FGM Awareness and Sensitization Report term one 2026

Two Sisters Village/ School, Jiija school and Ntaletiani school, Marsabit County, northern Kenya

FGM prevention project 2026-2028

A 3-year FGM prevention project is organized for Two Sisters Village and surrounding villages in Marsabit County 2026–2028 as a follow-up to the 3-year project in Two Sisters Village 2023-2026. The overall project goal is to reduce and ultimately eliminate Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) through sustained community education, youth engagement, sports advocacy, and promotion of alternative rites of passage. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) remains a significant challenge affecting the well-being, health, and future of girls in many communities in northern Kenya.

Start-up meeting in Two Sisters Village

A start-up community meeting was held in Two Sisters Village in January, under the leadership of Steven Labarakwe, to discuss and confirm the new 3-year FGM prevention project among the community members. About 100 people participated, discussed, and gave feedback.

FGM prevention programs in Two Sisters School, Jiija school and Ntaletinai school

Jiija and Ntaletiani primary schools were approached to be part of the 3-year project together with Two Sisters School. These new schools are about two hours' drive from Two Sisters School. The plan is to include two more schools/ villages in the surroundings next year.

An FGM awareness and sensitization program was conducted at Jiija School and Ntaletiani School the 18th Feb 2026, three hours in each school, and in Two Sisters School the 20th Feb. The programs were facilitated by Patricia Lelesit, community social worker, Vivian Seneka Lenanyokwe, nutrionist, Eunice Learamo, teacher, Doris Jepchirchir, teacher and Steven Labarakwe, coordinator. They worked closely with learners to educate, engage, and empower them to become advocates for change.

The program focused on equipping children with knowledge, building their confidence to speak out, and promoting a culture that protects the rights of every child.

Objectives of the Program

The key objectives of the sensitization program were to:

a) Increase awareness among learners about FGM and its harmful effects
b) Promote positive cultural values that uphold the dignity and rights of children
c) Encourage both boys and girls to actively participate in ending FGM
d) Empower learners to become peer educators and community advocates
e) Strengthening school-based mechanisms for child protection



Jiija school



Ntaletiani school



Two Sisters School

Topics Covered

The sessions were interactive, learner-centered, and age-appropriate. The following key topics were discussed:

1. Understanding FGM

Learners were introduced to what FGM is, including its forms and how it affects girls physically, emotionally, and psychologically. The facilitators emphasized that FGM is a violation of human rights and has no medical benefits.

2. Why Society Should Be Free from FGM

Discussions focused on the negative consequences of FGM, including:

a) Health complications
b) School dropout among girls
c) Early marriages
d) Emotional trauma

Learners were guided to reflect on the importance of protecting girls and promoting equality.

3. Benefits of a Society Free from FGM

The facilitators highlighted the long-term benefits of eliminating FGM, including:

a) Improved health and well-being of girls
b) Increased school retention and academic success
c) Stronger, more informed communities
d) Equal opportunities for both boys and girls

Conclusion and Way Forward

The sessions concluded with practical guidance on how learners can:

a) Report cases of FGM to the relevant government authorities.
b) Identify potential candidates for FGM prevention training
c) Advocate for education and child rights
d) Engage parents and community members in dialogue

Number of Learners Reached

The program reached a total of 535 learners across the three schools.

School Name	Boys Reached	Girls Reached	Total Reached
Two Sisters School	110	105	215
Jiija School	85	90	175
Ntaletiani School	70	75	145
Total	**265**	**270**	**535**

Formation of Anti-FGM Advocacy Teams

A total of 95 girls voluntarily joined anti-FGM advocacy teams across the three schools.

School Name	No of learners Anti FGM team
Two Sisters School	40
Jiija School	30
Ntaletiani School	25
Total	**95**

Under the guidance of Patricia Lelesit, Vivian Seneka Lenanyokwe, EuniceLearamo, Doris Jipchirchir and Steven Labarakwe, these learners now serve as peer champions actively spreading awareness, identifying risks, and promoting positive change.

Impact of the Program

- Direct outreach to 535 learners across three schools
- 95 girls volunteered to participate fully in the trainings championing anti-FGM efforts.
- Increased awareness and confidence among learners to speak openly about harmful practices
- Strengthened collaboration between schools in addressing child protection issues
- Increased recognition of the importance of education in safeguarding girls

Challenges Identified

Despite the success of the program, several challenges remain:

- High number of out-of-school girls vulnerable to FGM
- Deep-rooted cultural beliefs that perpetuate the practice
- Limited resources to sustain awareness programs
- Need for greater parental and community involvement

Conclusion

The FGM awareness program in the three schools has been a significant step toward protecting children and promoting positive social change within the community. It was a good start to the 3-year FGM prevention project.

Next Step

In May-June 2026 there will be training workshops in FGM prevention for the 95 volunteer girls in the three schools. These workshops will finally identify the girls going for graduation in an alternative rite of passage in September. To support the girls, it is important to engage parents, elders, and local leaders in continuous dialogue within the three schools. The identified girls will then be mentored and prepared for their graduation.

10th of April 2026
Steven Labarakwe
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