

GJK

GLOBAL JUSTICE KENYA

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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REFLECTIONS

We are growing.

And with us, our ability to support survivors in the pursuit of justice.

This year has been marked by the achievement of a significant milestone, as Global Justice Kenya obtained official registration as an NGO in the country, solidifying its presence and enhancing its ability to support survivors.

Through our efforts in securing access to justice, we have seen significant strides in the repatriation of stranded women, legal assistance to families of deceased women migrant workers, the preliminary psychosocial support we've been able to offer, and documentation at the highest standards of evidence for systematic change.

Much more is still to be done. Pursuing justice is a long process and, throughout, we need to be able to offer holistic, long-term support that immediately empowers survivors. This means ensuring survivors receive the psychological support and medical assistance they need for as long as required, without the limitations of time. Also, we need to expand our efforts by launching a comprehensive Economic Empowerment program to equip survivors with the skills and resources they need to regain financial independence and rebuild their lives, to prevent re-victimization.

This report highlights our key achievements, challenges, and future plans. As we look to the year ahead, our focus will be on scaling these essential services, pursuing justice firmly, and continuing our work to ensure that every Kenyan woman migrant domestic worker can live and work with dignity and safety.

Thank you to all our donors partners, and supporters for making this journey possible.

Valentina Cominetti, Executive Director.

ABOUT GJK

Global Justice Kenya (GJK) is a Kenyan, women-led, non-governmental organization committed to advance the Right to a Remedy of victims of gross human rights violations and international crimes, ensuring that survivors receive the justice they deserve. We work tirelessly across East Africa to dismantle the barriers that prevent survivors from accessing legal remedies and to support them in their pursuit of justice.

Our special focus is on women, who face unique and severe vulnerabilities in the region, exacerbating their risk of being subjected to human rights violations. We pay particular attention to gender-specific needs by offering tailored, gender-sensitive support services that directly respond to the unique forms of abuse women encounter. This includes providing trauma-informed legal aid that is attuned to the experiences of sexual and gender-based violence. Our services are designed to empower survivors to speak out, seek justice, and begin the healing process, including the provision of information on legal rights and access to safe reporting mechanisms to help break the cycle of exploitation.

MISSION

Advance the Right to Remedy of victims of gross human rights violations, holding the network of crimes' perpetrators and profiteers financially accountable to survivors, increasing the cost of human suffering and exploitation.

VISION

We believe in a world where justice is not a privilege but a fundamental right, accessible to all, regardless of their gender and socio-economic status.

VALUES

- Integrity
- Service
- Respect
- Justice

WE
DO

ACCESS
TO
JUSTICE



We believe that “Access to Justice” is key for survivors to reclaim their dignity, becoming active participants in the process of seeking redress and holding the perpetrators and supporters of international crimes and gross human rights violations accountable.

We operate according to an evidence-based comprehensive strategy, in accordance with judicial rules of admissibility, to support survivor-led advocacy efforts and strategic litigation aimed at obtaining judicial or alternative remedy.

Documentation

We document human rights violations at the highest international evidentiary standards, ensuring evidence for justice and advocacy, preserving the truth and preventing denial, creating awareness and deterring future violations, creating historical record that inform reconciliation and reform, while aiding survivors in their healing process.

Legal Support

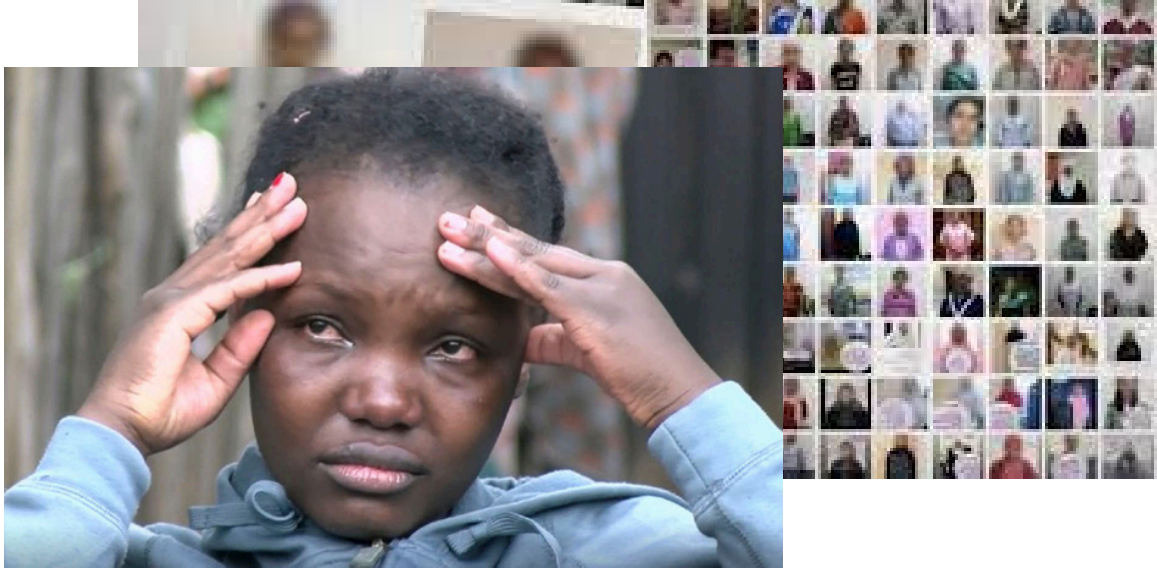
We provide legal aid to victims, ensuring they have professional representation in their pursuit of justice. Our team works closely with victims to navigate the complexities of the legal system, ensuring their voices are heard and their rights are protected.

Survivor Empowerment

We empower survivors to regain agency and control over their lives, including opportunities for survivors to reinstate their rights, pursue justice, advocate and participate in policy reform. This approach ensures that survivors' voices lead the movement for justice, helping them rebuild their lives while contributing to broader efforts to end exploitation and abuse.

Advocacy and Policy Reform

We actively engage with policymakers, government agencies, international organizations and the public to promote access to justice. Rigorous evidence-based research and the lived experiences of the survivors we support, ensure that our efforts are both informed and impactful.



KENYAN WOMEN IN THE GULF, HUMANITARIAN CATASTROPHE

The statistics are unprecedented and have called us for immediate and urgent action. According to Kenyan Government's official data, at least 371 Kenyans, most of whom women migrants employed as domestic workers, died in Saudi Arabia between 2020 and April 2024. These numbers do not include missing persons and rescued individuals. According to former Kenyan Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary, Macharia Kamau, organs had been removed from some of the bodies that were returned to Kenya. The Departmental Committee on Labour and Social Welfare also noted that 1,908 distress calls were reported between 2019 and 2021.

Despite the unavailability of more recent official data, stories of Kenyan women employed in Saudi Arabia as domestic workers, who are subjected to inhumane conditions, suffering physical and sexual abuse, or dying under controversial circumstances continue to appear in the press every other week.

Women migrant domestic workers in the Gulf face restrictions of fundamental rights under both kafala laws and male guardianship system which, combined, make them vulnerable to various types of abuse, especially gendered type of abuses and violence. In both the countries of origin and destination, the sexualization and feminization of domestic labour, enabled the normalization of exploitative conditions. Legal channels of migration have become the privileged enabling environment for women's trafficking and exploitation.

The intensive labour export agenda adopted by the current Kenyan Government is set to make things worse, opening at least 350,000 additional positions for Kenyans in Saudi Arabia, of which only 2,500 are destined to skilled and semi-skilled workers, who enjoy better safeguards and protections. Hundred thousand of women are already applying for jobs as domestic workers to escape poverty and unemployment in Kenya, making it extremely urgent to act. Indeed, enforcement of existing legal frameworks intended to protect them has been weak and ineffective: hundred thousands of women continue to face conditions akin to modern-day slavery.

Saudi Arabia is widely considered one of the most dangerous places in the world for foreign workers, particularly women migrant domestic workers.

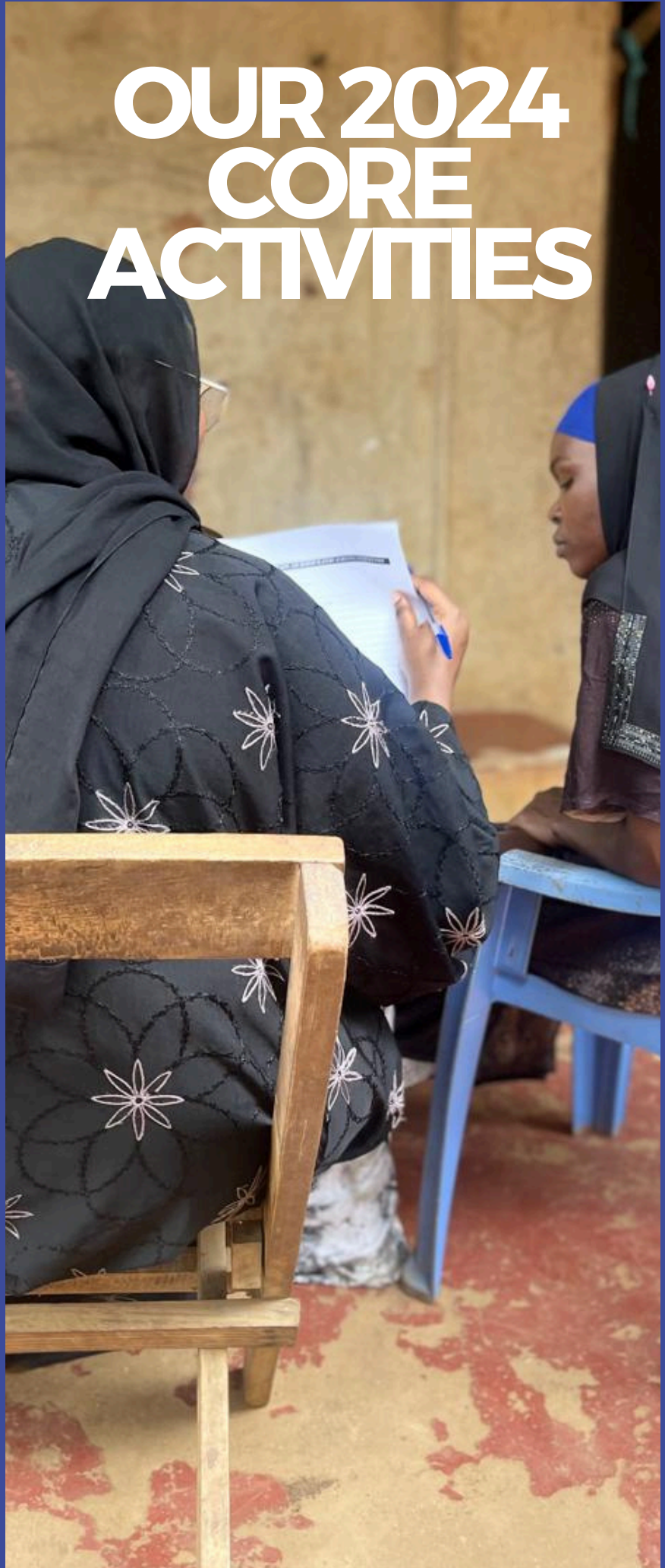
DOCUMENTATION OF INJURED RETURNEES AND KILLED WORKERS' CASES

Global Justice Kenya has identified, so far, over **500** Kenyan women who have faced severe abuse and exploitation in Saudi Arabia. **250** of these cases have been successfully evidenced in a ready to go to Court fashion, opening the way for the survivors' pursuit of recognition and justice.

We encountered survivors in remote areas of the country, including Nairobi, Machakos, Kajiado, Kisii, Baringo, Nakuru, Naivasha, Mombasa and Kwale.

We continue identifying and documenting cases every day: our objective is to create an overwhelming database of evidence, proving that these cases are not unfortunate migration experiences, but a widespread and systematic abuse against migrant women domestic workers, amounting to a crime against humanity that targets vulnerable women in developing countries.

OUR 2024 CORE ACTIVITIES



LEGAL AID FOR REPATRIATION

-Global Justice Kenya has developed a groundbreaking rescue and repatriation procedure for Kenyan migrant domestic workers abused and stranded in Saudi Arabia, along with a protocol to support families of deceased workers to bring their beloved ones' remains back home. The innovative aspect of this approach lies in providing legal support to the families of the victims, empowering them to hold duty bearers accountable for repatriation, instead of resorting to corrupt practices. Indeed, the repatriation process for both abused and deceased women has been fraught with corruption, with families often forced to pay bribes or "release money" to traffickers. To date, we have identified 110 cases in urgent need to escape abuse, with 5 successful repatriations and 13 ongoing efforts.



PSYCHOSOCIAL AND MEDICAL SUPPORT

Global Justice Kenya has been able to offer preliminary mental health counselling and medical assistance to the neediest returnees, addressing urgent needs. We understand that much more needs to be done, because majority of the cases require long-term psychosocial support and medical care for actual healing, rehabilitation and reintegration. We have been, and we continue, working tirelessly to secure partnerships to expand these services in the coming year..





Throughout the year, we have been able to highlight exploitation of Kenyan women migrant domestic workers in the Gulf in international forums, such as the Cambridge Centre for Applied Research in Human Trafficking Annual High-Level Symposium, The Global Commission on Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking, and the UN Africa Forum on Business and Human Rights, raising awareness of the plight of Kenyan women migrant domestic workers. We have also held two webinars highlighting different aspects of the issue, securing 244 participants, among which stakeholders, international organizations and, importantly, government representatives.

Global Justice Kenya has also gained media engagement for awareness raising, by having interviews on radio (5), TV (2) and newspapers (1).

FUTURE goals



Expand Psychological and Medical Support



Strengthen Economic Empowerment Programs



Expand provision of Legal Aid



Accelerate and extend Documentation to other geographies



Increase Funding and Partnerships for sustainability

CONCLUSIONS

Our achievements are a testament to the resilience of the survivors we support and the dedication of our team. With continued partnerships, funding, and advocacy, we aim to expand our impact, ensuring that every woman can work abroad without fear of exploitation or abuse.

Thank You We extend our deepest gratitude to our donors, partners, and supporters who have made our work possible. Together, we are making a difference.



GJK

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