



# Men End FGM

## ISSUE VII NEWSLETTER



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### INTRODUCTION

As we approach the end of 2023, we would like to take a moment to express our gratitude for your generosity and support.

We have made significant strides in educating communities, including men and boys, about the negative effects that female genital mutilation (FGM) and other related forms of sexual and gender-based violence, like early and forced child marriages, have on one's physical and mental health.





In Africa, cooking necessitates 3 stones; if you take one out, your pot might tip over and your food will be unevenly cooked. This is because the pot becomes unbalanced, concentrating the fire on one side. This comparison resonates with our mission – **empowering the girl child while keeping the boy child, young men, and elders informed through mentorship and sensitization.**

According to the UNICEF profile of FGM in Kenya (2020), 11% of Kenyan men believe FGM is a community requirement, while 6% believe it's a religious necessity. We believe that without involving men and boys, it is impossible to achieve a cohesive and equitable society, as supported by a mountain of evidence. It's akin to cooking with only two stones; the result won't be well-cooked food. It's like trying to drive a car with your legs on the brake.

With a few years left in this decade of action, there is potential to eliminate and prevent harmful practices through sustainable partnerships with men and boys.

## PROJECT UPDATES

# ELIMINATING HARMFUL PRACTICES

### ACCELERATING ABANDONMENT OF FGM PROJECT IN SAMBURU

Supported by UNICEF Kenya, we teamed up with the Pastoralist Child Foundation to expedite the abandonment of FGM in Samburu East Sub County. Through activities such as community reflective forums, male engagement forums, school mentorships, and religious leaders forums, the consortium actively engages the community, fostering acceleration of community neglect of FGM. In its third quarter, the project aims to ultimately benefit more than 20, 000 people for over 12 months.

During the second quarter of the project, we were privileged to host UNICEF's Kenya Country Representative on her maiden visit to the project. She expressed her appreciation for our efforts in empowering women and girls and commended our progress in eliminating FGM and fostering a safe environment for every child.



# 7,173

Girls and Women empowered with knowledge to prevent FGM

# 7

survivor networks established & strengthened to advocate for elimination of FGM



# 29

men and boys groups strengthened to advocate for elimination of FGM

# 12,191

male and female engaged through community dialogues to advocate abandonment of FGM





*UNICEF's Kenya Country Representative, Shaheen Snilofer holding a child during her visit to our project in Samburu*



## HOOYO HAIGOYNIN PROJECT IN EASTLEIGH



BB

As a Quran Alkarim teacher, I strive to pass on the knowledge I have gained from your teachings to the community. I educate individuals on Islamic laws while advocating for the discontinuation of female genital mutilation (FGM). It is vital to note that FGM is not part of Islamic history, and has never been practised by the prophet. Furthermore, FGM poses serious health risks, including birth complications and even death for women.

**As such, we urge parents and community members to join us in this fight against FGM**

*- Harun Adan, Eastleigh Sheikh*

BB

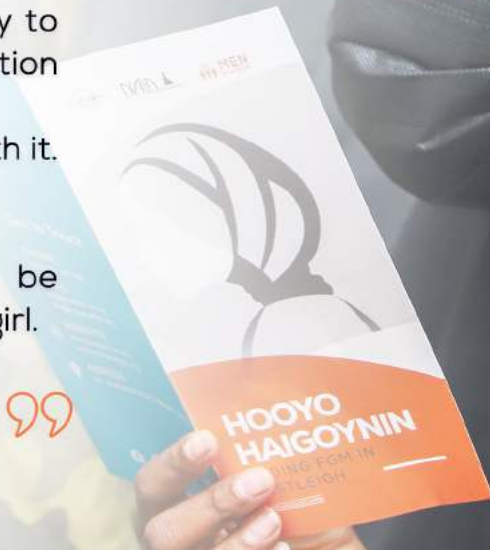




I experienced the agonizing procedure of infibulation FGM at a young age, and the aftereffects continue to have a severe impact on my life, causing agonizing pain during my menstrual cycle.

I strongly urge the Somali community to discontinue the practice of infibulation FGM and spare young girls from the anguish and difficulties that come with it. There are no health benefits to infibulation FGM, and it can cause several health issues that could be harmful to the wellbeing of a young girl.

- *Survivor of FGM, Eastleigh community*



Hooyo Haigoynin" (Mum Don't Cut Me), a collaboration between Zinduka Kenya and Nala\_eV, aims to prevent and address female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage while also promoting menstrual hygiene awareness in Eastleigh, Nairobi, Kenya.

Started as a pilot project in February of this year, has had a positive impact on the Eastleigh neighbourhood. We have enhanced the well-being of women and girls as well as prevented and addressed FGM in the Eastleigh community, through informative dialogues with religious leaders, parents, survivors of FGM, youth, adolescent children in madrassas, and men





## POLICY AND BUDGET ADVOCACY Y4C ADVOCATES IN SAMBURU & WEST POKOT

With the help of UNICEF Kenya, we have given young people in the counties of Samburu and West Pokot the tools they need to take on leadership roles and advocate for policies and budget allocations towards ending harmful practices, such as child marriage and female genital mutilation.



Dubbed **#SasaNiSisi**, Youth for Change started by training 20 youth advocates. Since then, it has engaged religious leaders, convened advocacy meetings with county officials, developed the capacity of young people to advocate and report through the media, and led campus dialogues among youths attending universities and colleges in the two counties.

Over the last six months, the **#SasaNiSisi** initiative—which was carried out in collaboration with the corresponding county governments—has helped over 40,000 people, including youth from West Pokot and Samburu Counties. The project concluded last month with a significant impact.



## Y4C ADVOCATES - ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ West Pokot and Samburu county leaderships have committed to enacting county-specific anti-FGM policies as one of the ways of addressing harmful practices and sexual reproductive health (SRH) issues in the counties.
- ◆ There has been strengthened coordination by the Gender Sector working group as well as the Members of County Assemblies from both Samburu and West Pokot counties.



The follow-up meetings with these groups have yielded more understanding by legislators and the executive on the importance of having county-specific anti-FGM policies and allocating resources from the county governments to implement these policies.



- ◆ **90** young people from the two counties have been trained as alternative journalists to help in collecting and reporting cases of harmful practices as well as amplifying awareness among their peers on SRH, SGBV and VAC.

## Y4C ADVOCATES - ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ For the first time, the commemoration of International Youth Day was held in these two counties. All efforts to mark this day in previous years had failed. However, under this project, the day was commemorated with top government leadership gracing the occasion as Guests of honour. In West Pokot, The Directors of Gender from national and county governments graced the day whereas in Samburu, it was graced by the governor.



## Y4C ADVOCATES - ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ We have directly engaged about **10,000** young people on campus and out of school. This has greatly enhanced awareness among the youth on their rights, especially in sexual and reproductive health, protection from harmful practices and how to tackle mental health and drug and substance abuse.

Our engagements through #TubongeNaComrades and #SasaNiSisi have spoken to the hearts of millions of young people in Kenya, with overwhelming demand from young people across the rest of the country for us to engage them on this very platform. #SasaNiSisi is a slogan that has resonated well with millions of young people in Kenya and #TubongeNaComrades has become an event where every University, TTI, TVET or KMITC are looking forward to having them on their campuses.



## ARTS FOR SOCIAL NORMS CHANGE IN SAMBURU PROJECT



**Body mapping was a powerful tool for helping me make connections with my personal experiences of oppression and harmful behaviours.**

*- Leah Lenareu, Community Influencer*



**I'm grateful for the body mapping approach because it's given us a great platform to express ourselves and to challenge and oppose these harmful practices.**

*- Josephine Letinina, FGM survivor*

With the help of CISP Kenya, we have used visual arts to transform and spark social change in Wamba West, Samburu East sub-county, for those affected by FGM. Over **213** people in Wamba West have directly benefited from the initiative, which came to an end last month.

Through initiatives like Body Mapping, we have actively involved FGM survivors, community influencers, and members to provide them with cutting-edge creative tools to address harmful practices like FGM and early marriage, as well as to provide healing and therapy for survivors



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### DONOR SPOTLIGHT - ANONYMOUS DONOR, IN MEMORY OF FRAN HOSKEN



We celebrate Fran Hosken, a pioneering feminist who fought against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). She was an American designer, writer, feminist, and social activist who founded the Women's International Network in 1975.

She was a pioneer in speaking out against the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and her report on FGM, *The Hosken Report: Genital and Sexual Mutilation of Females* (1979), was influential in persuading the international community, including the World Health Organization, to make efforts to end the practice.

We are celebrating her efforts in championing women's health which was crucial in the efforts to end FGM injustice.

Private Donor  
In memory of  
the fierce activism of  
**Fran Hosken**  
Women's International Network

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### DONORS & PARTNERS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our donors and partners who supported our activities this quarter. Your contributions have taken us a step closer to achieving our goal of a gender-equitable society.



### GET IN TOUCH

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