



“I’ve witnessed transformed lives through changing culture . . . World Vision has been doing this in West Pokot, Kenya for 10 years.”

—Margo Day, World Vision National Leadership Council member



“I’ve seen firsthand that when young women’s lives are transformed, they in turn become powerful agents of change in their communities.”

—Suzanne Broetje, World Vision Partner Executive Director, Vista Hermosa Foundation



KENYA BIG DREAM END FGM AND CHILD MARRIAGE

“What we are doing has brought changes in the community—attitudes, knowledge, practices, habits.”

—Moses, Child Protection and Education Manager, World Vision Kenya

Be a part of brighter futures—for all

For generations, girls in Kenya have been held back by the practices of FGM and child marriage. Together, we can change that. Our sustainable community development approach is shifting attitudes and actions to better protect children. Cultural values around marriage, education, finances, and family are being transformed with everyone contributing to the effort.

OUR APPROACH WORKS. Partner with us to put it to work for vulnerable girls, so they can grow into all God made them to be—and make waves of change in their communities.



Contact your World Vision representative to learn how you can join the movement to protect and empower girls.

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

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“I didn’t want to get married, but he forced me to his house.”

—Rovina C., who escaped child marriage

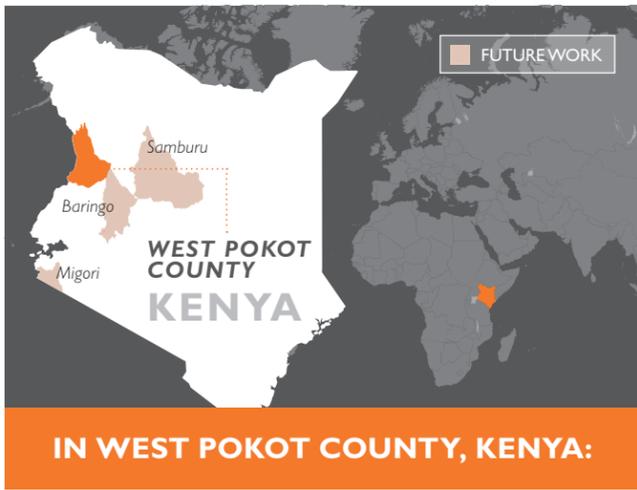


In many cultures, female genital mutilation (FGM)—also known as cutting—symbolizes the transition from girlhood to womanhood and is a valued traditional practice. But it has devastating physical and psychological effects on girls, some short-term and some lifelong. An estimated 200 million women and girls alive today have been subjected to FGM, which involves removal of part or the whole of the external female genitalia. This harmful practice can hold dangerous implications for girls’ marriage, health, education, and future work.

Why it’s happening

In Kenya, FGM—which girls usually go through just before or after puberty—is a direct precursor to child marriage. Often, girls aren’t considered eligible for marriage until they’ve been cut, and families see marriage as the only way for their girls to have a financially stable future. A dowry paid to parents by a girl’s husband can mean a great deal to a family in extreme poverty. Although significant progress has been made toward ending child marriage globally, about 650 million of the world’s girls and women were married before their 18th birthday.

Both FGM and child marriage hold girls back from an education—reducing enrollment rates and increasing dropout and illiteracy rates. This prevents them from realizing their dreams and potential, and from contributing their gifts to improve their families and communities.



IN WEST POKOT COUNTY, KENYA:

3 IN 4
GIRLS REPORT
HAVING BEEN
CUT



AND

2X MORE
GIRLS
AGED 15-19 ARE CUT THAN
GIRLS IN OTHER REGIONS

GIRLS' MEDIAN AGE
OF MARRIAGE IS 15



FROM 2012-2019, THROUGH
WORLD VISION PROGRAMS:



2,573 GIRLS
PARTICIPATED IN
ALTERNATIVE RITES
OF PASSAGE rather than
undergo FGM

AND

2,717 CHILDREN
RECEIVED ASSISTANCE WITH
EDUCATION



KENYA BIG DREAM PROVEN PROGRAMS AND A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

A holistic approach is the best way to create lasting changes and shift attitudes away from FGM and child marriage. So we align our programs with the strategies the WHO identifies as proven to prevent violence against children. World Vision and partners in all **four rings of responsibility** (right) work together to protect children, creating change through:

- EDUCATION**
- ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT**
- CHILD PROTECTION**

The result? Girls are empowered to dream bigger and take hold of their futures.

In a 2015 study, more than nine in 10 people surveyed in West Pokot agreed that most people would like to see the practice of FGM ended.



1

Our program works to **EMPOWER ALL CHILDREN** to play active roles in change among their peers, parents, and communities to end FGM and child marriage.

EDUCATION'S TRANSFORMATIVE ROLE

- » By supporting their education, we enable girls and boys to become better readers and writers, learn life skills like conflict resolution, and engage in vocational or entrepreneurship training, gaining the resources they need to succeed.
- » To increase children's access to education, we work with the government to invest in quality local schools.
- » With the community's input, we create Alternative Rite of Passage ceremonies for both girls and boys that replace FGM, helping them see their value in God's eyes and their potential as agents of change. Boys learn to have more positive perceptions of girls who have not undergone FGM, opening a new path to marriage and a shift in cultural attitudes.

2

Kids can flourish when they're supported by loving and stable families. Our positive parenting and economic development programs **STRENGTHEN FAMILIES** to protect, nurture, and support children, keeping them safe from all forms of abuse. Families gain new opportunities and become less economically vulnerable—and less likely to choose child marriage and FGM as a way out of poverty. Then, they're freer to invest in their children's futures.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT THAT LASTS

- » In Savings for Transformation groups, wage earners—including women and those who used to perform FGM on girls—learn financial principles and get access to savings and loan opportunities that boost and stabilize their incomes.
- » Our Celebrating Families workshops equip parents and their children to create loving and protective households.
- » Biblically based Empowered Worldview trainings ground people in their identities as children of God and deepen their responsibility for stewarding relationships with their families, communities, and the environment.

3

We **MOBILIZE FAITH LEADERS**, local elders, and other influential community members to work for safe and protective environments where children can thrive.

CHILD PROTECTION LED BY THE COMMUNITY

- » Through our Channels of Hope workshops, faith leaders engage their congregations to take action, serving as champions and advocates for protecting the most vulnerable children.
- » We engage the community in transformative dialogue through dramas and radio shows to change attitudes about child protection issues.

4

To be sustainable, change must reach all levels of society. We empower communities to **INFLUENCE GOVERNMENTS** for strengthened national and regional child protection systems and structures.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

- » Community-led advocacy groups—called Citizen Voice and Action—watch over the efforts of officials working to eliminate FGM and child marriage, keeping them accountable to their promises.
- » We support and advocate for laws and policies that protect children, addressing the larger problems that rob kids of their God-given dignity.
- » We work with partners to enhance children's services on a national level and support other government agencies to provide the best possible help to kids when they need it most. We equip youth to engage leaders through local, county, and national child protection forums—using their own voices to keep themselves and others safer.