

A Holistic Approach to Ending FGM/C

February 2025 Featured Grant



About Featured Grants

Featured Grants fund:

- direct services
- new projects
- expansion of existing projects
- capacity building



The Global Issue:

Education as an Antidote to FGM/C

- 230,000+ million women & girls worldwide have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C)
- FGM/C has NO health benefits
- Increased education = reduced FGM/C
- Girls with primary education: 30% more likely to oppose, secondary education or higher = 70% oppose

February Featured Grantee: Kakenya's Dream

Founded by Dr. Kakenya Ntaiya – Maasai, first girl to leave village for college in U.S.

Dream: world where African women & girls are valued, respected as leaders, equals in every way

Two prior successful Together Women Rise grants



Life Challenges of Women in Rural Kenya

In population served:

- Girls often seen as property & valued for bride price
- FGM/C, arranged child marriage – generations-old practices
- Pervasive poverty
- Most vulnerable in rural areas
- Poverty exacerbated by climate change



How Our Grant Will Be Used

\$50,000 Grant

**Kakenya Center for Excellence II
(KCE II)**

Supports student education & welfare programs, plus staffing for KCE II, full-support, all-girls boarding school, for grades 7 - 12 in remote Massai village



How Our Grant Will Be Used

Primary goals of KCE II:

- Improve students' retention & educational achievement through high school
- Remove social & cultural barriers to girls' education
- Empower students to become agents of change in addressing child rights violations (FGM/C, child marriage)
- Empower & motivate students to achieve their first-choice destination after high school

Direct impact: 268 women & girls; Indirect impact: 1,609 women & girls

Budget

Item	Description	Cost
Student Education & Welfare	Students receive high-quality instruction in five core areas: languages, math, science, technical skills, and humanities, plus peer mentorship opportunities and leadership and life-skills training, extracurricular activities, and instruction in traditional Maasai beadwork, farming techniques, music, and dance. They receive nutritious daily meals, multivitamins, medical check-ups, and counseling.	\$40,000
Staffing	Schools are staffed with a 1:13 teacher to student ratio, the lowest teacher to student ratio in the region, ensuring girls receive the extra support and personalized attention they need to succeed in school.	\$10,000
Total		\$50,000

