

SUMMARY

In FY23, all Kenya Big Dream program areas deepened work to protect vulnerable children and eliminate child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM). The program increased efforts to change attitudes and behaviors, educate children, improve livelihoods, and advocate for child protection.

With your faithful support, World Vision reached 103% of target participants in FY23, directly serving 272,137 children, youth, and adults. Since Kenya Big Dream began, we have reached nearly 1.3 million participants in West Pokot, Baringo, Samburu, and Migori counties.

In a key highlight, the program engaged morans, the young male warriors of the Samburu tribe, in Biblical Empowered Worldview. Fifteen morans created skits and songs to create awareness in their communities about the dangers

of child marriage and FGM. The morans encouraged parents and caregivers to take their children to school and stop illegal practices that they themselves had ceased. Their changed attitudes were remarkable, as their previous activities included cattle rustling and “beading” of girls to claim them for early marriages.

In other highlights from FY23:

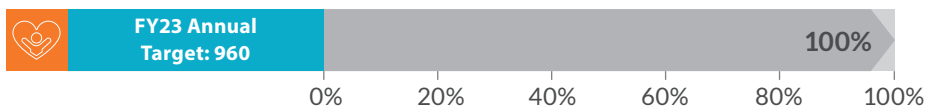
- 59 teachers, 17 child protection volunteers, 27 faith leaders, and 22 community health volunteers in Migori County gained training in psychological first aid and championed mental health awareness. They played a crucial role in identifying children affected by harmful cultural settings and practices, helping 183 of them to reduce stress symptoms and get support for their recovery.



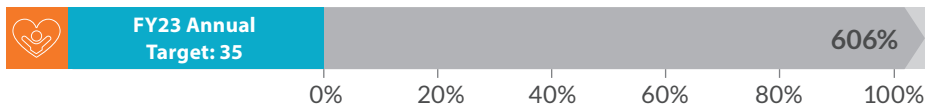
Alternative Rites of Passage, part of Kenya Big Dream, helps end child marriage and ensure a safe transition to young adulthood by addressing entrenched practices like FGM and other forms of violence. The approach creates a way for children, like those graduating (above) in Samburu County, to be protected and informed about their rights, while helping their parents commit to their education.

PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

960 children graduated from five-day Alternative Rites of Passage (ARP) ceremonies.



212 savings groups were established.



166 people were trained to lead the C-Change program to address issues that affect child well-being.



- The program tailored activities within the core models of Community Change (C-Change) and Spiritual Nurture of Children to better reach participants in Samburu County. In particular, we helped community members and elders establish an Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP) ceremony to celebrate and bless youth who transitioned to adulthood without undergoing FGM. The ceremony followed training that educated children on the danger of FGM, taught boys to prevent the practice, and encouraged girls to complete their education. Involving the community in creating solutions that resonate with its values will help lead to more sustainable and culturally sensitive interventions.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture in West Pokot and Baringo counties, we trained 237 participants in 10 producer groups in beekeeping, including the harvesting, processing, and marketing of honey. After learning how to increase the value of their honey, members of a savings group showcased their product at an agricultural trade fair. The group earned \$1,145 in FY23—more than tripling its previous year’s total. The income helped members meet basic needs and pay school fees for their children.
- The program distributed vegetable and legume seeds to 562 parents, increasing food security for 1,686 household members. Participants sold surplus crops for additional income. Farmers in West Pokot County harvested 114 bags of beans worth about \$5,220. By providing better for their families, parents face less financial pressure to marry off their daughters for a bride price.
- The Kongor Accelerated Learning Program (KALEP)—which provides six months of intensive instruction for children denied the opportunity to receive a formal education, while equipping them with skills needed to continue their schooling—continued to gain momentum. Thirty-nine of the 40 students from the first cohort graduated from KALEP in Baringo County in FY23, with 37 of them placed in formal primary school classes. The other two graduates, both older than 18, are pursuing a Bible school education. The next 40-student cohort has started.
- Youth in all program counties participated in children’s assemblies to discuss child protection issues and advocate for their needs, giving them a platform to speak to county governments on issues affecting them.
- 59.7% of adolescents reported that their voices have been heard in their communities, more than double the percentage recorded three years ago when the program began. This includes 72% in Baringo County—where national and county governments have committed to provide teachers and school infrastructure—and nearly 46% in West Pokot County.
- Construction continued on a secondary school that will allow students in the Akoret community to be educated for the first time. The program



In C-Change, communities engage in facilitated dialogues to discuss underlying beliefs, sociocultural norms, and traditional practices, challenging their own ideas and working to improve child well-being. Dorothy Kamono (above, in her shop), a participant in Baringo County, said C-Change discussions “helped us to identify the root causes of problems in our community and come up with ways to address them. I opened a business, which gives me income to support my family and provide basic needs for my children. We are now better parents to our children and are taking the [initiative] to protect them.”

received commitments from the Baringo County government to provide piped water and fencing and from the national government to provide registered teachers. We also served Samburu County, constructing eight classrooms, two libraries, and two four-door latrines for 1,099 students at four primary schools.

- In Samburu County, the program trained 119 Biblical Empowered Worldview champions, whose influence helped 195 fellow community members move from a mindset of dependency to one of transformation. The program reached 67 morans, convincing them to leave their isolated lives in the bush. Seven of the young warriors enrolled in a technical school to learn mechanical skills. This will help them gain job opportunities, increase their incomes, and support their families.
- 73 champions trained in Biblical Empowered Worldview in Migori County passed on their learning to 515 people from vulnerable households, including women, youth who were heads of households, and religious leaders. By gaining a deeper understanding of scripture and community transformation, participants were encouraged to use their assets, such as their land, to improve their livelihoods. Next year, they will identify value chains to engage in. This activity, along with continuing with savings group participation, will help increase household incomes.
- The council of Pokot elders worked with the program to establish cultural laws to protect children in Baringo and West Pokot counties. The elders collaborated with county governments and legal experts to ensure that the laws aligned with legal standards, including Kenya’s constitution. In FY24, we expect the counties to formally adopt the laws.
- We partnered with multiple stakeholders—including national and county governments and community-based organizations—to develop a five-year, gender-strategic plan for Migori County. The plan highlights the vulnerabilities of women and children in the county and provides direction to address issues of gender-based violence.
- The program organized 35 training forums on child protection reporting and referrals, targeting children in churches, schools, and communities. The forums reached 4,013 people and helped children better understand the detrimental effects of FGM and child marriage and the importance of reporting harm, including physical violence, against children.
- The program aggressively worked with local authorities to raise awareness of reporting and referral systems relating to cases of child abuse. The efforts reached 382,201 adults and 45,798 children. A midterm assessment of Phase 1 in March found that 28.7% of adolescents in Baringo and West Pokot counties knew where to seek help in cases of physical or sexual violence. This is just slightly more than the baseline amount, in part because the COVID-19 pandemic greatly diminished



Because elders play a significant role in upholding traditional laws and cultural practices, the program held community dialogues with them and young men in Samburu (above) and West Pokot counties. What he learned about the danger of FGM was “very shocking,” said Lengisan Lebelerya, an elder. “From this day forward, I am committing ... to fight FGM and ensure that no girl in my family will undergo FGM.”

Morans, the young warriors of the Samburu tribe, also were enlightened. The dialogue was “an eye-opener,” said Lesimalele Lentewo, a moran from Ntepes village. “We did not know that girls undergo such pain,” he said, promising that he and other morans will educate people in their villages. “We will also embrace marrying uncut girls so as to end the pressure on girls to be cut in order to be eligible for marriage.”

program implementation and gains and school attendance. In response, the program is working to increase awareness on reporting, referrals, and other structures and mechanisms related to child protection.

- 69 former cattle rustlers formed savings groups after completing C-Change and other trainings in West Pokot and Baringo counties. The men, known as reformed warriors, agreed to stop stealing. Sixteen bought motorbikes with income from providing transportation services, and then began traveling to advocate against FGM and community conflicts. Another 53 participants, all members of savings groups, started making financial and in-kind contributions toward establishing such businesses as retail stores and cornmeal mills.



Sammy's life seemed limited before he received the opportunity to attend KALEP, which offers specialized tutoring to children who have never received a formal education. He joined after raiders stole his family's cattle that he used to herd. After learning to read and write, he enrolled in formal schooling.

"Since I tasted education, I cannot go back to herding cattle," Sammy said. "I want to complete my education and become a pastor to preach the word of God in my community. When I grow up, I want to earn a decent living and bring change in my village."

CHALLENGES

Drought and insecurity continue to be major challenges that contribute to economic challenges, food shortages, and lower school attendance. In collaboration with other World Vision programs and our partners in technical working groups, the program offered cash transfers, food, intensified monitoring of school attendance, and integrated outreach for children and pregnant and lactating women.

West Pokot, Baringo, and Samburu counties experienced significant security threats relating to cattle rustling and rivalries among community groups for pasture and water. The government declared parts of the three program counties as dangerous and imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew at one point. According to news media reports, the government deployed the military to help police deal with incidents across the region, including robberies and fatal attacks on motorists and police.

The program worked with police to learn the status of threats in real time and traveled with security when necessary.

LOOKING AHEAD

In the first half of FY24, we plan to:

- Start an approach in Migori County to provide deeper case management at the household level, in addition to our community change processes. We will begin by mapping households in the first quarter of FY24.
- Prepare for a significant communication campaign leading up to the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation on February 6, 2024. Our campaign aims to raise awareness about the urgency to end FGM, showcase program efforts to do so, and position World Vision as a trusted partner in the fight against FGM in Kenya.
- Partner with the University of Nairobi, which will study and publish learnings from the program.

LIFE-OF-PROGRAM UPDATE (FY20-FY24)



Goal
1,322,464 people have engaged with education, protection, and/or community action activities to create a safer environment for children.

Actual
1,273,440 people (96% of the goal) have engaged with education, protection, and/or community action activities to create a safer environment for children.

THANK YOU

Had she not been able to move ahead with her education with the help of KALEP, “perhaps by now I would have undergone FGM and been married off to an old man,” said Shanice (below and right), a student in Baringo County.

Katiwa Lekolo, a C-Change participant in Samburu County, said he wants to “give my daughters a brighter future by taking them to school. I also want to nurture my sons in such a way that they will be able to take good care of their female children in the future.”

Learning how to advocate has inspired Elizabeth Mworor, an elder from West Pokot County. “As we propose laws, we have also been taught on how to engage local administration, such as chiefs, to protect our children,” she said.

All this and much more was made possible by your generous support to Kenya Big Dream. Thanks to you, children are protected, parents better provide for their families, and lives are powerfully changed.



Shanice once spent her days tending cattle before attending KALEP. “I did not know how to read or write, but now I can do both,” Shanice said. “Thanks to KALEP, I was able to join formal schooling.” Shanice wants to be “a good role model in the community,” continue her education, become a physician, and provide her parents with a better house.



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worldvisionphilanthropy.org/child-protection



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PROGRAM AREAS IN PHASE I (WEST POKOT AND BARINGO COUNTIES), PHASE II (SAMBURU COUNTY), AND PHASE III (MIGORI COUNTY)

