



MEN
End FGM

NEWSLETTER

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IN THIS ISSUE

INTRODUCTION

NEWS

PROJECT UPDATES

DONORS AND PARTNERS

Dear friends and partners,

As we reflect on the first half of 2025, we are reminded that progress is not always easy, but it is always possible when we walk together.

Amid the challenges it is the unwavering spirit of community and your continued support that have fueled our journey. Every contribution, whether time, resources or solidarity, has played a part in driving meaningful change where it matters most.

This edition celebrates what we've achieved together, bold steps taken in remote villages, the growing confidence of women and girls, men and boys rising as champions of change, and the strengthening of safe spaces through trust, education and dialogue

Each milestone in these pages is a powerful reminder that transformation is possible, when partnerships are rooted in purpose, when voices are heard, and when action follows conviction.

Thank you for believing in this vision. Thank you for walking alongside us

MENENDFGM CAMPAIGN IMPACT

We had the opportunity to revisit a powerful chapter in our journey, one that sparked national dialogue and continues to inspire community transformation. In 2020/21, our #MenEndFGM campaign travelled across 11 counties in Kenya, igniting conversations around male engagement in the fight against FGM.

The campaign challenged deep-rooted norms, brought men into critical conversations, and redefined their role not only as allies but also as key actors and stakeholders in promoting gender equality and women empowerment.

Recently, we returned to Isiolo and Kajiado to assess the long-term impact of the campaign. What we encountered was deeply moving.

Community members still recall the information they received, describing it as life-changing and transformative.

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After your engagement with us, years ago, I learned how deeply FGM affects us as women. As a result, i made the decision not to cut my Daughters. I have seven girls, four had alredy undergone FGM, but i chose to protect the remaining three
Hellen Koitatoi - Community Member Kumpa, kajiado County



In Kajiado, the ripple effect is especially evident.

The campaign has empowered families to reject harmful practices, leading to increased protection and freedom for young girls.. This affirms that engaging men is not just impactful—it is essential in shifting community narratives and safeguarding the rights of girls.

As we plan to revisit more counties with our trained male champions, we are also producing a documentary to capture these stories of change.

This effort will serve both as a record of impact and a tool for continued engagement as we scale our work.

WORLD MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY

On World Menstrual Hygiene Day, we had the privilege of celebrating with women and girls in Samburu, where our Dignified Sanitation campaign is actively creating safe, inclusive spaces. During this engagement, a critical insight emerged, there is a strong and often underemphasized link between access to proper sanitation facilities and menstrual dignity.

While the need for sanitary towels remains urgent, we observed that the increased availability of toilets has brought an equally important change: a safe and private way to manage and dispose of menstrual products. Women and girls expressed how the presence of toilets not only improved hygiene but also restored a sense of dignity, privacy, and confidence.

This experience reinforces the importance of integrating menstrual health education and infrastructure. We continue to call for support to expand our engagement around menstrual hygiene management, ensuring that every girl and woman has both the information and the environment she needs to manage her periods safely and with dignity.

Hear the full story and community voices by watching our World Menstrual Hygiene Day feature on YouTube.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYWcqJLxDB4>



On the same Menstrual Hygiene Day, we joined with young girls in school to celebrate and educate in Samburu. It was marked with an impactful session on menstrual hygiene, led by a professional nurse who engaged the students in an open and informative discussion. The girls gained vital knowledge on managing menstruation with dignity and confidence despite the challenges.



In Isiolo, we extended the celebration to the wider community through a pad distribution exercise. A standout moment was the participation of a man who stepped forward with genuine curiosity and a willingness to learn about menstrual health.

This gesture signified a powerful shift, one where men are becoming allies in promoting menstrual health and breaking the stigma. It is a clear indication that we are making progress toward building a more period-friendly world, where education, support, and dignity are accessible to all.

MOVEMENT OF MEN AND BOYS FOR GENDER EQUALITY

We have maintained our engagement with men and the community in Kajiado, Samburu, Wajir, Tharaka Nithi, and Meru to promote gender equality.

The dialogues address harmful practices, promote sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), tackle teenage pregnancy, and enhance understanding of gender-based violence (GBV).

Across the regions, several encouraging developments have emerged. In Wajir, conversations around gender equality are deepening, with more men, including religious leaders, actively participating in discussions that were once considered off-limits.

The rising engagement reflects a changing mindset, with men increasingly supporting women and girls, indicating a gradual cultural transformation.



Meanwhile, in Samburu, young Morans are not only attending forums but are also calling for more frequent engagements. Many have shared that the information is entirely new to some of them. Their eagerness to learn and participate highlights the effectiveness of consistent, grassroots dialogue in sparking curiosity and change.



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Morans often need visual proof to believe. Therefore, when engaging with them, present clear visuals. I once thought FGM wasn't wrong until I saw a shocking image in Maralal that nearly made me faint. If you can find similar images, please share them with the morans.

James Lepariyo, Moran



In Kajiado, father-son conversations are impactful. These intergenerational dialogues are creating rare but powerful spaces where long-standing traditions can be challenged.

As older and younger generations come together, there is a noticeable shift toward openness and mutual understanding, one that is dismantling cycles of silence and fostering more progressive, inclusive thinking within families and the community.

In Tharaka Nithi, we have sustained conversations around sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) addressing teenage pregnancy. While earlier engagements focused on youth and adolescents, our recent dialogues brought together both parents and young people.



These intergenerational sessions created a much-needed space where concerns could be openly shared. Parents, particularly grandparents who are now caring for children born from teenage pregnancies, expressed how timely and urgent these conversations are. They called for increased engagement with the younger generation, urging them to embrace responsibility and make informed choices to secure their futures.

In Meru County, safe spaces enabled important discussions with survivors and teenage mothers about issues such as FGM and teenage pregnancy.

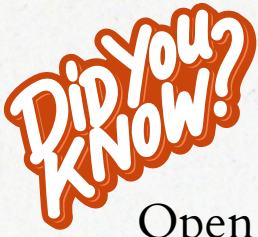


Participants shared their experiences and sought guidance, leaving motivated to support the protection and empowerment of girls and women.



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Dignified Sanitation



Open defecation remains one of the problems Kenya is battling with? Open defecation has particularly devastating effects on the health of children under the age of five, especially in rural areas where the practice is more prevalent. Open defecation in Kenya is highest in Turkana County at 68% followed by Samburu County at 66%.



In early 2025, the Dignified Sanitation Initiative deepened, carrying on from where we left in 2024. Our engagement aimed to shift mindsets around sanitation, strengthen community ownership, and provide practical support for households in constructing their own pit latrines from locally available materials.



During the initial engagement, community members identified rocky and uneven terrain as a major challenge to latrine construction. In response, the Initiative provided a set of shared tools to ease excavation. These tools were handed over to the local chief to ensure accessible and transparent community use.

This symbolic handover served not only to ease the physical burden of digging in hard terrain but also to reinforce that this was a community-owned initiative, built on dignity, responsibility, and long-term sustainability.

There has been a visible shift in community mindset. What was once met with skepticism is now embraced with enthusiasm, as early adopters inspired others through their success.

Households in previously inaccessible, rocky areas have made significant headway in digging up pits





During this period, we also witnessed a heartening development: children are emerging as young champions of dignified sanitation. Through active participation in Hygiene Clubs at their schools, they are not only learning about safe sanitation but also becoming vocal advocates at home.



Teachers report that students are initiating conversations with their parents, challenging long-held norms and sharing what they've learned through our sessions and school-based programs. In several cases, parents have returned to the schools seeking clarification, surprised yet inspired by their children's boldness. Teachers have used these moments to further engage families, emphasizing that while resources may be limited, sanitation is achievable through the use of locally available materials.

This intergenerational dialogue, sparked by informed children, is helping to shift perspectives at household level, reinforcing that real change often begins with informed minds and curious questions.



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Before we constructed our pit latrine, we faced a significant challenge, particularly when I wasn't home. My wife struggled to go outside at night to relieve herself due to concerns about safety and the presence of wild animals. So, I found it essential to have a toilet within our homestead.

Solomon Kaungah - community Member, Naisunyai



LM International

Our progress in Samburu's Dignified Sanitation initiative would not have been possible without the unwavering support of LM International. Their commitment to transformative, community-led development has been instrumental in helping us reframe sanitation, not just as a health issue, but as a matter of dignity, inclusion, and long-term change.

Thanks to their partnership, we've made remarkable strides in shifting mindsets around sanitation. What was once seen as a burden or cultural taboo is now increasingly recognized as a basic right and a community responsibility. Together, we've empowered families with tools, knowledge, and renewed confidence to build and maintain sanitation solutions using locally available materials.

We are deeply grateful to LM International for standing with us in this mission. Their partnership continues to light the path toward a cleaner, healthier, and more dignified future for all.

OUR PARTNERS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our partners for their steadfast support. Your contributions have been instrumental in advancing our mission towards a society that promotes gender equality.

Together, we are effecting meaningful change and paving the way for a brighter, more equitable future for everyone. We eagerly anticipate continuing this journey alongside you!





Connect with us :

 www.menendfgm.org

 info@menendfgm.org

      : **MenEndFGM**
