

MILESTONES AND MOMENTUM

1



Years



DATE: 11TH OCTOBER 2024

MY POWER, MY VOICE

A DECADE OF THE GIRL GENERATION



10
Years

THE
GIRL
GENERATION



ABOUT THE GIRL GENERATION

The Girl Generation: Support to the Africa-led Movement to End FGM/C Programme (TGG-ALM), is a consortium led by Options Consultancy Services and includes Amref Health Africa, ActionAid, Orchid Project, Africa Coordination Centre for Abandonment of FGM/C, and the University of Portsmouth. It works closely with the Population Council's Data Hub, the programme's data and measurement arm.

This programme is building on the foundations of the first five-year investment: The Girl Generation and the Evidence to End FGM Research Programme (2014-2018).

TGG-ALM seeks to drive positive changes in social attitudes towards ending FGM/C and enhance the evidence base for effective interventions to end FGM/C.

The goal is to achieve a significant reduction of FGM/C in focus countries by 2027.

The Programme is being implemented in four focal countries which are Kenya, Ethiopia, Senegal and Somaliland.

OUR VISION

A world where girls and women can exercise their power and rights, have expanded choice and agency, and be free from all forms of violence, including FGM/C.

GIRL-CENTERED PROGRAMMING

Girls are placed at the heart of our programme design, implementation, and evaluation. FGM/C is a practice that affects girls and therefore we aim to centralize their voices.

Our girl-centred programming adopts a bottom-up approach to its programming, with interventions implemented at individual, community, sub-national, and national levels.





Message from Jacinta Muteshi - Strachan, PhD - Team Leader

Dear Friends, Partners, Activists and Changemakers,

As we celebrate 10 incredible years of The Girl Generation, I am filled with immense gratitude, pride, and hope for the future. What began as a vision to unite a global movement to end female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) has grown into a powerful force for change, driven by the resilience, passion, and courage of girls and women in Africa and globally.

Over the past decade, we have witnessed remarkable strides in amplifying the voices of survivors, activists, and young people, especially women and girls, in our collective efforts against this form of gender-based violence. Together, we have raised awareness, sparked meaningful conversations, and empowered communities to take action. Our movement is stronger than ever, thanks to your unwavering commitment.

A DECADE OF IMPACT

In the first phase of FCDO investment and global efforts to end FGM/C; The Girl Generation Phase 1 (2014-2018) worked globally and in 10 of Africa's countries most affected by FGM/C, and where the greatest change was possible. Phase 1 focused on uniting and empowering the movement, driving effective communications on FGM/C, using stories to showcase that change is possible and raising the profile of FGM/C in global spaces.

Phase 2 (2021-2027) of The Girl Generation—support to the Africa-led movement to end FGM/C is building on the foundations of phase 1, focusing on building a combination of evidence of what works or what does not work to reduce or end FGM/C in affected communities.

The current programme is being implemented in four focal countries in select communities. We are producing Global Public Goods, which carry lessons that can be cascaded and contextualized in different communities. I encourage you to visit our website and access these resources. We are also working to increase community and global level commitment to end FGM/C.

We continue to partner with survivors, activists, grassroots organizations, donors, and governments to shift mindsets, create safe spaces for women and girls, challenge deep-rooted social norms, and call for laws and policies to be put in place, and where they exist, to be implemented as we support the Africa-led movement to end FGM/C. Our collective efforts have contributed to significant progress, with more communities embracing the power of change and pledging to protect future generations.

The stories of transformation inspire us daily—of women and girls who have reclaimed their futures, communities that are beginning to embrace change, and champions who continue to advocate for the rights of all women and girls to live free from harm. Every achievement has been a testament to the strength of our shared mission and the power of collaboration.

Looking Forward

As we celebrate a decade of The Girl Generation, we recognize that there is still work to be done. FGM/C and other forms of gender-based violence persist, but we are undeterred. The next decade should focus on scaling up efforts, deepening partnerships, and expanding the reach to ensure that every girl can live with dignity, freedom, and the opportunity to achieve her dreams.

This celebration is not just a reflection of the past, but a commitment to the future. We must continue to amplify the voices of women and girls, invest in survivors, activists, and young leaders to take the lead in this movement, and push forward until the world is free from FGM/C and every girl is empowered to thrive.

Thank You!

To everyone who has been part of this journey—thank you. Your passion, support, and dedication have made all the difference. We strongly believe in a future where girls and women can exercise their power and rights, have expanded choice and agency, and be free from all forms of violence.

Here's to 10 years of impact, and many more ahead!

INSIGHTS FROM WOMEN IN THE FOREFRONT



KENYA

Qamar Kassim Yussuf - Founder and CEO of Northern Counties Community Empowerment

I have always been a driven advocate for women's rights, especially when it comes to ending Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C). Based in Garissa-Kenya, my grassroots work stems from personal experience, resilience, and a deep desire to help others. Despite the challenges I faced, my journey toward empowerment has also been one of self-discovery, healing, and growth, particularly through my involvement in the Survivors Leadership Training (SLT).

How did I join Survivors Leadership Training?

In 2022, I found myself at a critical juncture. A friend sent me a link to the Survivors Leadership Training (SLT), a programme that promised to focus



on survivor well-being and leadership, as well as equip us with tools to run survivor support groups, manage projects, and effectively advocate for ending FGM/C. I applied, not fully realizing how transformational the experience would be for me, both personally and professionally. Being selected for the training felt like an opportunity to not only enhance my activism but to truly take care of myself for the first time in years.

Before SLT, I was deeply involved in advocacy work, often at the expense of my well-being. The training taught me that leadership is not just about taking care of others but also about recognizing the importance of self-care. It was a turning point for me, a time when I realized I had to heal before I could continue my work effectively.



Self-care isn't just about taking breaks, it's about sustaining the strength to continue advocating for change. Without it, burnout is inevitable.

What did I learn during Survivors Leadership Training?

SLT was more than just a training on leadership; it was a healing journey. The biggest lesson I learned was that self-care is not selfish but essential. I had been pouring myself into activism, often neglecting my emotional and mental health. Burnout was inevitable, and I had experienced it several times before. But through SLT, I learned how to prioritize my well-being.

I learned the importance of self-care practices such as recognizing what brings me joy. For me, hiking, traveling, painting, and spending time in nature, are activities that help me recharge mentally and emotionally. These practices are now non-negotiable parts of my routine because I've come to understand that I can't pour from an empty cup. I also learned how to create safe spaces for others, especially young women, to share their stories, heal, and grow.

Embracing Self-Care

For me, self-care isn't just about relaxing, it's about healing. Hiking has become a therapeutic outlet that helps me deal with the trauma I've carried from FGM/C. It provides me with a mental reset, a time when I can reconnect with myself and feel a sense of peace.

Painting has also become a creative outlet that allows me to express emotions I otherwise struggle to put into words. These are moments where I can step away from my responsibilities and focus on my healing.

The more I prioritize self-care, the more I realize its significance in my life. Self-care isn't just about taking breaks, it's about sustaining the strength to continue advocating for change. Without it, burnout is inevitable. But with it, I can continue to grow, heal, and uplift others.

My Call to Action

To other women and girls, I say this: self-care is not a luxury, it's a necessity. You can't be your best self whether as a leader, advocate, or friend if you're running on empty. Take the time to invest in yourself, to heal, and to rest. Whether it's hiking, painting, reading, or simply taking a moment for yourself each day, self-care is an essential part of your journey.



AMINA MOHAMED - ETHIOPIA

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SCAN TO READ THE ENGLISH VERSION



Milestones and Momentum

DID YOU KNOW?

THE GIRL GENERATION PHASE 1 (2014-2018)

- ✓ We worked globally and in 10 of Africa's countries most affected by FGM/C, and where the greatest change was possible.
- ✓ Was the largest global collective of organizations working to end FGM/C?
- ✓ Unleashed the potential of tomorrow's parents through the formation of 1st ever Pan-African Youth Summit. 9 youth Anti-FGM networks in Africa were equipped to drive change from grassroots to global spaces
- ✓ In partnership with Foundations for Women's Health, Research, and Development (FORWARD), The Girl Generation worked with the African diaspora to strengthen their support and activities within the campaign to end FGM.
- ✓ Ran the 'I Will End FGM Campaign' which reached over 20 million people globally.

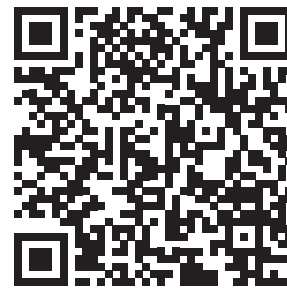


The Girl Generation Phase 1 (2014-2018) formed a good foundation for Phase 2 (2021-2027), which focuses on building evidence of a combination of activities to find out what could work or not work to support end FGM/C efforts in communities.

Phase 2 being a study programme, is being implemented in 4 countries which are Kenya, Ethiopia, Senegal and Somaliland.

Thematic areas of focus include:

- ✓ Small grants
- ✓ Strategic Communications, Advocacy & Movement Building
- ✓ Integration
- ✓ Community Implementation



2017 -2018 IMPACT REPORT

SMALL GRANTS



Our grantee partners are women-, girl- and youth-led grassroots organisations, survivors, and activists already respected and valued within their communities for their work to end FGM/C and/or related issues.

The programme applies a gender equity lens to grantee partner selection whereby the involvement of men, which is actively encouraged, is balanced with the importance of centering women and girls, and FGM/C survivors in particular, at the heart of the movement.

We believe that grassroots organisations have the local connections, insight, and influence to tackle the social norms that underpin Female Genital Mutilation/Cut (FGM/C). The process of granting has been led by lessons and adaptation while ensuring community-led organizations.

TRAVEL GRANTS

TGG-ALM has put in place travel grants to support individuals, networks, and grassroots organisations to participate in national, regional, and international events related to ending FGM/C.

Since 2022, a total of 45 travel grants have been applied for while only 29 individuals have been able to travel and attend regional and global events. Access to visas remains a challenge to attend global events.

We are currently rolling out a Survivors' fund to support activists and advocates who have undertaken Survivors Leadership Training of Trainers to cascade the lessons in their communities



2022

**16 grantee partners in
Isiolo and Narok
Counties-Kenya**

**7 grantee partners
Garissa in Kenya**

**10 grantees in
Tambacouda
region of Senegal**

**6 grantees in
Ethiopia**

2023

2024

**13 grantee partners in
Keudougou and Sedhiu
regions of Senegal**

**9 grantee partners in
Sool and Saanag regions
of
Somaliland**

**17 new grantee
partners in Isiolo, Narok
and Garissa Counties of
Kenya**

2 grantee organisations in Kenya are led by persons living with disabilities. This is part of the programme's support to include the voices of the most marginalized in the end FGM/C movement.



**SCAN TO WATCH
SMALL GRANTS
FILM**



MOVEMENT BUILDING



2022

21 survivors from over 15 counties in Kenya participated in the training and co-creation of the SLI curriculum.

2023

After successful training and co-creation of the curriculum in Kenya, TGG-ALM held a training in Ethiopia that had both Ethiopian and Somaliland activists participate.

A total of 18 activists from Ethiopia and Somaliland participated in the training.

In Senegal, 18 survivors and activists were trained on SLI.



WATCH SLI ETHIOPIA

2024

After a successful evaluation, 20 women from the Kenya, Ethiopia, Somaliland and Senegal Co-horts were trained as trainers, and their capacity strengthened to reach more women and girls in their communities.

Chopra Foundation and Wallace Global Fund supported the trainings with an additional USD55,000



The goal of movement-building is to build a stronger (in terms of advocacy, funding) and more inclusive social movement for ending FGM/C, at multiple interconnected levels (from grassroots to global). We work to strengthen the already active and growing end FGM/C movement by mobilising and supporting girls, survivors, activists, ambassadors, and other key stakeholders, and supporting collective action.

2022 - DATE SURVIVORS' LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Survivors Leadership Initiative (SLI) is aimed at strengthening individual and institutional capacities of Survivor-led end FGM/C work at organisations and individual levels. It promotes a local-led approach by the survivors through strengthening their capacities to lead in ensuring their emotional wellbeing and that of other survivors, training them on leadership, strengthening survivors, support networks, improving their engagement with the media and other stakeholders as well as enhancing their advocacy skills in national, regional and global platforms.

2023 FORMATION CSOS NETWORK IN KENYA

Formation of National CSOs Network to end FGM/C in Kenya in partnership with the Anti FGM Board of Kenya. The Network seeks to strengthen the voice and legitimacy of the CSOs leading end FGM efforts in Kenya. More than 80 organizations at grassroots, sub-national and national level are represented.

2024 SUPPORT FOR THE SIGNING OF SOMALILAND'S ANTI-FGM POLICY

On September 18, 2024, Somaliland made a monumental advance in the fight against Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) with the approval of the Somaliland National Anti-FGM Policy by President H.E. Muse Bihi Abdi. The policy was signed by the Minister for Employment, Social Affairs and Family (MESAF) Hon. Omar Ali. This significant policy underscores the government's zero-tolerance stance towards FGM/C, reflecting a hard-won victory for women's and girls' rights after over a decade of advocacy.

The initiative was a collaborative effort led by the MESAF, along with various activists and NGOs, including ActionAid Somaliland, UNICEF, UNFPA, and The Girl Generation Programme among others. Notably, the two-day forum organized by MESAF, The Girl Generation and ActionAid Somaliland helped strengthen alliances across civil society, bringing together leaders from the region including Kenya, Djibouti and Ethiopia to foster momentum for ending FGM/C.

RECOGNITION FOR SUPPORTING THE ETHIOPIAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The Ethiopian National Alliance to End Female Genital Mutilation & Child Marriage serves as a strategic partnership and coordination platform, bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders. These include government institutions, civic associations, research institutions, religious organizations, UN agencies, and various development partners.

To guide its coordinated efforts, the Alliance developed a comprehensive roadmap for the period of 2020- 2024. ActionAid Ethiopia(AAE), a key member of the Alliance, has supported various collective actions. These include organizing high-level engagements with religious leaders, supporting national learning and linking platforms, and conducting budget tracking exercises to assess budget allocations at national and subnational levels. AAE's efforts have been particularly notable under The Girl Generation: Africa-led movement towards ending FGM/C, which commenced in 2022.

In August 2024, MOWSA, in collaboration with Alliance members, organized a high-level event, in Addis Ababa to extend the recognition to Alliance members. The event was attended by standing committee members of parliament, the Minister of MOWSA, senior officials from UN agencies, and representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs). During the ceremony, ActionAid Ethiopia was acknowledged for its commitment and support and was awarded a certificate of appreciation.



ADVOCACY EFFORTS



Advocacy is a deliberate, strategic, and evidence-based process aimed at persuading and influencing decision-makers or relevant stakeholders to take action to achieve positive change in policy or practice, and thus contribute to ending of FGM/C.

TGG/ALM aims to strengthen political commitments and/or action towards ending FGM/C and VAWG at the sub-national, national, regional and global level.

Notable achievements include:

2022 TO DATE INCLUSION VOICES OF SURVIVORS, ACTIVISTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN THE REGIONAL AND GLOBAL SPACES

TGG-ALM has ensured that the voices of survivors, activists and community members are included in regional and global events such as Women Deliver, CSW68 and CSW69, WOW festival, and the 2nd African Union Conference on ending FGM/C among other events.

29 individuals drawn from various community groups in Kenya, Somaliland, Ethiopia and Senegal have accessed travel grants to attend various regional and global events. The challenge to attend events in Europe and the USA is access to visas.

2023 THE KENYA OBSTETRICAL AND GYNAECOLOGICAL SOCIETY (KOGS) COMMITTS TO SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS

In February 2023, the leadership of The Kenya Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society signed a commitment to support efforts towards ending medicalisation of FGM/C during their 2023 annual conference. This is a result of the engagements of the Africa Coordination Centre for the Abandonment of FGM/C (ACCAF).



**SCAN TO
WATCH
KOGS
VIDEO**

2024 SUPPORT TO REVIEW THE ANTI FGM/C ACT THROUGH THE CSOS NETWORK IN KENYA

The review of the Prohibition of female genital mutilation (FGM) ACT of 2011, was initiated by the Constitutional Court of Kenya, after a four-year legal battle dubbed 'Dr. Tatu vs The Attorney General.

This process was led by the Anti FGM Board of Kenya. Representatives from all 22 hotspot counties in Kenya gave their input and shared what they would like reviewed in the Act.

COMMEMORATION OF ZERO TOLERANCE DAY

TGG-ALM Partnered with FCDO UK and Kenya during ZTD in 2024 under #HerVoiceMatters to highlight the crucial role of survivors in the end FGM/C movement.

In UK, two survivors attended the organized panel discussion and spoke on how the Survivors Leadership Initiative continues to support their advocacy efforts and journey.

In Kenya, TGG-ALM screened a documentary titled Beyond Physical Scars, that highlighted the work of SLI with survivors.

INTEGRATION



Integration is premised on the fact that FGM/C has been addressed as a standalone and/or a one sector problem, making past approaches ineffective and unsustainable. The TGG-ALM-led integration is a deliberate and structured initiative of anchoring FGM/C prevention and response interventions into development programs that are critical for advancing social-economic welfare, wellbeing and survival of girls and women for example, health, and education.

The Africa Coordination Centre for the Abandonment of FGM/C is mainstreaming FGM/C prevention and response interventions in medical/health training programmes, service delivery points and communities across geographies.

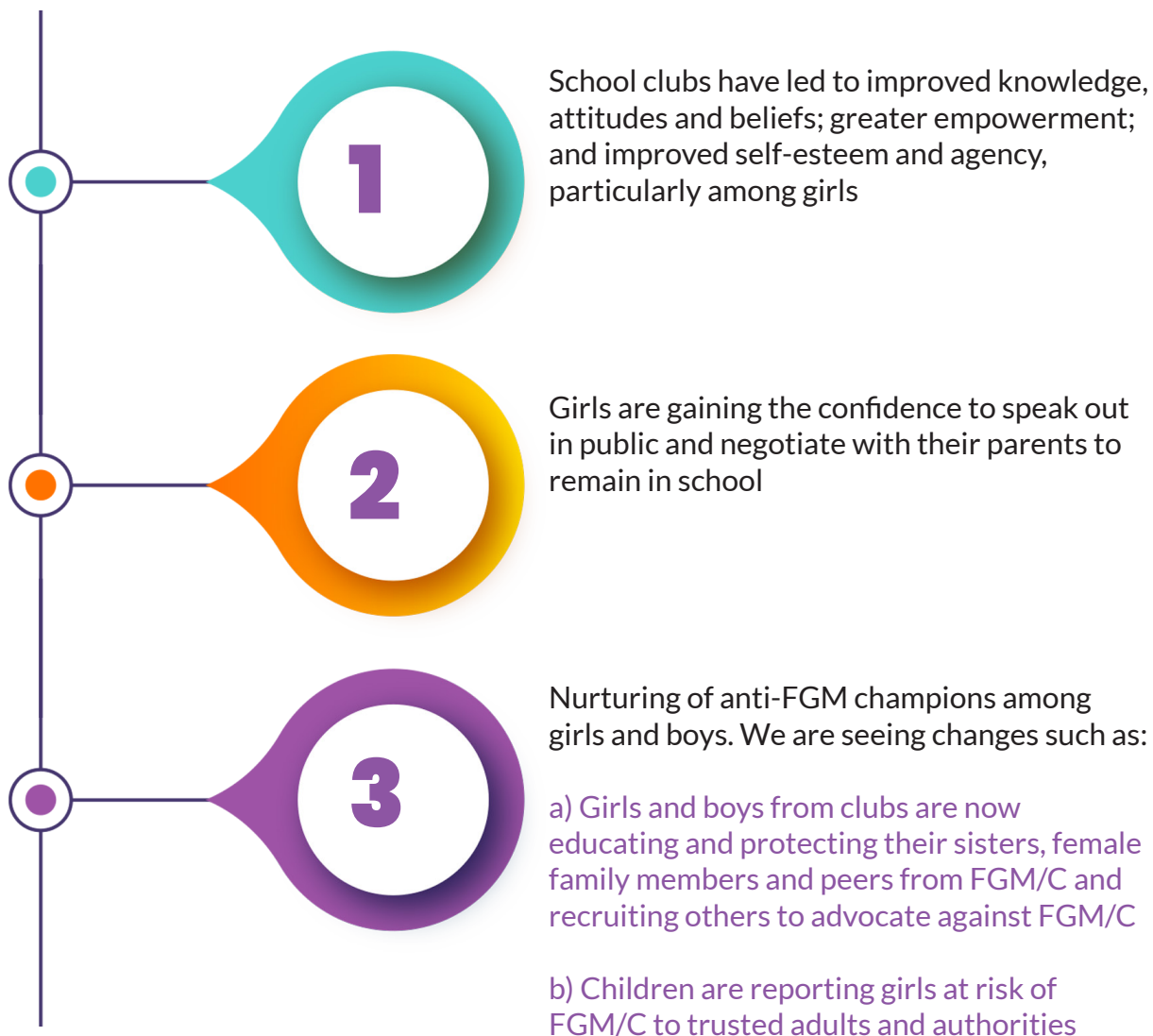
OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



COMMUNITY IMPLEMENTATION



The community engagement is focused on mobilizing and partnering with communities to implement a package of evidence-based and targeted community-based interventions aimed at accelerating positive changes in social attitudes towards ending FGM/C. Interventions in this workstream are categorized into four interdependent levels guided by the socio-ecological model.



COUPLE FORUMS

Apart from targeting community dialogues such as intergenerational, women only or men only dialogues, TGG-ALM has now formed mother-daughter forums and couple forums.

Mother-daughter forums allow mothers and their daughters to speak about the impact of FGM/C in their lives, forgive one another and make a commitment to stop FGM/C in their lineages.

Couple forums engage couples to understand the impact of FGM/C, and power dynamics within family settings as well as encourage open dialogues and joint decisions among couples towards making a commitment to end FGM/C in their families.



ACHIEVEMENT OF PROOF OF CONCEPT IN KENYA - MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING



TGG-ALM is girl centred and adopts a bottom-up approach to its programming, with interventions implemented at individual, community, sub-national and national levels.

In February 2024 a Proof of Concept (PoC) process was undertaken in Kenya across three counties (Garissa, Isiolo and Narok) where the programme has been implemented since 2021. The new para at the PoC aimed to assess whether programme interventions are working, are sustainable, and can be scaled up, through reflective workshops with multiple stakeholders.

Review of monitoring, evaluation and learning data from two years of implementation consisted of:

1. School club surveys tracking changes in knowledge and attitudes
2. Pre- and post-tests with university faculty and students
3. Social movement scorecards
4. Qualitative data from community members
5. Review by Africa Population and Health Research Center.

We held 24 reflection and feedback workshops with over 500 participants (girls and boys, community members and leaders)

The Proof-of-Concept assessment in Kenya revealed that communities are embracing the programme's framing of FGM/C as a human rights violation and gender violence as opposed to a cultural/religious issue. This has enabled FGM/C to be tackled without being seen to be going against cultural and religious beliefs.

Overall, there was confidence among all those involved in the PoC process that the multi-pronged approach of TGG-ALM is working. At all levels there is evidence, both qualitative and quantitative, of a positive shift in attitudes towards FGM/C.

As a result, PoC is considered to have been achieved in Kenya. The focus will now shift to addressing the recommendations and working towards scaling and sustaining the approaches developed under the programme.



**PROOF
OF
CONCEPT**





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Our partners

