



Powerful Partnership:

The power of programmes that challenge harmful traditional practices

Learning from Kenya and Tanzania

October 2019



Definitions

Child, early and forced marriage (CEFM): According to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights at the United Nations, child marriage, or early marriage, is any marriage where at least one of the parties is under 18 years of age. Forced marriages are marriages in which one and/or both parties have not personally expressed their full and free consent to the union. A child marriage is considered to be a form of forced marriage, given that one and/or both parties have not expressed full, free and informed consent. It is a human rights violation and a harmful practice that disproportionately affects women and girls globally, preventing them from living their lives free from all forms of violence.¹

Female genital mutilation (FGM): Female genital mutilation comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Joint Statement in 2008 classified Female Genital Mutilation into four types: the extent of genital tissue cutting generally increases from Type I to III, although there are exceptions. Type IV comprises a variety of practices that do not involve removal of tissue from the genitals. Communities that practice female genital mutilation report a variety of sociocultural reasons for continuing with it. Seen from a human rights perspective, the practice reflects deep-rooted inequality between the sexes, and constitutes an extreme form of discrimination against women.²

Violence against women and girls (VAWG): The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women defines violence against women as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. Acknowledgement of 'girls' in the term emphasises the heightened vulnerability of women and girls from childhood throughout their lifecycle and the profound, long-term impacts of sexual and physical violence throughout their lives.³

Social norms: Shared expectations of specific individuals or groups regarding how people should behave. Norms act as powerful motivators either for or against individual attitudes and behaviours, largely because individuals who deviate from group expectations are subject to shaming, sanctions or disapproval by others who are important to them.⁴ Although terminologies differ, the understanding of social norms tends to converge on the same elements: social expectations, social influence and the groups of people that enact behaviours based on these. Hence, social norms are sometimes referred to as behavioural rules.⁵

Customary laws: Approaches to an established pattern within a community which is seen by the community itself as having a binding quality. According to one definition, "custom" is a "rule of conduct, obligatory on those within its scope, established by long usage". Customary law is, by definition, intrinsic to the life and customs of groups of people and/or local communities. What has the status of "custom" and what amounts to "customary law" as such will depend very much on how those peoples and local communities themselves perceive these questions, and on how they function as groups and local communities.⁶

List of acronyms

CBO	Community Based Officers	MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning
CEFM	Child, Early and Forced Marriage	NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	PCR	Project Completion Report
DFID	Department for International Development	UKAM	UK Aid Match
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo	UN	United Nations
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation	UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
FIDA	Federation of Women Lawyers	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
HTP	Harmful Traditional Practices	WLAC	Women's Legal Aid Centre
IRC	International Rescue Committee	WRO	Women's Rights Organisation

Cover image:
Jennifer Lasoi and Jackline
Madupoi campaign against FGM,
Ngong Hills, Kajiado country.
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This page:
Maasai women campaign against
FGM, Ngong Hills, Kajiado country.
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Authors

This learning paper was written by Louise Hemfrey, Policy and Programmes Officer at Womankind Worldwide and project lead for the three-year project, “Community Responses to Violence Against Women & Girls in Kenya and Tanzania” (2015-2018) and Sarah Masters, Director Programmes and Learning.

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About Womankind Worldwide

Womankind Worldwide (Womankind) is a global women’s rights organisation working with women’s movements to transform the lives of women. Our vision is a world where the rights of all women are respected, valued and realised. We support women’s movements to strengthen and grow by carrying out diverse joint activities, including advocacy and communications work, women’s rights programming, awareness raising, knowledge sharing, research, capacity development and fundraising.

About the Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Kenya

FIDA Kenya is a non-profit membership organisation that has provided direct legal services to over 300,000 women. It is committed to the creation of a society that is free from all forms of discrimination against women. This is done through providing legal aid to women, campaigning on legal reform, monitoring the implementation of laws and researching women’s rights issues. They have worked to ensure that laws in Kenya take women’s needs into account and are working on making sure traditional justice systems at community levels do the same. The organisation has received recognition as a critical partner in community, government, and UN projects.

About the Women’s Legal Aid Centre (WLAC) Tanzania

WLAC has been providing legal services to women in Tanzania since 1989. WLAC’s core mission is providing quality legal aid services to disadvantaged women and children. They offer mediation, coaching, drafting legal documents and representing clients in court. They also give human rights education, run awareness raising campaigns and lobby the Government of Tanzania to address the rights of women and girls at the national and international level. WLAC is a leading women’s rights organisation in Tanzania and campaigns and lobbies actively to end violence against women and protect and promote women’s land rights. Through their work, they aim to create a just society, which respects the rights of women and children.

About this learning paper

This learning paper is the second in a learning papers series produced by Womankind which shares insight, analysis and reflection from our portfolio of work and builds upon a body of learning to support women’s rights and movement strengthening. This learning paper provides insight into the methodology and delivery of a three-year project (2015-2018) funded by the UK Government’s Department for International Development (DFID) through UK Aid Match. The project, “Community Responses to Violence Against Women & Girls in Kenya and Tanzania” was designed together with and delivered by WLAC Tanzania and FIDA Kenya. Womankind supports work to share new knowledge resulting from feminist approaches to evidence and learning as part of our commitment to strengthening women’s movements.

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Masaai woman Need
campaigning against FGM,
Ngong Hills, Kajiado country.
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Executive summary

Womankind's strategic approach is to work in partnership with and through women's movements in our focus countries, supporting diverse women's rights organisations (WROs) in initiatives and projects as part of country programmes to achieve gender equality. We know that locally based WROs play a pivotal role in ensuring that laws and policies are effectively and equally implemented by raising awareness, influencing elected officials at local and national levels, mobilising communications to change social norms and behaviours, building the capacity of duty bearers, and monitoring and holding governments to account in international arenas.

The project "Community Responses to Violence Against Women & Girls in Kenya and Tanzania" (2015-2018) was designed and planned in early 2015 and in line with Womankind's partnership approach. The aim of the project was to enable and support women and girls to challenge social and community norms in relation to violence against women and girls (VAWG), particularly in relation to female genital mutilation (FGM) in Kenya and child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) in Tanzania. The project focused on community engagement in two sub-counties in Kenya, namely Kajiado County and Trans Nzoia County, and in one refugee camp and one host community in Tanzania, namely Nyarugusu Refugee Camp, and Kibondo District.

The project areas were chosen because both partners were aware that it is often the same communities receiving support and attention year on year but without little change. In this project, the partners made a conscious decision to work in areas that had not received this kind of attention. Indeed, for many women and girls in the project area, it was the first time they had been able to seek legal aid and support of this kind.

The project aimed to achieve this through:

- Increasing access to legal aid and integrated support for women and girls to claim their rights in relation to laws and policies on VAWG, particularly FGM and CEFM.

- Raising public awareness on the rights of women and girls and violence against women and girls (VAWG) particularly FGM and CEFM.
- Training of law enforcement agents, paralegals, pro bono lawyers, community chiefs, peer counsellors/mediators and other service providers on the rights of women and girls, and laws & policies against VAWG, particularly FGM and CEFM.

The project was considered a success and was awarded the highest available final project assessment score from DFID, an A++. The three key activity areas for the project were also pivotal factors in the success of the project:

- Legal aid provision: Free legal aid provision has been the backbone of both partners work and has acted as a gateway for community and institutional level engagement.
- Awareness creation and sensitisation: The reach and drive of awareness raising campaigns and activities was made possible by the commitment of the local paralegals and community-based officers.
- Service provider referral pathways: Alliances with crucial service providers and institutions in the communities were fundamental to creating a survivor-centric referral process.

From this project, we learnt that our partners' long-established relationships within their communities were paramount to the project's reach, engagement and ultimate success. This was embodied in the confidence that individual participants had in partners and by the communities' uptake of project activities, including engagement with community-based volunteers and paralegals. The project also further contributes to the body of evidence from both Womankind and the wider women's movement.⁷ Considered more broadly, statutory and institutional donors should prioritise funding that can directly facilitate project implementation by local WROs and to broadcast the critical role they play in successful VAWG programming.

1. OHCHR United Nations, Your Human Rights, Child, Early and Forced Marriage, including in Humanitarian Settings.

Available online at <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/WRGS/Pages/ChildMarriage.aspx>

2. World Health Organisation, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Classification of Female Genital Mutilation. Available online at <https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/fgm/overview/en/>

3. OHCHR United Nations, Your Human rights, Violence Against Women.

Available online at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/WRGS/Pages/VAW.aspx>

4. Womankind Worldwide (2014), Prevention is Possible. Available online at [https://www.womankind.org.uk/docs/default-source/resources/reports/prevention-is-possible-\(1\).pdf](https://www.womankind.org.uk/docs/default-source/resources/reports/prevention-is-possible-(1).pdf)

5. UNICEF and University of California San Diego (2015), Center on Global Justice, What are Social Norms? How are they measure? Available online at: https://www.unicef.org/protection/files/4_09_30_Whole_What_are_Social_Norms.pdf

6. World Intellectual Property Organisation (2013), Customary Law, Traditional Knowledge and Intellectual Property: An outline of the issues. Available online at https://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/tk/en/resources/pdf/overview_customary_law.pdf

7. Womankind Worldwide (2014), Prevention is Possible. Available online at [https://www.womankind.org.uk/docs/default-source/resources/reports/prevention-is-possible-\(1\).pdf](https://www.womankind.org.uk/docs/default-source/resources/reports/prevention-is-possible-(1).pdf)

Introduction

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is one of the most widespread human rights violations worldwide. Globally at least 35% of women experience violence in their lifetime and 30% experience intimate partner violence.⁸ Violence denies women and girls the right to a life free of abuse and subjects them to inhuman and degrading treatment. It also inhibits their ability to enjoy rights and freedoms equally to men, and to live their lives with dignity and respect. Violence against women, and the fear of violence, affects all women, because of the patriarchy and gender discrimination they experience – because they are women. VAWG can take many forms and stems from deeply embedded patriarchal power systems of abuse, oppression and gender inequality. Unequal power relations and discriminatory social norms uphold these systems. Female genital mutilation (FGM) and child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) are primary examples VAWG. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), it is estimated that more than 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone FGM in the countries where the practice is concentrated. Furthermore, there are an estimated 3 million girls at risk of undergoing FGM every year. The majority of girls are cut before they turn 15 years old. FGM has been documented in 30 countries, mainly in Africa, as well as in the Middle East and Asia. Some forms of FGM have also been reported in other countries, including among certain ethnic groups in South America. Moreover, growing migration has increased the number of girls and women living outside their country of origin who have undergone FGM or who may be at risk of being subjected to the practice in Europe, Australia and North America.⁹ FGM and CEFM rates in FIDA Kenya and WLAC's target countries are highest in some specific communities: in Kenya amongst Maasai and Kisii communities

are 73.2% and 96.1% respectively,¹⁰ while CEFM in refugee and rural women and girls in Tanzania is recorded as high as 61%¹¹

Developing the project

This three-year project (2015-2018) was funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) through the UK Aid Match mechanism¹². "Community responses to Violence Against Women & Girls in Kenya and Tanzania" was designed in early 2015 to align with Womankind's theme of ending violence against women and girls. In line with Womankind's partnership approach, the core project need was identified by partners and the project was designed in collaboration with Womankind.¹³ The project idea came from two longstanding partners, Federation of Women Lawyers in Kenya (FIDA Kenya) and the Women's Legal Aid Centre (WLAC) in Tanzania, having similar models for legal aid and women's rights-based community engagement. Both partners had also recently completed separate projects combatting violence against women and girls, which Womankind saw as an opportunity to progress further through this funding opportunity.

Womankind had worked separately with both partners for nearly 10 years because of their shared focus and specialism in providing services that respond directly to women's rights issues. At the time of the project's inception certain laws, like the Domestic Violence Act in Kenya, and the Child, Early and Forced Marriage Bill in Tanzania, were coming into effect. Both partners anticipated an increased demand in their services but more broadly, a need for individuals, communities and institutions to become aware of the new legislation and, where necessary, adapt their practices to reflect it. As a result, the initiative focused on raising the community awareness of the new laws so they could respond to violence against women and girls through concentrated service provision, collective awareness raising and institutional buy-in.

8. World Health Organisation, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, & South African Medical Research Council (2013). Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence, pp 31. Available online at https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/85239/9789241564625_eng.pdf

9. World Health Organisation, Female Genital Mutilation. Available online at <https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/fgm/prevalence/en/>

10. UK Home Office (2017), Country Policy and Information Note Kenya: Female genital mutilation. Available online at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/629583/Kenya_-_female_genital_mutilation_FGM_CPIN_-_v1_0.pdf

11. UNFPA (2014) Child Marriage Fact Sheet. Available online at https://tanzania.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Child%20Marriage%20fact%20sheet%20English%202014_0.pdf

12. UK Department for International Development, UK Aid Match. Available online at <https://www.ukaidmatch.org/about/>

13. Womankind Worldwide, Our Approach. Available online at <https://www.womankind.org.uk/what-we-do/our-approach/>

Mary and Naserian, FGM campaigners, Insinya town, Kajiado County.

© Photograph by Thandiwe Muriu, Kenya for Womankind Worldwide.



Understanding the issue: violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Kenya

Kenya is a country located in East Africa with a population of over 52 million.¹⁴ The Government of Kenya has enacted progressive legislation to overcome VAWG including: the Marriage Act (2014) which states the minimum legal age of marriage is 18 years with no exceptions¹⁵; the Protection from Domestic Violence Act (2015)¹⁶; the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act (2011)¹⁷ and the Victim Protection Act (2014).¹⁸ However, the government has not allocated resources for public outreach or crucial service provider training, nor for priority concerns of the survivors of violence such as legal aid and emergency shelters. According to a 2014 UNICEF survey, rates of VAWG are particularly high with 66% of women aged 18 to 24 reporting physical violence prior to the age of 18.¹⁹ Furthermore, UN Women estimates that 39% of Kenyan women will experience intimate partner physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, while 23% of women aged 20-24 were married before the age of 18.²⁰

For this project, FIDA worked in two regional sub-counties, East Kajiado, south of the capital Nairobi,

and Trans Nzoia, north-west of Lake Victoria. Reported overall rates of FGM in Kenya are 21% but in specific communities in these sub-counties, it is much higher.²¹ According to 28 Too Many, some of the highest rates of FGM are amongst the Maasai (77.9%) in Kajiado County, and the Kiisi (84.4%) in Trans Nzoia.²² FIDA Kenya saw an opportunity to work with these communities and link with the advent of the Protection from Domestic Violence Act and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) campaign to end FGM by 2030.

“The Maasai don’t report – they would rather speak to elders. Elders want to deal with it in the community and men don’t want cases to go to court. In the Maasai village the women have no voice. Normally the chief will help us in cases of rape, they will tell us [whom] – and we will arrest them, but sometimes the elders won’t tell us. This most affects our work when cases that we would have taken to court, the complainant and defendant take their case away. Usually when you ask them, they say they value the family more. They say they reconcile, and life goes on, but it won’t be the end. The violence will continue. Women [fear they]

14. World Population Review, Kenya Population 2019. Available online at <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/kenya-population/>.

15. Kenya Law, Highlights of the Marriage Act 2014. Available online at <http://kenyalaw.org/kenyalawblog/highlights-of-the-marriage-act-2014/>.

16. Kenya Law, Protection Against Domestic Violence Act 2015. Available online at http://kenyalaw.org/kl/fileadmin/pdfdownloads/Acts/ProtectionAgainstDomesticViolenceAct_2015.pdf.

17. Kenya Law, Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act 2011. Available online at http://kenyalaw.org/kl/fileadmin/pdfdownloads/Acts/rohibitionofFemaleGenitalMutilationAct_No32of2011.pdf.

18. Kenya Law, Victim Protection Act 2014. Available online at <http://kenyalaw.org/kl/fileadmin/pdfdownloads/Acts/VictimProtectionAct17of2014.pdf>.

19. UNICEF (2012), Together for Girls Fact Sheet. Available online at <https://uni.cf/2OxA7VV>.

20. UN WOMEN, Global Database on Violence against Women, Kenya. Available online at <http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/fr/countries/africa/kenya>.

21. 28 Too Many, Kenya Key Findings. Available online at <https://www.28toomany.org/country/kenya/>.

22. Ibid.

Catherine Soila works for the administrative police in Kajiado County, trained by FIDA Kenya.

© Photography by Thandiwe Muriu, Kenya for Womankind Worldwide.



will be ostracised in their community so they'd rather stop the case. They will listen to the wider family (husband's family and their family) and elders who will pressure them [to give up]."

GBV Police Officer, Kajiado talking about the situation before the project

Understanding the issue: violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Tanzania

Tanzania is also located in East Africa, and shares borders with Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Rwanda. It has a population of 58 million people.²³ The Law of Marriage Act (1971) allows for boys to marry at 18 and for girls to marry at 15 with parental consent and permits both girls and boys to marry at 14 with a court's permission.²⁴ However, the Marriage Act is superseded by the Customary Law Order (1963), which allows each ethnic group to follow and make decisions-based on its customs and traditions and adds a layer of complexity due to the interplay between national and customary laws.²⁵ This law is particularly relevant to child marriage as it allows communities to apply their own traditions with regard to the minimum age at marriage. Consequently, reports show one in three women are married below the age 18 and data collected from the last Demographic and Health Survey in 2015 show a 5% increase in marriage among adolescent girls in the 15-19 age bracket since the previous survey in 2010.²⁶ In July 2016, Tanzania's Constitutional Court declared child marriage unconstitutional and ordered the government to set 18 years as the minimum age of marriage within one year of the ruling.²⁷ However, Tanzania's current president has openly denounced the ruling, taking steps to rollback a number of women and girls' rights, including banning pregnant girls from attending school.²⁸ In addition, there is no specific law on domestic violence despite the prevalence of physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, reported as 42% for women aged 15-49 years.²⁹

WLAC's work focuses on the refugee population of Nyarugusu Camp and the host communities of Kibondo State. Women and girls make up 64% of the Nyarugusu camp population (current population 152,894).³⁰ Displaced or refugee women are at increased risk of violence due to an increase in armed actors and a decrease in security as a result of broken social and protective networks.³¹ They arrive at the camp due to displacement and seeking safety from conflict or armed violence, however they also experience violence within the camp context. In particular, due to the extreme poverty in the project

areas, women and girls are exchanged or traded in lieu of financial compensation in instances of theft or loss of property.

This places them at high risk of violence, including CEFM, because they become the property of another family that often decides to marry them to a male relative. In effect, these women and girls are treated as the possessions of men. An International Rescue Committee (IRC) safety audit in Nyarugusu camp in 2018 found that 62% of adult women who participated in the audit (aged 25+) and 51% of girls (aged 13 – 19) identified violence in the home including emotional or physical violence as a concern. In addition, 62% of adult women and 66% of girls identified sexual violence and abuse as a concern.³²

"Before WLAC were in the camp it was very hard: it was like trying to swim on land when there is no water. WLAC's influence and donor support has been invaluable. Working together with WLAC is very important; our police officers are rotated every six months, and each new person that come in, is coming from a different department with different levels of knowledge and training on VAWG and gender-based violence. We train the new police officers in gender sensitive approaches to dealing with survivors copying the original training WLAC gave us so that all officers have the same level [of knowledge]. We also setup Gender Centres where we give women and children a private room to report. We use women police officers to take statements from survivors and refer them to medical services and WLAC for further support."

Mohammad, Head of Police Gender Team, Nyarugusu Camp, Tanzania

In late 2015 to early 2016, during the course of the project, civil war broke out in neighbouring Burundi, causing a large influx of Burundian refugees to Nyarugusu camp. Prior to this, the majority camp population of 66,000 were Congolese but the population of the camp more than tripled, to 210,000 inhabitants.³³ Consequently, WLAC had to adapt their project scope and timeframes whilst working together with other agencies including UNHCR to register and accommodate the new refugees. In 2017, UNHCR opened two new refugee camps and the population of Nyarugusu stabilised at 150,000. This project continued to focus on the refugees living in Nyarugusu, while WLAC's overarching mission expanded to include the two new refugee camps.

23. World Population Review, Tanzania Population 2019. Available online at <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/tanzania-population/>.

24. Registration, Insolvency & Trusteeship Agency, Chapter 29 The Law of Marriage Act. Available online at [http://www.rita.go.tz/eng/laws/History%20Laws/Marriage%20Ordinance,%20\(cap%2029\).pdf](http://www.rita.go.tz/eng/laws/History%20Laws/Marriage%20Ordinance,%20(cap%2029).pdf).

25. Tanzania Women Lawyers Association TAWLA (2014), Review of Laws & Policies related to Gender Based Violence of Tanzania Mainland. Available online at <https://www.svri.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2016-07-05/Tanzanian%20review%20GBV%20report%202014%20by%20TAWLA%20TAMWA%20CRC%20TGNP%20ZAFELA.pdf>.

26. UNFPA (2017), Factsheet Tanzania. Available online at https://tanzania.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Factsheet_CM_UNFPA_14oct.pdf.

27. Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network (2016), Press Release Statement. Available at http://tanzaniaendingchildmarriagenetwork.blogspot.com/2016/08/press-release-statement-on-attorney_11.html.

28. Ratcliffe, R for The Guardian (2017), 'After getting pregnant, you are done': no more school for Tanzania's mums-to-be. Available online at <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/jun/30/tanzania-president-ban-pregnant-girls-from-school-john-magufuli>.

29. DHS Programme (2016), Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey and Malaria Indicator Survey (TDHS-MIS) 2015-2016. Available online at <https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR321/FR321.pdf>.

30. UNHCR, Nyarugusu Camp Profile July 2018. Available online at <https://data2.unhcr.org/es/documents/download/65654>.

31. World Health Organisation, Human Reproduction Programme, Displaced or refugee women are at increased risk of violence. What can WHO do? Available online at <https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/displaced-refugee-women-violence-risk/en/>.

32. UNHCR, Kibondo Participatory Assessment 2018. Available online at <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67765>.

33. UNHCR, Operational Portal Refugee Situations, Burundi Situation: Available online at <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/burundi/location/2030>.



Dimensions of social and behavioural change

In Kenya, despite the existence of legislation, FGM is perpetrated in increasingly rural and secretive locations, outside the scope of authorities and health services limited resources. Meanwhile, in Tanzania, the rollback on women's rights, and the use of discriminatory customary law to undermine national legislation makes it more difficult to protect girls and women, or to prosecute the perpetrators of CEFM. Both practices are woven into communities by a combination of tradition, poverty and violence, and therefore cannot be overcome in a single project period. However, the experience of Womankind and partners has shown that strengthening conditions for a more enabling environment for women's rights and agency, within communities, is an important way to achieve long-term change.

An important factor both partners stressed as paramount to the success of the project was reinforcing the buy-in and ownership of the communities and individuals. For Womankind, working with partners who were well-established in the chosen focus areas was key to the success of the project. Both partners have established working relationships with stakeholder groups such as local chiefs and elders, police officers, judiciary, healthcare service providers and other local NGOs.

Our partners took a unique approach to delivering the project, considering their core stakeholders in three layers - or dimensions of change - and as people who could both benefit from and lead the processes that would bring about change. The UNICEF model, the Social Model for Behaviour Change to address VAWG and Harmful Traditional Practices (HTP) Risk Factors³⁴ identifies these dimensions as individual, community, and institutional. While each dimension requires its own targeted approach, the overall success of this project lies in the intersection between these groups, where an action at one level will bring about a positive change at another.

Change at the individual level

FIDA and WLAC's specialist teams of lawyers are legal experts. Change at the individual level was to enable women and girls to access and know where to find free legal advice and support. Providing individuals with tailored and free legal aid was at the core of both 'partners' work'. Through legal aid and accompaniment, a woman can seek a divorce with adequate compensation for her and her children, a group of schoolgirls can bring perpetrators of FGM to justice, and a widow can challenge relatives who claim her husband's property. Both partners offered

legal aid through their regional offices and also provided mobile legal aid clinics for three days per month. The mobile clinics were particularly popular, as they made information, advice and support available to women and girls in some of the most hard-to-reach communities, which were part of this project.

"When my husband died a man named Ian started cultivating some of the land belonging to me. I did not know this man and I told him to leave many times, but he refused, I went to the village tribunal to report the case, and get the official document saying my husband and I were the owners of this land. I paid the village tribunal 20,000 shillings to get the documents and I showed them to Ian to make him leave. Instead he comes to me a few days later saying that he has gone to the county tribunal and [they have] verified that it is his land.*

I was so angry after this verdict, and complained to many people about it, until one friend, recommended I go to WLAC with the case. They then summoned the county tribunal leaders to present their case for refusing me my land. The leaders did not respond to [WLAC] summons and did not send any of their documents on the case, so the WLAC lawyer decided to take the case to the Kibondo District Commissioner. The District Commissioner went through all my documents and concluded that I was the rightful owner of the land. He then summoned both the county and the village tribunal leaders. He proved that they were in the wrong about their reasoning on my case.

Ian wrote to me to ask to make an apology. I went to the WLAC paralegals and I said a written apology was not enough, he had to make it public, in front of everyone from the village and county tribunal. The paralegals summoned Ian and the other relevant people, where he made a formal apology to me. This apology was then put on paper that all the witnesses signed."

Nuru, WLAC client, Tanzania

In addition, in Kenya, FIDA piloted a new type of psychosocial group therapy for project participants to help them overcome particularly difficult and challenging situations. The combination of therapy with legal aid on offer to these women and girls strengthened their ability to come forward to contextualise their cases, as well as giving them the confidence to live more fulfilled lives after the trauma they have experienced.

34. UNICEF, Communication for Development (C4D). Available online at https://www.unicef.org/cbsc/index_65736.html.

Change at the community level

A primary component of the project was to encourage women and girls to organise activities in their communities. This was designed to help them visibly take on leadership roles, contributing to a more positive enabling environment for women which is conducive to them claiming their rights and reinforcing positive norms and practices in support of gender equality. Although both partners were well respected and well known in the project areas, one of their core strategies at community level was to identify and support focal points within the community and equip them with knowledge about women's rights and the law. These focal points, being from the communities themselves, were also familiar with the local context including customary and traditional practices that perpetuate VAWG.

In Kenya, FIDA's community awareness raising was led by community based officers (CBO) who were volunteers from communities. Some were leaders such as deputy chiefs and elders, and others were young people wanting to improve their skills and gain work experience. As part of project inception, the CBOs received training from FIDA on women's rights and the law, followed by annual refresher programmes and were part of developing awareness raising strategies. The CBOs also made referrals to FIDA's legal team for women and girls seeking intervention, support or advice.

"A friend and I decided to spread the word about FGM and its harmful consequences to try to prevent it. In our Maasai community we usually talk to one another, I warn the girls who haven't had FGM. Often the cutters use the same knife without cleaning it so they can spread diseases like HIV. I have managed to convince 15 girls to rebel against FGM and I'm really proud of it. I wish I had had the knowledge and courage to oppose my parents. Nowadays, the popularity of FGM is decreasing. I hope that in a year or two it will be over. I will keep on spreading the word: my aim is to convince more girls to stand up against FGM. I want to show Maasai girls that anything is possible and teach their parents and the community that girls deserve to make decisions for themselves."

Jennifer, Community Based Officer, Kajiado County, Kenya

In Tanzania, WLAC decided to work on community awareness and enable legal response and referral

through training community members as paralegals. These paralegals played a vital role in ensuring that WLAC and the project could have the scope and reach it needed especially when working in such a wide geographical area. The paralegals took responsibility for and acted as key contact points in legal matters for women and girls. They became educators and enforcers of rights and laws in their camp or their district and engaged through both formal and informal strategies. They had everyday office hours hosted in their local municipal building at district level, or in a purpose-built paralegal office in the camp. The paralegals took details of cases and then referred them to WLAC and other service providers where appropriate. They also hosted regular meetings including in local schools where any individual from the community could ask questions or request information.

"Men often give small gifts to girls to 'tempt' them, but then there is a lot of pressure on girls to pay the men back, which can lead to bad outcomes for the girls involved. First, [WLAC Meetings] helped me personally to understand my rights and the rights of other children and young people. Secondly, it has helped me to educate others in my community about their rights and how girls need to have more confidence and self-esteem to speak out about bad issues. Thanks to WLAC I was able to help a girl in my school who became pregnant at 17, but the child was still born. I counselled her to return to school and complete her education, and hosted a class discussion about pregnancy and sex with her."

Silvie, School Students Committee Member, Nyrugusu Camp, Tanzania

One of the most successful features of the paralegal model was their weekly home visits whereby two paralegals would visit a number of families who had either reported a problem or concern, or for whom someone else had raised a concern. Through these visits they were able to reach out to particularly marginalised groups, like older adults and people with disabilities, as well as to mothers with full-time care commitments. The paralegal reach and approach proved so successful in engaging communities that the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has subsequently funded WLAC to expand the paralegal programme to two additional refugee camps in Tanzania.



Change at the institutional level

The third dimension of change links to the creation of a more positive enabling environment for women and girls to live free from violence and is focused on institutions. In the project this includes service providers like doctors and nurses, teachers and social workers as well as local government representatives, chiefs and elders, the judiciary and lawyers. These institutions hold power and respect not only due to the services they provide but also because of the impact they can have on community norms and structures. However, these institutions need strengthening to ensure that they can effectively meet the needs of those seeking support whether services or access to justice and contribute to a more enabling environment.

In Kenya, FIDA had previously worked with the same communities on endorsing female chiefs and had established a network of these chiefs who wanted to modernise customary law. From that network they could reach the monthly chiefs' forums and elders' circles, to engage community leadership in the project. FIDA staff's familiarity with those chiefs, as well as professional legal backgrounds, mean they could work to bridge the gap between formal and informal justice systems and decision-making structures. As a result, FIDA conducted workshops with chiefs and elders to relate and modify customary laws to national legislation, focusing specifically on FGM, child marriage, and inheritance rights.

FIDA also worked with staff at local police stations and hospitals to increase understanding of the legal framework as well as how to identify and respond to women and girl survivors of violence. Lastly, FIDA approached other legal firms and offered training on how to file and defend cases of VAWG and the importance of offering pro-bono assistance. By building the capacity of these crucial institutional players to respond to cases in a professional, understanding and timely manner encouraged greater trust in those systems and greater uptake of the services they provide. This helped to strengthen the potential for sustained support and action beyond the lifetime of the project as institutions replicate the trainings and further inform and change standards of practice in the long-term.

"To become an elder, you are chosen from the community based on age, cultural background and discipline. Since becoming

an elder I have been very active in the community. I tell the community that women should be on leadership committees, that girls must go to school. The Maasai communities believe that women have no rights to land, property, cattle or even to children. The training taught me many things I didn't know. The training gave me more knowledge and confidence to stand before my people and say that women should be educated. It encouraged me to stand up against child marriage. At first it was challenging to stand before other elders and talk about women's rights. They saw it as against their culture. I got other elders to attend the FIDA training workshops which helped them understand for themselves the importance of these issues. To me promoting the rights of women feels like a calling to me. It is inside my heart."

Sammy, Maasai Elder, Kajiado County, Kenya

In Tanzania, WLAC worked with two sets of institutions, those that were based in the Nyarugusu Refugee Camp, and those based in the Kibondo District host community. Therefore, strategies for influencing institutional change particularly in the refugee camp setting needed to quickly adapt to rapidly changing circumstances such as humanitarian crises. In the camp, paramount to creating the enabling environment was the buy-in and support of the camp security forces and surrounding local administration. Camp police were Tanzanian military personnel, often with little training in domestic legislation on refugees. In addition, personnel rotated frequently between every three to six months which affected their level of understanding of the needs of the refugee community.

As a result, the paralegals became indispensable to camp security and local administrators and were trusted intermediaries for those in most need of help. The tangible and visible approach of the project helped WLAC to position itself as a crucial actor with knowledge and expertise in a challenging setting and offering specific services and support to a diverse range of women and girls. This resulted in the organisation becoming the coordinator of the inter-agency group for the protection of women and children in the camp and enabled them to deliver and roll out their training on women's and girls' rights including in response to VAWG in humanitarian settings.

Key project outcomes

This project looked to achieve an overall goal (outcome) of creating, “an enabling environment supportive of women and girls’ right to live free from violence.” The combination of interventions at the individual, community and institutional level by the partners was indicated early on as best way to engage participants. Initial year one findings from partners presented a strong uptake in legal aid and demand for follow-on training of institutional level service providers in particular. Through this methodology partners went on to consistently overachieve on the numbers of participants actively engaging with and contributing to the project, which ultimately contributed to creating a more enabling environment supportive of women and girls’ rights.

“[The project] has certainly been effective in providing legal services and raising awareness of the issues at community level, thereby working on both the response to and prevention of VAWG. The project has also recognised that women and girls face multiple types of violence in their lives, be it FGM, CEFM or domestic violence and has sought to address these together rather than single out particular issues.”

Excerpt from the Project Evaluation Report, Kanwal Ahluwalia & Elanor Jackson

The project used standard monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) methods including a logframe and baseline survey which aligned with the social and behavioural dimensions of change, that the project was hoping to influence. The project included target numbers of project participants as

Project participant numbers		
	Predicted (all three years)	Achieved (all three years)
Individual	10,500 (women and girls)	18,999 (women and girls)
Community	7,050 (4,260 women & girls, 2,790 men & boys)	21,202 (12,138 women & girls, 9,064 men & boys)
Institutional	535	803 (including 412 women)

Four paralegals who work for Women’s Legal Aid Centre in Tanzania.
© Photography by Women’s Legal Aid Centre.



discussed and defined by each project partner. The table below shows the overall predicted project participant numbers and the final numbers achieved.

- At the individual level, the target was based on the number of women and girls who demonstrated confidence through access to FIDA and WLAC's free legal aid services.
- At the community level, the target was based on the number of people who demonstrated increased awareness of women & girls rights and VAWG, particularly FGM and CEFM.
- At the institutional level, the target was based on the number of service providers, such as law enforcers, paralegals, lawyers, community leaders and elders who demonstrated an understanding and use of training on rights of women & girls and VAWG.

Partners conducted quarterly monitoring through participant surveys, a modified outcome star and anecdotal evidence collection. Every six months Womankind received narrative reports reflecting on the progress of the project and how any challenges were being overcome. Womankind also conducted annual monitoring visits, coordinated by the project lead and the partner project leads in their respective project areas. This allowed for the collection of key actor interviews, and case studies from participants, as well as the opportunity for face-to-face skills-share workshops with project staff.

Project activities prioritised delivery where high incidences of VAWG, in particular FGM and CEFM had been recorded, and where partners had a track record of engagement with community leaders and institutions. This is an important factor in understanding why the target numbers were exceeded as the response to the project was higher than anticipated at the outset.

Success factors

As previous Womankind projects, and our own, as well as broader research from the sector shows, women's rights organisations (WROs) are a crucial factor in the success of interventions aimed at combatting VAWG. This is because WROs are often uniquely placed in bridging the gaps between women in communities and formal decision-making structures. Their intimate and often first-hand knowledge and understanding of community norms enables them to engage with traditional leaders, as well as local institutional structures, that have the

power to drive changes in communities that can support or hinder women and girls' ability to live free from violence.

As is clear from the table above, predicted reach for the project was exceeded by at least 50% for each level of change, with the number of participants reached at the community level being exceeded by 300%. For both partners, this represented a major positive step towards a more enabling environment for women and girls as well as a numerical reflection of their ability to successfully deliver projects of this scope. The selection of the three key activity areas for the project were also pivotal factors in its success:

- **Legal aid provision:** Free legal aid provision has been the backbone of both partners' work and has acted as a gateway for community and institutional level engagement.
- **Awareness creation and sensitisation:** The reach and drive of awareness raising campaigns and activities was made possible by the commitment of the local paralegals and community based officers.
- **Service provider referral pathways:** Alliances with crucial service providers and institutions in the communities were crucial to creating a survivor-centric referral process.

Legal aid provision: Both partners have extensive experience in providing legal assistance and this was a core element of the project. The intervention of paralegals and community based officers was also a pivotal factor as these volunteers could reach people in their communities, through home visits or local market days and provide a first point of information and advice for people. This method proved to be particularly important when getting to hard-to-reach areas and to accommodate women and girls living with disabilities.

Awareness creation and sensitisation: In year one of the project, partners saw an increased acknowledgement and understanding of the realities of VAWG within communities, particularly in relation to women and girls knowing their rights and being more aware of the services that are available. In year two, these changes progressed, with those participants of awareness sessions starting their own focus groups such as in high schools, and local colleges. FIDA also saw the community taking a more active role in response to incidents of VAWG, such as assisting neighbours to seek legal aid from our partners if they have experienced VAWG. By the final year of the project, some community members were

challenging their leaders to formalise processes that protect women from VAWG by exercising greater respect for women's rights in customary laws.

"Awareness raising at all levels of society has ensured that there is a sound awareness of what the provisions are in the national law, and what rights individuals have to these. This can give a woman, a) the confidence to request those legal standards be met at her tribal and local judicial level; and b) influence over power-holders and duty-bearers in the community such as male leaders and service providers to practice and maintain those legal standards."

Lulu Mshana, Field Project Coordinator, WLAC Tanzania

Service provider referral pathways: Over the three years, the training by partners of crucial service providers occurred every six months and strengthened their skills and ability to support women to claim their rights and seek justice. In Tanzania, in the Nyarugusu refugee camp, 'Gender Desks' were created as a private space for women and girls to report violence – this would be later

used as a model in the construction of other refugee camps responding to the Burundi refugee crisis. In Kenya, beyond the scope of the original project, the military cadet school near Kisumu requested sensitisation sessions on VAWG and the law after hearing about sessions that were held with local law enforcement officials.

As a result of these interventions, tribal chiefs and local leaders made public pledges to end FGM and CEFM in their communities. In the case of Tanzania, other NGOs specifically based in the refugee camp established referral pathways with WLAC, to ensure cases they identified and referred to the correct organisation in a timely manner. Meanwhile in Kenya, former participants of the service provider training have progressed to senior roles in their departments because of their pioneering of FIDA's principles.

Another success factor was both partners' long-established relationships within their communities, paramount to the project's reach and engagement. These relationships were a mark of confidence in the partners by the communities they worked with and within.

Dr. Caroline Muindi at the Ngong Sub County hospital, trained by FIDA Kenya.

© Photography by Thandiwe Muriu, Kenya for Womankind Worldwide.



Programme management in practice: learning and adaptation

Womankind's partnership approach is not only about reaching the end project goal but also about the steps that are taken to get there, ensuring that our partners are confident and supported throughout that process. The outcome is that we support women's rights organisations and the broader movements they are part of, to develop and deliver successful and innovative projects with strong and enduring working relationships.

As is common with projects of this nature, there were many challenges, from a changing local context, natural disasters and currency fluctuations, to sometimes simply not being able to reach remote areas. Due to the strength of the relationships between the partners and Womankind, such matters were openly and clearly raised and discussed with measures agreed to adapt within project parameters. This was supported through regular project visits by Womankind to each partner, including support on MEL and the baseline survey, and subsequent monitoring and reporting. This also served to strengthen the capacity of each partner and those engaged in the project providing time and space for reflection and the adoption of new and appropriate tools and frameworks.

Adapting to changes in the local environment

In Kenya, during the project period, FIDA was the only legal aid provider in the region of Trans Nzoia, as other civil society organisations scaled back their work. The gap in legal aid was not filled by any public services or social welfare programme, and therefore FIDA felt the need to respond. This led to an increased workload and the need to travel greater distances through the mobile legal aid clinics. FIDA's work to publicise laws on VAWG and FGM, and community based officers' work on creating forums for public discourse, opened the discussion from local through to national level.

In 2016, the Government of Kenya committed to establishing a special Child Protection Unit in the Department of Criminal Justice, which began operations in 2018. This new unit will go some way to alleviating the case load on organisations like FIDA, specialising in the issues of FGM and violence in the home.

In Tanzania, a principal challenge was the influx of 160,000 Burundian refugees to one small refugee camp. As a result, WLAC delayed some activities in agreement with Womankind simply because they needed to support a large number of people requiring registration, housing and food. They subsequently incorporated the Burundian population of the camp into the scope of the project, even though they did not increase budget to do so. Through a solutions focused approach, WLAC developed a new method of interaction: 'Home Visits', where trained paralegals became outreach workers and made weekly visits to the homes of those in their community zones. They reported back to the legal aid team if they felt any cases needed to be referred. This approach reduced the amount of time WLAC's legal aid team spent researching and building cases and allowed more time for survivor support and follow up.

For Womankind, this project was an important contribution to the long-term aim of realising women's rights and working to challenge and change social and behavioural norms in relation to VAWG, which continues beyond the project period with both partners' and participants' independent work. The design and delivery of the project aligned with donor requirements for incremental steps and numerical evidence but was also flexible enough for adaptation as described above. The ability to engage with DFID staff was essential and changed during the course of the project due to staff turnover and the move from in-house staff to a fund manager. Ultimately, Womankind and our partners further demonstrated the success of our unique partnership approach through the programme management and accompaniment, evidenced in the final project assessment score, which was the highest available from DFID, an A++.³⁵

35. Department for International Development (2011), How to Note, Reviewing and Scoring Projects. Available online at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/67344/HTN-Reviewing-Scoring-Projects.pdf.



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



Conclusion and recommendations

This project built on previous innovations by both partners in community participation and strengthening of knowledge to end violence against women and girls (VAWG), meaning both partners were trusted by the communities in which the project operated. Added to this was the importance of networking with local service providers and assessing needs and gaps in their institutional knowledge with a rights-based training model. This project has been central in ensuring that survivors of VAWG know their rights and are able to seek support and access to justice whilst raising awareness of the harmful traditional customs and norms of VAWG in the wider community. Both partners experienced higher demand than anticipated, and they have accommodated this with adaptive planning and new context-specific solutions. They have also focused on building and strengthening trust with service providers and law enforcement officials to demonstrate that cases will be taken forward, which in turn encourages reporting. Through the project women and girls have been supported by improved community capacity to respond to and challenge VAWG. This has directly impacted upon their ability to live healthy lives, own land and property, generate an income, and care for their children.

"Women in Kenya are taught to put up with the abuse. I used to joke about FIDA, I thought they are the women who want to conquer Kenya. I didn't expect I would ever need them. We came to FIDA for mediation, but he [my husband] was rude and refused to do anything. I started attending the group therapy. It gave me the confidence to get my livelihood back and work on myself. I don't want women to stay in abusive

relationships because of their children or financial situation. Now I'm strong, I can go to him and tell him what I want."

Lizzie, FIDA client, Kenya

"I am very thankful to WLAC for their help. I believe all women should be encouraged to use their services as they give good advice and they are fair. I feel peaceful now that the case has been resolved and I look forward to being able to grow my business further, perhaps making several businesses in future. I know if I ever have a problem like this again, I can come to WLAC for support and advice. This makes me feel better."

Farida, WLAC client, Tanzania

Increasing the confidence of survivors of violence in reporting and seeking support, enabling the behavioural changes towards women and girls in communities, establishing support structures, and strengthening services for survivors is a proven way of breaking the cycle of poverty and violence. The project's unique combination of both informal community organising and local institutional buy-in has proven the best method for sustainability that does not depend upon external financial contributions.

This is in large part due to the popularity and trust our partner organisations have established with the community, making them receptive to the project methods in the first place. This, combined with key positive changes in attitudes and behaviours within communities, the formation of support groups, community-based officer and paralegal training, as well as consultation with those communities' leaders has ensured that ownership of the project message to end VAWG is firmly in the hands of those community members. This is then augmented by the training of crucial service providers, in order to respect, and uphold the rights of women and girls, valuing each case equally.

Programming recommendations

Programme design

- Future projects of this nature should include a detailed power analysis including the unpacking of gender norms. This would involve exploring the patriarchal features of different systems of power in each project and activity area in order to develop a more nuanced but feminist approach to counter and challenge existing norms and behaviours involving potential project participants.

Evidence and learning

- Future projects should have dedicated MEL support both at Womankind and partner levels to share skills and build on and strengthen capacity, from design stage and throughout delivery.
- Donors should strengthen their own understanding of the kinds of quantitative and qualitative indicators and methodologies that are appropriate to capture complex social change to realise women's rights.

Funding

- Donors should more generously resource women's rights organisations with long-term core and flexible funding models, recognising the valuable role that they play in advancing gender equality and women's rights.
- Donors should place greater emphasis on core funding, where possible on the basis of women's rights organisations' own plans and budget and provide sizable grants.

Access to justice

- Effective VAWG policy, programming and funding responses should strengthen both the formal and informal justice system and address harmful and discriminatory customary laws. women's rights organisations have a vital role in bridging the gap between formal and informal decision-making structures.

International Women's Day
march in 2017.

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Masaai woman campaigning against FGM, Ngong Hills, Kajiado county.

© Photography by Thandiwe Muriu, Kenya for Womankind Worldwide.

About Womankind Worldwide

Womankind Worldwide is a global women's rights organisation working in solidarity and equal partnership with women's rights organisations and movements to transform the lives of women.

Our vision is of a just world where the rights of all women are respected, valued and realised.

Womankind supports women's movements to strengthen and grow by providing a range of tools, including technical support, communications, connectivity and shared learning, joint advocacy and fundraising.

Wenlock Studios
50-52 Wharf Road
N1 7EU London, UK

www.womankind.org.uk

info@womankind.org.uk

UK registered charity No. 32820

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