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FIDA-KENYA

STATISTICS ON SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE CASES REPORTED THROUGH FIDA-KENYA'S TOLL-FREE NUMBER (0800 720 501) BETWEEN 15TH APRIL TO 3RD MAY 2020.



In line with the government directive urging Kenyans to work from home where possible, FIDA-Kenya closed its offices. This meant that its clients and members of the public could not physically access its office. On 15th April 2020 FIDA-Kenya launched its toll-free number **0800 720 501** as one of its interventions to respond to the increasingly high number of Gender Based Violence (GBV) cases that were being reported in the country. The toll-free number provided a great platform for FIDA-Kenya to continue delivering its services.

In the period between 15th April 2020 when the toll free number was launched and 3rd May 2020 FIDA-Kenya had received a total of **289** cases.

The highest number of cases that were reported were GBV cases at 81 and child custody and maintenance cases at 117. In terms of regional distribution of the GBV cases reported to FIDA-Kenya an analysis of our data indicates more prevalence in Nairobi, Kisumu and Mombasa counties. We have also received cases from other counties including Kakamega, Kajiado, Kiambu, Kilifi, Uasin Gishu, Taita Taveta, Vihiga, Bungoma, Lamu, Siaya, Kitui and Nakuru counties.

The nature of GBV cases reported are mostly intimate partner violence, defilement and rape especially in Nairobi and Kisumu. Widow eviction and physical violence by in-laws is mostly prevalent in the Western region.



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This trend is worrying and we call upon all actors to take the issue of GBV with the seriousness that it deserves. The cases reported have had a very devastating effect on the survivors for example one case of GBV by in laws resulted in the lady miscarrying a 4-month pregnancy. One of the rape cases resulted in the victim suffering a perforated uterus.

There are a number of causes to the increasing number of GBV cases. The many hours spent with abusive partners is exposing women and girls to more episodes of abuse. Sadly, we have also noted that while the government directives including the dusk to dawn curfew and the cessation of movement to and from some counties is important for prevention of the spread of Covid19 it has had the implication of taking away the options of women and girls in abusive relationships escaping to relatives upcountry for their safety. The lack of adequate safe shelters in the country is also exacerbating the situation.

We therefore call upon the police and prosecutors and other actors in the justice sector to protect our girls and women by effecting arrests and conducting proper investigations and prosecutions so that the perpetrators are brought to book.

We also urge county governments and the national government through the Ministry of Public Service and Gender to establish safe spaces and shelters in all counties where women and girls can get temporary shelter as they escape from their abusers. We also ask they include women and girls at risk of abuse in the social protection measures that are targeted at the vulnerable members of our society during this difficult period.

On its part, FIDA-Kenya has continued to offer legal advice and psychosocial support to survivors and has also partnered with organizations like SHOFCO in Nairobi that offer safe shelter to survivors of GBV. We urge the government and well-wishers to support the few safe shelters that we have so far in the country to enable them adequately handle the increasing demand for their services by survivors of GBV. We have also continued to refer survivors to the police and health centers and we express our gratitude for the support that we have continued to receive from them.



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In addition to GBV and child maintenance cases FIDA-Kenya has also received other types of cases including property disputes and distress calls by families of persons who have passed away from Covid19 and where the manner of burial has left psychological trauma on the families. A breakdown of the cases received by FIDA-Kenya so far is highlighted below.

Nature of Case			Number of Cases Report
Gender Based Violence	Physical, emotional, mental, economic intimate partner violence	67	81
	Physical abuse by relatives ; in laws	02	
	Defilement	10	
	Rape	02	
Child custody and maintenance			117
Child Abuse			01
Threats and/or Physical abuse by law enforcement officers, police, chiefs			06
Harassment at the work place	Sexual harassment	01	02
	Verbal abuse	01	
Widow eviction			10
Succession			07
Covid19 related requests for psychological support by patients, family members who have lost loved ones to the virus			07
Requests for counseling			06
Property Disputes	Matrimonial Property Disputes	05	09
	Other property disputes	04	
Inquiries by partners, the media, stakeholders			31
Inquiries by FIDA's existing clients			12
Total			289



Nancy W. Ikinu
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