



HOPE FOUNDATION FOR AFRICAN WOMEN

..... Eliminating gender disparities, empowering women and girls ;transforming communities

2018/19 ANNUAL REPORT



Cover Photo: Students from Pisgan School Posing for a photo during HFAW's school outreach

**Transforming Communities Through Economic Empowerment and Gender Advocacy
Using Popular Education and Social change communication**

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Our Approach

Our advocacy work is informed by a Social Norms Theory of Change and implemented by a Popular Education Model and Social Change Communication. Social norms theory has become a prominent framework for understanding harmful practices, and in recent years has been influential in the design of interventions aimed at generating social change. Norms are customary rules of behavior shared by members of a reference group and characterized by *reciprocal expectations*—individuals follow the rule based on the expectation that others follow the social rule, and that expectations are mutual (Bicciari 2005)¹. The social norms perspective has been applied and further refined in the context of global and national programs to address FGM/C and to promote gender equality².

Structural gender inequalities are influenced by multiple factors rooted in the social norms of the Abagusii people. FGM/C and other cultural practices play key role in creating a solid foundation for normalizing these gender inequalities to the extent that they appear so natural and unquestionable. Mose's 2008³ ethnography of the Abagusii community describes the constellation social norms and detailed gender construction of the Abagusii community, which begins early and goes through a woman's life and beyond. The socialization associated with FGM/C among the Abagusii defines women's roles, self-perception and the perception of the world around them but also complicates their lives by limiting the resources, alternatives and decision-making power and control that is allowed to them. Abagusii women's "world is so limiting that it creates a personality who is accepting of the reality created for her, of biases against her and above all denies her alternatives in every conceivable way" (p. xiii).

Mackie and Lejeune's⁴ social norms theory offers an explanation for generating social change. The reversal of norms is based on parents wanting the best for their children. Transformative human rights deliberations through rights education and community empowerment programs can accelerate the process. This theory of change resonates with the strategy for behaviour change adopted by HFAW and rooted in Mose's strategy in which she deeply understands the difficulties encountered by Abagusii women's inability to survive without adhering to these norms and beliefs particularly the ones associated with wifehood, motherhood and the root to access property. The HFAW program employs a Popular Education (PE) model that is laid upon pillars and values that closely align with Kisii values of theological vision and community relationships. PE, originally postulated by Brazilian educator, Paul Friere⁵ and currently successfully employed by EPEs Foundation in Chile for over 37 years has been useful in helping HFAW engage the communities in consciousness raising around GBV issues such as FGM/C. We involve the communities in questioning the root causes for example of FGM/C, its effect not just on the girl but the entire community, the impact and the actions people need to take on to end and prevent it. This strategy allows the Abagusii men's self-reflections to discover the benefits of gender equality to the family and ultimately to the entire community, a discovery which allows men to take proactive roles in supporting end of GBV/FGM and ultimately women's empowerment. HFAW does not go into the community with answers but believes in community as powerful agents of change including women and girls.

¹ Bicciari C. 2005. *The Grammar of Society. The Nature and Dynamics of Social Norms*. Cambridge University Press, UK

² UNICEF, 2013. *Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A Statistical Overview and Exploration of the Dynamics of Change*. New York: UNICEF

³ Mose, Grace, 2008. *Thinking the Gusii Way: Insider Perspectives on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)/Cutting and Strategies for Change*

⁴ Mackie, G., Lejeune, J. Mackie and Lejeune 2009: *Social Dynamics of Abandonment of Harmful Practices: A New Look at the Theory*. UNICEF

⁵ Friere, Paulo. (1974). "Education for Critical Consciousness"



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TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

When we celebrated our five-year mark with men sitting in a circle with us, listening to women-driven agenda, and finally witnessing the cutting of the HFAW cake, we knew that something is beginning to crack. We have been working consistently to bring the entire community together in creating a formidable force that will end GBV with emphasis on FGM/C. This year we gathered and trained women, children, youth, men mixed with women, and even community leaders with varying levels of success and commitments. We also trained women in finance, crop, and animal farming. Our tremendous achievement however, was when we brought together men including chiefs, sub-chiefs, elders and male leaders in one room and got them to pay serious attention to our anti-FGM/C and anti-GBV training and turn them to be pro-woman and pro-children ready to go to villages and end violence against women particularly FGM/C. To know how serious this development is in the Kisii community, you have to grasp the depth of structural gender inequalities. HFAW is mission-driven and women-led to end GBV and FGM/C and create a safe environment for women and children. This is a unifying force in the organization, as are our values: Integrity, Accountability, and Effectiveness, which led to high levels of performance with severely limited resources. This created a great platform for social change and extended to our close border partners such as Emanuel Center for Women and Children

Our leadership and management team saw some changes. Our long-serving Chairperson to the Board, Mrs. Jane Olago retired, and Dr. Sheila Mutuma was admitted as our new Chairperson at the beginning of April 2019, and Dr. Mary Nasibi became our new Treasurer. We, (Ms. Leah Wandera, strong and promising Acting CEO who joined us and Dr. Grace Mose-Okong'o) worked hand in hand to guide the HFAW through this challenging yet inspiring year. Cognizant to the challenges, this new leadership and management reinforced the effectiveness and efficiency of our operations by developing an HFAW management integrated system that is more secure as well as installing Anti-Fraud Policy.

Looking forward, we expect HFAW to increase the momentum of building a movement that deepens the involvement of more men. We will work towards strengthening our management. Our strategy, communities, commitment, and culture will enable us to maintain our strong performance and achieve our impacts in the year ahead. We thank you all for the role you played to get us this far and invite you to continue with us as we look forward.

Sheila Jane Mutuma
HFAW Chairperson

Grace Mose Okong'o
HFAW Founder & Secretary

Leah Wandera
HFAW Acting CEO



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

I. Operating revenue

HFAW's consolidated operating revenue for the year ended was \$33626.46.

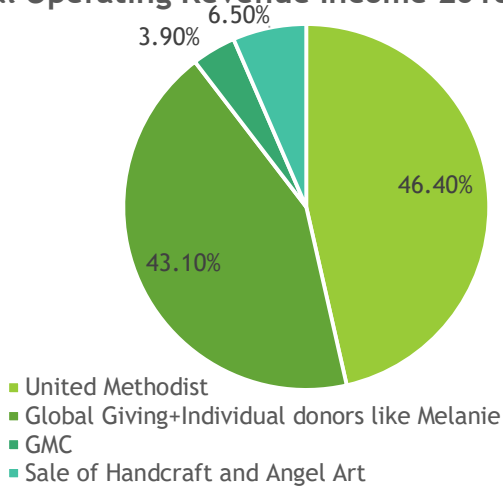
II. Total Operating Revenue Income 2018

The total revenue grants income was \$32448.51. We received \$15050.98 from the United Methodist Women, \$14007.54 from Global Giving and Melanie, Lisa, Carol, Judith and other donors who support the organization). We received \$1264.70 from Global Media Campaign to End FGM and \$ 2125.29 from the sale of handcraft and Angel Art.

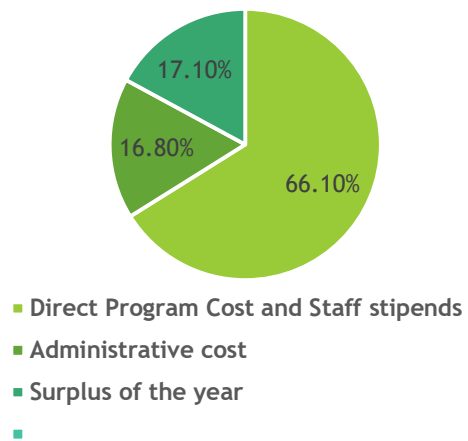
III. Expenses 2018

HFAW received \$33,636.46. We received \$22,232.84 for direct program costs and staff stipends. We received \$5650.84 for administrative costs and \$5752 was the surplus of the year. Majority of the money was spent on advocacy programs and economic empowerment projects.

Total Operating Revenue Income 2018



Expenses 2018





ACCOMPLISHMENTS

School Advocacy

School Name	Female Pupils	Male Pupils	Total Pupils	Female Teachers	Male Teachers	Total Teachers	Parents
Menyenya Primary	280	220	500	10	4	14	0
Pisgan Primary	200	170	370	7	3	10	0
Kegogi Secondary School	440	400	840	10	4	14	5
Subtotal			1710			38	5
Grand Total Reached in Schools							1753

Other Accomplishments

- Reached out to over 205 parents through church outreach at Keroka Methodist Church
- Trained 40 law enforcement officers in Borabu sub-county office.
- Reached 25 men living with FGM survivors.
- Reached over 1 million Kenyans through a media outreach at Minto fm and Egesa fm.
- Trained 30 community facilitators in Gamasara, Tanzania, in collaboration with Emmanuel Centre for Women and Children.
- Participated in the Pan-African Youth Summit that brought youths from 17 countries to discuss matters related to FGM.
- Reached over 400 pupils from 6 schools in Nyamira, 250 parents, and various CBOs and CSOs on the International Day of the African Child 2018.
- Reached over 800,000 people with messages of anti-FGM through Egesa FM's coverage of HFAW's anti-FGM work.
- Reached over 1000 people in Elgeyo Marakwet with messages of the protection of the rights of the girl during the International Day of the Girl child 2018
- Reached over 1000 people in Keroka, Nyamira, through a walk during the international Women's day 2019 which attracted the participation of 205 parents and 20 CHHRPs.
- Reached at least 500 residents at Nyansiongo, Nyamira through a walk and 800,000 people through Minto fm on the Zero Tolerance for FGM Day.
- 70 farmers benefited from the financial literacy training.
- Disbursed loans to 84 farmers through the Hope Fund Kitty.
- 30 farmers benefited from the crop-farming training.
- 70 farmers benefited from the Livestock rearing training.



OUR PROJECTS

Gender Advocacy

1. School Outreaches

School outreaches have been vital in achieving the HFAW's goal of ending Gender-Based Violence and FGM/C. In 2018, we conducted three school outreaches with the support of Global Giving, our esteemed individual donor Melanie Nelson and United Methodist Women. We went to Menyanya Primary School, Pisan Academy, and Kegogi Secondary School. For the first time, we went to a secondary school this year. We directly reached an aggregate of 1710 students, 38 teachers, and 5 parents.

Menyanya Primary School

This year, we visited Menyanya primary school, Nyamira County. We reached at least 500 students during the outreach. Our concentration on schools in rural areas is guided by the need to empower girls who have limited access to information related to sexual reproductive health. Therefore, at Menyanya, the CHHRPs focused on making the children open up about the challenges they are facing and educate them on their rights and channels they can use to report a violation. Some of the facilitation is done by our community health promoters such as Yebesh Orina.



Photo 1 Menyanya pupils are all ears to Joyce, CHHRP

“At some point in your growth and development, you will experience an increased sense of consciousness and need for independence. This is normal and should not stress nor pressure you to get engaged in early intimate relationships or consent to FGM/C. Stay assured of our support and get closer to your parents as well since their support is equally important in protecting you from the negative eventualities of the adolescence stage like unwanted teenage pregnancies”, said Orina. When such encounters



happen, girls have a series of questions. For example, one girl asked, “Why is it that my grandmother insists that I have under to undergo FGM/C, otherwise I will not get married and here you are telling us not to agree?”

Such questions give the CHHRP a chance to explain the dangers of harmful traditional practices. These questions are good sign that the girls were willing to open up to the CHHRPs. Topics related to sexual and reproductive health, especially FGM/C, are often expressed in low tones and secrecy. They get to learn that FGM/C puts one at risk of numerous infections and health complications that will negatively affect a person through the entire life such as one’s ability to have a safe child delivery. Keeping girls safe is the priority of HFAW. Gladly, this event provided a platform for HFAW to continue showing its commitment to protecting girls in the country.

Pisgan Academy

This was a unique outreach. Dr. Lisa Fontes, HFAW’s adamant supporter from the US, accompanied the team to Pisgan Academy. The school was suggested by one of our youth volunteer, Ms. Kemunto, who attended Pisgan for her primary level studies. She expressed her concern in the persistence of FGM/C and increased cases of teenage pregnancies during the holiday period. She recalled some of her schoolmates who dropped out of school because of early pregnancy. Thus, the objective of the school outreach was to impact the students with knowledge that will enable them to make an informed decision on matters related to sexual and reproductive health. Even though time was short, Dr Lisa had a chance to provide some mentoring.

“The ability to trust yourself can change your life. If you want to change your life by becoming a doctor or a teacher, believe that you can do it.” Dr Lisa Fontes

Then, the learners were taught on speaking out. We live in a society that has put girls and women in a ‘box’. Before coming into existence, it knows who they will be – and who they will not be. Apart from limiting them from unleashing their full potential, it puts girls and women at risk of various forms of violation of human rights. Thus, it was essential for them to know that they have a voice, and they should use it to make society better and safer.



Photo 2: Students from Pisgan during a break session

Kegogi Secondary School

At Kegogi, the HFAW team reached 840 students, 14 teachers, and 5 parents. Unlike the other two schools visited, the students at Kegogi were between twelve and seventeen years old. The age group is a lot mature and are able to analyse issues and have certain abilities--including the ability to make conscious decisions and understand the consequences of their actions.

"As you can see here, we have both men and women in our team. Like boys, girl child has two parents. Thus, both of them should be concerned and strive to nurture and protect her. This includes protecting her from the cut. FGM/C has numerous negative health effects on girls which have been proven by researchers," remarked Gladys.

After Gladys, Dr. Lisa taught the students' life skills that she referred to as the rules for living.

"If you envision living a meaningful and fulfilling life, there are rules you should follow.



Photo 3: Dr. Lisa speaking to students on living a fulfilling life



When the session for questions and answers arrived, the following are among the issues addressed to the team:

- How can one deal with trauma?
- Why are you trying to stop our culture?
- How can you get married if you do not undergo FGM?
- How can one stop feeling sexual attraction towards the opposite sex?

The questions were an indication that the students were aware of the high prevalence of FGM and the use of culture as its justification. Using the 'Do No Harm' approach, the HFAW team and Dr. Lisa tackled these questions. We encouraged those feeling traumatized to seek the service of guidance and counselling department from the school. We also promised to do a follow-up in case any issue arises. We assured them of the power of the youth to end FGM/C in the community. We believe that they have what it takes-focus, knowledge, confidence, and influence, to end the harmful cultural practice.

2. Church Outreaches

Religion plays a significant role in inculcating values in the society. Nearly 95% of the population in Kisii is Christian. Therefore, it is important to advocate for the end of FGM/C through the church. Early 2019, we met at least 205 congregants from the United Methodist Church, Keroka, Nyamira county. Parents, pupils, pastors, and politicians attended the event. The members were reached with positive messages of child protection, end of gender-based violence, and elimination of FGM/C. The event was followed by a walk to sensitise the rest of the community on the eliminating gender inequalities.

Corporal punishment should be avoided. People need to adopt safe mechanisms of disciplining children and also rise up and demand attention for them. It has been observed that most parents fail to pay attention to their children due to economic issues. Some children have even suffered physical punishment resulting from their parents' economic frustrations in the case where a child accidentally spills milk but a parent can't understand the situation. Most importantly, parents should keep communication open with their children, not make children fear them and listen to them about their lives.



Photo 4 congregants pondering over the messages if ending FGM, GBV, and child abuse



3. Law Enforcers' Trainings

HFAW trained 40 law enforcers at the Borabu sub-county office. Law enforcers trainings are important to creating a united front in ending FGM/C. They are part to the multi-sectoral approach which improve success in ending Gender-Based Violence and child abuse.



Photo 5 Law enforcers keenly listening during the training session

The objective to involve law experts is to improve on the outcome of GBV cases, child abuse, and FGM/C. Admittedly, although most victims report abuse, the outcomes of the cases rarely favor them. We use such platforms to improve the capacity of law enforcers to effectively respond to cases hence keeping women safe.

Popular education and Social Change Communication allow us to create a platform where participants can ask themselves

“I have learned of the various forms of GBV, even those I did not know some of them like marital rape, I never knew it is a form of violence. Truly, the experience was eye-opening. I now know that more is expected of me from the people. Luckily, thanks to

questions like; what are we seeing? Why is it happening? What can we do to end it? In this training, they enabled the law enforcement officers to realize the need to improve their response in cases related to GBV, Child abuse, and FGM/C. Consequently, most of them left having written individual action plans.

4. Men's Trainings

HFAW has conducted various men's training across the region to educate men on the health effects on girls and women. Being that men are the consumers of FGM/C, they need to be taught how the practice affects their daughters and women so that they can advocate for its elimination. For the year that just ended, we conducted men's training at Menyenya primary. 25 men living with FGM/C survivors attended the training. The key messages included understanding FGM/C as a practice, its effects on women, and man, how to support the survivors of FGM/C, and how to protect their daughters and girls in the whole community from FGM/C.



photo 6 HFAW's Acting CEO, facilitating the men's training

One of the participants, Moraa, not her real name, shared how his twin sister went through FGM/C as he was taken for circumcision. 'I have grown up knowing that FGM/C is normal just as circumcision. On the day I was taken to be circumcised, my twin sister was also taken to be cut. It took long for me to see my sister. It took a month to see my sister. I was back to school, but my sister still nowhere to be seen. When she finally reappeared, she was not the same. She was emotionally distant, and we could not have normal conversations,' said Moraa.

Moraa's experience and other men's testimonials indicated how FGM/C is destructive to relationships and has long-term negative effects on everyone in society. After the facilitators finished presenting on GBV and FGM/C. Professional use of videos and photos together with participatory dialogues unveiled so many aspects of FGM/C previously hidden.

5. Media Outreaches

This year, we took our advocacy campaigns against FGM/C to the media. We visited four media stations; K24, Egesa, and Minto FM covered of HFAW Work at Jesus Reigns Chapel P.A.G Chepilat on Sunday 12th August 2018. The main objectives of the coverage were to create awareness of the emergence of medicalized FGM/C in the region, the health effects of FGM/C, and HFAW's unique approach of the use of Popular Education and Social Change Communication to end FGM/C. The featured content covered issues like medical personnel's perspective of the effects of FGM/C, the story of uncut youth, testimonials from FGM/C survivors, insights from the area chiefs and sub-chiefs on how they handle cases related to FGM/C, and showcases of HFAW's economic empowerment projects. Additionally, HFAW was featured on a 2-hour live interview on Minto FM, a radio station attached to the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation. The interview was in preparation for the Beyond Zero Day 2019.



Photo 7: Dr. Grace Mose Okong'o (seated) and Nancy, presenter at Minto fm during a live interview at Minto fm

The interview was very interactive and reached over 1 million people in Kenya and beyond Kenyan borders. During the calling session, many residents showed massive support for HFAW's anti-FGM/C projects since they have witnessed a positive change in the community; they have realized that FGM/C has adverse health effects and is making the community continue lagging behind.

6. Training in Tanzania

HFAW conducted a training for 30 community facilitators in Gamasara, Tanzania, in collaboration with Emmanuel Center for Women and Children. As an organization that is doing quite well in protecting girls from FGM/C, HFAW was pleased to partner with it for a good cause.

“I can easily equate FGM/C as chopping off one's body part that was created by God and removing it by force. I can also say it is oppression number one that I know of since it affects you physically and psychologically against your will,” John, one of the participants.



Photo 8: HFAW Founder, Dr. Grace Mose Okong'o training the community members from Gamasara, Tanzania

In his letter of appreciation to HFAW, Reverend Eric Soard, the Director of Development, United Methodist Church, Tanzania, wrote, ‘As a small, new organization, the Emmanuel Center for Women and Children is excited for this opportunity to work with Hope Foundation for African Women, to reduce FGM and VAW/G at the grassroots levels’.

The Reverend Eric expressed confidence in HFAW’s capacity and vision to implement anti-FGM program that will lead to fundamental changes across borders. As a result of the training, the trained facilitators trained more than 200 community members. Additionally, they hosted a camp of more than 80 girls during the high risk season of FGM/C.

7. Pan-African Youth Summit

The summit was held in Nairobi, Kenya between 25th to 26th April at Crowne Plaza Hotel. The summit brought together young people from across 17 countries; Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan, Ethiopia, Egypt, Somaliland, Nigeria, Senegal, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory coast and the Diaspora. This is the first Pan-African Youth summit to be held in Africa. HFAW was presented by Alex, one of our youth ambassadors.



Photo 9: HFAW's Youth Ambassador, Alex, affirming his commitment to end FGM



Youths have not been involved before because of resource constraints. Thus the summit support young people and inspire them to fight FGM/C. The key issues discussed include: commitment among the young people to end FGM/C, charting a way forward on the approaches that should be used to end FGM/C, and celebrate the milestones made by youths in the fight against FGM/C.

8. International Day for the African Child 2018

Happy International Day of the Africa Child 2018! We held a convention for faith leaders, anti-FGM/C advocates, community leaders and the residents from all walks of life. The celebration attracted over 2,000 participants including parents, teachers, and students. The objective was to spark conversations on the effects of FGM/C and formulate holistic strategies to curb the menace. GBV forms like FGM/C are often discussed in low tones. Consequently, although the act is outrageous, illegal, harmful, and unacceptable, only few people have access to such information.

One religious leader, Pastor Evans Oigo from Nyang'ori, Gachuba Ward, Nyamira county who is also the pastor in charge of Siloam Church on the Sky leader of Nyanza and Western region. He directly addressed the gathering composed of multi stakeholder persons i.e., Nyamira county children services stakeholders i.e., NGO's, CSO's and national government, over 400 pupils representing 6 schools from the area, 250 parents and teachers were reached with anti-FGM messages from a biblical perspective.



Photo 10 A gathering of students and community members during the day of the African Child 2018

Because of the massive support shown to the event by the residents, media representatives from Egesa FM covered it and featured it news. As such, over 800,000 people were reached.

9. International Day for the Girl Child, Elgeyo Marakwet

Happy International day for the Girl Child! The theme for this year is **A Skilled Gilrforce.** We marked the 2018 International day for the girl child at Embobut show ground, Elgeyo Marakwet upon invitation from the Marakwet Girls Foundation. Over 1,000 people attended the event. The event was supported by UNICEF and UNFPA Kenya and covered by the local media stations.



The high points of discussion during the event included designing education to provide skills that can allow girls to excel, advocating for gender equality, and ending harmful practices that derail the success of girls. In advocating for girls to acquire skills, girls were encouraged to focus on education and work hard towards achieving their life goals.



Photo 11 Members from the press covering the event where Zeleck represented HFAW

‘When a girl goes to school, the whole community gains. An educated girl is the hope of her family and community. Ensure that you change the narrative of the struggles of your community. Be the one to make everyone hopeful’, remarked Ruth, the founder of the Elgeyo Marakwet Girls Foundation.

Another high point of discussion was ending harmful practice like FGM and child marriages. Girls are still coerced to undergo FGM and married off while their male peers continue with their studies. If we do not cast light on this dynamic of the effects of harmful practices. As long as FGM, child marriage, teenage pregnancies remain the tale and fate of girls, the journey towards gender equality and equitable opportunities is still beyond our reach. The event wrapped up with a renewed commitment to continue making spaces favorable for the progress of girls and achievement of gender equality.

10. International Women’s Day 2019

Happy international Women’s Day 2019. The theme for this year is; **balance for better**. It emphasizes the importance of gender equality. Gender balance is necessary for economies, communities and families to thrive. We marked the day through holding a successful public walk in Keroka which attracted masses from all walks of life. 205 parents and 20 CHHRPs participated in the walk which reached more than 1,000 residents of Keroka town. We designed posters calling for the end of FGM/C, GBV, and better access to social resources and economic opportunities for both gender.



Photo 12 A walk to commemorate the International Women's day 2019

Parents need to adopt safe mechanisms of disciplining children and also rise and demand attention for them. Some children have suffered physical punishment resulting from their parents' economic frustrations; not anything related to their behavior.

11. Zero Tolerance for FGM Day 2019

Happy zero tolerance for FGM Day 2019! Such a day is a reminder of how far HFAW has come along in making impact in the community through advocating for the stop of FGM/C. HFAW joined the rest of the community to mark this day through holding a public walk in Nyansiongo Subcounty courtesy of support from the Global Media Campaign to End FGM (GMC). The walk attracted reached at least 500 residents. Also, over 800,000 listeners were reached through Minto fm which aired a one-hour live link. Residents turned up in large numbers to create awareness on the health effects of FGM/C on girls and women. Additionally, the walk captured the attention of the press who featured it in the day's news. The walk covered regions like Menyenya junction, Mosioabano market, Kijauri Roche market, and Kijauri state. The photos below describe some of the key moments during the walk.



Photo 13 CHHRPS leading the walk from the Kijauri market



Photo 14 HFAW acting CEO, Leah Wandera briefing the media (Minto fm) on the purpose of the walk



Photo 15 Residents and CHHRPs at Kijauri market saying No more FGM in the region

Economic Empowerment

1. Financial Literacy Training

70 participants attended the first day of financial literacy and entrepreneurship workshop, including 15 people from the crop farming who had no prior knowledge of finance skills. The participants in attendance were small scale businesswomen and a few men. They all came from across the four Borabu Sub-County wards, Kiabonyoru, Mekenene, Esise and Nyansiongo.

Led by our finance expert from Equity Bank, Carol engaged participants in key topics such as budgeting, debt management, savings, and financial services in bank institutions. She defined entrepreneurship as the ability to start a business. She characterized entrepreneurs as risk-takers, people who take advantage of available opportunities, who think outside the box. She explained that



entrepreneurs never stop thinking of new ideas and that they sacrifice their time and money. She told that they are courteous and patient; have integrity and are organized and keep records. This was to help the women become self-aware. She explained the importance of SWOT analyses before venturing into any business.



Figure 16 Financial literacy training before accessing loans

The facilitator found that many low income women do not understand the basic services provided by bank institutions which can make a big difference when well utilized. These services include: Savings, insurances, accounts, automated teller machines (ATM), investment services and money transfers. During this second phase of the project we managed to recruit an additional 54 new members bringing our total to 100. Out of these we disbursed 84 loans which surpassed our target of 50 loan disbursement target. Of all this we disbursed 65 new members and 19 repeat loans and 15 loans to men.

2. Crop Farming

Thirty (30) women participated in a two-day workshop and visited a model farmer. The objective for the workshop was to revisit what had been learned in order to learn how to manage their crops successfully. The workshops gave women hands on skills in making local pesticide and learn how to apply to their crops. They also learned how to make manure and the various methods of irrigation and how to apply most appropriately to them. Many of the skills learned during these trainings were based on locally made green materials. Local remedies are readily available, environmentally friendly, cheap and simple to make. They include, garlic spray, baking soda spray, aloe Vera extract and red pepper were easily made to protect the crops.



Figure 17 AOF Officer demonstrating on the best agricultural practices to achieve high yield

Participants visited Onsando's farm as a good example in the neighborhood where most of what was taught in the workshop was happening. For example, the participants learnt how drip irrigation from perforated water pipes worked and how to maintain the pipes. They also learned how to do bottle irrigation, which is use of improvised material for irrigation. After one of the officer demonstrating, he required a couple of participants to demonstrate. Participants were encouraged to invest on water tanks for irrigation.

3. Livestock Rearing

Seventy (70) participants also benefitted with knowledge about how to prepare and use manure; different types of soil erosion and ways of addressing them as well as samples of soil and water conservation. The farmers also visited field farm and learned practically the aspects of the workshop.

The farmers learned how to maintain the cleanliness and standards of where animals are kept. The focus was on cows, goats, and chicken. Additionally, the farmers were taught on the importance of washing the cows at least every week. It helps in keeping ticks away. Also, it is a quick way to identify when the animal is sick. Also, they were guided in the importance of food to the animal, being proactive in taking care of the animals and birds even if one has a helper, protecting livestock, and addressing the health needs of the livestock. Managing livestock is a challenge for most farmers in Nyamira because they have not learned effective techniques and skills.

CAPACITY BUILDING

1. Staff Retreat in Naivasha

After a long year of hard work, in March, 2019, the HFAW staff and board members retreated to Naivasha. The retreat was graced by the presence of Dr. Lisa Fontes, who supported and played a critical role in helping the staff open-up about trauma and self-care because of the nature of the work we do. Apart from the lots of fun we had, the team members discussed work, achievements, and work areas that need adjustments. HFAW left Naivasha rejuvenated to continue serving the community.



Photo 18 HFAW staff and board members, and Dr. Lisa Fontes at the retreat in Naivasha

2. HFAW's Director Visit at EPES Foundation

HFAW Founder, Grace Mose was invited to the International School, escuela to share with participants some of HFAW's experiences in using the popular education model in our women empowerment projects, particularly ending FGM/C. There was a good number of African participants from Zimbabwe, Eritrea, and Tanzania to mention a few who were pleasantly encouraged to see the practical application of PE.

Grace was also pleasantly surprised to find a mural of her created to recognize our long-standing relationship with EPEs Foundation and the fact that HFAW has been an essential part of EPES history.



Photo 19 Dr. Grace next to the mural of her created to recognize the long-standing relationship with EPEs



Grace was engaged in all aspects of these training, including visits to community health promoter groups, hands-on training on how to use open markets for education, and visit to conception.

3. Jubilant HFAW turns 5 years

As HFAW turned 5 years on 19th December 2018; it was a milestone celebration for the Community Health and Human Rights Promoters (CHHRP). They shared their five-years journey's achievements and challenges of their gender advocacy work to change attitudes, practices, and behaviors towards ending Female genital mutilation and gender-based violence.

One after another of the CHHRP's and survivors of FGM/C practice, besides gaining the boldness to share their stories, conduct community outreaches, they have also learned the skills to facilitate the training. They can stand today as co-facilitators to train men and women on anti-FGM/GBV, "Am so happy today that am standing before you, the esteemed men of our community, among you, my husband being present, for us to talk and discuss FGM and GBV. I thank all of you for hearing and accepting our call. We thank you for the support you have shown us even though from a distance. But today, your presences confirm that we are ready to walk together to the path of ending FGM...." said one of the promoters.



Photo 20 the Cake that we used to mark HFAW's 5th year

Another promoter shared that "...When we talk of change in behavior, attitude, and practices, it begins with you and me. Myself, I was a cutter, before HFAW reached out to me. I was cutting because I need to earn a living and support my family. But since I got trained and became part of CHHRP, I stopped cutting. I realized the effects of my action. And I discovered that I am much better now, through the economic empowerment project of HFAW. I discovered inner peace, knowing that I am not hurting any single girl anymore; instead, I am protecting them from the hurt. Am so happy to see all of you hear (referring to the 25 men being trained), my heart is strengthening. Who said that we would be able to meet all our needs by waiting to cut a little girl's piece of the body? There is nothing of economic gain that we get from cutting our daughters. To our husbands, hear me out! It is total hurt. Let us stop and stop it!" she shouted.

Our friends from Epes foundation also joined us via internet in celebrating our fifth anniversary. They commended our efforts in using accessible education to strengthen the leadership and capacity of the vulnerable women in Kenya.



Figure 21 Staff at Epes Foundation, celebrating our 5th anniversary

PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

1. Emmanuel Centre for Women and Children, Tanzania

As a beneficiary of the United Methodist Women programs, HFAW always strives to form connections with other organizations in the program and chart a way forward for possible collaborations. A global mission fellow, Benadict Amanda, from Emmanuel Center for Women and Children, visited HFAW offices. She was attending training by the United Methodist Women. Her coming sparked a conversation on the two organizations collaborating on a project that creates an impact on gender advocacy. Notably, she was impressed by the use of Popular Education which had to gain popularity since we started using it to end harmful cultural practices like FGM. This collaboration has grown to a partnership where a shared application is underway to the Un Women.



Photo 22 From right; Dr. Grace Mose, Amanda, and HFAW staff at HFAW offices



2. Anti-FGM Network Survey Organized by COVAW

For a long time, the Youth Anti-FGM movement has been conducting grass root campaigns to ensure that their generation ends the evil practice. While there has been a significant success in the movement, the challenges have been real. This was evident during a forum organized by member-organization of the Youth Anti-FGM movement to assess the capacity of the movement, challenges, and possible interventions.

During the forum, members of the Youth Anti-FGM movement agreed that the movement is strong, policy formation has intensified and validated the activities of the movement, and there is need for more youths to play active roles in the fight against FGM.

Generally, there has been a downward trend in the cases of FGM/C for the past decade. According to data from the Kenya Demographic Household Survey, the prevalence of FGM in Kenya reduced from 38% to 21% between 1998 and 2014. Meaning, there is progress. The data implies two things: the force of the anti-FGM movement is being felt at grassroots levels, and the legal framework on FGM/C is stronger.



Figure 23: Members of the Youth Anti-FGM Movement during a capacity assessment forum organized by COVAW PHOTO |COURTESY

However, it is not yet time to celebrate. If anything, the high prevalence of FGM among Kisii (85%), Somali (94%), Samburu (87%), and Maasai (78%) shows that anti-FGM program implementers still have a long way to go.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Two staff from the African Women Development Fund (AWDF) visited HFAW in June 2018 to evaluate our work. They interviewed both the beneficiaries and HFAW staff and board members as well as a consultant. They reviewed some of our policy documents and reports. They viewed a video prepared for them with a grant which they had provided to HFAW to work on GBV with women with disabilities. They were pleased with our work and commented that we had sorted key policy documents even though we are relatively young and have limited resources. They encouraged us to write another application which we have done.

CHALLENGES

Fraud Incident



2018 was one of the most challenging years for HFAW. We experienced one of the worst fraud incidents where someone impersonated the HFAW Founder and CEO and solicited funds from our donors. The donors were promptly alerted. Reports of the crime were reported to the criminal investigation offices and various financial institutions that were used to channel the funds. HFAW continue to follow up with the investigators to find the fraudsters and bring them to book. Investigations proved to be a slow process, but HFAW kept following until the year closed. HFAW hired an independent company to investigate and provided a confidential report which will be compared with government outcomes. Meanwhile, an alert warning was placed on our website to warn our donors and friends about fraud. Internal reorganization and systems have been developed to ensure that we do not experience such incidents.

RESOURCES

HFAW has limited resources for our projects, staff salaries, and capacity building. We continue to rely on small donations and volunteers. We are seeking applications with partners to improve our chances in assessing more funding.

HFAW's DONORS

HFAW is grateful for all the donors, networks, movements, and foundations that support our advocacy and economic empowerment projects.



Our Individual Donor Spotlight this year goes to:

- Melanie Nelson and Philip Margolin
- Lisa Fontes
- Carol Larkin
- Boris Dimitrov
- Others



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... Eliminating Gender Disparities,
Empowering Women & Girls:
Transforming Communities