

GENOWA ECHO

ENDLESS POTENTIAL

NEWSLETTER | VOL. 23 – MARCH 2025

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF HOMA BAY



News Highlights >>>

- County Stature Growth Attracts Major Events
- Tom Mboya Memorial A Symbol of OSR Effectiveness
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- Water Supply Expansion Sees Rusinga Sorted
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A WORD FROM THE CECM COMMUNICATIONS



In this issue, we aim to provide a comprehensive overview of the progress made in Homa Bay County during the month of February. As a department, we believe that keeping our residents informed about the work being done on their behalf is not just a mandate but in line with the constitution that guarantees our people their right to information.

We are excited to introduce a new Feature Column in this edition, where we will share stories of individuals whose lives have been touched by the initiatives and programs implemented by the County Government. These personal narratives offer a powerful glimpse into the impact of our work and remind us of the importance of serving our people with compassion and dedication.

Under the leadership of H.E. Governor Gladys Wanga, Homa Bay County is on a path of growth and development. Our commitment to progress is unwavering, and we are constantly seeking new opportunities to improve the lives of our people. We are proud to have been selected as the host for several major national events this year, which will not only showcase our county to a wider audience but also boost our local economy.

We have made significant strides in healthcare with the construction of a modern medical block at Tom Mboya Memorial Hospital, funded entirely by our own revenue. This new facility will provide top-quality healthcare services to our residents and help alleviate the burden on existing healthcare facilities.

Furthermore, the launch of the county land information management system is a testament to our dedication to embracing technology and innovation in our governance practices. This system will streamline land-related processes, reduce bureaucracy, and eliminate corruption, ultimately benefiting our people. We invite you to explore the pages of this edition of the Genowa Echo and learn more about the exciting developments taking place in Homa Bay County. Wishing everyone a peaceful and blessed month ahead, whether you are observing Ramadan or Lent. Thank you for being a part of our journey of unlocking endless potential.

Enjoy your read

Ms. Roselyn Omollo, CECM GAC&D

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EVENT TOURISM: UPCOMING MAJOR EVENTS TO BOOST COUNTY STATURE, TOURISM

By Lawrence Magware

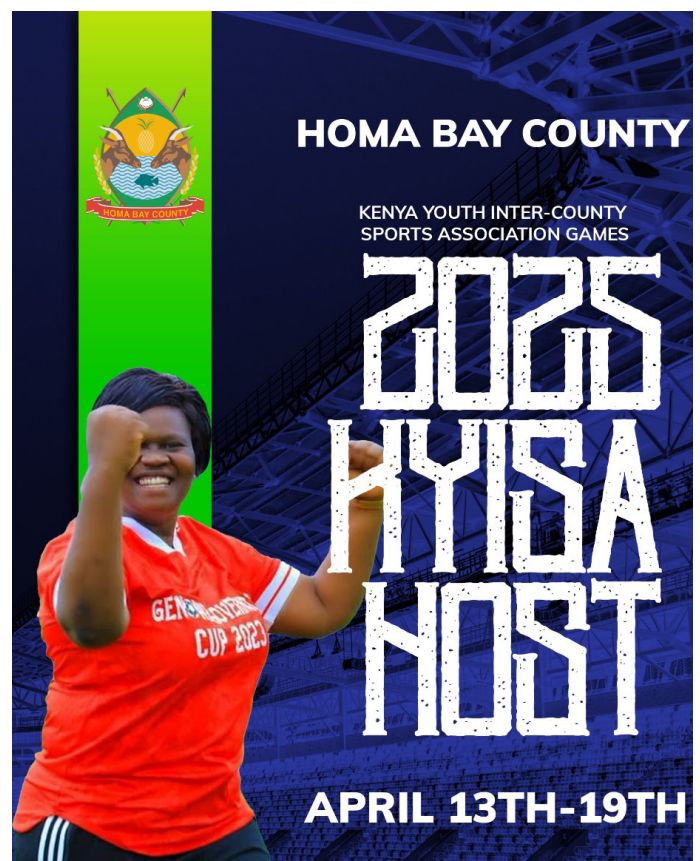


A group photo of the National Steering Committee on Devolution Conference and Development Partners at the CoG Headquarters when it was announced Homa Bay County would host this year's event. Photo Courtesy: Eunice Atieno

Event tourism (sports, culture, conferencing, music) has been a high-growth tourism segment in recent years and a highly important economic value creator to established towns and cities. Homa Bay County is emerging as a vibrant player in the realm of event tourism, positioning itself as a new frontier in Kenya's enriching landscape.

This year marks a significant milestone for Homa Bay, particularly Homa Town, which proudly hosted the just concluded national celebrations for International Women's Day on March 8th. Shortly after, from April 13th to 19th, the county will welcome athletes and participants for the 12th edition of the Kenya Youth Intercounty Sports Association Games. Just weeks later, the Raila Odinga Stadium will provide a magnificent backdrop for the 62nd Madaraka Day Celebrations, a momentous occasion as it is the first time a county outside of Kisumu has hosted this esteemed national holiday within the larger former Nyanza Province.

Perhaps the highlight of Homa Bay's hosting prowess will be the upcoming biennial Devolution Conference 2025, themed "For the People, For Prosperity: Devolution as a Catalyst for Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice." This



 County Government
Of Homa Bay

important gathering is scheduled to take place from August 12th to 15th, 2025, and promises to attract significant attention.

In recent years, Governor Gladys Wanga and her administration have been resolutely focused on elevating Homa Bay's profile as a premier tourist destination and a compelling alternative for conference events. They have leveraged the county's burgeoning facilities and hotels, which rival those found in more established locations. The Raila Odinga Stadium, Tom Mboya University, with two identical thousand-seater amphitheaters, a vast open field and a spacious concrete court, as well as the magnificent Bay Lake front and an array of freshwater beach resorted along the Lake Victoria shoreline has been instrumental in elevating the county stature.

Moreover, the county takes immense pride in its substantial share of Kenya's breathtaking Lake

Victoria, presenting the lake as a vital source of livelihood and an enchanting ambience for visitors.



Governor Gladys Wanga and the visiting National Celebrations Steering Committee members led by PS Raymond Omollo getting briefed on the preparations for Madaraka Day Celebrations. *Photo Courtesy: Eunice Atieno*



A group photo of the exceptional women celebrated at this year's national celebrations of IWD. *Photo Credit: Eunice Atieno*

WOMEN AGENDA: HOMA BAY HOSTS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS, SPEAKERS VOUCH FOR ACCELERATED ACTION ON GENDER PARITY

By Communication Team

At the event held at Tom Mboya University, First Lady Mama Rachel Ruto, Canon Dr. Ida Odinga and Governor Gladys Wanga led the nation in marking the 50th International Women's Day where speakers urged the government to recommit to ensuring that every

woman in Kenya feels valued, protected, and empowered with equal access to opportunities. They urged all women in Kenya to rise up and take their rightful positions in the nation's development, promising to lead from the front to support initiatives led by women leaders.

"We are dedicated to providing women across Kenya with the support and resources they need to thrive. Every woman has a vital role in the development of our great nation, and it's time for us to rise and claim our rightful positions," the First Lady stated.

The First Lady also highlighted the expansion of the maternal benefits package, formerly known as Linda Mama, under the Social Health Authority (SHA). She noted that the improved program ensures that women throughout the country have access to maternal health services, which include antenatal care, delivery, and postnatal care.

"The maternal benefits package, previously known as Linda Mama, is now bigger and better. Under the Social Health Authority, women can be assured of access to maternal health services nationwide, including antenatal care, delivery, and postnatal care," the First Lady remarked.

Ann Wang'ombe, the Principal Secretary of the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action, celebrated the significant milestones achieved by women in Kenya, attributing this progress to the political goodwill being experienced in the country and supportive policy and legal frameworks, particularly the Constitution of Kenya 2010.

Mama Ida Odinga called on women to empower one another and take the lead in creating opportunities for others, especially for underprivileged women, and she urged action against all forms of violence against women. Gladys Wanga, Governor of Homa Bay County,



The First Lady Mama Rachel Ruto giving her keynote address at the event. Photo Courtesy: Eunice Atieno

emphasized the critical importance of girls' access to quality education and outlined various measures at the county level, including a mentorship program available throughout the county.

The First Lady also launched the Beijing+30 Kenya Country Report 2025, which highlights Kenya's progress in promoting women's rights, addressing gender-based violence, and enhancing women's economic empowerment.



The unveiling of the Beijing+30 Report during the IWD celebrations. Photo Credit: Eunice Atieno



Governor Wanga giving packets of certified seeds to a woman farmer from North Karachuonyo. Photo Credit: Eunice Atieno

FOOD SECURITY: COUNTY LAUNCHES NEW SEASON'S SEED DISTRIBUTION EXERCISE

By Oketch Bernard

The County Government of Homa Bay has launched its seed distribution exercise for this season, aiming to reach over 32,000 households nationwide. As part of this initiative, the government has allocated 136.326 tons of certified seeds, sufficient for planting on 10,082 acres of farmland.

In addition, 250 youth agripreneurs have been trained and deployed to serve as agricultural extension service providers for the next 18 months. While launching the exercise, Governor Gladys Wanga announced that her administration has invested Ksh 40 million in this program, which intends to support 800 beneficiaries in each of the county's 40 wards. The goal is to enhance farmers' access to certified maize and sorghum seeds, quality agricultural inputs, and technical support. Beneficiaries were chosen through a careful selection process at the cluster level to ensure fairness and efficiency.

"As a government, we are committed to equipping our farmers to ensure food security in our county," Governor Wanga stated during the event held at Pala Market in the Rachuonyo North subcounty.

The Agripreneur Model will play a crucial role in ensuring that farmers across all 40 wards not only receive quality inputs but also benefit from continuous mentorship and training. This comprehensive approach prepares farmers for the upcoming planting season, enabling them to maximize their yields and contribute to both food security and economic growth in the county.

"I encourage our farmers to fully utilize the seeds provided and adopt best agricultural practices. Collaborate closely with our extension officers and agripreneurs to enhance productivity and maximize your returns," she urged.



Unveiling of the 250 agripreneurs by Governor Gladys Wanga. Photo Credit: Eunice Atieno

SURVEY: HOMA BAY COUNTY SHINES IN SERVICE DELIVERY RANKINGS

By Lawrence Magware

Homa Bay County emerged as one of the top three best-performing counties in service delivery across the country, achieving an overall performance score of 51 per cent—just one point shy of Murang’a County, which scored 52 per cent. Trans Nzoia and Kirinyaga tied for third place, each with a score of 48 per cent, while Kisii, Nyeri, and Kisumu followed closely behind, each scoring 47 per cent and sharing the fifth position.

These rankings were recently released in a report by Infotrak Research and Consulting on Tuesday, February 11, titled the Countytrak Performance Index 2024.

In terms of individual county leaders, Governor Gladys Wanga ranked third with a score of 61 per cent, surpassed only by Murang’a’s Irungu Kang’ata, who scored 68 per cent, and George Nitembeya of Trans Nzoia, who secured second place with 64 per cent. Other governors in the top ten include Anyang’ Nyong’o (59 per cent), Mutula Kilonzo (57 per cent), Wisley Rotich (57 per cent), Simba Arati (55 per cent), Gideon Mungaro (54 per cent), Mutahi Kahiga (54 per cent), and Kimani Wamatangi (53 per cent). Homa Bay County excelled in Health and Medical

Services, ranking first with a performance index of 53 per cent, and also topped the Roads and Transport category with a score of 52 per cent. Additionally, the county led in Vulnerable and Social Services with a score of 52 per cent, County Planning and Development at 51 per cent, and Sports at 53 per cent. Homa Bay County placed second in Education with a performance of 53 per cent, in Trade and Tourism with 50 per cent, and in Housing, Lands, and Settlement with 49 per cent. The county ranked third in Agriculture (50 per cent), Environment and Natural Resources (53 per cent), and Energy (49 per cent).

According to Infotrak, “Our current index was conducted between October and December 2024, covering all 47 counties, 290 constituencies, and 1,450 wards, with an overall sample of 36,200. Each county was treated as an individual universe and assigned a cluster sample ranging from 600 to 2,000 respondents, guided by the population and number of wards in each respective county. Sampling frames were designed using population proportionate to size based on census data and took demographics such as age and gender into account. Data was collected through Computer Assisted Telephone



Governor Gladys Wanga receiving a certificate of excellence from Infotrak Research and Consulting CEO Stella Ambitho. Photo Credit: Livone Molo

Interviews (CATI) and analyzed using SPSS.”

The Countytrak tool consisted of twelve core functions, with 33 key performance indicators and five approval rating questions. The functions included Agriculture, Health, Education, Roads and Transport, Energy, Water Management, Environment and Natural Resources Management, Trade and Tourism, County Planning and Development, Housing, Lands and Settlements, Culture and Sports, as well as Social Services. It also covered Public Participation, Planning, and Management of County Resources.

Infotrak added, “The mean was computed for each sub-indicator of the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to derive the index for that specific KPI. The Overall County Performance Index was then calculated by averaging the KPIs.”

Governor Wanga’s commitment to transparency, efficiency, and partnerships is transforming the county, and the latest poll results reflect a vote of confidence in her people-centric and ward-based programs, which have positively impacted households across the county.



The best performing governors. Photo Credit: Livone Molo

HEALTHCARE: THE COUNTY IMPLEMENTS HEALTH HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM ITS OWN SOURCE REVENUE

COUNTY GOVERNMENT LEVERAGES FACILITY IMPROVEMENT FINANCING TO EXPAND HEALTHCARE SERVICES

By Communication Team

Homa Bay County has set a new precedent in healthcare investment by fully financing the expansion of Tom Mboya Memorial

Level 4 Hospital using the Facility Improvement Fund (FIF), a revenue stream generated from the hospital’s own sources.



Governor Gladys Wanga, assisted by CoG CEO Ms Mary Mwiti cuts the ribbon to open the new Specialists' Center at Tom Mboya Memorial Level IV Hospital. Photo Credit: Eunice Atieno

Governor Gladys Wanga led the commissioning of the newly constructed hospital block, underscoring the power of reinvesting internally generated funds to strengthen healthcare infrastructure.

The new Specialists' Center, which houses physiotherapy, ophthalmology, and dental departments, is a landmark project demonstrating how health institutions can leverage FIF to expand services without relying on external funding.

"This facility is a product of our prudent financial management. By reinvesting hospital revenue through FIF, we are ensuring sustainable healthcare improvements while reducing dependency on external donors or county allocations," Governor Wanga stated.

The Facility Improvement Fund (FIF) allows hospitals to retain and reinvest their revenue for facility upgrades, service expansion and enhanced patient care. Tom Mboya Memorial

Level 4 Hospital is the first in Homa Bay County to undertake a major infrastructure project solely funded through FIF, setting a model for other health facilities to follow.

The new hospital block will not only decongest existing facilities but also improve service delivery, making specialized healthcare more accessible to residents. The project directly addresses long-standing challenges, including inadequate space and overstretched resources, which have impacted healthcare efficiency in the region.

"Tom Mboya Memorial Level 4 Hospital is setting the pace for self-sustained healthcare development. This approach will enable us to enhance service delivery and build a resilient, patient-centered healthcare system," said H.E. Governor Wanga.

Residents welcomed the expansion, noting the direct impact on healthcare services.



The new Specialists' Center at Tom Mboya Memorial Level IV Hospital. Photo Credit: Eunice Atieno

"For years, we have struggled with overcrowding and delays. Knowing that this expansion was funded from within gives us confidence that our healthcare system is becoming self-reliant," said Jane Achieng, a resident of Suba North Sub County.

With this milestone, Homa Bay County is demonstrating that effective management of FIF can drive transformative healthcare improvements. By reinvesting hospital-generated revenue, the county is ensuring sustainable growth, improved service delivery, and long-term healthcare resilience—a model that other counties may soon adopt.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF HOMA BAY LAUNCHES 100-DAY RAPID RESPONSE INITIATIVE TO STRENGTHEN HEALTHCARE

By Abnery Pajero

The County Government of Homa Bay County has embarked on an ambitious 100-day Rapid Response Initiative (RRI) aimed at strengthening healthcare service delivery across all health facilities. Launched by Governor Gladys Wanga, who then made an impromptu visit to Kisegi Level IV Hospital in Gwasi North, the initiative seeks to assess and address critical gaps in infrastructure, medical supplies, personnel, and overall service provision. Additionally, the exercise is focused on evaluating the status of healthcare services, identifying existing challenges, and strategizing on improvements.

Senior county officials, including County



Governor Gladys Wanga checks the pharmaceutical stock at Kisegi Level IV Hospital. Photo Credit: Livone Molo



Governor Gladys Wanga admires a newborn named after her at Kisegi Level IV Hospital. Photo Credit: Livone Molo

Executive Committee Members, have been tasked with leading teams to conduct facility visits and engage with healthcare workers and the community.

In line with strengthening healthcare systems, the Healthcare leadership in the county is holding strategic meetings on improving service delivery, especially in the county's leading referral facilities. These meetings revolve around addressing key issues such as staff recruitment, human resource matters, infrastructure development, governance, and the welfare of both patients and medical personnel. Other priority issues included enhancing mental health services, optimizing health product management, and achieving zero maternal deaths through the Genowa Care initiative.

The county is also focusing on accelerating the implementation of the Social Health Authority (SHA) and Community Health Promoters (CHPs) programs to improve primary healthcare coverage. Facility audits are being conducted to assess human resource needs, while the procurement and management of medical supplies are being streamlined to ensure consistent availability of essential health products.

With a focus on collaboration and innovation, the county leadership remains dedicated to unlocking the full potential of the healthcare sector. By addressing structural challenges and prioritizing service delivery improvements, Homa Bay County aims to sustain its position as a leader in healthcare performance, ensuring that every resident receives high-quality medical care.

WATER SUPPLY: COUNTY, FRENCH PARTNERS INSTALL KES 19.1 MILLION WATER PROJECT IN RUSINGA

By Lawrence Magware



Kaswanga Girls High School students mob Governor Gladys Wanga and French Ambassador to Kenya Arnaud Suquet as the duo opened the taps at the school. *Photo Credit: Philip Ogai*

Rusinga Island has recently made significant strides in addressing its longstanding water problems, thanks to the proactive efforts of the Homa Bay County Government led by Governor Gladys Wanga. The latest milestone in this initiative is the commissioning of the Kaswanga Water Project, which adds to a series of successful projects aimed at enhancing water accessibility across the island.

In 2023, the county government inaugurated the Kamasengre Community Water Supply Project, effectively benefiting the residents of Rusinga West by providing them with a reliable source of clean water. This was preceded by the Expansion of the Mbita Water Supply Scheme in 2024 which specifically targeted last-mile connectivity in Rusinga East, significantly improving water access for its inhabitants.

The Kaswanga Water Project, done at a budget of KES 19.1 million, was officially launched in partnership with the French Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Arnaud Suquet. This collaborative effort involved several stakeholders, including the City of Alénia in southern France and the Suba North National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF). With a designed capacity of 200,000 cubic meters, the project aims to supply clean and safe water to over 8,000 residents of Rusinga Central, as well as nearby communities in the West.

A key feature of the project is the establishment

of public water points, which will be strategically located to serve schools, hospitals, and other public facilities within the reach of the project. Notably, educational institutions such as Kamasengre Girls High School, Kamasengre Primary School, Wanayama Primary and Secondary Schools, and Ogola Jaseme Primary School now benefit from this enhanced water supply. This improvement alleviates the burden on students who previously had to travel to distant lakeshores to fetch water, allowing them to concentrate more on their studies and academic performance.

The Kaswanga Water Project not only signifies a leap toward better water management on the island but also embodies the county's commitment to sustainable development and community well-being.



Ambassador Arnaud Suquet helps Mama Jane from Kaswanga lift her water bucket. Looking on is Governor Gladys Wanga (left). *Photo Credit: Philip Ogai*

LANDS AND URBAN PLANNING: GOVERNOR LAUNCHES SYSTEM TO STREAMLINE LAND ISSUES IN THE COUNTY



Governor Gladys Wanga logging in to the LIMS public portal. Photo Credit: Geoffrey Khoore

By Communication Team

Governor Gladys Wanga has officially launched the Homa Bay County Land Information Management System (LIMS), a groundbreaking initiative aimed at significantly enhancing the security of county land records and streamlining access to land ownership information for residents. This innovative system, developed by Oakar Services with crucial financial backing from Habitat for Humanity Kenya, represents a state-of-the-art digital platform that is poised to revolutionize the management, dissemination, and analysis of land-related data throughout Homa Bay County.

The LIMS not only significantly improves the efficiency and accuracy of land rate collection—but also empowers residents by providing instant, one-click access to comprehensive information regarding their land ownership, including details about land boundaries, rights, and obligations. This level of accessibility is particularly beneficial for landowners in specific areas such as Homa Bay Town, Rangwe, Mbita, Ndhiwa, Kendu Bay, Oyugis, Asumbi, Mirogi, and Marindi, who can now navigate their land-

related matters with greater confidence and clarity.

Furthermore, LIMS aims to enhance transparency in land transactions, reduce the likelihood of disputes, and foster a more informed community regarding land regulations and responsibilities. With this innovative system in place, Homa Bay County is taking a significant step forward in ensuring that land ownership is secured and easily managed by its residents. To access the LIMS Public Portal, click: <http://homabaylims.dat.co.ke/>



Governor Gladys Wanga receiving LIMS Operation Manual from HHF team lead. Photo Credit: Geoffrey Khoore



Chief Officer for Agriculture Ms. Judith Ombok and Senior Administrator Isaac Otunga receive certificate of recognition during the AAE event in Nairobi. Photo Credit: Courtesy

AGRICULTURE: COUNTY SHINES AT AGRI EXPO AS FARMERS LOOK AHEAD FOR ANOTHER BUMPER HARVEST

HOMA BAY SHINES AT AFRICA AGRI EXPO 2025, SHOWCASING AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

By Bernard Okech

The 8th Africa Agri Expo 2025 & Future Food, Livestock, and Poultry Expo 2025 held in Nairobi over February provided a remarkable platform for the County Government of Homa Bay to showcase its diverse and vibrant agricultural value chains.

The County delegation seized this opportunity to promote Homa Bay's agricultural potential, highlighting key value chains such as cotton, pineapples, palm oil, soybeans, sunflower, bananas, rice, coffee, and sweet potatoes, among others. These crops are not only essential for local food security and nutrition but also hold immense commercial value, attracting investors and development partners eager to support agricultural transformation.

Homa Bay's participation at the expo was a strategic move to attract investment in value addition and agribusiness. Cotton farming, for instance, has gained momentum with efforts geared toward revamping ginneries to support textile production. The county also showcased its thriving pineapple industry, with locally grown varieties renowned for their sweetness and quality, opening up opportunities for processing and export. Palm oil production, a relatively new but promising sector, was another highlight, demonstrating its potential in edible oil processing and value addition.

As the two-day event came to a close, the County Government of Homa Bay was recognized and awarded by the event organizers for its outstanding showcase

of agricultural potential and commitment to sectoral growth. This recognition affirms the county's ongoing efforts to position itself as a leading agricultural hub in Kenya and beyond.

Moving forward, Homa Bay aims to build on the connections made at the expo, strengthening partnerships that will drive agribusiness development, expand market linkages, and promote sustainable agricultural practices. With continued investment in research, mechanization, and cooperative movements, the county is well on its way to transforming its agricultural sector into a powerful engine of economic growth and food security.



The Homa Bay County booth at the AAE in Nairobi. Photo Credit: Courtesy

EDUCATION: COUNTY MOVES TO ADDRESS GENDER BARRIERS IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR

By Collins Ogutu

The County Government of Homa Bay is moving swiftly to address gender barriers within the education sector to achieve both equity and equality within the educational service provision in the county.

A joint partnership between the county's Department of Education, Human Capital Development and Vocational Training, the State Department for Basic Education and the Population Council of Kenya yielded a 3-days workshop to explore barriers to boys' and girls' education and develop an action plan to address these barriers and ensure equity in education.

This engagement was informed by the findings of the needs analysis, evidence review and primary data collection conducted by the Population Council of Kenya and the Ministry of Education to understand gender barriers to education in Kenya. The Evidence of Gender and Resource (EGER) findings have therefore been used to inform the review and revision of the 2015 Education and Training Sector Gender Policy, which aims to enhance gender equality in education.

The workshop was convened to share key findings and insights from the study with key stakeholders, facilitate discussions on integrating



Education CECM Martin Opere making remarks during the Gender Parity Workshop at Tom Mboya University. Photo Credit: Collins Ogutu

study recommendations into education policy and practice, strengthen the partnership for evidence utilization and develop contextual action plans in addressing gender barriers to education.

Discussions focused on various gender-related barriers such as early marriages, gender-based violence, cultural norms and economic disadvantage that disfranchise girls' access to education. Additionally, the workshop addressed issues that hinder the educational progress of boys, including societal expectations and stigmas surrounding male vulnerability.

By leveraging EGER's findings, participants explored tailored solutions based on regional context. They identified key areas for

intervention, including increased community awareness, improving school infrastructure and implementing mentorship programs that support both boys and girls.

The workshop served as a vital platform for stakeholders to collaborate, share knowledge and build a shared vision for overcoming gender barriers in education, ultimately fostering a more equitable and inclusive educational system for all children.

The stakeholders resolved their commitment to follow up on the action plans developed during the workshop to ensure that strategies are effectively implemented to promote Gender equity in education across the county.



A section of the participants. Photo Credit: Collins Ogutu

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: SERVICE DELIVERY OFFICERS GET TRAINING TO ENHANCE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS

HOMA BAY COUNTY OFFICIALS COMPLETE INTENSIVE TRAINING ON GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM, ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Raymond Kirui

Homa Bay County's Climate Change Unit has successfully concluded a pivotal capacity-building workshop on the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM). This training, facilitated by the Commission of Administrative Justice (CAJ) in collaboration with the National Treasury under the Financing Locally-Led Climate Action (FLOCCA) programme, has

equipped officials with essential skills and knowledge to effectively tackle FLOCCA-related issues.

The workshop specifically focused on equipping participants to handle matters such as maladministration, effective complaints handling mechanisms, and alternative dispute resolution strategies for conflict resolution.



Homa Bay Climate Change Staff led by its director Roy Odongo together with CAJ Team during the final day of the training. Photo Credit: Roy Odongo

A key highlight of the training was the domestication of the Model County Complaints Handling Policy, which streamlines the resolution of complex and high-profile grievances. This approach is designed to enhance the responsiveness of government to public concerns and build crucial trust between officials and the community.

By improving access to information, Homa Bay County empowers its citizens to actively engage in governance and hold the county accountable for its commitments, particularly in climate-related initiatives. The county is firmly dedicated to promoting good governance, citizen engagement, and the robust management of public complaints.

The invaluable knowledge gained by county officials will lead to significant improvements in service delivery, ensuring that climate change-related grievances are addressed promptly and fairly, thereby fostering a transparent and people-centred administration. This training brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including the County Secretary,



County Secretary Prof. Benard Muok(right) and Chief Officer Administration Isaac Ongiri(left) with Commission of Administrative Justice CAJ chairperson Charles Dulo alongside commission secretary Mercy Wambua during the training workshop at the county headquarters. Photo Credit: Roy Odongo

a team from CAJ, the County Attorney, County Executive Committee Members (CECMs), Chiefs, Directors, and Climate Change staff, all committed to driving meaningful change.

GOVERNMENT TRAINS ADMINISTRATORS TO ENHANCE THEIR EFFECTIVE DELIVERIES

By Raymond Kirui

The County Government of Homa Bay, in collaboration with the Kenya Red Cross, successfully executed a three-day induction training for newly appointed Sub-County and Ward Administrators.

This training equipped the administrators with essential knowledge of critical aspects of public service, including the Code of Regulations, Work Ethics, Government Communication, Official Protocols and Procedures, the County Governance Structure, the Code of Ethics for Public Officers, the Official Dress Code, HR Processes and Procedures, as well as Staff Discipline and the Disciplinary Process.

At the opening of the workshop, Homa Bay Public Service Board Chair Isaiah Odiwuor underscored that the training was designed to instil core competencies such as governance principles, leadership, integrity, and public service values, as mandated by the Constitution.

County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Governance, Administration, Communication, and Devolution (GACD), Ms. Roselyn Omollo, strongly urged the new administrators to fully embrace their responsibilities, asserting their readiness and competence for the tasks ahead.

In closing the training on behalf of the CECM, Governance and Administration Chief Isaac Ongiri reiterated the substantial work awaiting these new officials, assuring them of the unwavering support necessary to facilitate their roles effectively.



Governance and Administration CECM Roselyn Omollo delivering closing remarks at the workshop. Photo Credit: Raymond Kirui



A section of the Administrators who underwent the training. Photo Credit: Raymond Kirui

Kenya Red Cross Homa Bay County Coordinator Samuel Omondi confidently expressed his commitment to ongoing collaboration with the administrators to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid for the residents of Homa Bay County.

This event was methodically organized by the Department of Governance, Administration, and Devolution, in partnership with the Kenya Red Cross, to ensure the successful integration of the new administrators into their roles.



CECM Roselyn Omollo conferring with Chief Officer Isaac Ongiri during the workshop. Photo Credit: Raymond Kirui

NEWS FEATURE: "ARRIVE, SURVIVE, AND THRIVE" - HOW A CAMPAIGN TO END MORTALITY IN HOMA BAY THROUGH AN ENHANCED REFERRAL SYSTEM IS SAVING LIVES

By Abnery Pajero

When 30-year-old Linet Atieno from Kagan experienced complications during childbirth at Ndiru Level 4 Hospital, she felt her hope slipping away. The pain was excruciating, and as she drifted into unconsciousness, she feared the worst. However, a few hours later, as she slowly regained consciousness, she was amazed to find that she and her newborn had both survived. It seemed like a miracle, but in reality, it was the result of a well-coordinated emergency referral system implemented by the County Government of Homa Bay.

Dr Javan Adam, who treated Atieno at Ndiru, explained that she had suffered from postpartum haemorrhage, resulting in severe blood loss. She received three pints of blood transfusion, a life-saving decision as the hospital only had one pint available, which was administered during her transfer. Thanks to the prompt action taken by healthcare workers to refer her to Homa Bay County Teaching and Referral Hospital (HBCTRH) and the swift response from emergency teams, Atieno received the necessary medical intervention promptly. This intervention not only saved

her life but also allowed her to embrace her newborn with hopes for a healthy future.

Atieno's experience highlights the County Government of Homa Bay's commitment, through the Department of Public Health and Medical Services, to reduce preventable maternal deaths. The county has made significant investments in enhancing its referral and emergency services program under the theme "Arrive, Survive, and Thrive." This approach prioritizes ensuring timely access to healthcare, delivering quality medical care to improve survival rates, and promoting positive long-term health outcomes.

To achieve this vision, the county has enhanced its referral system by training healthcare professionals to identify emergencies promptly and make informed decisions quickly. Facilities now have improved communication, facilitating seamless patient transfers and minimizing delays in care.

Ambulances in Homa Bay County are always prepared for emergencies, with a strict policy ensuring each vehicle has a minimum of 40 litres of fuel at all times. This proactive approach guarantees that lack of fuel will never hinder life-saving care, as any fuel used during emergency referrals is promptly reimbursed by the referring facility.

To further enhance emergency response capabilities, the county has implemented a GPS-based ambulance tracking system. This

innovative technology enables emergency teams to monitor ambulance movements in real-time, allowing them to quickly locate the nearest available vehicle. Additionally, a fully equipped mobile clinic now delivers healthcare services to remote areas, facilitating early detection of complications and reducing the need for emergency referrals.

To address maternal complications, accidents, and other life-threatening conditions, emergency teams are on standby 24/7. The county is also in the final stages of launching a toll-free emergency line and an Emergency Operations Center to enhance coordination between healthcare providers and emergency response teams.

The County Government of Homa Bay is dedicated to preventing maternal and perinatal deaths through ongoing investments in health infrastructure, training, and emergency response systems. By prioritizing access to emergency care, the county is making significant strides towards its goal of saving lives. Atieno's experience is just one example of the positive impact of a well-coordinated referral system, highlighting the importance of swift and decisive action in emergencies.

As Homa Bay continues to strengthen its healthcare services, the message is clear - every second counts in an emergency. When health workers respond promptly and effectively, lives are saved.



Governor Gladys Wanga observing a demo on referral and evacuation when she unveiled the first County's fully equipped ambulance in 2023. Photo Credit: Eunice Atieno



"By leveraging Facility Improvement Financing, we are setting the pace for self-sustained healthcare development. This approach will enable us to enhance service delivery and build a resilient patient-centred healthcare system."

~ Governor Gladys Wanga