



CHILD
PROTECTION

KENYA

As of October 2021



KENYA | CHILD PROTECTION

Project summary

In northwest Kenya, the potential of girls and boys to dream big is short-circuited by harmful cultural practices, crushing poverty, and lack of resources for safety and education. Many girls undergo female genital mutilation (FGM)—an excruciating, life-threatening procedure—then are married off by impoverished parents for a “bride price” and become child mothers. FGM and child marriage devastate a girl’s health, education, and hope. World Vision tackles these issues through Kenya Big Dream, a project grounded in our multi-sectoral model of work in education, economic empowerment, advocacy, and child protection, with the impactful addition of Empowered Worldview. In Phase 2, we will expand our success from Phase 1 to increase opportunities for girls and boys to reach their potential—and live out their dreams.



World Vision seeks to help every child experience life in all its fullness. Kenya Big Dream underscores our commitment to protect vulnerable children and make this a reality.

THE EFFECTS OF FGM AND CHILD MARRIAGE

In 2016, UNICEF estimated that at least 200 million women and girls alive worldwide had been subjected to FGM. (If all of them lived in one country, it would be the eighth largest in the world.) Among 15- to 19-year-old females who have undergone FGM, nearly half were cut between ages 5 and 9. Nearly 1 in 4 marriages in Kenya in 2014 involved a child as a bride, even though both FGM—considered a precursor to marriage—and marriage before age 18 are illegal in that country. Ending the practice of child marriage would lead to better lifelong prospects for young girls: improved educational attainment, fewer children, increased lifetime expected earnings, improved household incomes, and more decision-making power. In 2017, a three-year research project by the World Bank and International Center for Research on Women concluded that ending child marriage could save the global economy trillions of dollars by 2030.

CONTINUING TO BUILD ON OUR SUCCESS

In 2012, generous World Vision donors started funding our child protection efforts in West Pokot county, Kenya—where nearly 70% of the population survives on less than \$1.90 per day—as part of our For Every Child campaign. Those efforts gained momentum through our current Every Last One campaign that began in 2015. Violence and abuse against children dropped from 71% in 2016 to 37% in 2019. “In 1999, the prevalence rate of FGM was over 95% in the Chepareria area of West Pokot. Today, it’s less than 10%,” Moses Chepkonga, Kenya Big Dream program manager, said in 2019.

WHAT IS FGM?

Female genital mutilation (FGM), which Kenyan girls typically go through at age 10 to 14, and sometimes as early as age 8, involves removal of part or the whole of the external female genitalia. In many cultures, it symbolizes the transition from girlhood to womanhood and is a valued traditional practice. But it has devastating physical and psychological effects, either short- or long-term, on girls.

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Because of the faithfulness of our donors, children are gaining opportunities to change their own futures through access to high-quality secondary education for girls and and community-based advocacy efforts. They are benefiting from a promising cultural change in attitudes toward girls.

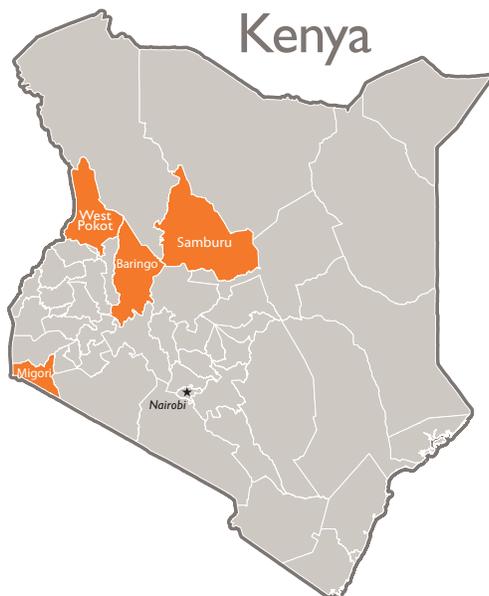
One approach that World Vision employs is INSPIRE, a global framework of seven evidence-based strategies for ending violence against children. INSPIRE was developed by the World Health Organization in collaboration with USAID, UNICEF, and other key U.S. government agencies and nongovernmental organizations. This strategy is a natural fit for World Vision's multi-sectoral approach to development. We tackle diverse child protection issues from multiple angles, building on what works.

In Kenya Big Dream, this holistic approach includes advocating for improved laws, changing social norms harmful to children, increasing support from parents and caregivers, strengthening household economic conditions to reduce a family's financial incentives for child marriage, ensuring safe spaces for children to learn, and promoting education and life skills training.

In Phase 2 (in Samburu), we will continue to:

- Enhance the Alternative Rites of Passage (ARP) program, with more than 830 young people—300% above expectations—engaged in events that motivate children to reject FGM and child marriage.

REGION: COUNTRY



WEST POKOT* (Phase 1)

Batei
Chepareria
Seker
Sook

Endo
Kasei
Masol

BARINGO* (Phase 1)

Tirioko
Silale

SAMBURU (Phase 2)

Waso
Wamba West
Wambo North

Nyiro
Angata Nanyokie
Baawa

El Berta
Nachola
Ndoto

MIGORI (Phase 3)

Locations to be determined

* Funded in Phase I

In the Pokot community within West Pokot county, 74% of females had undergone FGM, with a slightly higher rate expected for Baringo county.¹ In Samburu county, the FGM rate was 86%, with a teen pregnancy rate of 26%.² In the Kuria community of Migori county, FGM rates are estimated to be as high as 96%.³ The Kuria enrollment rate was 46% for secondary schools, less than half that of primary schools.⁴ (Kenya adolescent and youth survey, 2015).

1. UNICEF Baseline Study Report, Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting and Child Marriage, 2017. 2. Kenya Demographic Health Survey, 2014. 3. Population Council, 2016. Kenya National Adolescents and Youth Survey, 2015.

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These include recurring infections that can affect the bladder and kidneys, chronic pelvic and back pain, incontinence, obstetrical complications, and emotional suffering.

- Promote Savings for Transformation groups, which help parents/caregivers collectively save money and make affordable loans to each other for business or personal needs.
- Help communities identify change agents—including youth, men, women, girls, and boys—and train them to facilitate community change.
- Train Volunteer Children's Officers (VCO) to identify and report child protection concerns in their areas to improve reported child protection data and follow-up by authorities.

These approaches will not only address the root causes of FGM and child marriage, but also respond to and meet the needs of survivors. Your support of Kenya Big Dream can impact this generation—and the next.

EFFECTS OF CHILD MARRIAGE

Child marriage is associated with a range of poor health and social outcomes, including early and frequent pregnancies, high maternal and infant morbidity and mortality rates, and intimate partner violence.

Adverse effects include increased rates of HIV infection and lack of decision-making ability on girls' sexual and reproductive health.

Along with FGM, child marriage has been associated with lower educational outcomes, including low primary and secondary school enrollment rates, poor primary to secondary transition rates, and high illiteracy and dropout rates.

THE CONTEXT FOR OUR WORK

FGM and child marriage are highly influenced by three key drivers: gender inequality (often perpetuated by cultural/traditional leaders and faith communities), economic instability, and devaluing of education for girls. Where poverty is extreme, FGM and child marriage can be perceived as the only viable option for securing a future for one's daughter.

At the same time, FGM is often seen as a rite of passage to adulthood and a precursor to marriage, necessary to be considered a "pure" and acceptable wife. Girls who marry early are more likely to leave school and remain in poverty, fostering a cycle of deprivation in which they have little agency and decision-making power. Unless the cycle is broken, the harmful traditional practice of FGM is likely to continue.

World Vision considers FGM and child marriage to be significant violations of a child's rights, as well as indications of deeply rooted gender inequality, harmful social norms, poverty, and limited access to appropriate legal, health, and educational services.

Some communities are unaware that FGM and child marriage are illegal in Kenya. In rural areas, informal justice structures frequently carry more weight than formal legal structures, meaning tribal and community leaders often are responsible for overseeing how practices are governed. It is vital for us to work with these leaders to change views and behavior.

Child marriage To marry legally in Kenya, both males and females must be 18 or older. But 23% of women ages 20 to 24 were first married before age 18 (The State of the World's Children, 2017). Given the prevalence of underage marriage, local police can be hesitant to enforce the law against it. In addition, when birth registration is lacking, police are hampered in holding parents accountable for brokering a child marriage.



With her family facing severe financial need and her father's alcoholism worsening, Mary was forced to drop out of school to help support the household. Though she resisted child marriage, her father accepted a bride price of cattle from a man who wanted to marry her.*

"I couldn't believe that my dreams of having a good life were over," said Mary, now 15, and whose husband sexually assaulted her.

"I was now going to go through the same life of suffering, poverty, and abuse that my mum had. That was just too much."

She ran away and eventually reached a school, where she was welcomed. "This place is like a good home should be," Mary said.

Through World Vision's Alternative Rites of Passage program, she learned about the adverse effects of FGM, which strengthened her resolve to be an advocate against the practice.

With God's help, Mary said, she will succeed and one day be able to help children in the community who have suffered as she did.

**Name changed to protect identity*

FGM and marriage FGM can expedite marriage because once a girl has undergone FGM, her family might force her to marry. A daughter marrying can lessen a household's economic burden and provide an immediate benefit in the form of a "bride price" and gifts (such as cattle, cash, and domestic goods) that the family receives at the time of marriage. This may lead parents—especially those immersed in poverty, with a lack of economic opportunities—to marry off their daughters at a young age.

Benefits of educating girls Many girls leave school after undergoing FGM, and those who return often do not stay to finish. Girls are far less likely to continue in school once married—additional education for them is typically seen as an unnecessary expense. But the consequences of quitting school are significant, because girls, their children, and their communities are denied the benefits that cascade from girls' education. According to UNICEF, mothers who have some education are more than twice as likely to send their own children to school than mothers with no education. Globally, there is a 9% increase in hourly earnings for one extra year of schooling.

KENYA BIG DREAM

Project goal

World Vision dreams of a Kenya without FGM and child marriage. We aspire to end those harmful practices in the project area—to ensure that all girls and boys are cared for and protected from FGM, child marriage, and all forms of violence, while living within supportive families and communities.

Through Kenya Big Dream, we will work to raise the visibility of violence against children, and change attitudes and behaviors. This will involve not only educating and training parents (especially fathers/men), the community, government, and service providers, but also empowering girls and boys themselves.

Education is vital to girls who have undergone FGM as well as those girls who are likely to undergo the rite and marry if they are unable to continue their formal learning. To meet school infrastructure needs, the project will advocate at local and national levels to persuade the Kenyan government to fulfill its legal mandate to ensure children have access to high-quality schooling.

Key information

Kenya Big Dream will operate in three, overlapping five-year phases, benefiting an estimated 423,755 people (243,527 children and youth, and 180,228 adults). The total budget is \$30 million, broken down as follows: \$7 million for Phase 1, which began October 1, 2019, and will run through September 30, 2024; \$9 million for Phase 2, which began on October 1, 2021; and \$14 million for Phase 3 (start date to be determined).

REALIZING DREAMS

Planned outcomes and results for Kenya Big Dream include:

- Children gain access to platforms to engage on child protection issues.
- Girls and boys know their rights and responsibilities.
- Girls have increased access to health, education, economic, and legal support.
- Parents understand their roles and responsibilities to mitigate abuse.
- Parents possess knowledge and information on positive parenting skills.
- Households meet financial needs without money gained from child marriage.
- Children attend safe and supportive schools.
- Traditional and religious leaders take greater action to end FGM and child marriage.

The project will be conducted in parts of four counties in west Kenya, as shown on page 2. The areas were selected and prioritized based on prevalence of FGM, child marriage, and poverty, along with World Vision's ability to leverage existing investments and relationships. Specific wards will be targeted within the selected areas. Phase I will start in West Pokot and Baringo counties, expanding to Samburu County in Phase 2 and Migori and Narok counties in Phase 3.

Outcomes and activities (to be updated once funding is confirmed, and assessment and baseline activities completed, for Phases II and III)

OUTCOME 1: Girls and boys play an active role in influencing change among their peers, parents, and communities in ending FGM and child marriage.

We will work in four areas to achieve this outcome: child-led education and engagement, life skills and alternative rites of passage, educational and vocational training, and reduction of educational barriers. Girls and boys will learn to engage with peers through children's clubs and assemblies and conduct village-based sessions targeting parents, children, and other stakeholders. Girls at high risk of FGM or child marriage will develop life skills. Robust advocacy campaigns will encourage government agencies to finance, plan, construct, and maintain needed school facilities. These actions will help provide a safe environment for girls and boys to receive positive messaging about social behavior, prepare boys to be better advocates for rights of girls and women in their homes and communities, and allow girls to recover from trauma and safely transition to adulthood.

OUTCOME 2: Households are empowered to protect, nurture, and support girls and boys so they are free from all forms of abuse.

We will work in four areas to achieve this outcome: putting Empowered Worldview training into action, improving livelihoods and assets, increasing savings and access to financial services, and helping parents support and nurture their children. Kenya Big Dream seeks to increase economic opportunities and build livelihoods through market assessments, Savings for Transformation groups, and producer groups.

OUTCOME 3: Communities provide a safe, protective environment in which girls and boys can thrive.

We will work in three areas to achieve this outcome: empowering community members to provide an environment for children to thrive, engaging faith communities to protect children and transform attitudes, and promoting community-based reporting and referrals. Discussions between key players in child protection issues, including children, play a critical role in initiating action.

THE KEY ROLE OF FAITH LEADERS

Faith leaders are community as well as religious leaders. They influence attitudes and behavioral change.

Evidence suggests that some have either been strong supporters and facilitators of FGM and child marriage, or have stayed mute in passive acceptance.

By engaging faith leaders, Kenya Big Dream seeks to make them agents of change to end FGM and child marriage.

In our previous child protection project in Kenya, faith leaders responded to training on child rights by teaching their church members about child protection, advocating for the provision of government-mandated services to children, and educating children who could not travel far to school.

Through Channels of Hope for Child Protection, the attitudes of faith leaders began to change as they saw connections between FGM, child marriage, and lack of education.

OUTCOME 4: Strengthened formal child protection systems and structures at national and subnational levels.

We will work in four areas to achieve this outcome: help ensure child protection information is collected and analyzed, strengthen the capacity of those enforcing laws and providing services to protect girls and boys, strengthen formal systems and structures for child protection, and enhance monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning practices.

Project approaches

Channels of Hope for Child Protection / Channels of Hope for Gender In Channels of Hope training, faith leaders and communities of faith consider their response to enduring cultural beliefs that negatively impact their communities. Channels of Hope for Child Protection reaches the root causes and deepest convictions that fuel harmful attitudes and practices, with messages emphasizing the importance of protecting children. Channels of Hope for Gender focuses on the unique giftedness of women and girls. It helps faith communities become centers of justice that protect against gender abuse. In a study conducted with Queen Margaret University of Scotland from 2016 to 2021, World Vision found that, after participating in Channels of Hope, the percentage of faith leaders willing to report child abuse rose to 87% in Senegal and 95% in Uganda, up from 67% and 87%, respectively.

Citizen Voice and Action This local-level approach to advocacy educates citizens about their rights, equipping them with a simple set of tools designed to empower them to hold government accountable to fulfill its obligations. Access to and delivery of mandated services are essential to helping child survivors of violence heal from their trauma and seek justice in appropriate venues.

Community Change This long-term intervention focuses on sustained and facilitated conversations among community members—usually 40 to 60 participants—over 20 or more sessions. Through Community Change, community members discuss the beliefs, norms, and traditional practices that support or challenge their community's progress toward improving the well-being of children and develop their own solutions and plans for social change.

Alternative Rites of Passage ARP maintains the cultural transition of children to adults, but without the harm of FGM. It educates children on FGM's dangers while offering a biblically based alternative ritual that ushers girls into womanhood, affirms their cultural and tribal feminine identity, and encourages them to complete their secondary education. ARP educates boys on FGM's physical and psychological toll, urging them to use their community influence to prevent the practice on relatives, friends, and future wives and daughters. World Vision has seen nearly 5,000 children participate in ARP during the more than 10 years that we have worked in West Pokot.



CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM

A child protection system is a set of coordinated formal and informal elements working together to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation, and all forms of violence against children.

Kenya Big Dream will ensure the well-being of children by strengthening the systems designed to protect them. It addresses child protection holistically, emphasizes prevention, and reinforces the roles of those responsible for protecting children. World Vision equips and mobilizes families, churches, local leaders, schools, hospitals, police, courts, and government agencies to fill their roles more effectively.

All children need a strong child protection system, particularly the most vulnerable.

Child Protection and Advocacy The model engages communities to address the root causes of violence against children. It uses training and partnerships to create and strengthen the child protection system at the community level. The model suggests a range of interventions that focus on improving laws and accountability, increasing social services and support, enabling behavior change, and strengthening household and child resilience.

Children's Assembly The Children's Assembly is an advocacy forum and leadership development module in which children come together from project areas to debate and discuss child protection issues. In addition to developing policy recommendations that are delivered to local government bodies, the Children's Assembly teaches children responsibility, creates a cohesive community of young leaders, and promotes core values such as honesty.

Children's Clubs Children's clubs offer girls and boys a neighborhood-based opportunity to engage on issues that affect them. The clubs present a structure of child-to-child accountability and promote life skills, such as building peer friendships, making good decisions, and handling conflict constructively.

Celebrating Families Celebrating Families emphasizes healing family relationships with a biblical model of forgiveness, love, and compassion. Parents and caregivers revisit their past to understand their childhood experiences. They learn how these have made an impact on the way they are raising their children, and how to nurture the relationship with their spouses. Celebrating Families helps participants learn to apply discipline with love as a model of how God works in our lives. By creating a safe and nurturing home environment, children are able to grow and thrive.

Empowered Worldview Under this foundational model, participants gain a worldview of empowerment—one in which they know they are valued by God and can play a powerful role in their own stories. Empowered Worldview seeks to break dependency on government or development organizations by building an understanding of the individual's agency, freedom, and responsibility. This mindset shift helps them see they have the ability to influence their financial and social circumstances through farming and entrepreneurial endeavors.

Savings for Transformation A savings group is a voluntary group of 15 to 25 people who save together in a safe, convenient, and flexible way. Savings groups—World Vision's model is called Savings for Transformation—are owned, managed, and operated by members. Accumulated savings can be loaned to members, who repay with interest. A share-out (when savings and interest are returned to each member) occurs at the end of the year. Following training, savings group participants will be linked to external financial institutions. World Vision trains community members to self-replicate the savings groups.

“I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.”

—Jeremiah 31:13 (NIV)



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Through the interventions of Kenya Big Dream and support of generous donors, girls and boys will have a much brighter future. The project offers safe and traditional alternatives to recognize the move from girlhood to womanhood, helping to eliminate FGM and forced early marriage.

You can partner with World Vision to support efforts to change attitudes and behaviors in the community, help improve family livelihoods and assets, remove the financial pressure for families to marry off their daughters, and partner with the Kenyan government to improve opportunities for education.

This requires dreaming big to give girls and boys the chance to flourish—at home, in school, and in their communities—and to reach their deep, God-given potential.

It would be our privilege to partner with you as together, we launch the \$9 million Phase 2 of Kenya Big Dream.



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World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

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Child Protection_Kenya_Offer

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Phase 2 budget

Description	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Outcome 1: Girls and boys play an active role in influencing change among their peers, parents, and communities in ending FGM and child marriage	\$ 463,881	\$ 657,718	\$ 687,606	\$ 427,783	\$ 471,631	\$2,708,619
Child-led education and active engagement in initiatives to end FGM and child marriage enhanced	\$ 69,871	\$ 43,008	\$ 24,303	\$ 16,975	\$ 17,249	\$ 171,406
High-risk children and youth and survivors of violence develop skills and resilience	\$ 117,792	\$ 97,950	\$ 105,853	\$ 121,898	\$ 139,469	\$ 582,962
Survivors of violence and high-risk girls access appropriate educational and vocational training opportunities	\$ 174,275	\$ 146,298	\$ 189,546	\$ 197,771	\$ 210,637	\$ 918,527
Barriers reduced to educate vulnerable girls	\$ 101,944	\$ 370,463	\$ 367,903	\$ 91,139	\$ 104,276	\$ 1,035,725
Outcome 2: Households are empowered to protect, nurture, and support girls and boys so that they are free from all forms of abuse	\$ 169,663	\$ 396,834	\$ 424,945	\$ 440,675	\$ 264,448	\$1,696,565
Community members put Empowered Worldview principles into action	\$ 38,791	\$ 21,231	\$ 32,646	\$ 20,051	\$ 2,086	\$ 114,804
Targeted households (those with at-risk girls, with reformed views of FGM, etc.) adopt alternative livelihoods and increase productive assets	\$ 42,812	\$ 277,605	\$ 291,838	\$ 368,732	\$ 232,448	\$ 1,213,435
Households increase their savings and access to financial services through participation in Savings 4 Transformation groups	\$ 34,368	\$ 24,978	\$ 25,606	\$ 29,487	\$ 14,707	\$ 129,146
Parents/caregivers provide parenting support for children at different developmental stages	\$ 53,692	\$ 73,020	\$ 74,856	\$ 22,405	\$ 15,207	\$ 239,180
Outcome 3: Communities provide a safe, protective environment in which girls and boys can thrive	\$ 223,180	\$ 258,588	\$ 227,534	\$ 253,062	\$ 258,256	\$1,220,620
Community-led public awareness, education, and mobilization on ending FGM and child marriage are promoted	\$ 101,187	\$ 129,571	\$ 132,827	\$ 143,999	\$ 164,756	\$ 672,340
Faith communities actively engage in protecting children and transforming harmful behaviors, attitudes, and practices	\$ 78,093	\$ 82,696	\$ 48,804	\$ 56,202	\$ 33,021	\$ 298,816
Community-based reporting and referral mechanisms for FGM and child marriage are promoted	\$ 43,900	\$ 46,321	\$ 45,903	\$ 52,861	\$ 60,480	\$ 249,464
Outcome 4: Strengthened formal child protection systems and structures at national and subnational levels	\$ 227,243	\$ 209,217	\$ 220,822	\$ 234,420	\$ 232,493	\$1,124,196
Child protection information management promoted at all levels to improve planning	\$ 21,926	\$ 6,610	\$ 19,538	\$ 7,804	\$ 8,929	\$ 64,807
Capacity of duty bearers strengthened to enforce laws and provide services that protect children	\$ 11,353	\$ 52,690	\$ 46,100	\$ 53,088	\$ 48,228	\$ 211,460
External engagement and networking strengthened with government and non-state actors on ending FGM and child marriage	\$ 30,985	\$ 28,790	\$ 29,514	\$ 33,987	\$ 17,597	\$ 140,872
Monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning practices enhanced on ending FGM and child marriage	\$ 162,978	\$ 121,127	\$ 125,670	\$ 139,541	\$ 157,741	\$ 707,056
Subtotal	\$ 1,083,967	\$ 1,522,357	\$ 1,560,907	\$ 1,355,941	\$1,226,828	\$6,750,000
Management and Fundraising	\$ 361,322	\$ 507,452	\$ 520,302	\$ 451,980	\$ 408,943	\$2,250,000
TOTAL	\$ 1,445,289	\$ 2,029,810	\$ 2,081,210	\$ 1,807,921	\$1,635,770	\$9,000,000

Note: Kenya Big Dream will operate in three, overlapping five-year phases, with a total funding need of \$30 million.

Phase 1 costs: \$7 million (FY20-FY24 funding completed).

Phase 2 costs: \$9 million (FY22-FY26).

Phase 3 costs: \$14 million (details pending).



Kenya Big Dream Theory of Change

