

The goal of this project is to create a community free from Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), free from fear of curses, myths and taboos, enabling young women to celebrate and enjoy a full life.

# Termination of Female Genital Mutilation

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Loreto Sisters initiated the Termination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Project in 1998 in response to information from communities and alarming reports in the media. Approximately one in every five women and girls aged 15 to 49 years in Kenya has endured FGM – a practice that is a violation of the rights of women and girls.

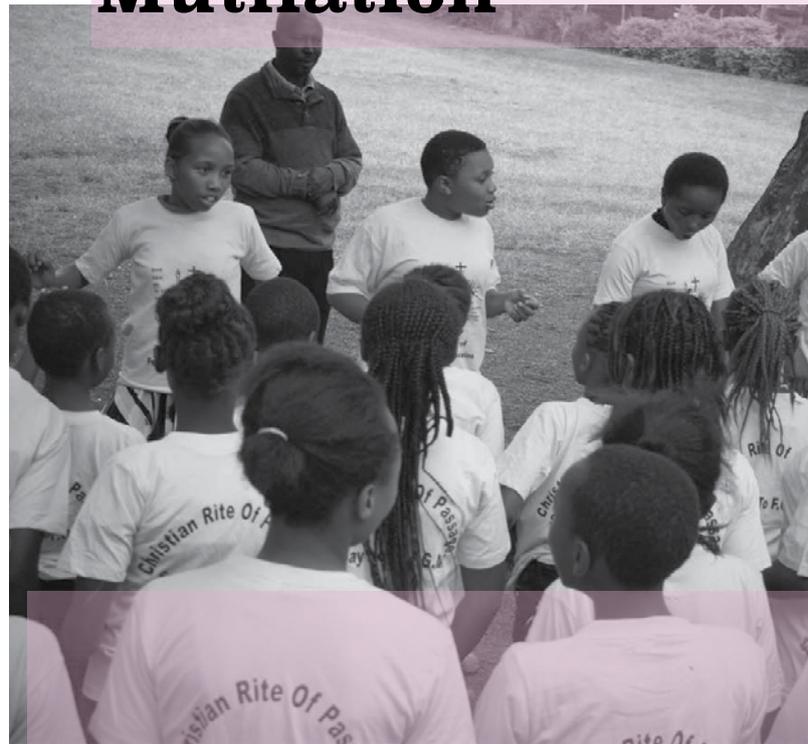
Most victims are cut by traditional villagers, including birth attendants in the home. However, girls are now increasingly being cut by health care providers to reduce complications – a practice known as the medicalisation of FGM. The project aims to equip more trainers who will reach more communities at the grassroots level. The focus area is Kajiado county, where the Maasai ethnic group practices cross border cutting, taking girls to Tanzania to be cut.

## CHALLENGES AND SOLUTION

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 lockdown, there has been an increase in FGM cases, child abuse, early pregnancies and early marriages, highlighting the need for such an important project. Fears of curses, myths and taboos related to FGM discourage many communities from abandoning the practice, despite fines and well-known health dangers.

## IMPACT

The project's presence in over eight districts in Kenya has contributed immensely to the reduction of the practice. So far, 20,000 girls have been transformed through the project. The project has engaged an external consultant to evaluate the impact of the project, improve processes, and reveal the positive results in communities.



## ACTIVITIES

- Advocating and campaigning for the protection of girls and women
- Assisting FGM survivors
- Researching the root cause of FGM to address the problem
- Producing and translating FGM material for village campaigns
- Referring women with fistula conditions to hospital for corrective surgeries
- Offering school seminars for young boys and girls
- Training the community, local leaders and peers about the atrocity of FGM
- Providing alternative rites of passage through Christian education

