I am inspired and energised to share this experience with girls in my safe space.
- Despite the differences in language and culture, we are united for and with girls and we can bring about the desired change.
- I never thought I would come to Kenya. I enjoyed my time in Kenya and the Kenyan version of Swahili.
- I was delighted to learn about different cultures, traditional attires and dance moves.

Acknowledgements

On Thursday 25th August 2023, the camp activities were officially closed with words of appreciation from CRVPF to the girls, partners and service providers for their dedicated contributions to a successful girls' camp.

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Remarks from Ms. Salma Babu: *On behalf of CRVPF, thank you so much for a camp filled with “vibe”. This was the first regional camp and it has been a huge success. You have been the smartest, the sweetest, the most confident and the best. Thank you for the leadership and mentorship you provide in the safe spaces; for sharing your work and the lessons you have learned from it, and for showcasing your culture. Thank you, our partners, for your resilience and hard work in mentoring and supporting the girls in different cultural contexts in the region. Your efforts are reflected in the confidence and resilience displayed by the girls in this camp and you are sincerely appreciated.*

Thanks also to our national coordinators, (Ms. Amne Manangwa and Ms. Merkab Seyoum) for supporting partners and the Nairobi partners for all the support rendered in organising this camp. A special appreciation goes to the staff of partner organisations who prepared the girls, enabling their active participation in this camp.

I would also like to acknowledge our service providers, for their excellent work and express gratitude to the staff of Mary Ward, Loreto for ensuring our stay was comfortable. I am confident that you have all learned a lot from this camp that you will share with the girls and your teams back home, as you continue your efforts to improve the lives of girls.

On Saturday 26th August 2023, all camp participants returned to their home countries



Camp Participants

No.	Name	Country	Cluster	Safe space/Organisation
1.	Fenet Mulugeta	Ethiopia	Addooyyee	Sinke/ECYDO
2.	Sebrina Mohammed	Ethiopia	Addooyyee	Sinke/ECYDO
3.	Bezawiti Tasfaye	Ethiopia	Addooyyee	Deva/ECYDO
4.	Mugniya Jamal	Ethiopia	Addooyyee	ECYDO
5.	Frehiwot Yimesgen Ayehu	Ethiopia	Ye Nigat Chora	Jegnit/Endushanz Youth Assn.
6.	Kalkidan Mosisa Ashenafi	Ethiopia	Ye Nigat Chora	Yengetesfa/Tena Kebena
7.	Kalkidan T. Tekelesilase	Ethiopia	Ye Nigat Chora	Setenet/Tena Kebena
8.	Betelhem Amare Abate	Ethiopia	Ye Nigat Chora	Tayitu/Faith in Action
9.	Nayiga Rosette	Uganda	Luweero	Ambassadors of Girls Empowerment
10.	Kisakye Robinah	Uganda	Luweero	Mukama Mulungi
11.	Nankya Florence	Uganda	Central	Nyumbani/AFFCAD
11.	Flavia Alimo	Uganda	Luweero	Just Like My Child Foundation
12.	Nusingye Joan	Uganda	Central	The Assertives/SLUM
13.	Nakato Latifah	Uganda	Central	Golden Girls/SLUM
14.	Nabwami Shadia	Uganda	Centtral	Nyumbani/AFFCAD
15.	Teresia Dama Kahindi	Kenya	Kilifi	New Visioners
16.	Anzazi Tracy	Kenya	Kilifi	Mzam Barauni
17.	Jibli Lulu	Kenya	Kilifi	Mtwapa
18.	Kabeyo Caroline	Kenya	Kilifi	Catholic
19.	Kazo Stacy	Kenya	Kilifi	Maweni
20.	Kahaso Saumu	Kenya	Kilifi	Mtomondoni
21.	Mbetse Nasra	Kenya	Kilifi	Kizingitini
22.	Ndama Anna	Kenya	Kilifi	Timboni
23.	Mwaka Millicent	Kenya	Kilifi	Mikanjuni
24.	Wauiboyi Esther	Kenya	Kilifi	Mwavitswa
25.	Sophy Kache	Kenya	Kilifi	Bicharoo Yaa
26.	Upendo Gabruel Laitayok	Tanzania	Arusha	Arusha
27.	Nakai Payana Laizer	Tanzania	Arusha	Arusha
28.	Monika Logela Mollel	Tanzania	Arusha	Arusha
29.	Lilau Simwl Kaitayok	Tanzania	Arusha	Arusha
30.	Jennipha Emmanuel	Tanzania	Mwanza	Mwanza
31.	Sarah Wendo	Tanzania	Mwanza	Mwanza
32.	Sarah Jackson	Tanzania	Dar Es Salaam	Dar Cluster

No.	Name	Country	Cluster	Safe space/Organisation
33.	Zawadi Selehe	Tanzania	Dar Es Salaam	Dar Cluster
34.	Leyla Juma	Tanzania	Dar Es Salaam	Dar Cluster
35.	Franciska Pascal	Tanzania	Dar Es Salaam	Dar Cluster
36.	Ephy Mitchell	Kenya	Nairobi	Super Stars
37.	Marion Kamondo	Kenya	Nairobi	Explorers
38.	Feline Auma	Kenya	Nairobi	Super Pioneers
39.	Vivian Omondi	Kenya	Nairobi	Sky Riders
40.	Tyra Trisha	Kenya	Nairobi	Arising Star
41.	Whitney Musungu	Kenya	Nairobi	Champions
42.	Grace Mbithe	Kenya	Nairobi	Golden Eagles
43.	Ivon Atieno	Kenya	Nairobi	Vision Seers
44.	Faridha Adhiambo	Kenya	Nairobi	Champions
45.	Angela Atieno	Kenya	Nairobi	The Queens
46.	Sheril Akinyi	Kenya	Nairobi	Passionates
47.	Siana Atieno	Kenya	Nairobi	Black Divas
48.	Dorine Adhiambo	Kenya	Nairobi	Passionates
49.	Precious Fadhili	Kenya	Nairobi	Sweegoz
50.	Angeline Atieno	Kenya	Nairobi	Starlets
51.	Faith Achieng	Kenya	Nairobi	Vision Seers
52.	Lorine Adhiambo	Kenya	Nairobi	Super Pioneers
53.	Jael Awuor	Kenya	Nairobi	Victorious Queens
54.	Feven Terefe	Ethiopia	Ye Nigat Chora	Endurance Youth Association
55.	Innocent Kayita	Uganda	Central	SLUM Uganda
56.	Petronila Maria Nzomo	Kenya	Kilifi	Pad Adada
57.	Upendo Ramadhan	Tanzania	Arusha	Arusha
58.	Mackrine Rumanyika	Tanzania	Arusha	Arusha
59.	Rebecca Mafipa	Tanzania	Mwanza	Mwanza
60.	John M Chavasu	Kenya	Nairobi	Otto Benecker
61.	Margaret T. Mwangi	Kenya	Nairobi	Imarisha Kenya
62.	Elizabeth Ogutu	Kenya	Nairobi	Kreative Generation
63.	Vincent Luseka	Kenya	Nairobi	Kreative Generation
64.	Lolin N Aloo	Kenya	Nairobi	Otto Benecker
65.	Luciana A Achola	Kenya	Nairobi	Imarisha Kenya
66.	Irene Chepkoech	Kenya	Nairobi	Nairobi Cluster
67.	Kirui Kennedy	Kenya	Nairobi	The Action Foundation
68.	Apollo Murigi	Kenya	Koch Cluster	Miss Koch
69.	Merkab Seyoum	Ethiopia	National Consultant	CRVPF
70.	Amne manangwa	Tanzania	National Consultant	CRVPF
71.	Salma Babu	Uganda	Program Coordinator	CRVPF
72.	Vincent Bazzeketta	Uganda	Video/Photographer	CRVPF
73.	Regina Kacwamu	Uganda	Rapporteur/Reporting	CRVPF



**Children's Rights and
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Ending Violence, Building Power

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