



Technical Assistance Approach:

Supporting Women Parliamentarians in Kenya

Program Overview

Institute of Public Finance (IPF), in partnership with the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA), is implementing a governance program titled Supporting Kenyan Women Leaders to Advance Health, Economic Opportunity, and Gender Priorities.

This investment advances Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE), including care economy priorities, and equitable health financing in Kenya through a holistic, systems-level approach. It strengthens women's leadership, embeds evidence based decision making within parliamentary and policy processes, and builds inclusive, non-partisan coalitions to drive sustainable reform. Through targeted skills development, mentorship, and strategic engagement, women leaders are equipped to translate gender gaps in health and economic participation into actionable fiscal and policy priorities.

Our Theory of Change seeks to advance WEE by embedding Gender Responsive Budgeting into Kenya's fiscal and parliamentary processes.

It demonstrates the value of equitable fiscal policies that respond to the lived realities of both women and men, and the importance of leadership that champions inclusion and accountability in economic decision-making.





Our Approach

Advancing WEE (including care priorities) requires a holistic approach that combines leadership development, evidence generation, multi-stakeholder engagement, and institutional strengthening. Women leaders are equipped with the skills and confidence to articulate evidence-based recommendations on these priorities through workshops, mentorship, and peer learning. Engaging supportive male allies further amplifies their voice and fosters accountability in advancing health and WEE outcomes.

Evidence generation is central to this approach. Gender-sensitive fiscal and sectoral analyses, including shadow budgets, macro-fiscal snapshots, health expenditure reviews, and tax-and-gender studies, provide the data needed to identify gaps and guide parliamentary processes. Institutional mechanisms, such as Parliamentary Research Services and Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training, embed knowledge creation and technical capacity, ensuring that women leaders and stakeholders can apply evidence effectively in their initiatives.

Multi stakeholder engagement strengthens both reach and impact. The private sector, through platforms like KEPSA, can integrate women into value chains, expand market access, and provide mentorship, while civil society organizations ensure initiatives are inclusive, community-driven, and strengthen women's skills, leadership, and financial literacy. Grassroots women entrepreneurs are empowered to participate in activities around, economic opportunities, and social development, creating an enabling environment for sustained action.

By mobilizing diverse actors, strengthening accountability, and institutionalizing evidence-based approaches, this strategy ensures that women's economic empowerment needs are prioritized and addressed, driving inclusive, sustainable growth across Kenya.

Our Impact



Group photo of Parliamentarians, IPF, Staff, and KEWOPA Secretariat during one of the Technical Assistance workshops.

So far, the investment has continued to make remarkable strides in advancing gender-transformative decision-making and equitable resource allocation within Kenya's devolved governance system. There is a deepened institutional commitment to Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) through sustained engagement with Parliamentarians, Gender Responsive Budget champions, civil society, and strategic stakeholders.

IPF has continued to strengthen technical capacity and address evidence gaps to advance gender-responsive governance. This has been facilitated targeted capacity-building sessions on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB), legislative scrutiny, MFAS processes, and dissemination of the Annual National Shadow Budget, thereby enhancing evidence-based fiscal analysis and oversight among policymakers.



Group photo of female, male parliamentarians, IPF staff and KEWOPA secretariat taken during one of the male allies coaching and mentorship workshops.

IPF has continued to convene high-level engagements with parliamentary committees to reinforce budget scrutiny and fiscal accountability across the fiscal cycle. IPF has conducted male allies coaching and mentorship, supported advocacy and media engagement during key budget moments, and provided strategic communications support to women leaders to amplify gender-responsive policy positions.

Through participation in key influencing platforms, including International Women's Day and the 2025 Devolution Conferences, IPF has continued to expand policy visibility and stakeholder engagement.



A group photo of the International Women's Day 2026 conference speakers (including IPF staff) with Her Excellency, Mrs. Rachel Ruto, EGH at the Kenya School of Government.

Lessons Learned

Strategic networks are critical for reform success. Women leaders require structured and sustained linkages to key actors including the private sector, financial institutions, and supportive male allies in Parliament to effectively advance women's economic empowerment (WEE) and equitable health financing. Without these coalitions, opportunities to influence budget priorities, scale initiatives, and ensure implementation remain constrained.

Technical capacity and mentorship are essential for impact. Timely, high-quality capacity building, mentorship, coaching, and technical assistance are necessary to translate gaps in WEE into actionable policy and budget priorities. Without access to strong analytical tools and evidence, women leaders face challenges navigating and influencing complex fiscal and policy processes.

Institutional backing determines sustainability of change. Institutional weaknesses including slow implementation of the National Policy on Women's Economic Empowerment (NPWEE), continue to undermine progress and perpetuate systemic inequalities. Without strong institutional support and accountability mechanisms, women leaders lack the enabling environment required to drive transformative and sustained reform.



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