

# Kamili

Volume 1 | January 2019

## IN THIS ISSUE

GLOBAL MAPATHON

EIGHT HUNDRED AND ONE

GOVERNMENT RAMPS UP EFFORTS to tackle FGM, Child Marriage, and Teenage Pregnancy

FACES OF RESILIENCE

SUCCESSSES IN 2018

WHAT'S NEXT?

GONZALO BELL | UNFPA TANZANIA

The Saleema Initiative on Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation is an African Union effort, working with Member States and key partners to accelerate the elimination of this harmful practice. "Saleema", arabic for healthy and complete, translates as "Kamili" in Swahili. The Initiative looks to galvanize political action among African Union Member States to implement strong legislation, allocate domestic resources and strengthen partnerships to end the practice of female genital mutilation.



# FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

FGM has a devastating impact on the lives of thousands of Tanzania's women. It has a detrimental effect on their psychological, emotional and physical well-being, depriving them of their rights while denying them of their ability to reach their full potential. Interlinked with child marriage, FGM robs millions of young girls of their childhood, perpetuating the intergenerational cycle of poverty, and acting as a barrier to equitable, inclusive and sustainable development. It is internationally recognized as a human rights violation.

UNFPA Tanzania, as part of the One UN, is the lead agency supporting the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to intensify efforts to end FGM, enabled by a supportive national policy framework. The government criminalized FGM in 1998 and the recently launched National Plan of Action to end Violence against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC) 2017/2018-2021/2022 specifically addresses FGM as a practice that harms women and children that must be eliminated.

In 2018, efforts to end FGM were enhanced at all levels including through preparations for the launch of a comprehensive programme for the accelerated elimination of FGM in collaboration with the European Union Delegation to Tanzania and the East African Community.

***FGM is not a social coordination norm; families are making decisions about the practice more independently than previously thought.***

UNFPA supports the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania through the NPA-VAWC in its efforts to end FGM, with the assistance of several implementing partners. Hence, the programme adopts diverse



***Sustainable Development demands full human rights for all women and girls.***

— UN Secretary-General



approaches both at the policy level (working with key Ministries such as the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children) and at the implementation level in regions where FGM prevalence is high. Multisectoral programme activities to accelerate efforts to eliminate FGM adopt both a top-down and a bottom-up approach. Informed by research and evidence, programme approaches are now more focused on enabling families to make an informed decision not to cut their daughters.

The promising decline in prevalence in FGM, as indicated in the Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey 2015/16, suggests that efforts made to end FGM are beginning to bear fruit. Join us in reading about our activities with government and partners in 2018.





Young open-source mapping volunteers descended on UNFPA Headquarters during General Assembly week for a mapathon to assist girls at risk of FGM in Tanzania.

## MAPPING FOR FGM

At the tail end of General Assembly week in New York in late September 2018, UNFPA's Orange Café was buzzing with activity, filled with a diverse group of young university students and activists huddled in front of computers that were plastered with protest and social justice stickers. Many wore t-shirts that read "Youth Mappers". What are Youth Mappers? They are part of an international consortium of young people using open-source data and mapping to make a difference. And what were they up to at UNFPA's Orange Café? They were "Mapping for FGM" — a "mapathon" organized to complement the high-level panel on female genital mutilation that happened down the street at the UN General Assembly the day before and to shine a light on the technical initiatives that are playing an important part in the fight against the practice.

"Today, with the media, social media and all these communities, information is moving fast and is reaching places where we didn't have any information before," said Nafissatou Diop, Senior Advisor and Coordinator for the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of FGM. "Mapping is one way of doing this. By having this mapathon, we are getting more information, more attention, and more support to end the practice of FGM," she continued.

The students, plus 6,000 volunteers who were taking part in similar "Mapping for FGM" events across the globe on that day, were using OpenStreetMap, an online open-source map that anyone is able to access, edit and update. The mapathon at the Orange Café and the day's other global events were just a sample of what's happening on a continuous basis, volunteers working to fill in the gaps on rural maps that may end up making the difference between life or death for a girl at risk of FGM.

## ACTIVISM AND TECHNOLOGY WORKING HAND-IN-HAND

Activists on the ground in Tanzania were present at the Orange Café event, including Rhobi Samwelly, Director of Hope for Women and Girls in Tanzania, whose personal experience of being forced to undergo FGM as a child inspired her lifelong activism and commitment to fight for the rights of girls and women. Rhobi also addressed a related side event on FGM at the UN General Assembly. Janet Chapman, the creator of Crowd2Map Tanzania, a crowdsourced mapping project, led the event.

Crowd2Map Tanzania is creating volunteer programmes in partnership with several universities around the world to try and systematically map and document villages in areas where FGM is present. "We are building a global network to unite people from across the world so that activists can better protect (girls at risk)," explains Ms. Chapman. She presented the tools — the different software and the ins-and-outs of mapping and tracking — to the group in the Orange Café, which included a number of UNFPA staff members.

## UNITING UNDER A CAUSE

The Mapping event was just a quick peek into the technological movement behind open-source mapping and its use for causes such as the fight against FGM. There was a special atmosphere in the room during the mapathon, as young and passionate "mappers" added information to maps that can make the difference between life and death for a young girl in Tanzania. As technology continues to be considered something that isolates us, this project may serve as an example of how technology can bring us together in the fight against FGM.



# EIGHT HUNDRED AND ONE

Eight hundred and one; the number of girls who chose not to be cut and who were protected from female genital mutilation (FGM) in 2018 in camps established in Mara Region:

**486** + **158** + **157**  
 Masanga Butiama Mugumu

The Association for the Termination of Female Genital Mutilation (ATFGM) established a camp in Tarime District, Masanga in 2008 following requests from parents to protect their daughters from FGM, and over the last 10 years more than 3,000 girls from Tarime, Rorya, Serengeti and Loliondo have been protected from FGM and attended the alternative rites of passage (ARP) programme. Hope for Women and Girls run similar ARP programmes in Butiama and Serengeti.

A rites of passage ceremony that acknowledges girls' transition from childhood to womanhood is important in many communities, but alternatives must be offered that do not involve cutting. ARP ensure that girls who are not cut are culturally empowered and respected and accepted in their communities. Similar programmes are being implemented in Kenya, where National Guidelines on Alternative Rites of Passage were developed by the Anti-FGM Board in 2018.



GONZALO BELL | UNFPA TANZANIA



*We have now embarked on an alternative rites of passage. We also educate girls in Masanga camp in various subjects including the Kurya culture and the harmful impacts of FGM.*

— Mwita Nyasibora, Secretary of a local Kurya Traditional Council of Butimbaru Nchege and Deputy Secretary of the Coalition of the Twelve Kurya Clans of Tarime District

At the camps, girls learn about their culture and sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as continue their regular studies. The ARP culminates in a graduation ceremony. Psychosocial support is provided to girls at the camp as well as their parents. This support helps address self-esteem issues related to going against social norms that call for FGM. In some cases this support is also needed to ensure that parents do not cut their daughters on their return home. More recently Tanzania Mindset Network and Tanzania Gender Networking Programme have started a parental outreach programme, which provides an opportunity to strengthen the family-centred approach to tackle FGM.

UNFPA has supported ATFGM Masanga's work since 2012 as part of a multisectoral supported programme to eliminate FGM in Mara Region. We are currently evaluating how to strengthen the programme and target future support. Parental counselling is a key area. One UNFPA-supported professional counsellor worked with hundreds of parents in not cutting their daughters and leaving them at the camp. A future priority will be providing one-on-one counselling sessions for parents who are contemplating cutting their daughters. Parents can be under enormous pressure from their family and community to cut their daughters and may be unaware of the harmful consequences of the practice. Many are motivated to continue the practice out of fear; fear that their daughters will be rejected by the community; fear that they will not be able to marry. UNFPA and its partners are working towards dispelling these fears.



# GOVERNMENT RAMPS UP EFFORTS TO TACKLE FGM, CHILD MARRIAGE AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY

## MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AT THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania reiterated its commitment to end FGM, child marriage and teenage pregnancy in a three-day National Dialogue held in the run up to the International Day of the Girl Child on 11 October, 2018. Led by the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, and supported by the European Union Delegation to Tanzania (EU) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Parliamentarians, Regional Commissioners, INOs, NGOs, civil society organizations and representatives of higher learning and research institutions attended the Dialogue, reflecting the multi-stakeholder collaboration that will be essential to consign these practices to history.

Representatives from the Anti-FGM Board, Kenya, and UN Women Regional Office, Kenya, also shared experiences and evidence of combatting these practices, calling for a supportive legal environment, highlighting that these are issues that go beyond Tanzania and require regional solutions.

Participants at the Dialogue discussed promising interventions, consolidated good practices and committed to action to end all forms of harmful practices that affect the women and girls of Tanzania, with a specific focus on developing action plans for six regions of Tanzania with the highest prevalence of these practices.

## SCALING-UP PROMISING INTERVENTIONS

Hon. Faustine Ndugulile, Deputy Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, unveiled the government's plans to establish additional one stop centres in areas where there is a high prevalence of FGM. At these centres, police, health and psychological services will be available to survivors of



*All of us need to join hands and commit to action to give back to young girls their choices, their dreams, their futures and their childhoods.*

— Jacqueline Mahon,  
UNFPA Representative,  
United Republic of Tanzania



gender-based violence. He reiterated the government's commitment to take on board all resolutions reached at the Dialogue, one of which is to establish Gender and Children's desks at all police stations across the country; there are currently 420 desks. He also called on district administrative secretaries from those regions with the highest prevalence of FGM, child marriage and teenage pregnancies to establish special committees to protect women and girls.

## PUTTING WORDS INTO ACTION

Tanzania is moving towards middle-income status but there can and will be no sustainable development if the fruits of development are not equitably shared, including among women and girls. More importantly FGM, child marriage and teenage pregnancies intersect to deny millions of young girls around the world of their right to a childhood every year.



# FACES OF RESILIENCE

Many families in Tanzania are looking for reassurance that their daughters will not suffer if they are not cut and global evidence confirms that families make this decision more independently from their community than previously thought.

In October 2018, the photography exhibition, “Faces of Resilience” captured the individual changemakers and champions advocating for an end to FGM at the Masanga alternative rites of passage camp; Hope for Women and Girls, Serengeti and Butiama; Kipunguni Knowledge Centre, Dar es Salaam; The Network against Female Genital Mutilation (NAFGEM), Manyara; Health

Integrated Multisectoral Services (HIMS) Arusha; and the Children’s Dignity Forum.

One memorable image was the traditional leader from Kipunguni who is standing up against FGM and who has donated his land to an organization doing just that. The exhibition has already been hosted in Arusha and Tarime and other FGM practicing areas where our partners give guided tours to adolescents and their parents. It serves to underscore the message that families can protect their daughters from FGM and that uncut girls still marry, lead normal lives and are happy and healthy.



GONZALO BELL | UNFPA TANZANIA



## SUCCESSSES IN 2018

*A total of 801 young girls were protected from FGM in Mara Region through alternative rites of passage and rescue camps.*

The Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children; Tanzania Gender Networking Programme; Children's Dignity Forum; and others were supported to scale-up promising interventions and to collaborate with NGOs at the community level.

- Training, integrating FGM prevention and response, was provided to 25 officers at the Gender and Children's Desk in Manyara Region. Manyara Region has the highest FGM prevalence in the country at 58 per cent.<sup>1</sup>
- Support to the Masanga alternative rites of passage (ARP) programme protected 486 girls from FGM.
- Support to Hope for Women and Girls in Tanzania ARP's programmes in Butiama and Serengeti protected 315 girls from FGM, and psychosocial

support was provided to both girls and their parents to increase reconciliation at the end of the cutting season.

- Campaigning to ensure "nobody gets cut in 2018" by the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme and the Tanzania Mindset Network reached 1,382 parents through community dialogue in Tarime.
- The National Child Helpline was supported to become more effective in its handling of FGM cases and to create demand for the service in areas of high FGM prevalence.
- The President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) was supported to develop budget scrutinization tools to assess the level of national financing dedicated to ending FGM and child marriage.

*The decision not to cut girls should be made easier for all families!*

## WHAT'S NEXT?

- Increased availability of national resources to end female genital mutilation.
- More children and young people, both in and out-of-school, are educated about the harmful effects of FGM and engaged in decision-making related to FGM.
- Additional parental outreach and education on positive family norms and values.
- FGM prevention and care are integrated into reproductive health services.
- Implementation of the law on FGM is strengthened, including at border areas with Kenya.
- Local commitment to harmful practices abandonment is improved through alternative rites of passage and other strategies adapted to the local context.
- Increased media campaigns and innovative forms of communication are targeted at most-at-risk communities.
- Regional dynamics for climate change resilience and adaptation are strengthened among youth from communities that practice FGM.

<sup>1</sup> Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey 2015/16.

