



# September 2023 Featured Project

Leveraging technology to reach girls in remote locations  
and end FGM/C



**TOGETHER WOMEN RISE**



# 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

Item	Description	Cost
Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field officer, supervisor, manager and monitor</li> <li>Evaluation consultant</li> </ul>	\$20,820
Safe Houses for Girls	Shelter, food, personal needs, and security for enrolled girls at-risk of FGM/C	\$13,700
Community Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40 bi-monthly community meetings (20 meeting per county for one year) to raise awareness about the harms of FGM/C and engage community influencers, tribal chiefs, religious leaders, local government, and all other stakeholders</li> </ul>	\$6,400
Equipment and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>V4D units including solar backpacks and tablets loaded with platform, internet access</li> <li>Printing and copying (flyers, posters, and T-shirts for community meetings)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local teams' communication needs</li> </ul> </li> <li>Local transportation for field workers to meeting points</li> </ul>	\$7,080
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$48,000</b>

# 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?





