



It takes us all
to end violence against children

World Vision
KENYA



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#ItTakesUsAllKE to #EndViolence against children in Kenya

As part of our contribution to making a significant impact on the well-being of children World Vision has launched a five year global campaign to ending violence against children, in all its forms in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Over 50% of Kenya's population are children, out whom millions are experiencing various forms of violence every day, while others are at risk of being faced with violent situations anytime during their childhood. Violence continues to be a contributor to the lack of achievement of a child's quality development and hence compromises the child's wellbeing.

In the Constitution of Kenya, it is clear that the state has a fundamental duty to observe, respect, protect, promote and fulfil the rights and fundamental freedoms in the Bill of Rights; and that the State is to take legislative, policy and other measures, including the setting of standards, to achieve the progressive realization of economic and social rights. It is further elaborated under the bill of rights that every child has the right to be protected from abuse, neglect, harmful cultural practices, all forms of violence, inhuman treatment and punishment, and hazardous or exploitative labour.

Despite the existence of these provisions, majority of children in Kenya still do not enjoy all their rights fully. A number of factors have conspired to deny children full enjoyment of their God given rights. Some of these factors include people's beliefs, attitudes and practices; and weak implementation of laws, policies and regulations.

Child Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation, Sexual Violence among other forms of violence are clearly seen to be rampant in various parts of the Country. Sadly, this continues to happen under the watchful eye of the public.

Against this backdrop, World Vision launched the Campaign in Kenya on Wednesday 15th March 2017 at Illaramatak Area Program, in Narok South Sub-County, Narok County. Illaramatak is one of the Area programs where World Vision has prioritized to confront the root causes of Child Marriage. Illaramatak is an area with high prevalence of Child Marriage i.e. at 41.8% according to World Vision Kenya's Baseline Survey (2016).

The launch brought together Government Officials, and other stakeholders, and was presided over by the Director, State Department for Children Services, Mr. Noah Sanganyi.

During the launch, stakeholders committed to strengthen coordination of local and national level interventions and ensure that all children remain safe and protected at all times, whether in schools or at home.

Children who participated in the launch on their part expressed the desire to be listened to by decision makers through regular consultations and feedback on the progress being made in addressing issues that affect Children. Through engagement sessions with Children, it was evident that there is urgent need to strengthen Child Participation platforms in Kenya and enable children to meaningfully interact with Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Donors, Civil Society Organizations, Faith Based Organizations and other actors involved in governance and development in the country.

The Goal of World Vision's Campaign in Kenya is to contribute to increased protection, participation and well being of most vulnerable children in Kenya. The initial strategic result areas are;

1. Improved Knowledge, Attitude and Practices among households and communities in Kenya on child protection and gender equality
2. Strengthened institutions and systems for improved protection of all children from violence in Kenya



Pamela Chepoisho from West Pokot County commits to represent the voices of children in the campaign.

Photo / World Vision Kenya

#ItTakesUsAllKE to address the root causes of #FGM, #ChildMarriage and #SexualViolence

- Advancement of negative customary beliefs and practices pushes families to marry off their children. Children who undergo FGM are at a higher risk of being married.
- Children who have remained out of school or dropped out are at more risk of early sexual relationships, often resulting into pregnancies and ultimately child marriage.
- Gender based stereotypes contributes to child marriages. Some people believe that girls of a certain age group, especially adolescents should seek to get married.
- Inadequate access to the right reproductive health information in some parts of the country is a contributor to child sexual violence and child marriages.
- Low levels of Household Income coupled with knowledge gaps on the role of parents/care givers in providing quality care and protection for children often results in children being exposed to various forms of exploitation and violence such as child labour, child prostitution and child marriage.
- Insecure and unsafe environments in communities often exposes children to gender based violence, with girls and boys both being at high risk of sexual abuse.
- Minimal knowledge and skills on parental care and protection often results into child neglect. The effect of Child neglect pushes children to all forms of violation including sexual exploitation and child married.
- Weak mechanism for arrest, preservations of evidence and prosecution of perpetrators continues to contribute to sexual violence and child marriages in Kenya.

#ItTakesUsAllKE to #EndFGM

To stop FGM, World Vision Kenya facilitates Alternative Rights of Passage (ARP) programmes in various parts of the country. ARP is an approach that encourages communities to maintain their cultural ceremonies and rites surrounding initiation whilst getting rid of harmful practices.



Children from Osiligi Area program in Kajiado celebrating with the cabinet Secretary for Public Service Youth and Gender Affairs Sicily Kariuki after going through the ARP programme.

Photo / World Vision Kenya

The ARP model digs deep into rite of passage ceremonies among community to reclaim the nourishing aspects of the rite. It takes into consideration the importance of a rite of passage among communities, and seeks to promote various positives aspects of such rites. The approach is all encompassing and targets all age groups in the community.

The approach includes training elders and young people on the negative effects of some cultural practices such as FGM and the need to adopt alternative rites. The specific objectives of the ARP program is to promote access to the right knowledge on harmful practices such as FGM and Child Marriage, and facilitate communities to adopt positive practices that protect children from any form of harmful rites of passage.

#ItTakesUsAllKE to #EndChildMarriage

After the launch of the AU End Child Marriage in Kenya on 8th March 2017, during the International Women's Day, it is now time to strengthen partnerships and collaborations, more than ever before and ensure that the primary focus of Kenya's governance and development agenda is highly placed on improving the wellbeing of children. There is still a greater need to rally the citizenry, political leadership, policy makers & policy implementers, the civil society organizations, faith based organization, the media, the business community and donors to "DO MORE" in the best interest of the child.



We can't afford to have children being married off. The time to strengthen child protection mechanisms at the household, community, county and national levels is just now. Households and communities have to be more responsible for the whereabouts of their children all the time. All children count and should therefore be counted. It is unacceptable that some children would be missing from their households only to be found to have been married. Persons who marry children must be prosecuted. We have to ensure adequate investment and quality assurance of child protection programmes, together with a clear strategy for reaching the unreached children and their households everywhere in Kenya.

We **MUST** hear and act on Children Voices if we are to **#Endviolence** against Children

Just like the adult population, Children have a right to participate in all public decision making process. Among the values and principles of governance as provided for in the Constitution of Kenya is participation of the people (this includes participation of children). However, seldom are children consulted in decision making process in Kenya. In a survey conducted by World Vision in various Area Programs across several counties in Kenya, children expressed a great concern that they are not meaningfully being involved in decision making. When children of ages 12 – 18 were asked whether their views are sought and incorporated into the decision-making of local government, very few were in agreement.

From all the 42 Area Programs where this survey was carried out, Karemo Area program, in Siaya County, recorded the lowest proportion of children responding that their views are being considered during decision making, at 2% while Soin Area Program, in Elgeyo/Marakwet County had the leading proportion at 24.8%. This demonstrates low levels of children participation in decision making, as illustrated in the graph below.



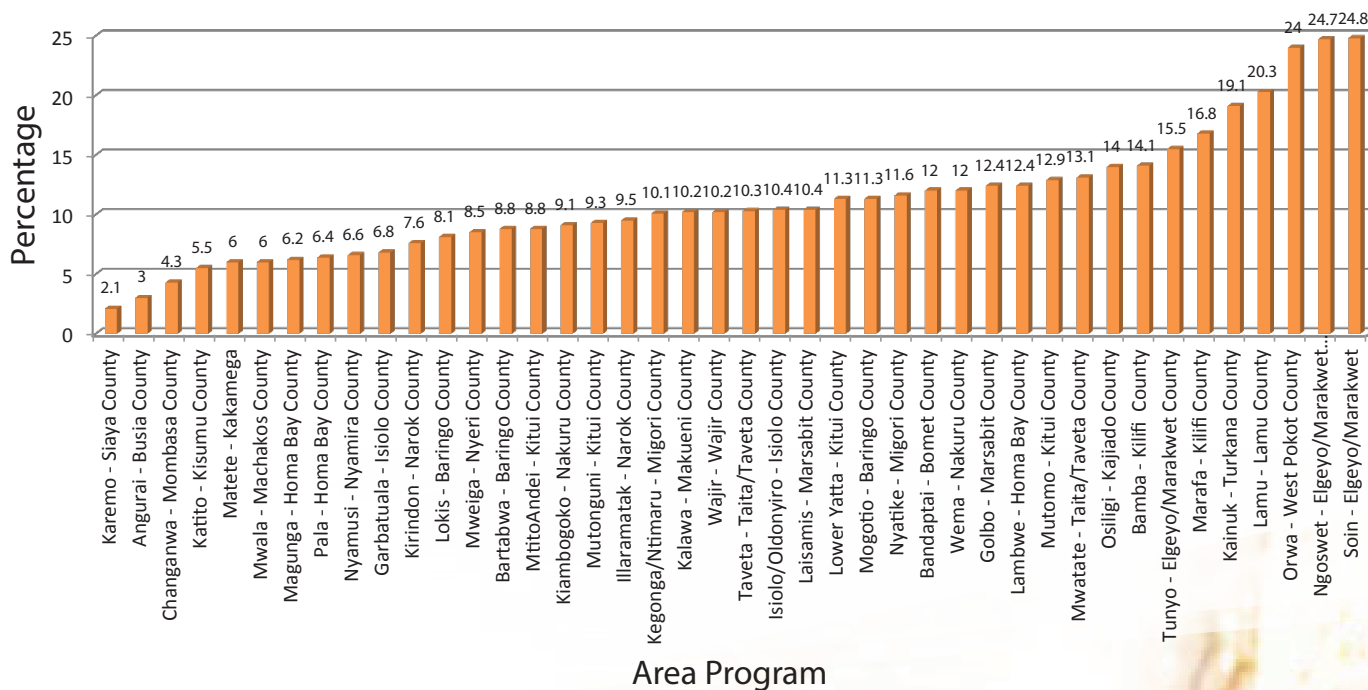
Children from Kuntai Primary School Children, Narok South Sub-County, engaging in a conversation with Government Officials and Non-state actors during the campaign launch programme.

Photo / World Vision Kenya

Collectively, Government and Non-state actors alike should jointly review the child participation strategies in Kenya, Adequately invest in programmes that enhance child participation, monitor progress and document child participation outcomes. This is one of the ways by which we can increase the levels of child participation in decision making in Kenya.

We recognize that child participation provides a strong base for identifying and addressing root causes of violence against children. To this end, World Vision Kenya commits to strengthen institutions and community mechanisms for enabling meaningful engagement of children in decision making at all levels of governance.

Proportion of children who reported that their views are sought and incorporated into decision making processes of government



#ItTakesUsAllKE to implement #INSPIRE strategies

As guided by the available Global evidence to help countries and communities intensify their focus on the prevention programmes and services with the greatest potential to reduce violence against children, World Vision Kenya calls on the National Government, County Governments, and other actors including communities to engage in a more coordinated, comprehensive and multisectoral approach to address all the threats and vulnerabilities that children are confronted with in Kenya today.

World Vision Kenya recommends that the globally agreed INSPIRE strategies should be considered for action by all stakeholders in Kenya, these being some of the key strategies towards ending violence against children.



Lydia from Homabay County and Ferdinand from Migori County engaging with World Vision Kenya staff on how to end violence against children.

Photo / World Vision

Implementation and Enforcement of Laws that protect children

Norms and Values that Promote Child Protection

Safe Environments for Children

Parent and Care Giver Support for Children

Income and Economic Strengthening for households and their families

Response and Support Services for Children

Education and Life skills for Children



World Vision East Africa Regional Office and Kenya National staff commit to take action to end all forms of violence against children.

Photo / World Vision Kenya

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