

WHAT IS FGM?

Female Genital Circumcision/Mutilation “comprises of all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.” An estimated 100 to 140 million girls and women worldwide are currently living with the consequences of circumcision. Young girls who undergo the procedure range from infants to 18 years of age. It is estimated that 92 million girls from 10 years of age and above have undergone circumcision.

The practice is mostly carried out by traditional circumcisors, who often play other central roles in communities, such as attending childbirths. In many settings, health care providers perform FGM due to the wrong belief that the procedure is safer when performed in the Hospital under hygienic conditions.

COMPLICATIONS AND EFFECTS OF FGM TO GIRLS AND WOMEN

- Immediate complications include; **(physical body)**
- Severe pain
- Excessive bleeding (haemorrhage)
- Genital tissue swelling
- Fever
- Infections e.g., tetanus
- Urinary problems
- Wound healing problems
- Injury to surrounding genital tissue
- Shock and death.

Long-term consequences can include:

- Urinary problems (painful urination, urinary tract infections);
- Vaginal problems (discharge, itching, bacterial vaginosis and other infections);

- Menstrual problems (painful menstruations, difficulty in passing menstrual blood, etc.);
- Scar tissue and keloid;
- Sexual problems (pain during intercourse, decreased satisfaction, etc.);
- Increased risk of childbirth complications (difficult delivery, excessive bleeding, caesarean section, need to resuscitate the baby, etc.) and newborn deaths;
- Need for later surgeries: for example, the FGM procedure that seals or narrows a vaginal opening (type 3) needs to be cut open later to allow for sexual intercourse and childbirth (deinfibulation). Sometimes genital tissue is stitched again several times, including after childbirth, hence the woman goes through repeated opening and closing procedures, further increasing both immediate and long-term risks;
- Psychological problems (depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, low self-esteem, etc.);

CULTURAL AND SOCIAL FACTORS FOR PERFORMING FGM

- The reasons why female genital mutilations are performed vary from one region to another as well as over time, and include a mix of sociocultural factors within families and communities. The most commonly cited reasons are:
- Where FGM is a social convention (social norm), the social pressure to conform to what others do and have been doing, as well as the need to be accepted socially and the fear of being rejected by the community, are strong motivations to perpetuate the practice. In some communities, FGM is almost universally performed and unquestioned.
- FGM is often considered a necessary part of raising a girl, and a way to prepare her for adulthood and marriage.

KENYAN LAWS AND FGM

The Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act (2011; revised 2012) criminalizes FGM and the stigmatization (ridicule) of uncut women, and puts the onus on the Kenyan Government to protect women and girls from FGM. It also established the **Anti-Female Genital Mutilation Board**. In **2014**, the **Anti-FGM and Child Marriage Prosecution Unit** was established. Subsequently, a 24/7 hotline was launched to rescue girls from FGM and child marriage, and to assist prosecutions. **The Protection Against Domestic Violence Act (2015)** covers all violence, *including FGM*. *The implementation and enforcement of laws remains a challenge.*

For More information contact:

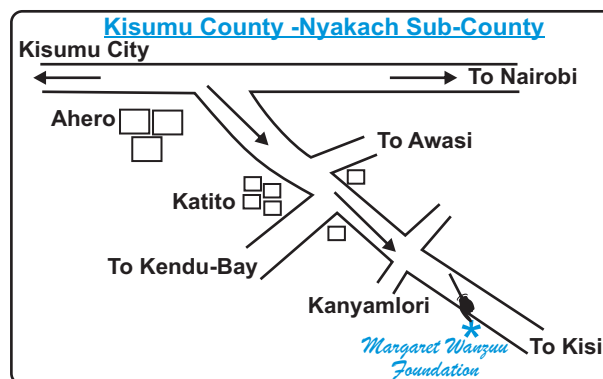


Sixtus Kennedy Otieno
Program Manager
Working with Men & Boys to end GBV

Cell: 070 348 728, 0736 449 624
Email: margaret.wanzuu@gmail.com
sixtusotieno@yahoo.com
Website: www.margaretwanzuu.org
[@Mwf2017](https://twitter.com/Mwf2017)

Kisumu Kisii Rd.
Kanyamlori Place
Karodi Plot
P.O. Box 80-40118
Katito-Kisumu County

Respecting and nurturing each other's freedom and wellbeing.



FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

INFORMATION & FACTS