

GENDER LENS

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Gender Lens 9th Edition



The beneficiaries of Jasiri Fund from Msambweni and Kwale sub-counties along with CCGD's Microfinance and Entrepreneurship Program Officer, Maureen Wairimu (far right) and Kwale County Administrator Vicky Kisilu (far left) during an entrepreneurship training in Msambweni, Kwale County.



Members of Baringo County Gender Sector Working Group during the International Day for Zero Tolerance for FGM celebrations in Kiserian, Baringo South, Baringo County.

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Illchamus community told to shun FGM

By Carol Jebet



Ms. Janet Lekitewei anti-FGM activist speaking during the International Day for Zero Tolerance for FGM in Kiserian, Baringo South, Baringo County. She called upon the Illchamus community to take girls to school as it's the strongest weapon to end FGM. ((Picture: Carol Jebet, CCGD)

The Illchamus community in Baringo South has been told to shun the practice of FGM as the county marked the 2023 International Day for Zero Tolerance for FGM at Kiserian in Baringo South, Baringo County on Saturday, February 11, 2023.

Speaking during the celebrations, Baringo County Director for Gender and Youth Affairs Mr. Luka Aengwo called on the Illchamus community to stop the practice of FGM and other harmful cultural practices: “Kenya banned the practice in 2011 and those who are still subjecting women and girls to the cut are breaking the law”.

He called on the community to embrace education saying, education will help girls and boys in shunning the retrogressive cultural practices which have led to the marginalization of the Illchamus community.

The County Director of Gender urged young men to support women and girls in the fight against FGM. “I urge you young men to take an active role in the prevention of violence including FGM you can use the toll-free numbers – 1195 and 116 to report perpetrators of FGM, child marriage, and other forms of sexual gender-based violence,” he said.

On his part, the area Member of the County Assembly, Hon. Paul Lolgisoi promised to work with Baringo County legislators to enact laws to fund the efforts toward ending GBV including FGM in Baringo County.

According to the [2022 Kenya Demographic Health Survey \(KDHS\)](#), the prevalence of FGM has reduced from 38 percent in 1998 to 15 percent in 2022. This was attributed to the robust campaign against FGM by the state and non-state actors, the existence of the strong policy and legal frameworks against FGM and the political goodwill set by the former and current leadership in ending FGM in Kenya.

CCGD with support from [UNFPA -Kenya](#) will lead in the implementation of the program in Baringo, West Pokot, Samburu and Marasabit counties. During the five-year implementation plan, CCGD will work with various partners including the youth and women and the County Anti-FGM Steering Committee on the Coordination of the fight against FGM and other harmful traditional practices.

TeenSeed Africa seeks partnerships to enhance support to survivors of SGBV

By Purity Jebor



CCGD Executive Director, Mr. Masheti Masinjila (far left) and TeenSeed Africa Director, Ms. Winnie Obure with a team from the two organizations during the courtesy visit by TeenSeed Africa. (Picture: Maurice Goga, CCGD)

[TeenSeed Africa](#) is a local community-based organization based in Kayole and Kiambu area of Nairobi County.

The Executive Director TeenSeed Africa, Ms. Winnie Obure says TeenSeed Africa's main program's focus is on survivors of SGBV – women and teens. Further, they also work around the prevention of teenage pregnancies through Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), training community members to become gender equality champions and economically empowering the survivors of SGBV through the provision of 'seed grants.' Teen Seed Africa also upholds the education of young mothers by ensuring that they go back to school after delivery. The organization is also involved in the male engagement program where they hold discussions with men as a way of building a community of male champions against SGBV. Teen Seed also operates a safe shelter that provides a safe space for survivors of SGBV.

CCGD is in the process of exploring ways of working in partnership with TeenSeed Africa to enhance youth-lead coalitions against SGBV.



TeenSeed Africa Executive Director, Ms. Winnie Obure having a session with youth at their offices in Kiambu. (Picture Courtesy: TeenSeed Africa web)

Role of young men and boys in ending FGM

By Eva Ntinyari & Emily Nungari

WHAT ROLE DO YOUNG MEN AND BOYS PLAY IN ERADICATION OF FGM IN KENYA?

Panelist



Leshan Kereto
Founder
Tareto Africa



Jedidah Lemaron
Executive Director
Malkia Initiative



Kalu Lepariyo
Youth Senator - Baringo County
Youth Senate Kenya



Maurice Goga
Moderator

16th February 2023

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Twitter Space

 **@CCGD_KE**

<https://twitter.com/i/spaces/1OdKrzeZnmqKX>



Poster for the Twitter Space on What role do young men and boys play in eradication of FGM in Kenya held on 16th February 2023. (Design: Maurice Goga, CCGD)

The theme for the 2023 International Day for Zero Tolerance for FGM- *'Partnering with men and boys to transform social and gender norms to end Female Genital Mutilation'* highlights the need for male engagement in lifting the voices of women and girls in the campaign to end FGM.

A 2020 study by the [UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of FGM](#) found that 89 percent of boys and men and 92 percent of girls and women were opposed to FGM. Meaning for FGM to end, there is a need for actors to address social norms that perpetuate the practice of FGM with a key focus on the active involvement of men and boys as partners in ending FGM.

In line with the 2023 theme, Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development (CCGD) organized a [Twitter Space on what role young men and boys play in the eradication of FGM in Kenya](#) on Thursday, February 16, 2023.

Speaking during the space, Baringo County Youth Senator, Kalu Lepariyo noted that the fact that the African setting is a patriarchal setting in nature disadvantages the women and girls since men play a pivotal role in cultural issues since they are the custodians of those cultural structures, beliefs and systems.

"Women have been disadvantaged and subjected to FGM and other cultural practices since they don't have much say when it comes to cultural issues," he said.

He added that the conversations around FGM have been a women's affair for the longest time and men have been on the bench when it comes to such conversations. He, however, lauded the change that has been witnessed in the recent campaigns to end FGM where a number of young men have joined the campaign to end FGM in Kenya.

"It is now encouraging to see young men like my brother Leshan coming out clearly to challenge the government and other key stakeholders to take action against FGM. Others have even called for their involvement in advocacy against FGM," he said.

The SDG5 champion called for the empowerment and education of women and girls as the way to emancipate them from the bondage of FGM and other harmful cultural practices.

On his part, the Chairperson of the UNFPA Youth Advisory Panel, Mr. Leshan Kereto noted women and girls often become vulnerable to FGM and other harmful cultural practices during conflicts and disasters such as drought.

"When drought strikes, young girls have to be given out for marriage to get back the cattle that have died. For this to happen, the girls have to marriage through FGM," he said.

The Executive Director of Malkia Initiative,.....[Read More](#)

Jasiri Fund changes the lives of survivors

By Maurice Goga



Mrs. Josephine Jerop one of the women beneficiaries of Jasiri Fund in Kinango sub-county, Kwale County. (Picture: Vicky Kisilu, CCGD)

Jasiri Fund boosted my business after the COVID-19 pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic disrupted business operations in Kenya as in other parts of the world.

For Ms. Josephine Jerop, a hotelier in Kinango sub-county, Kwale County her hotel business was shutdown. The profit she had made before the shutdown is what she survived on until the normal return. Upon resuming after covid-19 restrictions were lifted there were still fears of contracting the disease through places of gathering such as the hotels thus making it hard for her to make a profit.

Ms. Jerop hopes were revived after she learned about the existence of Jasiri Fund: a micro finance project through a friend.

After being listed as the beneficiary of the....[Read more](#)



Mrs. Zan Rashid Zan (left) water vendor in Matuga sub-county, Kwale County receives payment from a customer (Picture: Vicky Kisilu, CCGD)

Quenching community thirst through Jasiri Fund

Upon our arrival at Mrs Zan Rashid Zan’s homestead, we meet with several women with water jerricans on their heads, a sign that her homestead is a fount of the basic commodity that the community depends on.

Mrs Zan Rashid Zan is a renowned water vendor in the Matuga sub-county, Kwale County. She has been in the water business for the past 10 years quenching the thirst of her community.

Despite being in the business for a period of 10 years, she has not been able to serve the community fully since she did not have a proper water reservoir to reserve enough water for the community. However, things took a new turn when she learned about the existence of the Jasiri Fund.

“I learned about Jasiri Fund through a friend who informed me that there is an organization called Collaborative Centre for Gender Development (CCGD) ...[Read more](#)



Ms. Dolrose Awino during an interview on impacts of Jasiri Fund on the lives of women beneficiaries (Photo: Vicky Kisilu)

Profits from the Jasiri Fund loan brought relief in my life

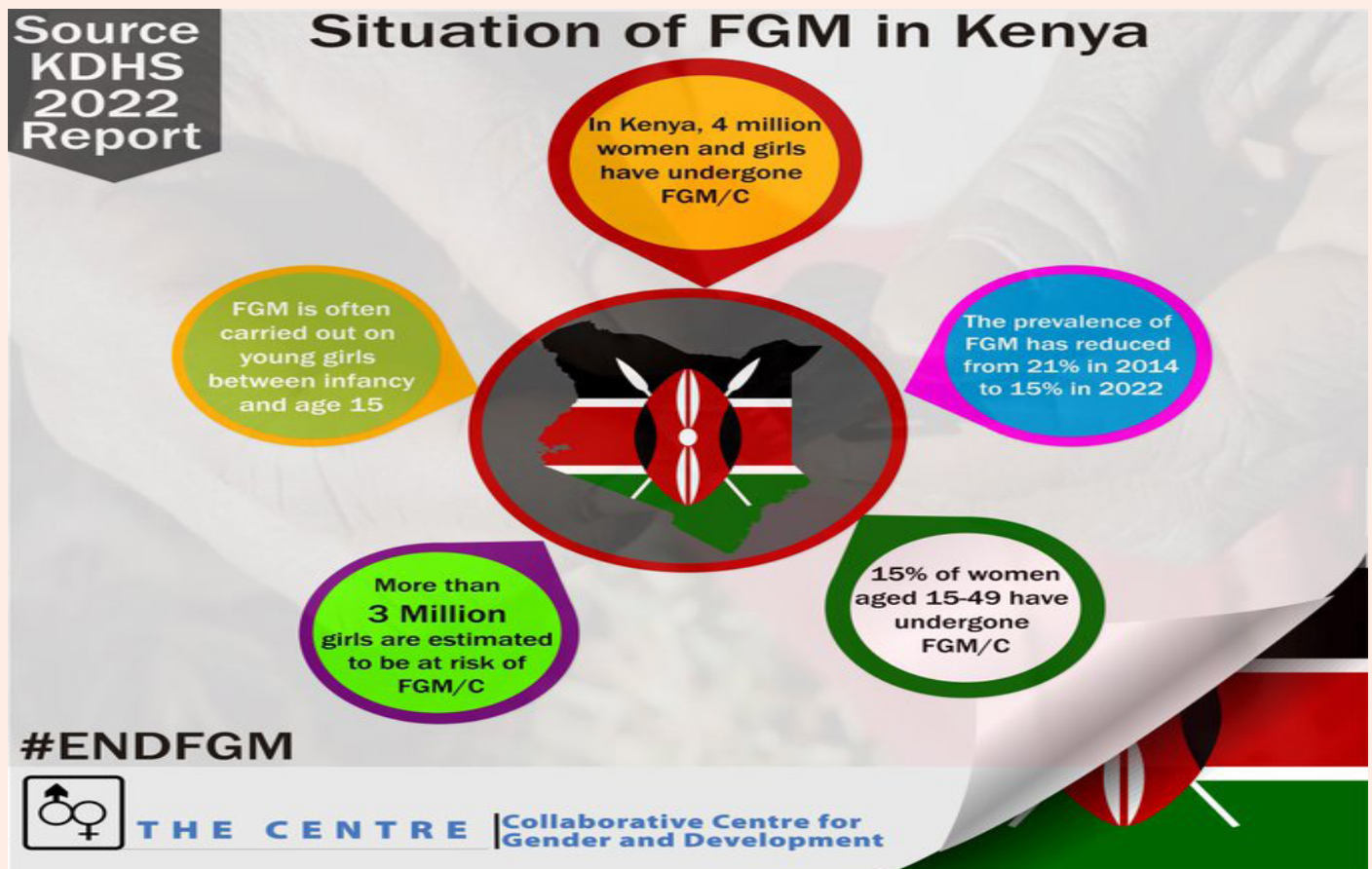
Covid -19 nearly brought to a halt business operations not only in Kenya but globally. This follows the stiff measures that were placed to curb the spread of the virus, these measures affected women’s labour markets. Businesses such as greengrocery, mitumba (second-hand) clothes, and fish mongering which are dominated by women were hard hit as compared to those operated by men. The situation was exacerbated by the spike in cases of gender-based violence witnessed during the stay-at-home period.

To re-energize and rebuild the resilience of women survivors of SGBV, Mastercard Foundation supported a consortium of three organizations- CREAM, Groots Kenya and CCGD to develop Jasiri Fund. This non-collateral loan sought to facilitate affordable financial services for women survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Kenya in the wake of Covid-19.

To date, over 700 women have benefitted from the program. One of them is Ms Dolrose Awino, a greengrocery businesswoman based at Kinango market in Kwale County. Despite having a successful business before the onset of Covid-19,[Read more](#)

More needs to be done toward the eradication of FGM in Kenya

By Maurice Goga



Situation of FGM in Kenya - according to KDHS 2022 report (Design: Maurice Goga,CCGD)

The youth have called on the various stakeholders in the campaign against FGM to fasten their belts if the country is to witness zero FGM by 2030

Speaking during the Twitter Space, Leshan Kereto, the Chairperson UNFPA Youth Advisory Panel noted despite Kenya's lead towards ending FGM in Africa, there are many things that the country desire to do if the vice is to be eliminated by 2030.

Adding that a 6% reduction in the prevalence of FGM from 21 percent in 2014 to 15 percent in 2022 requires the stakeholders to fasten their belts if the country is to witness zero FGM by 2030.

He noted that there is a need for the country to improve on economic investment in ending FGM to enable the country to end FGM by 2030.

"We are not having enough funding globally, the resources that are needed to prevent a girl from undergoing FGM is 9 dollars per girl and what we have is not even close to that," said Leshan.

The Anti-FGM award winner called on the government to increase funding to the Anti-FGM Board and fund the community-based organizations fighting FGM at the grassroots level.

"As a country, the economic component should come out very well – let's support CBOs to continue supporting girl child education because we all know that education is the only way we can run away from harmful cultural practic-

es," he said.

On her part, Jedidah Lemaron, Executive Director at Malkia Initiative attributed the reduction of FGM in Kenya to the robust anti-FGM campaigns that have been carried out by different actors including the youth who have come on board to campaign against vice in their respective counties.

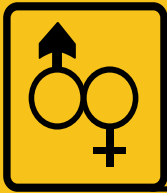
She added that the existence of legal and policy frameworks against FGM also contributed to the reduction of the prevalence of FGM in the country.

"Existence of legal and policy frameworks such as the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act, 2011, the National Eradication of FGM Policy and the county-based policies such the anti-FGM policy by Kajiado County are some of the key strides that led to the reduction of FGM in Kenya," said Jedidah.

She, however, called upon the KNBS to release the county-specific data on FGM saying communities have become tactful when it comes to the practice of FGM as a way to circumvent the law.

"It will be interesting to see the numbers because of emerging trends in FGM – where communities have developed new strategies of practicing FGM," she said.

Ms. Lemaron called for resourcing of grassroots organizations more specifically those ran by the youth who are at the frontline of the campaign against FGM. She cited the Kuria youth who came out strongly to oppose the practice of FGM during the last December holiday. [Read more](#)



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East African Civil Society
Organizations' Forum

*Strengthening Civil Society in the
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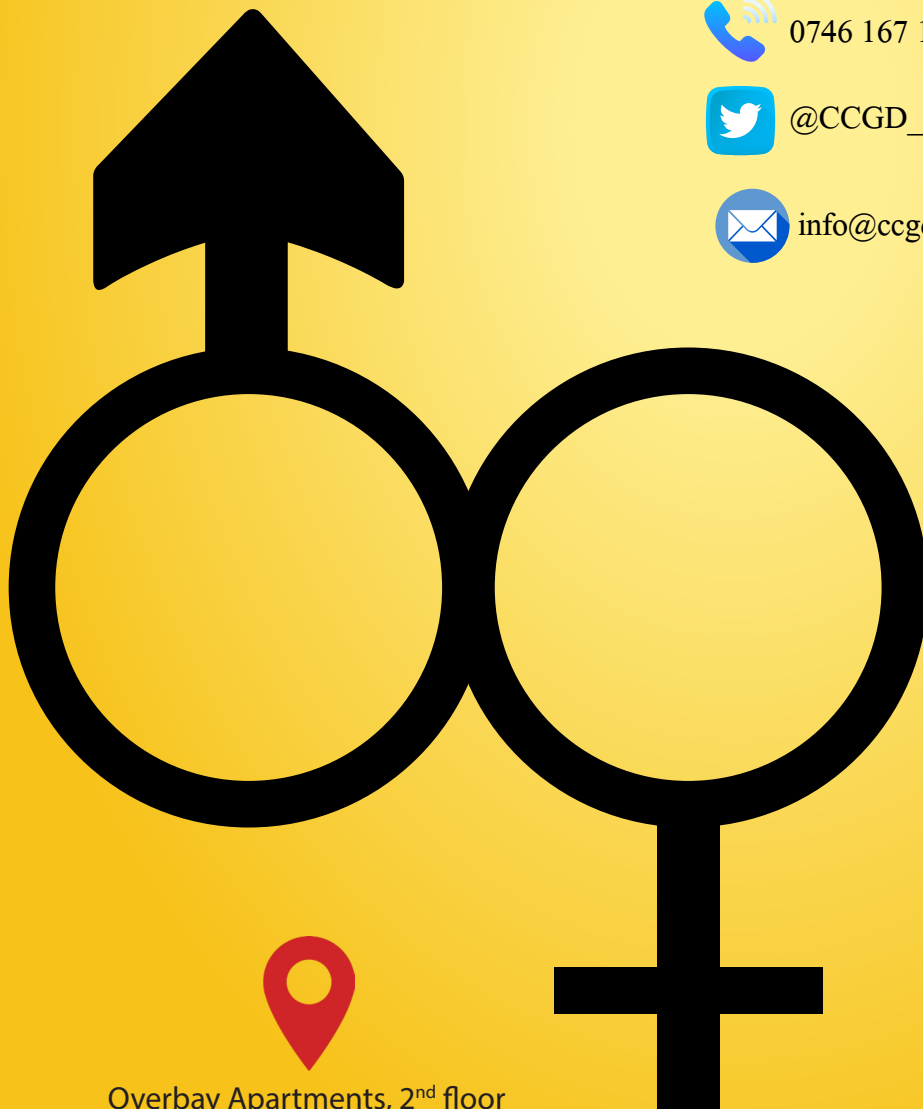
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