

Accelerating FGM Prevention and Abandonment in Central Rift Region Kenya.

End term Evaluation



Acknowledgement

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Acronyms

CKU-	Centre for Church based Development
DGSS-	Department of Gender and Social services
FGD-	Focus Group Discussion
GBV-	Gender Based Violence
SGBV-	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
ToR-	Terms of reference
HR	Human rights

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

FPFK has 10 branch churches with about 1000 members in Baringo County (Tiaty, Mogotio, Eldama Ravine, Baringo central, Baringo north and Baringo south) and been in existence in the area for over 20 years doing both mission work and church diaconal work.

On FGM interventions, FPFK is well conversant and has immense capacity having begun the work by rescuing girls at risk of FGM and offering them shelter since 2005 and carrying out an FGM intervention for five years within Marigat areas in Baringo County. Further the 10 FPFK churches have been actively engaged in ARPs (Alternative Rite of Passage) within the area. The church has a very good rapport with the authorities and other partners working within the targeted county. FPFK Langalanga funds anti-FGM from own financial sources by housing girls who have been rescued from FGM. The church supports the girls up keep in their church run rescue shelter. Being a branch church FPFK Langalanga has been using the FPFK National policy on FGM and has contextualised the policy in its strategic plan part of which entails sheltering and rehabilitating FGM victims in its shelter.

The present application was thus geared towards informing and influencing FGM policies and legal frameworks within Baringo County.

Aims and purpose of the End term Evaluation

The purpose of the evaluation was to:

- Assess the outcome and the impact the project has had on the targeted beneficiaries.
- Determine, the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the project
- Assess the achievements of the project against its stated outcomes, including a re-examination of the relevance of the outcomes and of the project design.
- Identify significant factors that have either facilitated or impeded the delivery of outcomes.
- Lead to recommendations and lessons learned for the future.
- Give details of recommendations on how FPFK can further FGM prevention and abandonment and areas that still requires to be enhanced.

Evaluation Methodology

A multi-method, rights based and gender sensitive participatory approach was used in the evaluation. The methodological mix comprised a literature review; semi structured key informant interviews, focus group discussions with beneficiary groups and personal observations by the consultants. The inception meeting with project staff highlighted the overall scope, focus and timeframe for the evaluation. Relevant programme documents were reviewed before and during the evaluation. FGDs were conducted with project formed groups.

This end term evaluation was to assess the development and performance of the project in the period between 1st December 2021-30th November 2023 especially focus to the achievement of the project objectives through the indicators. The ToR of this review aimed at reviewing the Scope of work done by the project, Relevance of the project to target group, Effectiveness of the project,

Sustainability, Organisational structure and staffing, Involvement of local authorities, Lessons learned and recommendations.

The review which was participatory depended on both primary and secondary data. The primary data was collected through interview schedules, FGD and observations. Secondary data was mainly from project records and documentations.

Summary of Key Findings from the Field

Relevance

- i. Project Contribution to FGM awareness and the existing legal frameworks and policies results indicated that majority of the project target community members were now knowledgeable on FGM legal frameworks and policies and at least over 78% of the duty bearers had knowledge on the existing FGM policies and were ready to enact the existing laws.
- ii. On project strategy to influence duty bearers and political leaders to accelerate FGM abandonment through policies and legal frameworks domestication, enactment and implementation, over 300 multi-sectoral stakeholders have been trained on various legal frameworks and policies which have empowered them towards enacting them and monitoring progress.
- iii. The working relation and capacity among FPFK has continued to grow. 90% of the church board members and PSC members are in touch with the project and the project staffs expressed a sense of support across board

Efficiency

- i. Community involvement – A key achievement has been the extent to which people have broken their silence on the issues of FGM. To most community members, the project activities have significance in changing their perception, understanding and handling of FGM within their homes and villages.
- ii. Personnel and Equipment - The Project staff exhibited adequate knowledge of the project mandate and direction.
- iii. Partnership - The project partnership was adequate and functioned very well with joint training, awareness campaigns and advocacy.
- iv. Project Implementation – the project was well managed. Apart from the delay in implementing some activities such as mid-term evaluation, other project activities were conducted within the set time frame.
- v. Project risks and assumptions – these were realistically formulated and relevant, and so were the mitigation strategies. It was easy for the project to remain flexible and adapt activities to the changes in the socio-economic environment.

Effectiveness

- i. Multi stakeholder trainings – The training of the church leaders, members of County GBV clusters, Government officials(medical practitioners, police and judiciary), local leaders (chiefs and assistance chiefs) and national government administrative officials within the county was an important project strategy of increasing the awareness county FGM policies and legal framework.
- ii. FGM legal frameworks and policies Awareness meetings – these were effective in reaching the community members and sensitizing them, however these campaigns were confined to limited population/area where they were conducted.
- iii. Ant GBV cluster- This cluster is umbrella body that coordinates different organizations (Over 25 organizations) and institutions that deal with issues of gender based violence including FGM in Baringo County. The cluster has had significant impacts in coordination the FGM programs to avoid duplication of efforts, advocating and enforcing of the policies dealing with FGM issues and championing for the rights and justice of the victims.

Impact

- i. Project initiatives have positive ripple effects that can be built on throughout by other subsequent projects
- ii. The formation of local committees have impacted more on community members especially gaining confidence with the project activities and appreciating involvement of their own in solving their problems.
- iii. Advocacy – this has made great impact in terms of creating FGM awareness within the target area though this needs to be scaled up. Currently over 60% of the respondents have knowledge on some various existing FGM laws and policies.
- iv. Increased engagement of civil society with policymakers: The support of GBV county technical working group meetings on implementation of existing FGM policies at the county level has had many positive impacts in ensuring that the duty bearers and political leaders are contextualizing national policies, allocating funds for FGM activities at the county level and monitoring utilization of FGM activities allocated funds.

Sustainability

- i. Development priorities with local involvement – Inclusion of local government officials like the area chiefs, training of local committees and other local leaders in project implementation, enhances community project ownership and continued project activities even after the end of the project
- ii. Project Design – the project was rightly designed, however there is need to strengthen the capacity of the community structures (local committees) by training them in depth on the FGM legal frameworks and policies as well as advocacy strategies as they are a focal point within the communities who the community members relay on for information and guidance.
- iii. Funding- The project was well funded but given another opportunity it needs to invest more on FGM legal frameworks and policies awareness campaigns, more support and capacity building of anti GBV cluster and local committees , conducting annual alternative rites of passage and training of youths and children.

Replicability

- i. Strategies for human rights awareness are replicable to different localities within and outside the target area.
- ii. Information Dissemination; The impacts and outcomes of the project, if shared more widely, have the potential to influence demand for development of FGM trainings and advocacy materials in other parts of the country and beyond.

Summary of Key Recommendations

- There is a need to train the youths and the children separate from the general community on FGM legal frameworks and policies.
- Need of strengthening the 6 sub-county local committees in advocacy.
- Need to conduct annual alternative rites of passage (ARPs).
- There is need of strengthening and supporting the anti GBV cluster.
- Need to offer the project staff and steering committee on advocacy, community mobilization and project cycle management to improve their output and increase their efficiency.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PPFK Langalanga in collaboration with IAS is running a project “Accelerating FGM prevention and abandonment in Central Rift Region Kenya”. The main aim is to ensure policies and legal frameworks are being implemented and monitored at the county level contributing towards zero-rating of FGM by 2023 This is implemented in entire Baringo county which has six sub-counties (Tiaty, Mogotio, Eldama Ravine, Baringo central, Baringo north and Baringo south)

Project objectives

1. FGM abandonment accelerated by duty bearers/ political leaders through policies and legal frameworks formulation, enactment and implementation.
2. Community members and existing organised structures (local committees) are empowered on existing FGM policies& legal frameworks and are advocating duty bearers on FGM policy implementation and influencing other community members(women and men).
3. PPFK has better capacity to generate and use evidence and data to inform policy and improve programming

Project expected output

- FGM stakeholders within the county are aware of existing County policies and legal frameworks on FGM eradication
- Increased engagement (dialogues on strategies) of civil society with policymakers on Implementation of existing FGM policies at the county level.
- Strengthened county accountability mechanisms for ensuring increased county assembly members commitment to end FGM
- Community members and organized structures(VSLA groups and local committees) are empowered on existing FGM policies& legal frameworks and are advocating duty bearers on FGM policy implementation and influencing other community members
- Enhanced public participation in county FGM policy formulation and implementation
- Increased engagement of the community members and community organized groups with the duty bearers on FGM prevention at the county level
- Increased capacity of PPFK Langalanga social arm to collate FGM evidence based data and disseminate to its regional constituencies.
- Project staffs capacity of data collection, analysis and case studies recording is enhanced
- Project Steering Committee (PSC), church board and staff bond to forge a better working relationship is enhanced.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Preliminary consultations were held with the client representative to finalize on the logistics and validate the working schedule. Fine tuning and clarification of key issues as per ToR was also done. There was general agreement on quality of information expected, the duration of the work, the geographical coverage and stakeholders to be consulted. The review consulted 300 respondents in total.

a) Phase 1 – Start of Work/Preparatory Work

This included discussions and negotiations between the client and the consultant particularly seeking to establish the project result (s) and the indicators designed in log frame matrix. The basis on which the project beneficiaries and the targeted communities were identified and quantified was reviewed and consensus reached. This meeting was also used to elaborate the following aspects of the survey.

- The detailed work plan
- The definitive working timetable including exact dates of beginning and end, in addition to deadline for preliminary and final reports
- Identification of the key stakeholders to be consulted

b) Phase 2- Document Identification and Literature Review

This included the review of the project documents with the primary objective of enhancing evaluators understanding and internalizing the project activities. The main documents reviewed included, but were not limited to:

- Project Proposal Document (activity plan, budget, logical framework)
- Narrative reports

Once the documents were reviewed, the consultant embarked on fieldwork phase

c) Phase 3- Fieldwork

This phase was to be used to deepen the preliminary analysis realized during the previous phase (review of literature and consultation with the client) and verification of this information on the ground. The consultant worked closely with the project staff guided by field work design that contained the following information

- An indicative list of stakeholders to be interviewed.
- Methodological tools to be used (questionnaires).

The field work survey was split into two, namely;

Qualitative Survey

Qualitative data was gathered using various tools including structured direct observation, key informant interviews and community consultative meetings/focus group discussions as discussed below:

1. Field Visits and observations.

The consultant visited the project target areas and had a first-hand impression and understanding of the project impacts to the target beneficiaries.

2. Interviews.

i. Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

Interviews were carried out to selected beneficiaries, community opinion leaders, and administration and project managers. These interviews were conducted in order to verify the actual situation of stakeholders understanding and impacts of the project. Other information collected from these informants was the altitude of the community to the project, additional expectations and opportunities for project progress.

ii. Focused group Discussions (FGDs)

The FGDs were conducted using the project working groups and targeted community members. The questions targeted towards answering key questions along the project impacts to the community, project achievements, project challenges and opportunities

Quantitative Survey

To gather quantitative data, short, well-designed questionnaires were administered to sampled HHs among the beneficiaries and the targeted communities. The data collected supplemented the qualitative data collected. The administration of the household questionnaires was conducted by the key consultant, two research assistants with the help of human rights project officers.

d) Phase 4 - Data Analysis and Report Writing

Qualitative data

The qualitative data was analyzed through content analysis

Quantitative Data

This data was analyzed using SPSS package

3. FINDINGS FROM THE EVALUATION

3.1 Relevance

It was clear that FGM and Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) were common among the target communities due to deep cultural practices within the area and high ignorance levels. Informants indicated that project beneficiaries are now more knowledgeable about FGM especially legal frameworks and existing policies. One informant also emphasized the role played by the project in empowering communities, pointing out that empowerment is the key that unlocks the community ignorance and believe of issues affecting them.

Outcome 1:

- On project strategy to influence duty bearers and political leaders to accelerate FGM abandonment through policies and legal frameworks domestication, enactment and implementation, over 300 multi-sectoral stakeholders have been trained on various legal frameworks and policies which have empowered them towards enacting them and monitoring progress.

The trained members belong to the civil society, the county and national government as well as religious leaders from the six sub-counties. They have formed committees to steer the policies enactment and domestication where necessary. However, the process is a bit slow due to bureaucracy in the government but albeit slow progress it was reported that the FGM budgetary allocation had increased with 5% within the last two years. On specific indicators, the results were as below.

- **Enforced legislation criminalizing FGM: # arrests, # cases brought to court, #convictions and sanctions.**

Notably from the county gender desk, there has been an increase in the number of FGM cases reported at the police station especially through the local administration and the community members. In year 2022 the police gender desk in Marigat police post indicated 15 cases reported (7 attempted FGM-girls were rescued) and 8 executed FGM). Out of the 8 cases 2 were medicalised cases. 24 arrests were made but later the suspects were released on bail. There are 12 active cases in court and none has been convicted as yet. Compared to the previous year 2021, there was increased reporting by 1% according to the gender desk officer Marigat police post. The other sub-county did not have data on the same during our evaluation as majority did not have gender desks officers making the cases be document as general crimes.

- **Increased allocation and utilization of funds for FGM eradication.**

The county gender officer indicated that through the county anti GBV cluster and other gender committees within the county, the gender department had successfully lobbied for increment of county budgetary allocation on GBV (where FGM issues fall) by 5% for 2022/2023 financial year which was a major stride. Asked on how the department planned to utilize the funds especially as regards FGM eradication, she retaliated that they prioritized community sensitization of FGM eradication, alternative rites of passage and also had a long term plan of establishing a government safe shelter by 2025 and was setting aside funds every year for the shelter.

- **Establishment of a County FGM monitoring mechanism characterized by: County FGM administrative data and an annual implementation review system to help in coming up with evidence-based interventions on FGM.**

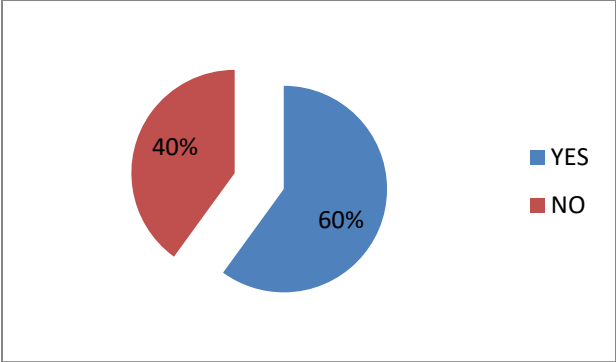
By the time of the evaluation, the FGM monitoring mechanism was at its final stages of development according to the county government gender director. She estimated it to be 70% complete and exuded confidence of putting it into test by August 2024. She indicated

a need of having a robust awareness on the system to the entire stakeholder for the success of its intended purpose. She termed the tool as one of the major accomplishments in the fight against FGM as it would enable the government and other stakeholders come up with interventions that are informed by data, thus increased chances of addressing the real issues on the ground.

Outcome 2:

- Project Contribution to FGM awareness and the existing legal frameworks and policies results indicated that majority of the project target community members and organized structures (local committees) were now knowledgeable on FGM legal frameworks and policies and at least over 78% are advocating duty bearers on FGM policy implementation and influencing other community members.

The project conducted a number of FGM awareness especially on existing legal frameworks and laws, budgeting process and public participation as well as advocacy against FGM; however this information reached mainly those who attended the organized awareness meetings. Despite this limit, the impact of the awareness in reducing the cases of FGM was above average.



Response to; do you think the level of FGM cases have decreased in this area?

This outcome was measured through a number of indicators as follows:

- **Local committee in each of the five sub-counties (1 sub-county has local committees already) are formed and empowered to advocate the duty bearers on FGM policy implementation.**

Use of local resource persons is a powerful tool to ensure community buy-in into the project and also ensures sustainability way beyond the project implementation period. 6 local committees whose formation was facilitated by FPFK FGM project are inexistence in the 6 sub-counties within Baringo County. The committees are mixed in gender all of them having at least 30% of women. Also there are some young members as well as older people.3 out of the 6 committees including the one that had been formed earlier seems more progressed in terms of their advocacy and relationship with the county and national government. The other 3(Baringo- north, Tiaty and Baringo south) needs more follow up and support especially because they experience regular disruptions by bouts of insecurity within the areas. 75% of the committee’s members indicated to have acquired enough knowledge to enable them advocate the government and other duty bearers on FGM within the county. There is a need however, to continually enhance their capacities on existing county and national government FGM accountability systems to enhance their levels of engagement with the duty bearers.

- **6 sub-county context based FGM community charters adopted by the county assembly gender committee.**

In all the 6 sub-counties the members developed community charters based on each sub-county FGM issues. For instance in Baringo central especially parts of Marigat , the charter focused majorly on medicalised FGM for older women while as that of Tiaty was more on middle aged girls FGM. 4 of the sub-county charters had been presented to the county assembly gender committee and were instrumental in shaping the discussions that informed the 2022/2023 annual CIDP (County integrated development plan).

- **60 community members (10 key opinion leaders from each of the 6 sub-counties) are sensitized on the county FGM laws and policies and are actively participating in FGM eradication activities like alternative rites of passage.**

89% of the trained community opinion leaders exuded confidence in having gained substantial k information on county FGM laws and policies to enable them influence other community members to abandon FGM. 2 annual ARPs (alternative rites of passage) were conducted within the County during the project period and out of the 60 trained community members 52 were actively engaged in planning, mobilizing the community members and implementing the activities. Besides the annual events some trained members indicated to have been using other forums to pass on the information. One informant said “As young people, we normally have football matches weekly. During the match we take some time to interact with the spectators and players and pass on information on FGM. Youths also need to be actively engaged in matters affecting our communities.”

Outcome 3:

- The working relation and capacity among FPFK has developed. 90% of the church board members and PSC members are in touch with the project and the project staffs expressed a sense of support across board.

The website was still work in progress with 60% work completed. 87 % of the church board members and PSC members expressed the desire to learn more on development work within the church. There needs to be more meetings among the church board members, PSC members and project staff for enhanced coordination and project outcome delivery. On the outcome indicators, the evaluation results indicated that;

- **Establishment of FPFK’s data system on FGM that informs interventions through FPFK churches in the county.**

FPFK social arm has been collecting data on FGM within Baringo County and has a database on the same. The data however has not been consumed by the local churches to inform FGM interventions in their churches.

- **# of churches who implement interventions to fight FGM.**

4 churches in Baringo County are directly involved in FGM interventions especially during the ARPs and are also serving as safe places by housing girls under threat of FGM.

3.2 Efficiency

Community involvement – A key achievement has been the extent to which people have broken their silence on the issues of FGM. To most community members, the project activities have significance in changing their perception, understanding and handling of FGM within their homes

and villages. In this community involvement, use of locally based committees has also contributed to cutting down on field monitoring and support visits by project staff. Chiefs and other government administrators also play critical monitoring and community mobilization roles, thereby again cutting down on cost of driving to the field to mobilize communities to awareness campaigns. The community members highly appreciate the set-up of the local committees units and its operations.

Personnel and Equipment – The project staff exhibited adequate knowledge of the project mandate and direction. The Project manager was suitable for the tasks she had at hand, and so was the field officer, who was based in the field to facilitate adequate support to communities and also for effective monitoring of project activities. Voluntary staff like local committees in all the six sub-counties enabled the project to cut down on operational costs. The office was well equipped with relevant office equipment and had a smooth operation.

Partnership - The project partnership was adequate and functioned very well with joint training, awareness campaigns and advocacy. Notably, a joint ARP was conducted in December 2023 an indication of strong relationships and network with other stakeholders. The project had strong working partnership with:

- Community members
- Red cross
- World vision
- Pastors fellowship Baringo
- Local Administration(area chiefs and assistant chiefs)
- Members of Baringo gender technical working group(over 25 member organizations)
- Government:(Ministry of Health, Ministry of Gender, Sports, Culture and Social Services Ministry of Youth Affairs, Judiciary, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Home Affairs, Probation Department, Children Department, Adult Education Department, The Kenyan Police)
- County government
- Child Legal Awareness Network (CLAN)
- National Legal Aid Programme (NALEP)

This ensured the project received adequate technical support in all its activities.

Project Implementation – the project was well managed. Apart from the delay in implementing some activities in areas that were affected by tribal based conflicts, other project activities were conducted within the set time frame.

Project risks and assumptions – the project risks and assumptions were realistically formulated and relevant, and so were the mitigation strategies. It was easy for the project to remain flexible and adapt activities to the changes in the socio-economic environment. Life in conflict prone areas where the project targeted had many risk and both the beneficiaries of the project and the implementers were vulnerable to high social risks. Due to diversity of culture within the target area, the project was careful in choosing the approach of conveying the message without contravening the cultural values of the people.

3.3 Effectiveness

The project has achieved all its set goals and targets. The participatory approach has been instrumental to this though not without some challenges. For those community members who had

interacted with the project activities, 96 % of them said they were satisfied with the project activities. The project achieved these through:

Multi stakeholder trainings – The training of the church leaders, members of County SGBV clusters, Government officials(medical practitioners, police and judiciary), local leaders (chiefs and assistance chiefs) and national government administrative officials within the county was an important project strategy of increasing the awareness county FGM policies and legal framework. These selected stakeholders were viewed as influential community members who could offer significant change in the community. In total 100 Religious leaders, 25 members of County SGBV clusters, 100 Government officials and 30 national government administrative officials have been trained. All these were instrumental in passing over the information to community members.

On asking about the relevance of the trainings offered the trainees felt that the topics were relevant though the time was too short(two days per training) .93% of the interviewed county cluster members have been able to apply the acquired skills through rescue, counseling of pupils ,sharing with other stakeholders, reporting and referral.

Most experienced challenges in applying acquired skills were inadequate resources to allow for full enactment and implementation of the legal framework and policies. Also the vastness of the area which limits sensitization to the communities.

FGM legal frameworks and policies Awareness meetings – these were effective in reaching the community members and sensitizing them, however these campaigns were confined to limited population/area where they were conducted. The project, through local committees mobilized community members to attend the public participation forums which were held in different areas. Also the 6 local committees were trained on FGM policies and legal frameworks and were to train other community members. A total of 60 local committee members were trained and became anti-FGM advocates. 4 sub- counties were successfully able to present memos to the county government for anti-FGM advocacy and in all the 6 sub-counties an advocacy strategy had been developed. The biggest challenge experienced was high illiteracy levels within the areas and intertribal conflicts in some sub-counties.

Ant GBV cluster- This cluster is umbrella body that coordinates different organizations (Over 25 organizations) and institutions that deal with issues of gender based violence including FGM in Baringo County. The cluster has had significant impacts in coordination the FGM programs to avoid duplication of efforts, advocating and enforcing of the policies dealing with FGM issues and championing for the rights and justice of the victims. Through this project, the cluster has made significant progress such as.

- Contributing towards increment of budgetary allocation on FGM eradication
- Participating in international and national days such as, the day of the Africa child, international AIDS day, international women’s day, 16 days of gender activism, international human right day, and international day of people living with disability.
- Participating in community awareness and campaigns, advocacy and sensitization.
- Enhanced reporting and referral. This has been achieved through the established network by member organizations.
- Data collection on the prevalence of FGM cases.
- Mapping of FGM and human rights violation hot spots within Baringo County.
- Avoidance of duplication of services.
- Lobbying and impacting the government as it is very hard for individual organizations, but through the cluster this has been achieved.

- Holding the government accountable on gender issues including FGM within the county.

3.4 Impact

Project initiatives have positive ripple effects that can be built on throughout by other subsequent projects. The project started by creating awareness to community members on issues of FGM especially the legal frameworks and policies put in place to curb the vice. However the project impacts have grown beyond this. The formation of local committees have impacted more on community members especially gaining confidence with the project activities and appreciating involvement of their own in solving their problems. The local committees because of being close to the target community and living within the community have assisted the project in realizing its goals, this is because, they cut down field cost incurred by project officers, sensitize other communities' members on FGM laws and policies, serve as a link between the county and national government in advocating for FGM policies and law enactment and implementation and represent communities in government committee meetings to voice their agendas on FGM prevention and abandonment. Through the committees it was observed that:-

- The community prefers when their affairs are addressed from within.
- Community concerns are well addressed by themselves
- The community have more trust in disclosure to people they know.
- It has been easy to enlighten the community as they trust them a lot

The connection and the link between the committees and the project, has seen the project success due to the organized planning of activities, flow of information and one unit of control. Through units community participation and mobilization is made easy because the community has owned the project due to use of their own members.

Given a chance to implement another phase, the project would:-

- Strengthen the capacity of local committees to advocate the county and national government on FGM policies and legal frameworks enactment through more training on strategic advocacy.
- Train the committees as paralegals as they will be able to assist the community from point of knowledge and advice on matters of law and justice.

Advocacy – this has made great impact in terms of creating FGM awareness within the target area though this needs to be scaled up. Currently over 60% of the respondents have knowledge on **some** various existing FGM laws and policies. Though this information might not be a lot, it has significant impact to their lives. Community has realized that there exist policies and laws on FGM and has gained confidence to come out and push for their enactment with relevant authorities. They have also been sensitized on avenues they can seek help for the cases of FGM as well as their role in government processes like public participation during budgetary processes. However, there is need for deliberate targeting of children and youths with the trainings as they are a key populace who are usually the victims of FGM and being equipped with the knowledge on existing laws and policies can help them whistle blow on the vice.

Increased engagement of civil society with policymakers: The support of GBV county technical working group meetings on implementation of existing FGM policies at the county level has had many positive impacts in ensuring that the duty bearers and political leaders are contextualizing national policies, allocating funds for FGM activities at the county level and monitoring utilization

of FGM activities allocated funds. This cluster has brought together many organizations and institutions dealing with issues of GBV including FGM which have given them bigger voice in championing for enactment of policies dealing with FGM and in helping the victims.

3.5 Sustainability

Development priorities with local involvement – Inclusion of local government officials like the area chiefs, training of local committees and other local leaders in project implementation, enhances community project ownership and continued project activities even after the end of the project. Because of knowing the existing legal frameworks and policies and are more organised, the targeted population will be able to lobby and advocate the government to utilise the available government funds to end FGM. They will also have realised their role in holding the government accountable through public participation due to the training given to them. However more support and training is necessary to ensure that these stakeholders are fully equipped with relevant technical skills and experience.

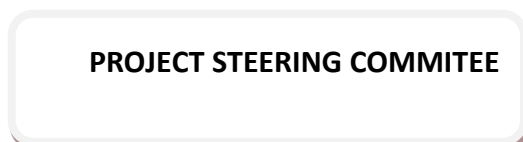
Project Design – the project was rightly designed, however there is need to strengthen the capacity of the community structures (local committees) by training them in depth on the FGM legal frameworks and policies as well as advocacy strategies as they are a focal point within the communities who the community members relay on for information and guidance. The project staff, steering committee and church board members need refresher courses on advocacy, community mobilization and project cycle management to improve their output and increase their efficiency. The County GBV clusters also need to be supported as they are a strong voice to reckon on monitoring the government and lobbying for policy enactment as well as accountability within the implementing departments.

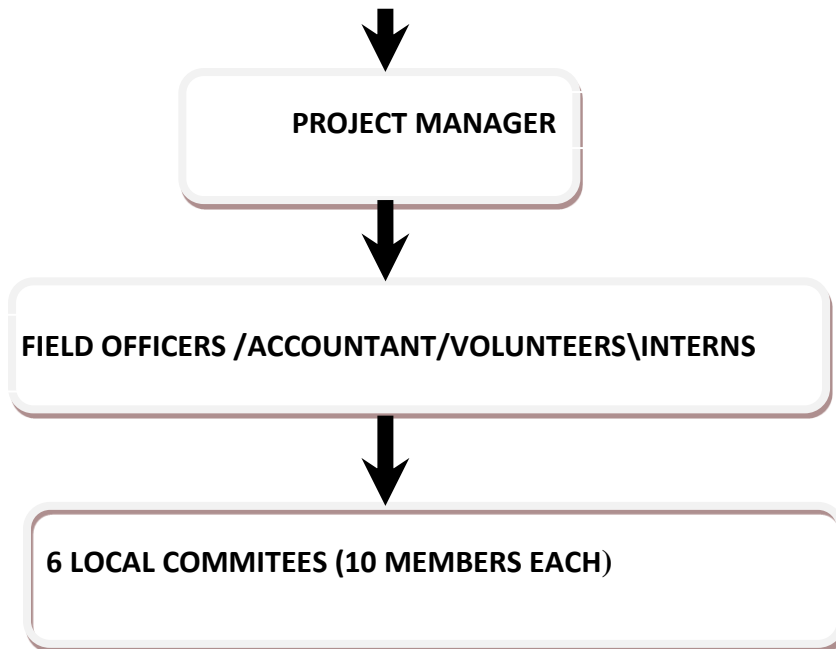
Funding- The project was well funded but given another opportunity it needs to invest more on FGM legal frameworks and policies awareness campaigns, more support and capacity building of anti GBV cluster and local committees , conducting annual alternative rites of passage and training of youths and children.

3.6 Project organization structure

The project has a project steering committee (PSC) comprising of 6 members who have a long term experience in foreseeing project implementation. The project is on daily basis managed by full time manager, who is also part of the PSC. She is supported by one field officer, an accountant and interns/volunteers. The project has however extended its organization structure by incorporating volunteer community members in the name of local committees in the 6 target sub-counties who assist in organizing project activities at grassroots level and advocacy. However to effectively cover the target area, there is need for more capacity building of staffs/volunteers especially at grassroots level.

The organization structure





3.7 Replicability

Strategies used in this project for FGM prevention and abandonment are working well although need few improvements. These strategies are replicable to different localities within and outside the project area. They include; the FGM policies and legal framework awareness campaigns, the training of multi-stakeholder duty bearers on FGM policies and legal frameworks, the formation and use of sub-counties local committees on FGM advocacy and community awareness, training and empowering of the implementing partner and project staff.

- information Dissemination; The impacts and outcomes of the project, if shared more widely, have the potential to influence demand for development of better FGM trainings and advocacy materials for use here and in other parts of the country and beyond .

4. LESSONS LEARNT

1. Multi stakeholders approach in projects is a key proponent to realization of social-cultural based projects like the FGM project goals and objectives. This helps in ensuring inclusivity as well as diverse views and solutions fostering accountability.
2. The anti GBV cluster is a very crucial component to lobby and hold accountable both the national and county government and its impact would be felt more if the members are more conversant with the legal frameworks and policies on FGM as well as the government processes of budgetary allocation and implementation.
3. When communities are well equipped with information and well connected with duty bearers they are willing to whistle blow and witness against various community vices

including the culturally rooted ones like FGM. This calls for more sensitization and community awareness's.

4. Formation and capacity building of local structures like the local committees with legal perspectives and information on FGM ease community entry and confidence even on very sensitive matters like FGM. It promotes reporting and referral thereby enhancing FGM and other cultural vices reporting and abandonment.
5. There is need to train the youths and children on the FGM legal frameworks and policies separately from the general community. They are majorly the victims of the vice and need to be equipped with necessary laws and policies that will help them in advocating against the vice, reporting and referral as well as sensitizing others.
6. There is need to embrace Alternative rites of passage (ARP) as a tool to prevent FGM. FGM being a culturally promoted practice to mark a transition from childhood to adulthood, there is need for alternative means to replace the retrogressive and harmful practice. ARP has been cited by communities to be effective in curbing FGM as the girls feel equally mature when they go through ARPs.
7. Community members' sensitization on legal frameworks and policies has helped them to have confidence to engage the authorities and demand for accountability. It helps them to know their role in the government processes and equips them fully to participate. The awareness needs to be enhanced and diversified to reach more people in communities.
8. The project staff and steering committee need refresher courses on advocacy, community mobilization and project cycle management to improve their output and increase their efficiency.

5. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Deliberate targeting of youths and children.

There is a need to train the youths and the children separate from the general community on FGM legal frameworks and policies as they are majorly the victims of the vice and need to be equipped with necessary laws and policies that will help them in advocating against the vice, reporting and referral as well as sensitizing others.

- Need of strengthening the 6 sub-county local committees in advocacy. The local committees have significant potential in changing the status of FGM awareness, policies and justice in the area and country at large. Considering the time the cluster were formed and the contribution and impacts it has created, with more support, network, strengthening

and capacity building, the committees will achieve a lot especially through advocacy and public participation in government processes.

- Conducting annual alternative rites of passage (ARPs). Alternative rites of passage are a strong strategy of FGM prevention especially during the period of December when FGM is widely practiced due to long school holidays. There is need to embrace the strategy to help curb FGM.
- There is need of strengthening and supporting the anti GBV cluster. The anti GBV cluster is a very crucial component to lobby and hold accountable both the national and county government and its impact would be felt more if the members are more conversant with the legal frameworks and policies on FGM as well as the government processes of budgetary allocation and implementation.
- The project staff and steering committee need refresher courses on advocacy, community mobilization and project cycle management to improve their output and increase their efficiency.

6. CONCLUSION

The project has beneficial impacts to the society. It is worthy having such social –cultural based projects within communities. From experience, it has been noted that most community members and even duty bearers are inadequately conversant with legal instruments and policies put in place to curb social/ cultural vices like FGM. Cultural values, ignorance and lack of knowledge on legal frameworks and policies have continued to protect the perpetrators of these cases. However, through community empowering, awareness creations, trainings, advocacy use of local community units like local committees have proven to work in lowering such cases. Similarly, the strategy of bottom up approach through inclusion of community members in all the project activities has demonstrated significant strength in project success and ownership. It's through this that the community members have understood that they own solutions to the problems they are facing. On the other hand, the integration of efforts and resources has proven to create more impacts. This is through elimination of efforts duplication and working conflicts. The support and capacity building of Anti GBV cluster is one key example. The cluster has created a strong team for

mobilizing resources, lobbying for FGM policies and laws implementation and in fighting the causes. The cluster has a lot of potential in creating sustainable and long term beneficial impacts not only on issues of FGM but in all aspects of human rights. From the experience, having more focus on ant GBV cluster has immense impacts in to FGM policies and putting the government at check in implementation of the policies. Such clusters need more attention, and capacity building. This one key reason why this project need to focus more in strengthening and working close with the Baringo county Ant GBV cluster.

Annex 1: Select Project Photographs



Local Committees training- during a group discussion.



Community Sensitization on public participation



County GBV Cluster training.



Alternative rites of Passage activity