

Network Rafael Support to NAFGEM Tanzania

End FGM and Child Marriage in Kilimanjaro and Manyara Regions

A: Lekrimuni kindergarten/day Care Center (NAFGEM Ekenywa)



Ms. Grace – a teacher at Lekrimuni – NAFGEM Center



Children in classroom at Lekrimuni – NAFGEM Center

Background:

With support from Network Rafael, Rosil Simons and other friends of NAFGEM a center for children was built in Lekrimuni village located in Siha district, about 72 kms from Moshi town. The area is occupied by mostly the Maasai who embrace the FGM and child marriage. The value to education especially that of girls is minimal as it is considered by the society as waste of resources. In its community campaigns, NAFGEM realized the need to engage women and children in changing this type of attitude by building a center which will be for children and women.

Starting with the ex-circumcisers, NAFGEM acquired a piece of land from the village which would be used by the women for meetings and training leading into rebuilding self esteem sufficient to overcome harmful traditional practices aimed at infringing their human rights. In 2007, the center was built and apart from hosting women meetings and day care services; it served as village assembly center and monthly outreach center for women and children health care services.

With support from the Japanese Embassy in Tanzania and Robert Bosch Gesamtschule - Hildesheim UNESCO school, NAFGEM was able to reinforce the center by fencing, construction of teacher's quarter, electrification and building a canopy to offer space for children to play and being under shade.

Progress at Lekrimuni Kindergarten/day care and Safe Shelter (NAFGEM Ekenywa)

1. Kindergarten/day care

The service is linked to Lekrimuni government primary school which is about 4kms from the center quite far for an under 10 years old child to walk to and back home. Owing to the fact that

the population is very scattered, some families are as far as 7kms in the bushes making it difficult for the young children to attend consistently.

NAFGEM introduced the services at the center gradually as a measure to encourage the children to like school and also being in close contact with parents, mainly women. As a matter of fact, the villagers were ambitious to have the center being a full fledged primary school with boarding facilities to children from far distances. NAFGEM will continue to pursue their ambition and work with the government to come up with feasible solution. Children who attended the center since its founding is shown in table 1 below.

Table 1: Children attended at Lekrimuni – NAFGEM Ekenywa Center 2007-2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Girls	8	9	15	12	10	17	16	19	16	54	176
Boys	5	11	18	16	15	20	18	18	18	36	175
Total	13	20	33	28	25	37	34	37	34	90	351
Gone to P1	12	18	30	20	20	25	20	34	33		

NAFGEM is using Montessori trained teachers at Lekrimuni. In the initial years, only one teacher was hired. Due to growing demand and the need to focus more on the girls' protection, a female teacher has been hired with additional assignment. Apart from the teaching, the female teacher is also tasked to promote girls' body hygiene practices, be close to the girls and their mothers to ensure they are not subjected into FGM. The female teacher will be accommodated at the center to receive all girls seeking physical protection against FGM or child marriage and communicate with NAFGEM timely.

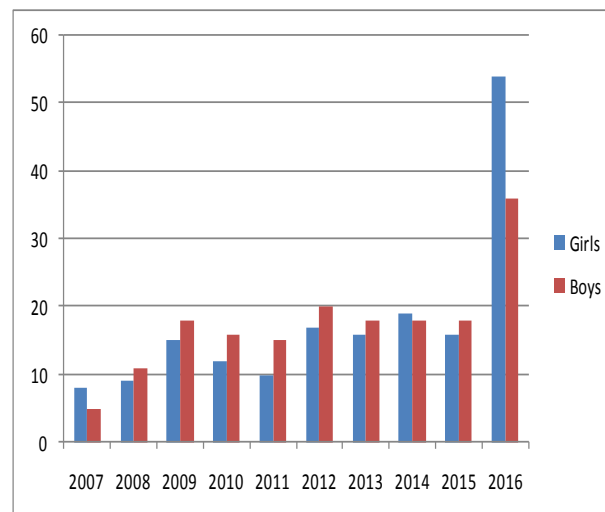


Diagram 1: Trend of children enrolled at Lekrimuni Day Care Center 2007-2016

Other activities

- The center is also used by the District Health department for outreach child health services such as immunization, nutrition and malaria prevention. At least 50 children from Lekrimuni and its neighborhoods are brought at the center every month for such services.
- Women meetings are held at the center to discuss and deliberate on development issues of their concern.

Challenges

- Drought is a big problem not only to the center but to the whole village. With such a situation, it is difficult to maintain the environment and even providing drinking water for the children at the center.

- Two fulltime teachers and a security guard who will also perform the cleanness duties in the rooms and the environment are needed to ensure smooth running of the center. Costs for their remunerations will be required until the center can generate its own revenue.

Future plans

- Establishing small projects such as milling, poultry keeping and animal husbandry to generate income which will contribute into running of the center.
- Promote engagement of parents, local government and the community in supporting the center initiatives.
- Introduce youths programs during school vacations (computer classes, tuition services, reproductive health education sessions, etc).
- Introduce vocational skills training to at least 20 young mothers (16-25 years).
- Organize youths and women campaigns for development and ending FGM/child marriage targeting at least 100 persons.
- Promote girls education through public campaigns and tracking school enrollments, attendances and scholarly support.

B. Amani Girls' Safe Shelter (Orkesumet –Simanjiro)

Background

Anti-FGM/child marriage activities in Manyara region and more specific in Simanjiro district were introduced in 2007. With the sensitization and awareness strategy, it was evident that a need for a safe shelter and a center for women empowerment is important in supporting such efforts. The low socio-economic status of women and the denial of girls into school for FGM and child marriage would be properly addressed by a center which will offer coordinated girls' protection and livelihood skills to women and girls.

With funding from Network Rafael, friends from ZONTA, St. Blaisen community and many other individuals from German, the center was established.



Amani Safe Shelter for Girls in Simanjiro

This center is intended to offer Safe Shelter services to girls and women at risk for FGM, child marriage and other abuse. It will also be a central place for women and girls to learn and practice livelihood skills which will make them self sustainable.

Currently, the center is used for women and girls meetings, production of bracelets and soap done by a group of 55 members being young mothers 16-25 years and elderly women presumed to be ex-circumcisers.

Women and girls are using the center despite of the ongoing construction work. While they were meeting at least twice weekly, from March 2016 women and girls meet at the center almost daily to learn tailoring skills, gardening, bracelets making and adult literacy. Even though the group has 55 registered women and girls it has been observe that consistent attendances is affected by the gender roles in their families, social and political activities in the district and their villages. On other hand, the availability of quality soap making materials hampered the soap production activity. NAFGEM is working hand in hand with the women and girls leaders to identify another credible supplier. In future, the project intends to stock and sell these materials in the will be shops at the center.

Achievements

1. The center has expanded to have 2units for vocational training to include tailoring and soap making. Tailoring unit is completed and girls are now attending for skills acquisition under a very competent trainer who is retired from similar activities.



The unit is completed and girls are committed to participate in skills learning activities which will be gradually expanded to include more girls and other skills such as weaving, hair saloon, knitting, and embroidery.

2. Bracelets production

Women and girls gather at the center frequently in their forum to obtain beads and other materials to make bracelet out of the beads with a four windows symbol signifying a campaign to end: FGM, child marriage, child pregnancies and to promote girls education. While the intention is to have the women spend more time at the center producing beads and soap, group members opt to meet briefly and complete their tasks at home in their own time.

The products from the women group are sold locally and internationally to generate money which benefits them and their families. As a condition to be in the group, the funds should be used to meet the education needs of their daughters, prevent them from FGM/child marriage and for other development activities.

Successes

- Production and sales have increased from 4570 pieces in 2014 to 6840 in 2015, almost 33%. In this case the funds which went directly to the women were 13,710,000 in 2014 and 20,607,000 in 2015. This is about 6231.82 euro in 2014 and 9366.82 euro in 2015 which went directly to the women group members. From the fund, women sent their children to school and improved their living standards to a great deal. In general, the lowest a member could get was Tshs 45,000 in 2014 and the highest was 618,000 Tshs while in 2015 the highest gain was 765,000 Tshs. The income is shown in table 2 attached.
- Women meet and discuss informally on issues affecting them and their families. They have their leaders elected by themselves and all are ambitious to seeing changes in their lives. End of last year, the women begun a Community Saving which they can buy shares and take loans to make changes in their lives.

Challenges

- Difficult to keep the women at the center for long as they come from far and required to do other tasks in their families including taking care of goats, fetching water and firewood, farming, cooking etc. With availability of water at the NAFGEM center, at least women would be encouraged to attend sessions for longer and go home with water to lessen the task.
- Demand to enroll more women has been expressed from families and community. While NAFGEM wishes to involve as many members as possible there is a need to make sure a reliable market exists internally and abroad.
- Failure to have preferred beads in the market being Arusha or Nairobi. This affects the demand by customers on preferred product. In this situation, NAFGEM is exploring possibilities all over.

3. Soap Production

Following one week training on organic soap production, 45 women engaged into making liquid, bar and powder soaps at the center. NAFGEM is finalizing the construction of soap production unit and improve the production as much as possible.

Successes

- In 2014 the group produced soap which was sold locally, at Moshi and internationally. From the sales, the group made Tshs 4,500,000 (1956.52 euro) in 2014 and Tshs 2,800,000 (1217.39 euro) in 2015.
- The soap is used by members and families to improve body hygiene and overcome fungal infections around the body including around female genital which is a pretext to the FGM practice.

- Soap making promotes active participation of members including informal discussions to enhance psychological healing. Working together cements the relationship while building a common voice to overcome issues of concern to them as women.

Challenges

- Supply of quality raw materials was interfered with the source leading to poor products and searching for a better source. Raw materials were obtained from Dar-Es-Salaam then Arusha and Moshi. However, the materials were identified to be of poor quality necessitating a shift to Nairobi and Mombasa. In the process, the soap production was affected to a great deal. With NAFGEM support, the materials have been ordered from Nairobi and the activity will continue. With more funds, the program will procure and stock these materials to be used for longer period.

Summary of successes from 2014 -2015

Lekrimuni

- Children have increased to 90 (girls 54 and boys 36) in 2016. This implies being closer to the girls for protection while encouraging them to like school.
- Two Montessori teachers are assigned the task to train the children in accordance with the government standards.
- Increased collaboration with the neighboring government primary school and the District Education department.
- A female teacher is assigned to be closer with the girls to monitor and support them accordingly. This teacher will stay at the center in a staff house to be able to respond to the girls' protection needs.
- The center is fenced, electrified and trees planted to improve the environment.

Orkesumet-Simanjiro

- A group of 55 women and girls have been formed to build economic strength by producing and selling bracelets and soap. With their livelihood and that of their families improved.
- Children of the 55 women are protected against abuse of their rights including FGM and child marriage.
- Solidarity to fight for women and girls' rights has increased among group members and it is spilling out in their communities.
- The center is expanding from safe shelter to girls and women to offer vocational skills and peer psychosocial support services.
- NAFGEM Simanjiro office has moved into the shelter so as to promote the center and increase service opportunities.
- Tailoring and soap making units have been built and women and girls are attending classes run by a competent professional trainer.

Summary of challenges

Lekrimuni:

- Running costs: The center requires two full time teachers and a security guard to also be responsible for cleaning and protection of the environment. Currently, the female teacher is paid for by Robert Bosch Gesamtschule for one year. The buildings will need minor maintenance to make sure they last long.
- Reliable water supply: The area is relatively dry with occasional water supply from a main pipe installed at the center. There is a need to look for alternative water sources which would be used for domestic gardening, tree planting and animal keeping.
- Extreme poverty especially on women and girls: Limited income generation activities for women and girls render them poor and vulnerable to abuse of their rights. NAFGEM intends to strengthen the 20 women and 20 girls groups in their petty income generation activities. In this case, training will be needed by a professional trainer for them to become effective.
- Sustainability: There is a need to have projects such as milling machine, a shop for the women products, gardening and animal husbandry to generate income that would contribute to the sustainability of the center. While NAFGEM tries to encourage the parents and community to contribute to the children's costs such as uniforms and at least a meal, responses will be gradual as they may affect the children attendance.

Orkesumet – Simanjoro

- Lack of reliable water supply affecting gardening, tree planting, animal husbandry and encouraging women and girls to participate in center activities. A need for rain water harvest and a borehole.
- Women and girls failing to consistently attend programs at the center due to family responsibilities. NAFGEM will continue to encourage them to attend regularly.
- Running costs: Maintaining the staffing who are the Vocational Trainer, security guard and 2 other support staff (driver and Office Attendant) is also difficult. NAFGEM is ambitious to have income generation activities such as milling machines, poultry, farming, shop with general merchandise etc. to generate income which will be used in the running of the center. From time to time, hiring of a meeting place at the center will also generate some income. For the meeting room to be well prepared, some furniture will be needed.
- A source for quality and reliable supply of raw materials for bracelets and soap has been a problem. NAFGEM is supporting the group to ensure materials are procured in quality and stocked in bulky to avoid shortages.
- In 2015 most communities were standstill due to the political activities towards the ended national elections. Apart from the fear to hold meetings, many members had to attend in the political campaign meetings.

NAFGEM wishes for 2016

Lekrimuni

- Being able to maintain all three staff for the center (2teachers and 1 security/environment).
- Rehabilitate the classrooms and the kitchen.
- Identify alternative source of water supply (gutter for harvests and/or bore hole)
- Implement income generation activities (milling machine, poultry, goats/sheep, gardening, bracelets and soap making).
- Organize youths projects (computer, tuition and adult literacy classes)
- Continue with kindergarten/day care services for children below 10 years of age.
- Organize children camping activities for 100 children (50 girls and 50 boys)

Orkesumet – Simanjoro

- Establish reliable source of water such as rain water harvest and borehole for gardening, tree planting and other relevant activities.
- Increasing electricity supply for refrigeration and running of milling machine (solar or the national grid).
- Strengthen tailoring and soap making activities for women and girls.
- Organize youths projects (computer, tuition and adult literacy classes)
- Introduce kindergarten/day care services for children below 10 years of age.
- Organize children camping activities for 100 children (50 girls and 50 boys) from the neighboring villages.

Acknowledgement

NAFGEM wishes to express our heartfelt thanks to all members of Network Rafael and friends who continue to trust the staff and our organization as we work hard towards meeting the needs of the marginalized girls and women, mostly from the Maasai communities. We wish to reiterate our commitments in ensuring the resources are used accountably as we commit ourselves into ending FGM, child marriage and restore the dignity and integrity of women and girls.

In deed, it is very difficult to mention all who in one way or another extended their support to us. However, we wish to acknowledge the close support given to us by the Honorable Chairman Mr. Christian Schnapauß, the Vice Chairman Dr. Claues Dahlin, Mrs. Angelika Dahlin, Mrs Ursula Biermann, Dr. Irmgard Hosselman and all who were involved to seeing our work becomes a success. To all, thank you so much.

For the beneficiaries we managed to reach through your support, NAFGEM will continue to engage them for gradual transformations in their families and their communities. The work is far from over as NAFGEM remains determined to ensure changes are realized and sustained.

Together we shall continue to build a society which cares for women and girls.

Thank you so much. Danke

Table 2: Income per Women Group Member 2014-2015

No.	Name of Member	Produced 2014	Amount (Tshs)	Amount (Euro)	Produced 2015	Amount (Tshs)	Amount (Euro)
1	Theresia Yona	161	483,000	219.55	208	624,000	283.64
2	Paulina Wiliam	188	564,000	256.36	252	756,000	343.64
3	Flora Izack	184	552,000	250.91	207	621,000	282.27
4	Leah Mathayo	151	453,000	205.91	72	216,000	98.18
5	Rebeka John	146	438,000	199.09	172	516,000	234.55
6	Leah Letion	145	435,000	197.73	211	633,000	287.73
7	Suzana Zakari	136	408,000	185.45	186	558,000	253.64
8	Natolwoki Lazaro	171	513,000	233.18	139	417,000	189.55
9	Raheli Lazaro	145	435,000	197.73	76	228,000	103.64
10	Naitapuaki Murkatai	93	279,000	126.82	56	168,000	76.36
11	Christina Paulo	119	357,000	162.27	206	618,000	280.91
12	Leah Isaya	155	465,000	211.36	160	480,000	218.18
13	Nasinyari Leyani	164	492,000	223.64	199	597,000	271.36
14	Naipotoki Lucas	87	261,000	118.64	93	279,000	126.82
15	Esta Lazaro	141	423,000	192.27	207	621,000	282.27
16	Elizabeth Munga	114	342,000	155.45	182	546,000	248.18
17	Nembruris Andrea	190	570,000	259.09	182	546,000	248.18
18	Suzana Olitimbau	31	93,000	42.27	44	132,000	60.00
19	Neiyo John	184	552,000	250.91	170	510,000	231.82
20	Mospa Arpakwa	144	432,000	196.36	222	666,000	302.73
21	Suya	15	45,000	20.45	20	60,000	27.27
22	Suzana Alamnyaki	206	618,000	280.91	276	828,000	376.36
23	Leah Megoliki	59	177,000	80.45	179	537,000	244.09
24	Sinyati Lucas	72	216,000	98.18	183	549,000	249.55
25	Najukai	13	39,000	17.73	0	-	-
26	Sara Elifuraha	195	585,000	265.91	283	849,000	385.91
27	Eva paulo	100	300,000	136.36	177	531,000	241.36
28	Anna Supuk	80	240,000	109.09	60	180,000	81.82
29	Leah saip	116	348,000	158.18	217	651,000	295.91
30	Ngaileji Latasarwak	91	273,000	124.09	167	501,000	227.73
31	Neiyo Alamunyaka	32	96,000	43.64	40	189,000	85.91
32	Rebeka Umalali	74	222,000	100.91	0	-	-
33	Sinyati Medutieki	29	87,000	39.55	0	-	-
34	Martha Alamnyaki	29	87,000	39.55	118	354,000	160.91
35	Esta Masiare	76	228,000	103.64	115	363,000	165.00
36	Korduni Elisha	74	222,000	100.91	156	468,000	212.73
37	Sara Alamnyaka	43	129,000	58.64	15	45,000	20.45
38	Sinyati Yohana	150	450,000	204.55	218	654,000	297.27
39	Rehema Tingide	108	324,000	147.27	166	498,000	226.36
40	Makida Munga	26	78,000	35.45	0	-	-
41	Anna Larenyaka	17	51,000	23.18	59	177,000	80.45
42	Nai Muhile	31	93,000	42.27	20	60,000	27.27
43	Tito Kinya	25	75,000	34.09	58	174,000	79.09
44	Korduni Kariongi	60	180,000	81.82	37	111,000	50.45
45	Suzana Ezekiel	0	-	0	105	315,000	143.18
46	Supati Murkatai	0	-	0	68	204,000	92.73
47	Neiyo Lapuda	0	-	0	20	60,000	27.27
48	Ndito Mirimba	0	-	0	185	555,000	252.27
49	Rebeca Lemalulu	0	-	0	20	60,000	27.27
50	Namayan Lapda	0	-	0	83	249,000	113.18
51	Nainotok Mollel	0	-	0	24	72,000	32.73
52	Magdalena Abraham	0	-	0	255	765,000	347.73
53	Leah Saip	0	-	0	217	651,000	295.91
54	Korduni Koriongi	0	-	0	37	111,000	50.45
55	Angela Andrea	0	-	0	18	54,000	24.55
Total		4570	13,710,000	6231.82	6840	20,607,000	9366.82

Increase is by 33% from 2014 and 2015

Activities at Amani Safe Shelter - Simanjiro

