



HOPE FOR
GIRLS & WOMEN
Tanzania

PROTECTING GIRLS FROM
FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION



2020 Annual Report:

S.A.F.E. FAWCO Target Project

Hope for Girls and Women

Safe Alternatives for Female Genital Mutilation Elimination
a FAWCO Target Project with Hope for Girls and Women Tanzania





HOPE FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN

Around 10% of women in Tanzania have reported undergoing female genital mutilation (FGM). Prevalence in the Mara region is 32%, almost 1 in 3 women.

Hope for Girls and Women is a non-profit organisation dedicated to ending female genital mutilation (FGM) and other forms of gender-based violence in Tanzania. Our goals are instrumental to achieving SDG5: Gender Equality. By protecting girls at risk and educating communities at large, we can collectively provide more health, more opportunity, and more hope.

Since 2017, we have prevented around 3,000* girls from being cut, and we are continually evolving to address the deep-rooted barriers that disempower girls in their villages. We are on a mission to end gender-based violence, and with the help of the FAWCO community, we are making progress each and every day.

***“My dream is to save girls from being cut,
and I will never stop until FGM is history in my community.”***

– Rhobi Samwelly, Hope for Girls and Women Founder and Director

* The number from girls rescued and housed in Safe Houses and women and girls reached during awareness activities.

A NOTE FROM RHOBİ

Dear FAWCO members,

We wish to extend a huge thank you to FAWCO and its members around the world from myself, the extended Hope for Girls and Women team, and the girls for whom we are all helping to create better lives.



In 2020 you've shown just how much of a difference acts of generosity can make when we do them together. With your support we've made incredible progress in the midst of a difficult year, but our work isn't over yet.

During the next year, we hope to increase our support to girls at risk of FGM in Tanzania so that we can improve health, fulfil dreams, and ultimately transform lives.

You have helped make this possible in 2020, both financially as well as working with us to develop goals and objectives that will help ensure that our two-year partnership delivers lasting benefits.



Thank you for your support so far; we look forward to working closely with you in 2021.



Rhobi Samwelly
Director and Founder

PROGRAMMES

We are committed to protecting girls in the short term and empowering them in the long term.

By providing further educational opportunities and employment prospects, girls can become active decision-makers and champions for change in their own communities



Safe Houses: We run two Safe Houses in Mugumu and Butiama to ensure that girls who run away from gender-based violence have somewhere they can feel safe and protected.



Reconciliation: We work with local officials to educate families and reconcile them with their daughters once they have signed an affidavit promising they will not force FGM upon them.



Education: We support the education of girls in our care if reconciliation fails.



Alternative Rites of Passage: We perform alternative approaches to traditional ceremonies so that girls can celebrate moving into womanhood without FGM.



Community Education: We educate cutters and community leaders on the impact of FGM and other forms of gender-based violence.



Digital Champions: We train women in each village on how to report gender-based violence and protect girls and women. While Digital Champions are not included as an outcome in the S.A.F.E. Statement of Agreement, these individuals are crucial in supporting Hope's work.



Mapping: We map uncharted regions of Tanzania to improve community development and the navigation of rescue operations for girls at risk of FGM.



S.A.F.E.

In March 2020, Hope for Girls and Women began a new two-year partnership with FAWCO and The FAWCO Foundation. Through much-needed funding and guidance, we have been implementing S.A.F.E.: Safe Alternatives for Female Genital Mutilation Elimination.

S.A.F.E. is an initiative focused on protecting girls from FGM and fostering positive social change within practising communities in Tanzania. Our goal is to empower girls and women to live safely, free from FGM and its adverse health effects. Through our roadshows, we are also able to challenge the way FGM is perceived by men in local communities. A lot of our work is focused on reuniting families through our reconciliation programme, ensuring that the Hope Safe Houses are not seen as the end of the road for those arriving and seeking shelter.





PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF S.A.F.E.

- **Provide protection and health services to survivors of FGM and those at risk of undergoing the practice.***
- **Empower 500 families to embrace a life free from FGM for all family members through psychosocial counselling.****
- **Support 200 women and 300 girls who have already been cut to live healthy and fulfilled lives through psychosocial and healthcare support.*****
- **Empower five local communities to adopt positive social norms which uphold the human rights and health of all community members. To be delivered through community sensitisation and public declarations against FGM by respected community leaders during two annual Alternative Rites of Passage (ARP) ceremonies over the two years of the project.******
- **Empower 50 girls and 50 women through income-generating activities for enhancing access to the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) plan and ability to pay costs related to health services.*******

* Such as running safe houses and providing health checks to girls in our care

** Such as community outreach and counselling sessions for families

*** Such as providing counselling sessions, health services, and education to girls in our care

**** Such as ARP training, film screenings, roadshows

***** Through courses such as tailoring, hotel and hospitality, and literacy

COVID-19 AND CUTTING SEASONS



This year has been tough for all of us, and gender inequality has made the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic all the more challenging.

It is expected globally that an extra 2-3 million girls will be cut as a result of the pandemic. In the Mara region, schools were unexpectedly closed in March, and “a cutting season” started in early April, putting pressure on resources.*

We received one confirmed COVID-19 case near our Mugumu Safe House, but we implemented policies to reduce the risk of spread. We restricted our classes, enforced hand washing, and encouraged social distancing. This is a challenge when girls are sleeping 3 or 4 to a mattress or on the floor.

The reduction of tourism greatly decreased our income from selling handicrafts and food donations from local hotels and safari lodges. Donations enable us to feed and educate the increased number of girls in our care.

Through the vocational training we provide, we have taught the girls how to produce face masks. These have also been used by healthcare workers and other local organisations.

Despite the challenges, our teams have continued to keep the girls in our care safe and educate local communities, whilst adhering to the necessary precautions.



* Cutting seasons occur during school holidays, due to the notion that girls are given time to “recover” out of sight.

2020 TIMELINE AND HIGHLIGHTS

2020 was a big year for Hope, with many challenges, but progress was also made:



December 2020:

We reached a big milestone, with 3,000 girls now having been rescued since 2017.



December 2020:

Hope representatives acknowledged as Champions of Change.



March 2020:

Our two-year partnership with FAWCO began.



December 2020:

Girls from the Butiama Safe House marched in alliance against gender-based violence.



November 2020:

Debates with men on FGM held in Bonchugu and Nyamburi villages.

FAWCO VIRTUAL TOUR

Since June 1st, FAWCO members have been participating in a fitness mission to journey 36,659.8 miles from the AWC London to the United States. They are getting to know their clubs and members, sharing fun facts and photos along the way. As they collectively achieve their own fitness goals, they are also raising money for S.A.F.E.

This challenge is set through My Virtual Mission. Members can either manually enter their distances or connect the application to their smartphones and fitness apps for automatic updates.



The Virtual Tour has so far raised \$5,000. The FAWCO Foundation will also match all donations, making the total \$10,000. We are so grateful for the progress that FAWCO has made this year, and we look forward to seeing how this tour continues to grow.

If a FAWCO member is interested in joining the journey, please visit the [Virtual Mission website](#). The tour is now on the way to Morocco and will cross over to Colombia and then the United States to visit FAUSA. The last stop will be New York, where FAWCO is incorporated.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

The UN's annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence took place from 25 November, culminating on Human Rights Day on 10 December. The campaign is an important period in our calendar and is an opportunity to raise awareness of Hope for Girls and Women's work and the need to end female genital mutilation. Our activities during the 16 Days in 2020 included:

- During Human Rights Day on December 10, girls from our Safe House in Butiama marched in alliance against gender-based violence in front of local communities. We are so proud of their resilience and determination during this challenging year.



- Hope for Girls and Women representatives held a debate with 60 local men in Bonchugu and Nyamburi villages on the impact of FGM. The men present explained that they prefer to marry girls who have been cut so they can protect their wealth, earn respect within their communities, and build recognition as keepers of their traditions. These debates foster a dialogue that can change existing norms around gender practices.
- Rhobi Samwelly and Christina Marwa also received their Champions of Change awards from UNFPA in association with WiLDAF, the MKUKI Coalition, and the Embassy of Denmark. Hope founder Rhobi Samwelly was awarded for her commitment to ending harmful practices against girls and women in Tanzania. Hope advocate and former cutter Christina Marwa was awarded for her activism against female genital cutting and child marriage. *FAWCO will also be publishing a profile on a cutter in the Target Bulletin in 2021.*

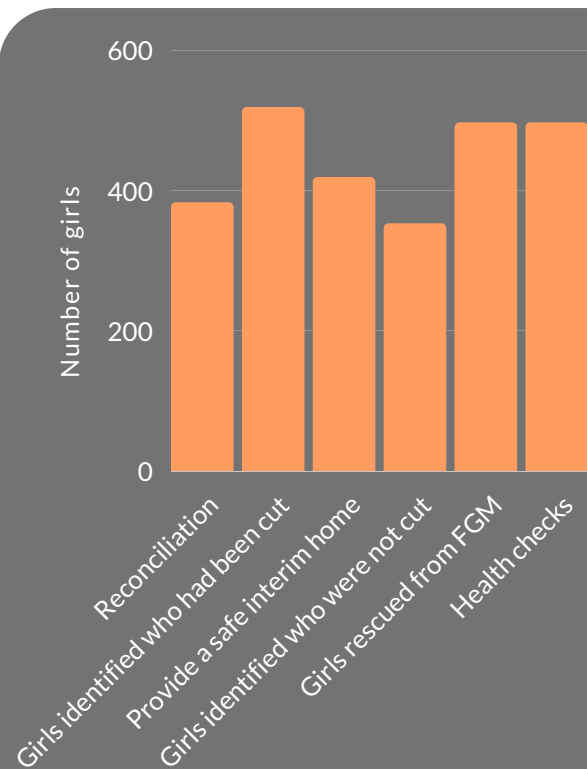


S.A.F.E. IMPACT

Protection and education unquestionably have an impact on an individual level, but they also have the power to change families and communities. The outcomes of S.A.F.E. extend far beyond our Safe House walls.

We capture data from a number of checkpoints which is reported on our website on a monthly basis. This includes the number of arrivals, health checks, counselling, and reconciliations. Data is captured when girls arrive and depart the Safe Houses and throughout their stay, via schools and community support teams.

We are delighted to share the progress that we have made this year, with respect to the milestones listed in our Statement of Agreement.



Additionally:

35,440 girls were counselled in Safe Houses and school settings.

35,640 girls and community members were counselled at various events.



S.A.F.E. IMPACT

June 2020 to December 2020: Identify 500 families experiencing FGM.

We have identified 523 families experiencing FGM in Serengeti and Butiama Districts. 68 of those families lost their daughters to FGM due to health complications (blood-loss, bleeding and infections). We have conducted counselling with all of these families and guided them to change their behaviour.

June 2020 to December 2020: Identify 200 girls and women who have been cut.

Schools unexpectedly closed in April 2020 this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. From April 2020 to the end of November 2020, we identified 519 girls who were cut from Serengeti and Butiama. There were also 637 women who were identified to have been cut; FGM, unfortunately, is still very entrenched, hence this number. However, the positive outcome is that many of these women promised to stand up for their daughters not to be cut.

September 2020 to February 2021: Provide 100 counselling sessions to girls, women, and families.

We have provided counselling to a total of 203 survivors of gender-based violence at our Safe Houses in Butiama and Serengeti. We also conducted 25 counselling sessions to 353 girls and families at risk of FGM in Serengeti and Butiama, with 178 families promising not to cut their daughters.



Continued...

September 2020 to February 2021: Support 400 safe reconciliations between girls and their parents.

We have reconciled a total of 383 girls with their families. More reconciliations will be conducted after the cutting season of 2020/2021 in early January.

September 2020 to November 2020: Training of 80 Trainers/Peer Educator Trainers for Alternative Rites of Passage.

Meetings with local communities on Alternative Rites of Passage ceremonies were conducted in five villages in the Serengeti District. Participants were very interested in the Alternative model.

September 2020 to November 2020: Conduct community sensitization campaigns.

We raised awareness in schools and villages through film screenings, school programmes, and roadshows in Butiama and Serengeti. We have reached a total of 23,561 schoolchildren in Serengeti and 11,310 schoolchildren in Butiama. We also conducted two radio programmes through local radio VFM [Victoria FM]. Events held include:

- 11 roadshows
- 6 school awareness sessions
- 70 film screenings at various village schools
- 63 school program clubs
- 66 education events at village schools.



Continued...

September 2020 to November 2020: Identify and recruit 500 girls to participate in the Alternative Rites of Passage process.

A total of 315 girls were recruited to participate in Alternative Rites of Passage from Butiama and Serengeti.

November 2020 to December 2020: Conduct education and empowerment workshops with 500 Alternative Rites of Passage initiates and conduct workshops for 1000 key decision-makers, including parents and boys.

Empowerment meetings were conducted in five villages for 200 decision-makers, including parents and boys. They agreed to conduct Alternative Rites of Passage ceremonies in small groups, with the details to be discussed in 2021.



FINANCIALS

Donors can fund specific measures to reach these major outcomes, such as:

- An initial health check for a girl who seeks protection from FGM
- Reconciliation between a girl and her family
- A counselling session for a girl in our Safe House
- Training for educators to raise awareness in their communities about the dangers of FGM
- Community sensitisation per village or school program

Since May 2020, we received donations in the amount of TSH 89,465,593 (approx. USD 38,500, depending on the current exchange rate) from FAWCO.

\$5 will pay for an initial health check for a girl who seeks protection from FGM.

\$60 will pay for reconciliation between a girl and her family

\$60 will pay for one counselling session per girl.

\$125 will pay for 3 days' training of educators who will help create awareness about the dangers of FGM.

\$165 will pay for community sensitisation per village or school program.

FINANCIALS

Expenses

- As of the end of November 2020, we successfully reconciled a total of 383 girls with their families after they were rescued from FGM; in total we spent around TSH 13.5 Mio for this reconciliation work.
- We used TSH 23.5 Mio to conduct community sensitisation campaigns in October and November and to participate in at The 16 Days of Activism Campaign.
- In order to save girls from being cut, we spent around TSH 2.5 Mio to protect the girls at the Safe Houses.
- We were able to provide counselling to girls in order to educate about FGM. For this purpose, we spent around TSH 6.7 Mio.
- We experienced a financial hardship in late August – early September. After consultation with FAWCO officials, we used approx. TSH 10 Mio. of the money provided to us, outside the agreed scope, to pay the running costs of the Safe Houses in September. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for this emergency help.
- In total we spent TSH 78,772,043 as of 30 November 2020.

Income up to November 2020

Month	Amount in TSH	Amount in USD
May	43,285,593.00	18,670.30
September	46,180,000.00	19,918.74
Total	89,465,593.00	38,589.04

Exchange rate:

1 USD = 2318.52 TSH

1 EUR = 2840.53 TSH

The FAWCO Foundation transferred \$40,000, but the exchange rate negatively impacted the amount received in Tanzanian Shillings; an average exchange rate of 1 USD = 2318.52 TSH was used resulting in the reported amount of \$38,589.04.

FINANCIALS

Expenses up to November 2020

Activity	Amount in TSH	Number reached	Cost per Girl (TSH)
Support reconciliation between girls and parents	13,441,250.00	383 girls	35,094.65
Provision of counselling to girls*	6,745,000.00	35,440 girls	190
Community sensitisation to schools/village**	23,572,900.00	35,640	661
Identify girls who were cut	1,160,000.00	519 girls	2,235.07
Providing a safe and healthy environment for girls, away from FGM and other forms of violence	8,323,419.00	419 girls	19,864.96
Identify girls in schools who were not cut	2,865,000.00	353 girls	8,116.15
Rescue girls from FGM	2,598,000.00	497 girls	5,227.36
Cost of health check	1,887,174.00	497 girls	10,662
Fuel	7,666,250.00		
Total	68,258,993.00		

Out of scope: Running cost in September (to overcome lack of money)	10,513,050.00
Total as of 30th November 2020	78,772,043.00
Money left as of 30th November 2020	10,693,550.00

* 35,440: total number of girls counselled within Safe Houses and in the school club programs.

** 35,640: total number of girls and community members who received counselling at various events.



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