

Issue 13 June-December 2025



MEN

End FGM

NEWSLETTER

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INTRODUCTION

Dear friends and partners,

As we conclude the year, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to all our partners, supporters, and community stakeholders across the country. This year has reaffirmed the power of collaboration and the importance of centering communities in our work.

Through your commitment and partnership, we strengthened programs, deepened engagement, and advanced our mission to create sustainable, inclusive change. We celebrate the milestones we achieved together and recognize the dedication that made them possible.

As we move into a new year, we remain committed to serving with integrity, strengthening partnerships, and driving meaningful impact for the communities we stand with.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.



#MenEndFGM





NEWS



SECURE THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN

This year, Men End FGM Foundation took a bold step forward in our mission to end harmful practices and build a safer, more equitable society. Across Kenya, a powerful movement is taking shape, one that dares to rewrite the story of gender equality from the roots up.



This campaign; is a movement to make a lasting difference. For years, we have worked tirelessly to protect girls from harmful practices such as FGM, early marriage, and gender-based violence. This year, we expanded our vision by investing in the boys who will shape tomorrow.

Recognizing that transforming harmful gender norms requires strong, empowered men, we launched a mentorship project for boys and young men across Kenya. Our hope is to guide boys with wisdom and nurture their understanding of equality, creating a future where girls grow up safer, and harmful practices lose ground.



DONATE TODAY



DOCUMENTARY RELEASE

We are proud to announce the release of our documentary showcasing the journey and impact of the #MenEndFGM campaign. This powerful film revisits a pivotal chapter in our work that sparked national dialogue and continues to inspire community transformation.

The documentary captures these transformative moments, affirming that engaging men is not just impactful, it is essential in shifting community narratives and safeguarding the rights of girls.

Now fully produced and available for screening, the documentary serves both as a record of impact and a powerful learning tool for continued engagement. It is a testament to the strides we have made and a guide for scaling our work to reach even more communities.

In 2020/21, our campaign traveled across 11 counties in Kenya, igniting critical conversations around male engagement in the fight against FGM. Families were empowered to reject harmful practices, increasing protection and freedom for young girls.



DOCUMENTARY TRAILER



Previously Trained & Still Committed

Impact Documentary on
Male Champions Training

#MenEndFGM

NATIONAL LEARNING CONVENING

Men End FGM Foundation (MEF) proudly showcased its signature initiative, the training of male champions to end FGM, as a groundbreaking strategy that is ready for national and global scale-up. At the convening, MEF unveiled a powerful documentary filmed in 2025, capturing the journeys of champions trained four years ago (2020/2021). The room was captivated.

In the film, male champions from Isiolo, Kajiado, and Wajir shared how the #MenEndFGM program transformed their understanding of FGM, challenged deeply rooted norms, and equipped them with the courage to speak up, take action, and protect their daughters, wives, and communities. Their testimonies were clear and compelling:

When men are informed, engaged, and empowered, they become a force for change. The impact of the program resonated strongly with attendees, showing that the model is not only working, but redefining what meaningful community-led action looks like.



Presenting our model and lessons during the national learning event

MEF's male-champion approach stands out as a proven, scalable strategy for ending FGM, one voice, one father, one community at a time.

LINK AND LEARN EVENT

Men End FGM Foundation participated in the Link and Learn convening held in Bishoftu, Ethiopia, bringing together over 90 young people from 28 countries across Africa and Europe under the AU–EU Youth Action Lab (YAL) project, organized by TaYa in partnership with Oxfam,



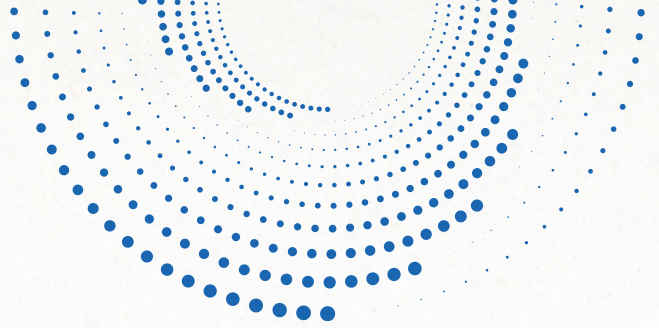
Mr. Peter Kemei and Ms. Fridah Milimo at the link and learn engagement

Restless Development Uganda, and the European Youth Forum. Represented by our team, we shared lessons from our Youth for Change (Y4C) Advocates project in Samburu County, highlighting the importance of empowering young people to engage in policy and budget advocacy.

Drawing from our baseline findings, the engagement underscored the urgent need to amplify youth voices in decision-making processes. The convening also provided a rich platform for peer learning, showcasing youth-led innovations in advocacy, climate action, technology, and inclusion from across different countries. The event strengthened regional and international linkages, opening opportunities for future collaborations to advance youth-centered and youth-led interventions.



Ms. Fridah Milimo presenting our project



PROJECT UPDATES

Y4C ADVOCATES

This year marked a major milestone for our Youth for Change (Y4C) Advocates Program as we launched the training of Cohort Two, bringing together a new generation of young leaders committed to shaping policy, influencing budgets, and advocating for the needs of their communities.

The training began with an intensive three-day module on policy and budget advocacy, equipping the advocates with practical tools to understand governance systems, interpret budgets, identify gaps, and articulate clear policy asks.

Immediately after training, the advocates put their skills into action. In Samburu County, Y4C members have already begun engaging local leaders, holding dialogues, presenting community priorities, and advocating for inclusive policies. Their presence has sparked renewed interest among county officials, who now recognize the youth as valuable partners in shaping sustainable solutions.

Beyond the county level, the advocates extended their leadership to the national stage. Y4C representatives participated in the recently concluded Public Sector Hearings held at KICC in Nairobi, where they expressed their views with clarity and courage. They presented the realities of their communities, voices that are rarely heard in formal policy spaces at national level, and ensured that the needs of marginalized groups, especially women and girls, were placed at the center of national discussions.



Y4C advocates meeting their leaders



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It is important to be aware of this processes, because no one can tell our stories better than we can. Equipped we can tell our stories and represent our communities better.

Mikaela Naramat- Y4C Advocate

MALE CHAMPIONS IN ACTION

Men End FGM Foundation marked the International Day of the Girl by advancing our commitment to gender equality through community-led actions, male engagement, and the creation of safe spaces for women and girls. Guided by the theme “The girl I am, the change I lead,” our work across Meru, Tharaka Nithi, and Samburu counties demonstrated the power of dialogue, awareness, and shared responsibility in ending harmful practices. In Meru County, we engaged young men and boys through a football tournament in KK Aaru, using the event to unpack the



Engaging young Boys in Meru

FGM Act and discuss the cultural and medical implications of FGM. Many participants shared that their limited knowledge stemmed from the belief that FGM is solely a women’s issue.

Through open conversation, they acknowledged the urgent need to challenge cultural norms and pledged to champion the rights and wellbeing of girls. In Matirine Kipkona, our engagement with a women’s self-help group shifted the conversation to economic empowerment.

Women highlighted how financial instability limits their influence at home and exposes their daughters to risks such as school dropout, early marriage, and FGM. The session underscored that strengthening women’s financial capacity is a key protective factor for girls.



Women’s engagement in Matirine in Meru

In Tharaka Nithi County, our dialogue in Kithigirani Village brought the community together to reflect on the county's high prevalence of FGM and recent prosecutions documented by the Office of the DPP. With the support of local leadership, we sensitized participants on the Anti-FGM Act and county policies, leading to a renewed call for the establishment of a village, level Anti-FGM Committee.

The community requested continued engagement, demonstrating growing openness to change. A powerful reminder came from survivor Judy Kageni, who emphasized that educating girls yields far greater value than subjecting them to harmful rites.



In Samburu County, we engaged Morans in Lodokejek village, leaders and cultural custodians whose influence shapes community norms. The dialogue linked FGM to SGBV and SRHR, helping young men understand the broader consequences of the practice.



They identified their roles in prevention, from protection and whistleblowing to guiding cultural direction. The Morans expressed the need for more dialogues, especially targeting senior age sets whose daughters remain at risk, signaling a crucial shift in ownership and leadership among men.

Moran Engagement in Samburu



DIGNIFIED SANITATION

At the start of the year, the Dignified Sanitation Initiative returned to continue the work we began in 2024, supporting communities to adopt safe sanitation practices and construct pit latrines using locally available materials. During our initial engagement, residents identified rocky and uneven terrain as a major challenge to digging pits. In response, we provided a shared set of excavation tools, handed over to the local chief to ensure transparent and accessible community use.



A newly built pit latrine made from locally sourced materials

As demand grew and more households embraced the project, we provided a second set of tools in 2025, further easing the workload and ensuring that more families could begin construction without delays. These handover reinforced the initiative's foundation: dignity, ownership & sustainability.

By the end of 2025, the transformation has been remarkable. Communities that were once skeptical have embraced the initiative with renewed energy. Early adopters inspired their neighbors, and households in previously inaccessible, rocky areas have successfully begun or completed latrine construction. The shift in mindset is clear, sanitation is no longer seen as an external demand, but a shared community responsibility.

In this engagement, we engaged children as change agents, resulting in improved school enrollment and empowered sanitation champions spreading the message at home



Materials provided to help a person with a disability build a safe and accessible pit latrine

We also placed special focus on supporting a person with disability (PWD) who faced significant barriers to building a latrine. We provided construction materials, and the community rallied around them, volunteering their time, offering labour, and ensuring the structure was completed with dignity. What began as individual support quickly became a powerful display of collective responsibility and compassion.

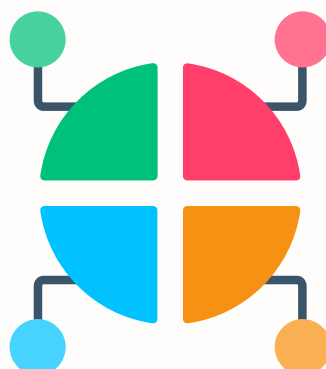
KEY IMPACTS

Mindset Shift

Communities moved from skepticism, long influenced by deep-rooted myths to embracing the use of pit latrines

Practical Progress

Households dug pits and constructed latrines using simple, locally available materials



Sustainable Ownership

Shared tools and local leadership strengthened long-term responsibility

Improved Health & Dignity

More families now have safe, dignified sanitation options



“

I have seen firsthand the value of having a latrine. It is far better than running to the bushes, especially at night. Watching my neighbours build theirs has inspired me to construct one too.”

Naiku Lekumoisa – community Member, Naisunyai

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 :

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