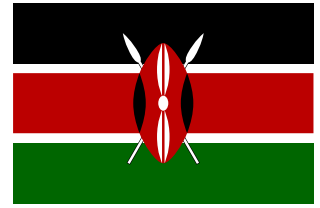


The Professional Fellows Program on Inclusive Civic Engagement



Spring 2024 Professional Fellow



Vera Robi Machera

Program Officer

Women Challenged to Challenge (WCC)

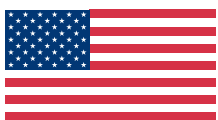
“The Fellowship will equip me with the necessary tools for conducting effective training and understanding to strengthen the fight for women and girls with disabilities against sexual gender-based violence.”

Vera serves as a Program Officer at [Women Challenged to Challenge \(WCC\)](#), a nonprofit organization in Nairobi, Kenya, dedicated to empowering women and girls with disabilities. She is devoted to eliminating barriers that hinder their active participation in community activities. In her position, she enhances partner capacity and implements inclusive advocacy strategies for the rights of women and girls with disabilities. Previously, she worked as a Community Health Advocate at the Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in mass communication from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Juja, Kenya.

Vera’s follow-on project centers on preventing and addressing violence against girls and women with disabilities in Migori County, Kenya. She will provide 30 girls and women with disabilities with knowledge and empowerment training. Additionally, she will establish psychosocial support and self-advocacy groups to provide continued support for the women and create a platform where they can take on the role of mentors for other girls and women with disabilities, educating them about their rights and offering support.

Concurrently, she will work with 15 local partners and service providers to equip them with tools for prevention and response. The goal is for them to join in establishing a network of Community Champions to enhance violence prevention and response by promoting gender and disability-friendly attitudes within the community, while also improving referral pathways for support.



The Professional Fellows Program on Inclusive Civic Engagement is a joint project of the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at the University of Massachusetts Boston and Humanity & Inclusion (HI) with funding support from the US Department of State.