September 2023 Featured Project

Leveraging technology to reach girls in remote locations and end FGM/C
Introducing Last Mile 4D

Mission: mobilizes resources to ensure that girls and women everywhere, particularly in remote communities, can access information about their rights to health, safety, and freedom from gender-based violence.
About Kenya

- Population over 57 million
- High fertility, early marriage - almost 40% of Kenyans are under age 15
- Rapid population growth - high birth rate and declining mortality rate
- Project is in Migori and West Pokot counties – hotbeds of FGM/C, characterized by diverse ethnic groups, norms, class structures, and educational outcomes among girls
Life Challenges for Women Served

- Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C/C) - national prevalence in Kenya of 21% among women and girls ages 15 – 49
- FGM/C is illegal, done in secret and isolation
- Can mean infections, hemorrhage, fistula, birth complications, sterility, and death
- Girls are shunned if they refuse FGM/C or speak out against it
Ending Female Genital Mutilation - A Three Pillar Approach

• Innovative early warning system provides real-time data via mobile, solar-powered technology – Vpack4Development (V4D)

• Can intervene almost immediately to prevent FGM/C

• Targets the most marginalized girls, ages 9 – 14 in remote hotbeds of FGM/C

• Primary goal: stop FGM/C for 1,600 girls ages 9 – 14 in Migori and West Pokot
The Project

LM4D uses a “three pillar approach” to achieve goals:

1. Leverage technology to assess girls at risk of FGM/C
2. Deploy educational modules to sensitize girls, boys, and families against FGM/C
3. Engage authorities to enforce laws and protect girls by preventing FGM/C

Includes shelter for girls during cutting season (December holidays) when FGM/C risk is highest

**Direct Impact:** 1,600 girls, 400 boys; **Indirect Impact:** 3,000 family members
## Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personnel</strong></td>
<td>• Field officer, supervisor, manager and monitor</td>
<td>$20,820</td>
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<td>• Evaluation consultant</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Safe Houses for Girls</strong></td>
<td>Shelter, food, personal needs, and security for enrolled girls at-risk of FGM/C</td>
<td>$13,700</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Community Meetings</strong></td>
<td>• 40 bi-monthly community meetings (20 meeting per county for one year)</td>
<td>$6,400</td>
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<td>to raise awareness about the harms of FGM/C and engage community influencers, tribal chiefs, religious leaders, local government, and all other stakeholders</td>
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<td><strong>Equipment and Communication</strong></td>
<td>• V4D units including solar backpacks and tablets loaded with platform, internet access</td>
<td>$7,080</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Printing and copying (flyers, posters, and T-shirts for community meetings)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Local teams’ communication needs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Local transportation for field workers to meeting points</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>$48,000</td>
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About Last Mile 4D

• Founded in 2014 by Mahnaz M. Harrison; focuses on women’s and girls’ rights to health and safety in rural or isolated communities
• Bundles innovative technology – online platform and tablet in a solar powered backpack – Vpack4Development (V4D)
• Goals of V4D:
  • eradicate FGM/C using innovative educational modules for field workers to create awareness about dire consequences of the practice
  • real-time monitoring by trained field workers to assess FGM/C risk and need for immediate interventions
  • crisis intervention hotlines to rescue and shelter girls at risk of FGM/C
Discussion: Share Your Thoughts

1. How do you think the use of technology by LM4D can change the fight against FGM/C?

2. Discuss how silence within the community unwittingly condones FGM/C.

3. How do you think the elevation of girls’ voices influences the prevention of FGM/C?