

## From Data to Policy Action: Tackling Gender-Based Discrimination in Social Institutions in East Africa

### Virtual Grassroots Workshop

22 June 2021

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM (GMT+3)

[Please kindly register here](#)

#### BACKGROUND

Gender equality is achieved when both men and women enjoy the same socio-economic rights and opportunities and have equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes. Nevertheless, data and statistics confirm gender inequality remains high despite the steady progress toward gender parity. The OECD Development Centre's [Social Institutions and Gender Index \(SIGI\)](#) and [Africa Gender Index \(AGI\)](#), jointly produced by the African Development Bank Group and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), highlight facts and figures on where the world is when it comes to key indicators to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. While the SIGI sheds light on the structural barriers to gender equality faced by women and girls throughout their lifetime, the AGI highlights data from 51 of Africa's 54 countries and offers a comprehensive picture of gender equality in Africa today.

Building on the knowledge produced by both indices, this workshop will focus on identifying concrete policy options to address such barriers for East Africa. It will bring together grassroots and civil society organisations, research organisations, think tanks, private sector, gender experts and advocates, as well as foundations. Policy options identified in this workshop will inform ongoing discussions with policy makers in the region as well as a forthcoming policy dialogue with all stakeholders on 6 October 2021. Discussions and conclusions will feed the forthcoming SIGI policy brief for East Africa as well as the **SIGI 2021 Regional Report for Africa** to be launched in December 2021 and the **AGI 2021 Regional Report for Africa**.

#### OBJECTIVES

1. **Present insights into the current status of gender equality and women's empowerment in the region** and share policy recommendations to effectively integrate gender in policy, project and programme planning, implementation and monitoring for policymakers and practitioners across the region;
2. **Identify key challenges as well opportunities**, including through the exchange of good practices on addressing gender-based discrimination and promoting women's and girls' rights;
3. **Identify a set of context-specific policy options** to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in East Africa.

#### FORMAT

Following presentations of key findings from the [SIGI](#) and the [AGI](#) for East Africa, participants will join one of the following three thematic breakout sessions:

- Women's health deprivation, gender-based violence and restricted reproductive autonomy
- Women's economic empowerment and access to productive and financial resources
- Women's political voice, leadership and agency



# EAST AFRICA

At the end of each breakout session, the rapporteur will share the main policy options and measures identified during the discussion with all the participants in the concluding plenary session.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

The dialogues will continue on social media using the hashtags: #SIGIAfrica and #SIGI. Tag us: @OECD\_Centre, @Wikigender, @AfDB\_Group and @ECA\_OFFICIAL.

### DRAFT AGENDA

#### Plenary session

9:55-10:00	Sign in to the virtual meeting
10:00-10:10	Welcoming remarks: setting the scene and objectives of the workshop
10:10-11:00	Key findings for East Africa

#### Breakout sessions

Key question: what would be the key policy actions that you would advise policy makers to implement?

##### **Breakout session 1: Women’s health deprivation, gender-based violence and restricted reproductive autonomy**

This session will focus on how restrictive social norms and practices (such as violence against women, female genital mutilation and child marriage) have a negative impact on women’s health and their reproductive autonomy. Participants will explore the policy options that should be prioritised and other ways to address these challenges.

11:00-12:00

##### **Breakout session 2: Women’s economic empowerment and access to productive and financial resources**

This session will focus on how social norms and practices (such as perceptions of women's role in household decision making or discriminatory laws governing access to assets) limit women’s economic empowerment and their access to productive and financial resources. Participants will explore the policy options that should be prioritised to mitigate these negative effects as well as other ways these challenges may be addressed.

##### **Breakout session 3: Women’s political voice, leadership and agency**

This session will focus on how gender norms and certain practices (such as gender-based political violence or the lack of enforcement of temporary special measures) limit women’s participation in public and political life. Participants will consider context-specific policy options and other actions that may work to address these challenges.

#### Plenary session

12:00-12:10	Break
12:10-12:55	Key outcomes and policy options
12:55-13:00	Closing Remarks