



Termination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Project of Loreto Sisters, Eastern Africa Province



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We wish to thank our partners, benefactors, and all who have supported us to realize our dream. We are excited to share news of our recent successes in the midst of COVID - 19 even as we continue our partnership.

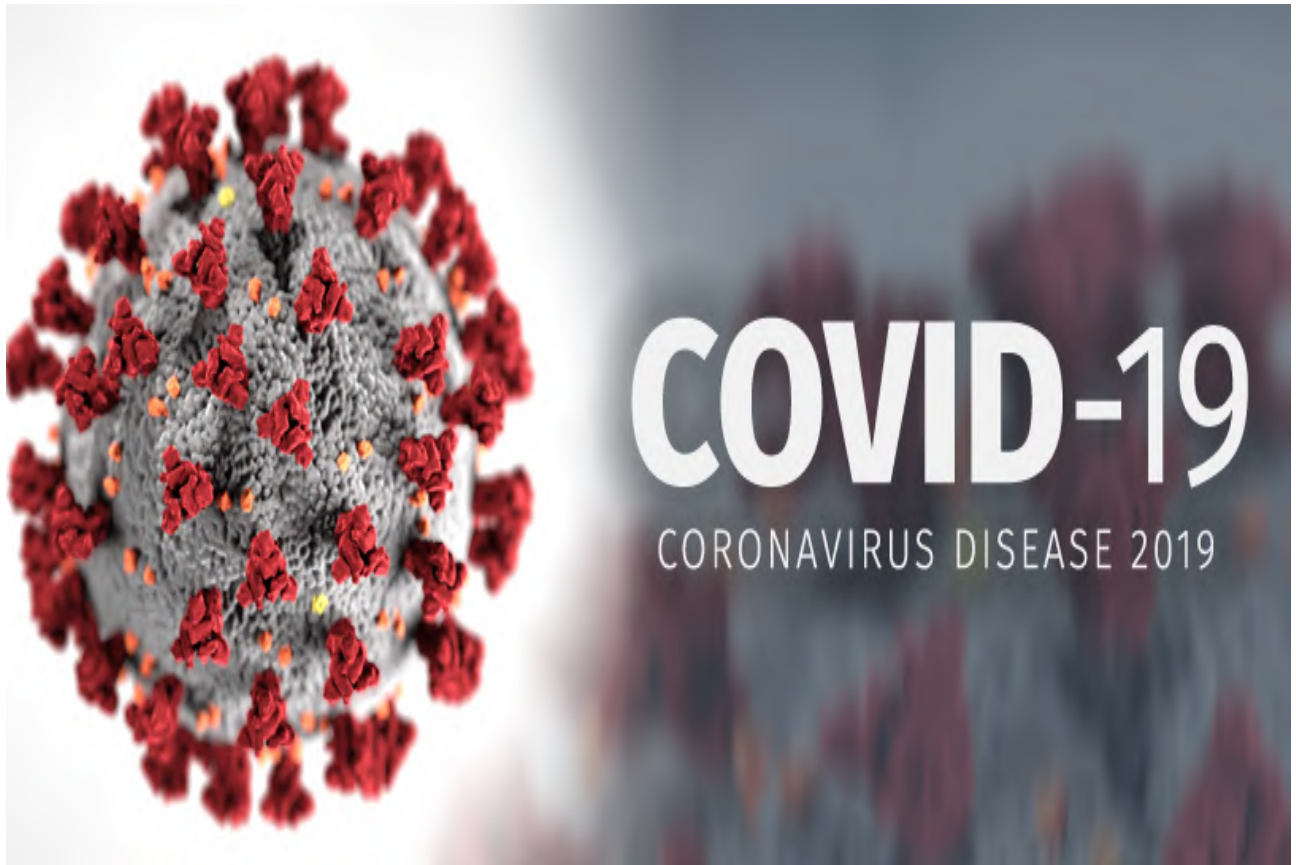
TERMINATION OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ACTIVITIES 2020

The year started on a high note as various workshops and seminars were held at Loreto Abundant Life Center, Isinya in January, February and March. They include two three day adult seminars, one three day seminar for Community Health Workers, and one training of trainers (TOT) workshop. The Community Health Workers were excited to be part of the program, they shared their experiences of F.G.M cases. They mentioned that some cases are usually bizarre which makes them difficult to handle. An example was given of a woman who was having labor complications because she had undergone infibulation. They were happy that they were able to learn more about F.G.M and promised to continue educating others and reporting cases especially in areas where F.G.M is rampant.

SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS FIGHT AGAINST FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION



On 21st February 2020, 40 Secondary School principals from Nakuru County attended a three -day seminar at Abundant Life Center in Isinya. During the seminar, they were surprised to know that there are different types of F.G.M, they watched several videos about the practice which made them very sad. It was evident that most of them knew about F.G.M but did not have the exact details on what goes on during the cut. Schools are a safe refuge for many girls where they are protected from all forms of violence such as sexual abuse, child labor, and harmful practices like F.G.M. The principals, therefore, play a huge role when it comes to ensuring that F.G.M is reduced in their locality. They are in a position to reach out to parents during various forums such as parents' day and also integrate the program into life skills for their students. They expressed willingness to engage their teachers especially those involved in the guidance and counseling program. They proposed that the teachers can attend a workshop in A.L.C Isinya where they can learn more about Termination of F.G.M.



We hope that you are keeping well despite the strange times we are living in. June 21, 2020, Kenya marked 100 days since the first COVID—19 case was reported in Nairobi. The cumulative total as of June 22, 2020, was 4,797 confirmed cases, with 1,680 recovered patients and 125 related deaths. May those who have passed away in our country and the world rest in peace with God, may their families be helped and comforted. Unfortunately, the estimates predict that we are approaching the peak as the disease has affected 40 counties to date. Thank God, Abundant Life Center remains free of the infection.

On 15th March the government banned all social gatherings and schools were closed. We immediately took the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of the virus, all seminars and workshops scheduled were suspended until further notice.



Since then the administration has been working tirelessly to ensure that the project will continue to run smoothly once we resume normal operations. Unfortunately, there has been news of rampant increase of F.G.M cases, child abuse, early pregnancies, and early marriages in our country during the lock down. An article by Citizen digital on 9th June 2020, highlighted that schools are an escape route for some of the girls but due to COVID-19, schools being closed has created the perfect conditions for proponents of F.G.M to carry out the harmful practice in secret. The article states that the pandemic has put Kenya's goal of ending female genital mutilation (F.G.M) by 2022 in jeopardy, campaigners against the practice have reported: "mass cuttings" involving hundreds of girls while schools are closed. Together, let us continue to fight the practice of F.G.M in Kenya vigorously.

Sr. Dr. Ephigenia Gachiri IBVM

**Director - Termination of Female
Genital Mutilation (T.F.G.M)**

Ephigenia Gachiri IBVM

24TH JUNE 2020