



Hatua Yetu

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International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM



Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a persistent violation of human rights that continues to affect millions of women and girls across the globe, with 4 million in Kenya alone. While its prevalence varies across regions, certain areas, including parts of Kenya, remain heavily impacted by this harmful practice. Despite existing legislative frameworks and community-based interventions, FGM remains a significant barrier to the health, dignity, and well-being of women and girls, reinforcing gender inequality and perpetuating harmful cultural norms. The International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM, observed annually on 6th February, provides a platform for raising awareness, challenging harmful practices, and advocating for collective action. The 2025 theme, “Stepping up the pace: Strengthening Alliances and Building Bridges to End FGM,” highlights the urgency of strengthening partnerships and accelerating efforts to eliminate this practice.

PS Kenya, through the Accelerate program funded by the Embassy of Denmark in Kenya, joined the Nairobi City County

Government’s Department of Health and other key stakeholders to commemorate the event at Eastleigh Airbase in Kamukunji Sub-county a region with one of the highest FGM prevalence rates in Nairobi, largely due to Somali and Muslim communities. The event aimed to strengthen collective resolve against FGM through awareness-raising, survivor empowerment, alliance-building, and inter-group dialogues. Survivors shared testimonies to highlight their critical role in advocacy, while discussions with religious leaders, medical experts, and policymakers helped dismantle myths surrounding FGM. A major highlight was the participation of 10 Community Health Promoters (CHPs) supported through the Accelerate program, who engaged directly with local communities to spread awareness and promote referral pathways for those affected by FGM.

A key moment came when the Anti-FGM Board presented statistics showing that Nairobi County’s FGM prevalence stands at 6.3%, lower than the national average of 14%. The government

reaffirmed its commitment to eradicating FGM by 2026, emphasizing the need for accelerated action. Esther Passaris, Nairobi County Women’s Representative, called for collective efforts to end FGM and urged men to actively challenge cultural norms that sustain the practice. The event also featured a panel discussion with an Anti-FGM Board representative, a Muslim religious leader, a medical doctor, an FGM survivor, and a male champion, reinforcing the call for community-driven solutions. The continued fight against FGM requires sustained efforts at every level. This year’s event highlighted the power of multi-stakeholder collaboration, bringing together community leaders, healthcare professionals, policymakers, and survivors to drive change. The International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM reminds us that while progress has been made, more work remains. By stepping up the pace, strengthening alliances, and building bridges, we can make significant strides toward eliminating FGM and ensuring a future where women and girls live free from the physical and emotional scars of this practice.

Delivering Sustainable and Equitable Increases in Family Planning (DESIP)

(DESIP) Programme, funded by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), has a key objective: to expand access to modern contraception in 19 underserved counties in Kenya. Running from June 2018 to March 2025, DESIP is dedicated to increasing family planning (FP) uptake, particularly among rural women, adolescents, and persons with disabilities, with the goal of reducing maternal and child mortality. Through this mission, DESIP empowers marginalized populations by improving access to contraceptives and enhancing reproductive health outcomes.

In its first year, DESIP achieved significant success, delivering 433,122 Couple Years of Protection (CYP), well beyond its target of 352,159. The programme also reached 59,993 new FP users, with 18% living below the poverty line and 7% adolescents. Furthermore, DESIP successfully secured 46% domestic funding for FP commodities, an impressive increase from the initial 6%, helping to avert 1,174 maternal deaths and 409,325 unintended pregnancies. These remarkable outcomes were made possible through rapid programme inception, effective advocacy for government financing, and close collaboration with DFID's global family planning initiatives. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, which resulted in an expected 20% reduction in service delivery, DESIP mitigated these impacts through innovative strategies. These included third-party monitoring, private-sector engagement, and sustainable efforts at the county level.

The programme continued its strong performance in 2020/2021, delivering 779,381 CYP, far exceeding its target of 503,588. It also reached 132,279 new FP users, including 9% adolescents and 1,131 persons with disabilities. In addition, the programme secured 43% domestic funding for FP commodities, which contributed

to the prevention of 350,878 unintended pregnancies and 949 maternal deaths. DESIP adapted effectively to the ongoing pandemic, shifting to mass media outreach, community-based distribution, and virtual policy engagement, successfully reaching 11 million people. Its sustainability efforts were further bolstered by private-sector involvement, with 55.5% of supported facilities achieving NHIF accreditation.

However, DESIP also encountered several challenges, including stockouts of injectable contraceptives in 30% of facilities due to supply chain issues, as well as delays in policy ratification and county budget disbursements for FP services. To overcome these challenges, DESIP put forward key recommendations, such as advocating for increased domestic FP financing, scaling up COVID-19 adaptations, and ensuring that marginalized groups and adolescents continue to receive equitable access to services.

In the following years, DESIP showed resilience in the face of budget cuts and a reduction in scope due to the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). Despite scaling down from 19 to 12 counties, DESIP maintained a high level of output. The programme focused on strengthening advocacy for domestic FP financing, fostering demand creation strategies, and providing technical support to the Ministry of Health and county health teams.

Even with the challenges, DESIP's commitment to innovation and sustainability has positioned it as a crucial component of Kenya's family planning efforts. As the programme comes to an end, its impact lives on, ensuring continued access to reproductive health services for Kenya's underserved population



Strengthening Adolescent Health as Counties Unite to Scale Up Reproductive Health Interventions

Narok County hosted a three-day cluster meeting from February 11th to 13th, 2025, bringing together health professionals, and county directors to discuss key strategies for improving Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) across several counties. The meeting focused on the A360 program and its efforts to institutionalize adolescent health initiatives within government systems.

The event kicked off with welcoming remarks from key stakeholders, including PS Kenya's CEO, Dr. Margaret Njenga, who emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts between counties to enhance health outcomes for adolescents. In her remarks Dr. Njenga stated, "Our commitment to ensuring that every adolescent in Kenya has access to the sexual and reproductive health services they need is unwavering. Through collaboration and government-led interventions, we can create a lasting impact on their health and wellbeing."

During the opening sessions, the A360 program's accomplishments were highlighted, demonstrating notable improvements in ASRH metrics and the program's long-term viability. A key focus of the meeting was the discussion of A360's sustainability plan. The session highlighted the importance of government institutionalization and the scale-up of ASRH programs.

The meeting included multiple breakout sessions, where county teams discussed the implementation of the A360 model and identified strategies to overcome barriers to service delivery.



These sessions focused on key components such as adolescent girl mobilization, goal setting, and the provision of Youth-Friendly Services (AYFS). County representatives shared valuable insights on how existing structures could be leveraged to improve the delivery of these services.

Migori, Narok, Kilifi, and Homabay counties presented their findings, highlighting both the challenges and successes in implementing the program. The discussions also centered

Directors of Health, who expressed gratitude for the hard work and dedication of everyone involved. As the cluster meeting drew to a close, it was evident that the collaborative efforts of the counties, supported by the A360 program, have laid a strong foundation for improving adolescent sexual and reproductive health in Kenya. With enhanced partnerships and a shared vision, the future is promising for the continued success of these interventions.

Reflection on Safeguarding at PS Kenya

At PS Kenya, safeguarding, also known as Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) is a core value that ensures our health programs are ethical, inclusive, and safe. We align our safeguarding practices with major development partners' requirements, embedding six core safeguarding principles into our work to protect vulnerable populations and maximize the positive impact of our programs. To uphold the highest standards, we have comprehensive policies such as the Code of Conduct & Ethics, Child Protection, Anti-Trafficking, and Whistle-blower policies, which set clear ethical expectations for staff, volunteers, and partners. The Whistle-blower Policy, in particular, empowers individuals to report concerns without fear of retaliation, reinforcing a culture of accountability.

Safeguarding is integrated into every stage of our programs; from recruitment to service delivery. We conduct rigorous background checks, provide regular safeguarding training, and update staff on emerging risks. With digital threats on the rise, we enhance awareness of online safety and implement a data protection policy to safeguard personal information. Community engagement is also central to our approach, as involving local communities in decision-making ensures culturally sensitive and inclusive health interventions. Additionally, safeguarding is linked to our Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategy, promoting social responsibility, inclusivity, and ethical program delivery.

To maintain transparency and accountability, PS Kenya enforces strong governance practices, supported by our Risk and Compliance Department. This team conducts regular ethics refreshers, program risk assessments, and ensures clear reporting mechanisms for safeguarding concerns. We also collaborate with security organizations such as INSO and PLSO to assess risks and adapt our programs accordingly, ensuring staff and community safety, particularly in high-risk areas. By integrating safeguarding into our governance framework, we meet donor expectations and uphold ethical standards across all operations.

Ultimately, safeguarding is more than compliance. It is about promoting a culture of safety, transparency, and ethical responsibility. By embedding safeguarding principles into every aspect of our work, we build trust with communities and donors, ensuring the long-term sustainability of our health programs. Our unwavering commitment to safeguarding allows individuals, especially the most vulnerable, to access our programs with confidence, knowing their safety and dignity are our top priorities. Safeguarding is vital for building stronger, healthier communities, allowing everyone involved in our health programs to experience positive, lasting outcomes.

In addition to training, regular program risk assessments help us identify any risks or concerns related to sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH) and make necessary adjustments to ensure the safety of participants. Our Risk and Compliance Department supports our commitment to accountability and transparency by addressing any issues promptly and effectively. This department also plays a crucial role in maintaining high ethical standards across the organization. They conduct regular ethics refreshers to ensure staff understand and remain committed to the core values of PS Kenya. Moreover, they provide clear reporting mechanisms for safeguarding concerns, ensuring that staff, beneficiaries, and external stakeholders know how to raise an issue if needed. The department also oversees investigations into any safeguarding incidents, ensuring that all concerns are addressed in a timely and thorough manner.

Safeguarding is central to the success of PS Kenya's health programs. By aligning with donor requirements, implementing robust policies, addressing emerging risks, and incorporating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles into our operations, we ensure that our programs are effective and safe for everyone involved. This commitment to safeguarding underlines our broader mission to improve the health and well-being of Kenyans, and we remain unwavering in our dedication to ethical, inclusive, and sustainable health interventions.





Navigating the Shifting NGO Landscape

The NGO landscape is undergoing a significant transformation, marked by fluctuating development partner funding patterns, evolving community needs, and increased demand for sustainable solutions. Traditional grant funding models are becoming less reliable, pushing organizations to innovate and diversify their revenue streams. PS Kenya has risen to this challenge through its dynamic social enterprise and commercial department, which plays a critical role in sustaining its impactful work, integrating business principles into health interventions, ensuring continued service delivery and financial sustainability.

In the past, NGOs primarily relied on development partner grants to implement their programs. However, as priorities shift and competition for funding intensifies, the need for self-sustaining models has become apparent. PS Kenya's social enterprise offers a forward-thinking solution by generating revenue and expanding access to essential health solutions, reducing dependency on development partner funds.

PS Kenya's commercial arm focuses on providing affordable, high-quality health products and services to the Kenyan market. By leveraging market-based approaches, we not only generate revenue but also expand access to essential health solutions reducing dependency on donor funds.

In 2024, PS Kenya's commercial arm achieved significant sales success, contributing to the organization's financial sustainability. The sales figures were impressive across various product lines:



10,115,802
Condoms Distributed



56,717,331
Pills Distributed

These achievements highlight the impact of PS Kenya's market-based approach in delivering health solutions while generating critical revenue to support its mission.

As part of strengthening collaboration, PS Kenya successfully onboarded key partners in 2024. Lenexa and Pefric, both pharmaceutical distributors based in Nairobi, to enhance the distribution network for health products. Additionally, Jay Wines, based in Ruiru and supplying wines & spirits shops across Eastern, Nairobi, and Mountain regions, joined the partnership.

When it comes to portfolio growth, PS Kenya introduced a new WaterGuard 500ml, read <https://www.pskkenya.org/ps-kenyas-strides-towards-safe-water-access-for-all/>, enhancing its product offerings to meet diverse health needs. We also maintained a healthy set for new product development, with Supanet, Lubricant, mid-tier condoms, and self-testing kits at various stages of development, awaiting launch or relaunching.

Through the social enterprise, PS Kenya has embraced innovation to meet the changing needs of communities. From developing impactful health products to partnering with private sector players, continuing to explore creative solutions that align with its mission. This entrepreneurial spirit has positioned PS Kenya as a leader in the evolving NGO space.

As the NGO sector continues to evolve, PS Kenya's ability to adapt and thrive is a pointer to the power of social enterprise. By diversifying its funding streams and embracing a commercial mindset, the organization is better equipped to navigate challenges and seize new opportunities.



222,232
Water products
Distributed



For More Information

Cell: +254 722203199 | +254 733363630

Jumuia Place, Wing B, 3rd Floor, Lenana Road P.O. Box 22591 - 00400 Nairobi, Kenya

 info@pskenya.org  www.pskenya.org        PSKenya

