

2nd Sub-Regional Convening of Women with Disabilities on Strengthening Collective Action to End Violence Against Women and Girls.

Inclusive and empowered feminist movement in Africa



MARCH 2026

Acknowledgement

The 2nd Sub regional convening is implemented in Malawi by Disabled Women in Africa (DIWA) in partnership with Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW) under the *Inclusive and Empowered Feminist Movements in Africa* program. The program is supported by the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund), administered by UN Women under the ACT program, with funding from the European Union. The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of UN Women, the United Nations, the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, or the European Union.

DIWA and its partner sincerely acknowledges the valuable support of the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund), administered by UN Women, and funded by the European Union, for making this publication possible. We also recognize the contribution of our implementing partners, women's rights organizations, organizations of persons with disabilities, government institutions, community stakeholders, and women and girls with disabilities who shared their experiences and expertise throughout the implementation of the program.

Disclaimer

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01 | Introduction



Violence against women and girls remains one of the most pervasive human rights violations globally. Women and girls with disabilities face even greater risks due to the intersection of gender discrimination, disability-based stigma, and social exclusion. Studies and global human rights frameworks continue to highlight that women and girls with disabilities experience higher rates of gender-based violence, including physical, sexual, emotional, and economic abuse. Despite these realities, their voices and leadership are often under represented within broader Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) movements.

Africa Wide, women with disabilities continue to face multiple barriers in accessing justice, protection services, and participation in advocacy spaces addressing gender-based violence. While several regional and international frameworks recognize the rights of women with disabilities, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and the African Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), implementation of these commitments remains uneven. As a result, women with disabilities are often excluded from policy discussions, programming, and leadership spaces within gender equality and feminist movements.

Recognizing the importance of strengthening the leadership and participation of women with disabilities within the EVAWG movement, Disabled Women in Africa (DIWA) in partnership with the Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW) is implementing a project aimed at strengthening the participation and leadership of women with disabilities in ending violence against women and girls in the region. The project is supported by the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women (UNTF), funded by the European Union.

As part of this initiative, a Sub-Regional Convening of Women with Disabilities was held in Malawi, bringing together women with disabilities and advocates from Kenya, Rwanda, and Malawi. The convening provided a platform for participants to share experiences, strengthen solidarity, and develop collective strategies to address violence against women and girls with disabilities. It also created an opportunity for dialogue between disability rights advocates, feminist movements, and other stakeholders working to advance gender equality and disability inclusion.

The convening aimed to strengthen collaboration among women with disabilities across the region and to ensure that their voices, experiences, and leadership are recognized within broader efforts to end violence against women and girls.

02 | Objectives of the Sub-Regional Convening.



The Sub-Regional Convening aimed to bring together women with disabilities and key stakeholders from Kenya, Rwanda, and Malawi to strengthen collaboration, share experiences, and develop strategies for advancing the participation and leadership of women with disabilities in efforts to end violence against women and girls (EVAWG).

The specific objectives of the convening were to:

1. To strengthen solidarity and networking among women and girls with disabilities from Kenya, Malawi and Rwanda to strengthen sub-regional coalition
2. To strengthen leadership, advocacy and mentorship skills for engaging in national, and regional EVAWG movements.
3. To provide a platform for sharing experiences and good practices on addressing violence against women and girls with disabilities in Kenya, Malawi and Rwanda



KEY EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE SUB REGIONAL CONVENING

By the end of the convening, the following outcomes were realized:

1. A strengthened sub-regional network and coalition of women and girls with disabilities.
2. A shared strategic plan outlining regional priorities, collaborative advocacy areas and movement sustenance.
3. Increased capacity in leadership, movement building, advocacy and policy engagement increased.
4. Enhanced peer support systems and multi-country mentorship opportunities.
5. A documented regional commitment/press to guide the way forward on strengthening networks and building solidarity for women and girls with disabilities

KEY OUTPUTS AND REGIONAL ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

- Participants' knowledge and understanding of leadership skills and collective advocacy for advancing the rights of women and girls with disabilities, were strengthened.
- Participants enhanced their capacity to promote movement building, solidarity and cross-country collaboration to influence disability-inclusive policy formulation and implementation.
- Participants increased their knowledge and skills on advocating for inclusive governance, meaningful participation, amplified voices and resource mobilization to sustain disability-inclusive movements to end violence against women and girls (EVAWG) in Kenya, Malawi and Rwanda.
- Participants strengthened their understanding of evidence-based prevention and protection approaches for preventing and responding to violence against women and girls with disabilities, in line with national, regional and international commitments



The sub-regional convening brought together 70 participants (50 women and 20 men) from Kenya, Malawi and Rwanda. The participants included women with diverse disabilities, including visual, physical, hearing (Deaf), psychosocial, albinism, short stature, and older women with disabilities, ensuring broad representation and meaningful participation.

Participants included:

- Leaders and representatives of organizations of women with disabilities.
- Members of disability rights organizations.
- Representatives from women's rights and feminist organizations.
- Civil society actors working on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG).
- Human rights advocates and community leaders.
- Representatives from partner organizations involved in implementing the project.

The diverse composition of participants fostered multi-sectoral dialogue, strengthened partnerships across countries and sectors, and reinforced collective commitment to advancing the rights, leadership and meaningful participation of women and girls with disabilities in efforts to end violence against women and girls.

The participation of women with disabilities from the three countries created an important opportunity for cross-country learning and regional collaboration. Participants shared experiences on the realities faced by women and girls with disabilities in their respective countries, including challenges related to violence, discrimination, access to justice, and participation in decision-making spaces. The convening also provided a safe and inclusive space for women with disabilities to share their lived experiences, build solidarity, and strengthen collective advocacy efforts aimed at advancing their rights and addressing violence and discrimination.



Left, the Deputy Director of Gender by Ms. Magdaline Jelagat Kipkenei, from the Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services from Kenya government and Right the Director Of Disability under Ministry of Gender Dr David Njaidi during the solidarity walk

The Sub-Regional Convening commenced with a Solidarity Walk, bringing together participants from Kenya, Rwanda, and Malawi to demonstrate their collective commitment to ending violence against women and girls, particularly women and girls with disabilities. The walk served as a symbolic activity to promote unity, visibility, and shared responsibility in addressing gender-based violence and advancing the rights of women with disabilities.

Participants walked together in solidarity while carrying messages and reflecting on the importance of strengthening collective action to ensure that women and girls with disabilities are protected from violence and discrimination. The activity also created an opportunity for participants to engage with one another, build connections, and set the tone for the discussions and learning sessions that followed during the convening.

of strengthening collective action to ensure that women and girls with disabilities are protected from violence and discrimination. The activity also created an opportunity for participants to engage with one another, build connections, and set the tone for the discussions and learning sessions that followed during the convening.

The solidarity walk highlighted the spirit of regional collaboration, shared advocacy, and movement building, reinforcing the theme of the convening:

“Strengthening Voices, Leadership, and Collective Action: Advancing Sub-Regional Solidarity for Inclusion of Women and Girls with Disabilities in Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG).”

Following the solidarity walk, participants proceeded to the conference venue where the official opening session took place.

Following the Solidarity Walk, participants were invited to take part in a Gallery Walk, which provided an opportunity to showcase key activities and achievements from the project implemented by Disabled Women in Africa (DIWA) in partnership with COVAW with support from the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, funded by the European Union. The gallery displayed visual materials highlighting project activities aimed at strengthening the participation and leadership of women and girls with disabilities within the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) movement. The exhibition included photographs, posters, and information materials documenting community awareness initiatives, capacity-building activities, and advocacy efforts undertaken under the project.

Participants had the opportunity to walk through the gallery, engage with the displays, and reflect on the progress made in promoting the rights and inclusion of women and girls with disabilities. The gallery walk also provided a platform for participants to exchange experiences and discuss the impact of the project activities in their respective countries. This interactive activity helped set the stage for the convening by highlighting the importance of collective learning, knowledge sharing, and strengthening regional collaboration in addressing violence against women and girls with disabilities.



Janet Chapya, a young woman advocate and founder of Corrucci showcasing her work during the convening

In her welcome remarks, Ms. Fridah Wawira, Executive Director of the Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW), provided an overview of the project being implemented in partnership with Disabled Women in Africa (DIWA). She highlighted that the initiative aims to strengthen the participation and leadership of women with disabilities in the movement to end violence against women and girls (EVAWG) across the region. Ms. Wawira noted that women and girls with disabilities often face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that increase their vulnerability to violence and exclusion. She emphasized that the project seeks to address these challenges by creating platforms that enable women with disabilities to build networks, strengthen advocacy skills, and actively engage in national, regional, and global policy spaces addressing gender-based violence.

She also expressed appreciation to the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women (UNTF), funded by the European Union, for their support in making the initiative possible. Ms. Wawira acknowledged that the partnership between COVAW and DIWA reflects a shared commitment to advancing the rights of women and girls with disabilities and ensuring their meaningful inclusion in efforts to end violence against women and girls. In concluding her remarks, she welcomed participants from Kenya, Rwanda, and Malawi, encouraging them to use the convening as an opportunity to learn from one another, strengthen solidarity, and develop collective strategies to advance disability-inclusive approaches to ending violence against women and girls.

5.1. Opening Remarks and High-Level Participation

The Sub-Regional Convening was officially opened by several distinguished guests and stakeholders who reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the rights of women and girls with disabilities and strengthening efforts to end violence against women and girls.

Opening Remarks by Ms. Robinah Alambuya – Regional Representative, DIWA Eastern Region delivered opening remarks welcoming participants to the Sub-Regional Convening in Lilongwe, Malawi. She commended DIWA and COVAW for organizing the convening, noting that it provided an important platform for bringing together women with disabilities from across the region to strengthen collaboration and collective advocacy.

In her remarks, Ms. Alambuya emphasized the importance of strengthening the leadership and meaningful participation of women with disabilities within the movement to end violence against women and girls. She highlighted that the voices and lived experiences of women with disabilities are critical in shaping inclusive policies, programs, and movements that address violence and discrimination. She further reaffirmed the commitment of the East and Southern Africa region to advancing gender equality, disability inclusion, and the protection of the rights of women and girls with disabilities. Ms. Alambuya encouraged participants to use the convening as an opportunity to raise their voices, strengthen solidarity, and advance their leadership, expressing hope that the discussions would lead to meaningful and impactful outcomes for the region.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Fatima Mohammed, Deputy Country Representative of UN Women Malawi, emphasized the importance of ensuring that women and girls with



disabilities are fully included in national and regional efforts to address gender-based violence. She highlighted UN Women's continued commitment to supporting initiatives that promote the rights, dignity, and meaningful participation of women with disabilities within the broader gender equality and EVAWG movement. She also underscored the importance of partnerships between governments, civil society organizations, and disability rights organizations in addressing the unique vulnerabilities faced by women and girls with disabilities.



Remarks were also delivered by Ms. Magdaline Jelagat Kipkeni, Deputy Director from the Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services representing the Government of Kenya, who reaffirmed the Kenyan government's commitment to advancing inclusive policies and programs that address the needs of women and girls with disabilities. She emphasized the importance of strengthening regional collaboration and learning among countries in order to effectively address violence and discrimination faced by women with disabilities.



Remarks by Ms. Scador Louis – Commissioner, Malawi Human Rights Commission. Ms. Scador Louis, Commissioner at the Malawi Human Rights Commission, underscored the importance of protecting the human rights of women and girls with disabilities. She noted that women with disabilities often face intersecting forms of discrimination and called for stronger efforts to ensure their inclusion in policies, programs, and justice systems addressing violence against women and girls.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY DR. DAVID NJAIDI – GUEST OF HONOUR

The Guest of Honour, Dr. David Njaidi, Director of Disability and Elderly Programmes in the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, reaffirmed the Government of Malawi's commitment to promoting the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

He commended DIWA, COVAW, and the UN Trust Fund for organizing the convening and emphasized the importance of collective action and partnerships in advancing disability inclusion within efforts to end violence against women and girls.

The opening session set the tone for the convening by emphasizing the need for strong partnerships, solidarity among women with disabilities across the region, and collective action to address gender-based violence and discrimination.



Ms. Christine Oyugi, Programme Officer at the Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW), delivered a presentation providing an overview of the project being implemented in partnership with Disabled Women in Africa (DIWA). The project, supported by the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women (UNTF) and funded by the European Union, aims to strengthen the participation and leadership of women with disabilities in efforts to end violence against women and girls (EVAWG).

In her presentation, Ms. Oyugi explained that the project focuses on strengthening inclusive and empowered feminist movements in Africa by ensuring that women and girls with disabilities are meaningfully included in advocacy, policy engagement, and community-based initiatives addressing gender-based violence. She noted that despite the growing efforts to address violence against women and girls, women with disabilities often remain underrepresented in leadership and decision-making spaces within the EVAWG movement.

The project therefore seeks to address these gaps through several key interventions, including capacity building for women with disabilities, strengthening regional networks, conducting research on the participation of women with disabilities in EVAWG movements, and facilitating platforms for dialogue and collaboration between disability rights organizations and feminist movements. Ms. Oyugi also highlighted key activities undertaken under the project, including leadership training for women with disabilities, research on the participation of women and girls with disabilities in the EVAWG movement, and the organization of the Sub-Regional Convening to promote

cross-country learning and solidarity among women with disabilities from Kenya, Rwanda, and Malawi.

The presentation concluded with the screening of a short video showcasing project activities, including training sessions and community engagements, which helped illustrate the progress made in strengthening the leadership and participation of women with disabilities in advancing gender equality and ending violence against women and girls.

Ms. Oyugi emphasized that the project seeks to ensure that women with disabilities are recognized not only as beneficiaries but also as leaders and key actors in the movement to end violence against women and girls.



6.1. Presentation of Research Findings

A key session of the convening focused on the presentation of research findings on “Assessing the Participation of Women and Girls with Disabilities in the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Movement.” The research was conducted as part of the project implemented by DIWA in partnership with COVAW, with support from the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women (UNTF), funded by the European Union.

The findings were presented by the research consultants in collaboration with COVAW, providing participants with an overview of the current status of participation and inclusion of women and girls with disabilities within the EVAWG movement in Kenya, Rwanda, and Malawi.

The presentation highlighted that while progress has been made in raising awareness about disability inclusion, women and girls with disabilities continue to face several barriers that limit their meaningful participation in EVAWG structures and initiatives. These barriers include limited representation in leadership roles, lack of accessible platforms for participation, stigma and discrimination, and inadequate capacity among organizations to implement disability-inclusive programming.

The research also revealed that although women with disabilities are often invited to participate in meetings or consultations, their participation is frequently tokenistic, with limited opportunities to influence decision-making processes within EVAWG movements and networks.

Some of the key research Findings included the following:

- Mapping of EVAWG movements/Networks of organizations in East and Southern Africa revealed that 80% of the feminist and women led organizations that advocate for women's right and SGBV are doing a great job on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) but have limited strategies on Women and Girls with Disabilities (WGWD) participation in the EVAWG movements' leadership.
- Barriers hindering the participation of WGWDs in EVAWG Movements leadership include structural, attitudinal, environmental, economic and institutional barriers.
- Research further revealed that across Kenya, Malawi, and Rwanda, participation in EVAWG committees is moderate (62–64%), program inclusion is relatively high (68–71%), leadership representation is about half (49–52%), while consultation in policy development remains comparatively low (45–48%).
- Research also revealed that women and girls with disabilities(WGWD) across Kenya, Malawi and Rwanda experience high levels of violence, with emotional/psychological violence being the most prevalent form (Kenya 62%, Malawi 49%, Rwanda 46%).

Participants reflected on the findings and discussed the implications for strengthening disability inclusion in the movement to end violence against women and girls. The session emphasized the importance of intentional strategies to promote the leadership, participation, and representation of women with disabilities in advocacy platforms, policy discussions, and program implementation.

The dissemination of the research findings provided an important evidence base for discussions during the convening and helped participants identify practical actions and strategies to strengthen disability-inclusive approaches within EVAWG initiatives across the region.

Key Themes Discussed During the Convening

The discussions during the convening focused on several key themes related to ending violence against women and girls with disabilities and strengthening their participation in feminist movements. Key themes included:

4.1 Understanding the Intersection of Gender and Disability in Violence Against Women and Girls.

Participants discussed how women and girls with disabilities experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, which increase their vulnerability to violence and exclusion. The discussions highlighted the importance of addressing both gender inequality and disability discrimination when designing interventions to prevent violence.

4.2 Inclusion of Women with Disabilities in EAWG Movements.

Participants explored the current level of participation of women with disabilities in EAWG movements and advocacy platforms. While some progress has been made, discussions revealed that women with disabilities are often underrepresented in leadership and decision-making spaces, highlighting the need for stronger collaboration between disability rights organizations and feminist movements.

4.3 Barriers to Accessing Justice and Support Services

The convening also highlighted the challenges that women and girls with disabilities face in accessing justice, protection services, shelters, and support mechanisms when they experience violence. Barriers discussed included stigma, inaccessible services, lack of awareness, communication barriers, and limited capacity among service providers to respond to the needs of women with disabilities.

4.4 Strengthening Leadership of Women with Disabilities

Participants emphasized the importance of strengthening the leadership and advocacy capacity of women with disabilities to ensure that they are actively involved in shaping policies, programs, and advocacy initiatives related to gender equality and violence prevention.

4.5 Building Partnerships and Collective Advocacy

The convening provided an opportunity to strengthen partnerships between organizations of women with disabilities, feminist organizations, and other civil society actors working to end violence against women and girls. Participants highlighted the need for stronger collaboration to ensure that disability inclusion becomes a central component of the EAWG movement.



Panel discussion on International Women's Day theme: Give to Gain (Young Feminist Network, Worlec, Action Aid, UN Women, and Women with disability Advocates Kenya)



Women with disability advocates and leaders developing an outcome statement and strategy



Left, Belinda, A woman advocate and leader from Kenya facilitating the session on developing strategy



Ethel, a woman advocate making a contribution during the sub-regional convening



Panelist on sustaining EVAWG movement in context of funding challenges.



The Sub-Regional Convening featured a series of panel discussions and presentations aimed at deepening understanding of the challenges faced by women and girls with disabilities and identifying strategies to strengthen their participation in the movement to end violence against women and girls (EVAWG).

5.1 Leadership and Collective Advocacy for Women and Girls with Disabilities

One of the key panel discussions focused on strengthening leadership and collective advocacy among women and girls with disabilities. Panelists emphasized the importance of building the capacity of women with disabilities to actively participate in advocacy initiatives and decision-making processes related to gender equality and violence prevention.

Participants highlighted the need to strengthen collaboration between organizations of women with disabilities and feminist and women's rights organizations in order to build stronger and more inclusive movements. Examples were shared of ongoing partnerships where disability rights organizations and women's rights groups are working together to promote inclusive programming and advocacy.

5.2 Sustaining the EVAWG Movement in the Context of Funding Challenges

Another important panel discussion explored strategies for sustaining the EVAWG movement in the face of declining or shifting funding for gender equality initiatives. Representatives from various organizations shared insights on how movements can remain resilient and continue advancing advocacy efforts despite financial constraints.

Key strategies discussed included:

- Diversifying funding sources to reduce reliance on a single donor.
- Strengthening partnerships and collaboration among civil society organizations.
- Promoting intergenerational leadership and mentorship within movements.
- Building stronger community-based evidence and documentation to support advocacy efforts.
- Enhancing movement solidarity and collective action across sectors.

Panelists also emphasized the importance of ensuring that women with disabilities are fully included in these strategies, as they are often disproportionately affected by funding gaps within civil society movements.

5.3 Strengthening Disability Inclusion within EVAWG Programs

Participants also discussed the need to ensure that programs addressing violence against women and girls are designed and implemented in ways that are inclusive of women with disabilities. This includes making services accessible, strengthening the capacity of service providers to respond to the needs of women with disabilities, and ensuring that disability perspectives are integrated into policies and programs addressing gender-based violence.



Leadership and collective advocacy for women with disabilities

7.1. STRATEGIES IDENTIFIED AND NEXT STEPS FOR STRENGTHENING EVAWG MOVEMENTS



Women advocate and leaders making a press briefing delivering a statement during the last day of the convening.

During group discussions and plenary sessions, participants identified several key strategies to strengthen the participation and leadership of women with disabilities within the EVAWG movement.

The key strategies and next steps included:

- Strengthening Sub regional networks of women with disabilities to support collective advocacy and knowledge sharing.
- Promoting greater collaboration between disability rights organizations and feminist movements.
- Building the advocacy and leadership capacity of women with disabilities to enable them to influence policy and program development.
- Enhancing documentation and research on violence against women and girls with disabilities to inform evidence-based advocacy.
- Increasing community awareness and engagement to challenge stigma and discrimination against women and girls with disabilities.
- Advocating for disability-inclusive policies, laws, and services addressing gender-based violence.
- Participants emphasized that strengthening the EVAWG movements requires intentional, sustained, and inclusive efforts to amplify the voices, strengthen leadership of women with disabilities and enhance collaboration among movements to ensure disability inclusion is meaningfully integrated into policy and programming processes.

Participants identified the following strategic and key priorities to guide collective regional advocacy over the coming period:

- Advocate for the meaningful participation and leadership of women with disabilities in national, regional, and global EVAWG and gender equality platforms.
- Promote the integration of disability inclusion into national laws, policies, action plans, and budgets addressing VAW and women's rights.
- Increase investment in disability-inclusive survivor-centred services that are accessible, affordable, and responsive to the diverse needs of women and girls with disabilities.
- Mobilise sustainable financial and technical resources to strengthen organisations led by women with disabilities and support long-term feminist movement building across the region.



Rose Umutesi from Rwanda making a presentation of the strategies.

- Promote community awareness and social change initiatives aimed at preventing violence and discrimination against women and girls with disabilities.

The outcome statement was also shared with members of the media during a press engagement to highlight the importance of disability inclusion within efforts to end violence against women and girls.

During group discussions and plenary sessions, participants identified several key strategies to strengthen the participation and leadership of women with disabilities within the EVAWG movement. These strategies included:

- Strengthening Sub regional networks of women with disabilities to support collective advocacy and knowledge sharing.
- Promoting greater collaboration between disability rights organizations and feminist movements.
- Building the advocacy and leadership capacity of women with disabilities to enable them to influence policy and program development.
- Enhancing documentation and research on violence against women and girls with disabilities to inform evidence-based advocacy.
- Increasing community awareness and engagement to challenge stigma and discrimination against women and girls with disabilities.
- Advocating for disability-inclusive policies, laws, and services addressing gender-based violence.
- Participants emphasized that strengthening the EVAWG movement requires intentional

At the conclusion of the convening, participants collectively reflected on the key discussions and identified priority actions to strengthen efforts to end violence against women and girls with disabilities in the region. The outcome of the convening reaffirmed the commitment of participants to:

- Promote the meaningful participation and leadership of women with disabilities in the EVAWG movement.
- Strengthen regional collaboration and solidarity among women with disabilities across Kenya, Rwanda, and Malawi.
- Advocate for inclusive policies and programs that address violence against women and girls with disabilities.
- Continue building partnerships between disability rights organizations, feminist movements, and other civil society actors working on gender equality and human rights.

“This Sub-regional convening is more than a meeting but a seed of sustainable dreams in which together we are shaping a future where women and girls with disabilities will live free from discrimination, exclusion, and violence; and dignity and justice will flourish.”

“This convening has given us the opportunity to learn from each other and realize that the challenges we face as women with disabilities are similar across our countries. Together we can strengthen our voices and advocate for change.”

Rose Umutesi, Rwanda

“Women with disabilities must not only be included as beneficiaries, but as leaders in the movement to end violence against women and girls. Our experiences and perspectives are important in shaping solutions.”

Esther Mbite, Network of Women and Girls with Disabilities, Malawi

“Spaces like this convening remind us that we are not alone. When women with disabilities come together, we strengthen our solidarity and our ability to influence policies and programs that affect our lives. ”

Ms. Zaithwa , Young Feminist Network, Malawi

“This is our space, and we must use it to strategize and strengthen our collective voice to end violence against women and girls with disabilities.”

Belinda Adhiambo , Kenya

“Ending violence against women and girls requires inclusive approaches. If women with disabilities are not part of the movement, then the movement is incomplete.”

Emma Kaliya, Civil society representative, Human Rights Resource Centre

Participants collectively reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the leadership and rights of women and girls with disabilities through the following actions:

- Champion the meaningful leadership and representation of women with disabilities in feminist movements, national EAWG platforms, and policy-making spaces.
- Strengthen collaboration and information sharing among organisations in Kenya, Malawi, and Rwanda through regular regional engagement and peer learning.
- Promote intersectional and disability-inclusive approaches in all gender equality, women's rights, EAWG programs and advocacy initiatives.
- Amplify the voices and lived experiences of women with disabilities through evidence generation, storytelling, documentation, and media engagement.
- Strengthen accountability by engaging governments and regional institutions to implement commitments under national disability legislation, the UN-CRPD, the Maputo Protocol, and other regional and international human rights frameworks.

The convening significantly strengthened regional solidarity, collective leadership, and coordinated advocacy among women with disabilities and their allies. By fostering stronger partnerships, generating shared learning, and agreeing on concrete follow-up actions, the convening laid a solid foundation for sustained disability-inclusive feminist action across Kenya, Malawi, and Rwanda. Participants concluded with a shared commitment to ensuring that women and girls with disabilities are recognised not merely as beneficiaries of interventions, but as influential leaders, decision-makers, and agents of change driving regional efforts to end violence against women and girls.





The convening generated several tangible outputs that will strengthen disability-inclusive feminist movement building across the three countries:

- Strengthened regional network of women advocates with disabilities through providing a structured platform for continued peer learning, solidarity, knowledge exchange, and coordinated advocacy on disability-inclusive EVAWG.
- Shared regional understanding of the barriers that prevent women and girls with disabilities from meaningfully participating in feminist movements, policy dialogue, and decision-making processes, informed by research findings, country experiences, and lived realities.
- Documentation and dissemination of promising practices from Kenya, Malawi,

and Rwanda on community mobilization, movement building, policy advocacy, survivor-centred programming, and disability inclusion, creating opportunities for replication and adaptation across the region.

- Development of a common regional advocacy agenda by identifying strategic priorities for strengthening disability-inclusive approaches within regional and global EVAWG initiatives.
- Enhanced collaboration between Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), women's rights organisations, feminist movements, government institutions, and development partners, while reinforcing multi-sectoral partnerships necessary to accelerate inclusive policy and program implementation.

The Sub-Regional Convening provided valuable insights and lessons that can inform future initiatives aimed at strengthening the participation and leadership of women with disabilities in the movement to end violence against women and girls.

One of the key lessons learned was the importance of creating inclusive platforms that allow women with disabilities to share their experiences, build networks, and learn from one another. Bringing together participants from Kenya, Rwanda, and Malawi provided an opportunity for cross-country learning and strengthened regional solidarity among women with disabilities working on EVAWG advocacy.

Another important lesson was the value of partnerships between disability rights organizations, feminist movements, and other civil society actors. The convening demonstrated that collaborative efforts are essential in ensuring that women and girls with disabilities are meaningfully included within broader gender equality and violence prevention initiatives.

The discussions also highlighted the need for continued capacity building and leadership development for women with disabilities. Strengthening advocacy, mentorship, and leadership skills is critical in enabling women with disabilities to effectively engage in national, regional, and international policy platforms addressing gender-based violence.

Participants further emphasized the importance of evidence-based advocacy. Sharing research findings and experiences from different countries helped participants better understand the gaps and opportunities in addressing violence against women and girls with disabilities. Strengthening research and documentation will therefore remain essential in informing policies and programs that promote disability inclusion.

Finally, the convening demonstrated the significance of creating safe and participatory spaces for dialogue and collective reflection. Activities such as the solidarity walk, gallery walk, panel discussions, and group discussions encouraged open engagement among participants and strengthened the sense of shared responsibility in advancing the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

These lessons highlight the importance of sustaining regional collaboration and continuing to create platforms that amplify the voices and leadership of women with disabilities in the movement to end violence against women and girls.

To sustain momentum beyond the convening, participants agreed to undertake the following priority actions:

- Establish regular virtual regional coordination meetings to monitor implementation of agreed advocacy actions and facilitate continuous knowledge exchange.
- Develop and implement a joint regional advocacy plan outlining coordinated campaigns, policy engagement opportunities, and movement-building activities.
- Strengthen mentorship and leadership development opportunities for emerging women advocates with disabilities to enhance their participation in national and regional advocacy processes.
- Continue documenting evidence, good practices, success stories, and lived experiences to support evidence-based advocacy and influence policy reforms.
- Strengthen collaboration with feminist networks, disability rights organisations, media, academia, and development partners to expand disability-inclusive advocacy and public awareness.
- Facilitate ongoing peer-to-peer learning among organisations to share innovative approaches, address implementation challenges, and strengthen collective impact.

The Sub-Regional Convening of Women with Disabilities from Kenya, Rwanda, and Malawi provided an important platform for strengthening collaboration, learning, and collective advocacy toward ending violence against women and girls with disabilities. The convening brought together women with disabilities, civil society actors, and key stakeholders to share experiences, discuss common challenges, and identify strategies for strengthening the inclusion and leadership of women with disabilities within the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) movement.

Through activities such as the solidarity walk, gallery walk, panel discussions, and group dialogues, participants engaged in meaningful discussions on the intersection of gender and disability and the barriers that women and girls with disabilities face in accessing protection, justice, and opportunities for leadership. These engagements helped strengthen solidarity among participants and reinforced the importance of collective action in advancing disability-inclusive

approaches to addressing gender-based violence.

The convening also highlighted the importance of partnerships between disability rights organizations, feminist movements, governments, and development partners in promoting inclusive policies and programs that address violence against women and girls. By bringing together participants from different countries, the forum facilitated cross-country learning and strengthened regional networks that will support continued advocacy and collaboration.

Overall, the Sub-Regional Convening reaffirmed the commitment of participants to advance the rights, leadership, and meaningful participation of women with disabilities in efforts to end violence against women and girls. The discussions and commitments made during the convening provide a strong foundation for continued collaboration and action toward building inclusive societies where women and girls with disabilities can live free from violence and discrimination.

