



2021 Report:

S.A.F.E. FAWCO Target Project

Hope for Girls and Women

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





HOPE FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN

The global pandemic has further exposed the frailty of our communities and the depths of the gender inequality that they were built on. However, it has also shown us the strength of women and girls. The crisis has amplified cases of gender-based violence around the world, but despite this, girls have been resolute in their commitment to gaining equality.

Hope for Girls and Women is committed to ending female genital mutilation (FGM) and other forms of gender-based violence in Tanzania. By advocating on a local, national, and global scale, we ensure that the UN's 5th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), Gender Equality, is a central part of pandemic recovery, and beyond, as we continue our work to end gender-based violence.

Since 2017, we have prevented more than 3,000 girls from being cut in Tanzania. Between 2020 and 2022, together with FAWCO, we have continued to preserve safety and opportunity, whilst educating community members on the importance of empowering girls and women.

As we approach the end of our two-year partnership with FAWCO, we have positive news that is an acknowledgment of the hard work being done by Hope for Girls and Women. Our Founder and Director, Rhobi Samwelly, has been selected by France's President Emmanuel Macron to receive the Marianne Human Rights Defenders Award. We are so delighted for Rhobi and are confident this should help to shine a brighter light on the issues of FGM and GBV in Tanzania, to a wider global audience

You can view a short video about Rhobi and her work [here](#).

A NOTE FROM RHOBİ



**HOPE FOR
GIRLS & WOMEN**
Tanzania

PROTECTING GIRLS FROM
FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION



Dear Partners and friends,

Happy New Year to everyone,

I would like to thank FAWCO for their great support.

The valuable support from FAWCO has impacted our work in many ways:

- We can see changes in our community after addressing health issues of women. These issues related to FGM, GBV, reproductive health, family planning, HIV and aids, as well as counselling for women who have been cut;
- We have enabled women to participate in money generating activities that promote access to health services. By joining the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) they have also been able to receive health services;
- More than 50,000 girls and 50,000 women in two districts of Butiama and Serengeti were reached through our outreach initiatives

"I am feeling happy and enjoying seeing my family, they are treating me the same now as my brother. I can now access my educational materials and I am protected from FGM after FGM education reached my family through reconciliation"

Ghati Mwita, who has benefitted from our work.

It has been great to meet so many people at the virtual film screenings. I hope to carry on our special relationship and that members of the FAWCO community can visit us here in Tanzania;
"Karibuni Sana" (welcome).

Yours,

Ms. Rhobi Samwelly
Director-Hope for Girls and Women in Tanzania

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PROGRAMMES

We encourage girls to be champions of change in their community and address the deep-rooted barriers that disempower them in their villages. Education is fundamental to this, both for the girls and the wider community.

Our programs help to ensure safety, education, employment, and independence, through:



Safe Houses: We run two safe houses in Mugumu and Butiama to protect girls who need to escape gender-based violence.



Reconciliation: We work with local officials to reconcile girls with their families. Guardians sign affidavits and allow follow-up visits to ensure the safety of the girls once they have left our care.



Education: We encourage girls to continue their education, especially important when they're unable to reconcile with their families so that they can increase prospects for employment and independence.



Alternative Rites of Passage: We perform alternative approaches to traditional ceremonies so that girls can celebrate womanhood without female genital mutilation.



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



Mapping: We map uncharted regions of Serengeti, Tanzania, and train Digital Champions to improve tracking and rescue operations for girls at risk of gender-based violence.



Digital Champions: We train women in each village on how to report gender-based violence. Digital Champions are not included as an outcome in the S.A.F.E. Statement of Agreement, but are crucial in supporting our ongoing work.



Digitisation of rural communities: We conduct training of farmers to help improve the health of their crops, whilst also educating them on the need to reject FGM and GBV.



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 FGM-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 program, 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. Our work includes running safe houses and providing health checks to girls in our care.
- Empower 500 families to embrace a life free from FGM through psychosocial counseling. Hope for Girls and Women's work includes community outreach and counseling sessions for families.
- Support 200 women and 300 girls who have already been cut to live healthy and fulfilled lives through psychosocial counseling and healthcare support. The remit of our work includes providing counseling sessions, health services, and education to girls in our care.
- Empower five local communities to adopt positive social norms that uphold the human rights and health of all community members. This should be delivered through community sensitization and public declarations against FGM by respected community leaders. Our work includes Alternative Rites of Passage (ARP) training that ensures FGM is discouraged as part of these traditional ceremonies, film screenings, and community roadshows.
- 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. Our work includes providing courses for tailoring, hotel and hospitality, and literacy.



2021 highlights

Legal Consultation

During Law Week (January 2021), we partnered with the Serengeti District Court to educate communities on how the law can help reduce gender-based violence. Attendees learned of procedures that should be followed when presented with cases. Legal counseling and aid were also provided to women in Serengeti.

District Commissioner Recognition

On Women's Day (March 2021), we raised awareness on gender-based violence issues and promoted gender equality at large. Messages were delivered through songs, traditional dances, poetry, and a poignant message from our guest of honor, the Serengeti District Commissioner. He insisted that communities and traditional leaders stop violence against girls and women, including FGM and early child marriage. He also recognized Hope for Girls and Women's efforts to instill change and empower girls.

Continued...

Digital Champions

We have conducted training to 210 new Digital Champions at Butiama and Tarime with the support of UNFPA Tanzania. These Digital Champions were taught how to map their local communities and report cases of gender-based violence through their smartphones. Our Digital Champions have continued to report cases. 1 case has been reported in Serengeti and 8 cases have been reported in Butiama in 2021 alone. Despite the fact that many had never used a smartphone prior to their training, more

than half of our Digital Champions have now used their smartphone to report information. This has ensured that we, along with the Police Gender Desk team and Social Welfare, can take immediate action.

Fit Persons Program

We have conducted Fit Persons training to 57 people across Butiama, Serengeti, and Tarime. Fit Persons is an alternative care arrangement projected to deliver results as positive, if not more positive, than orphanages. Social Welfare officers identify and train locals who are capable of providing temporary care for children at risk. This will be an ongoing activity for Hope for Girls and Women.

Mapping Health Centers

We have been mapping health centers around Mugumu, Serengeti. 25 mappers are being trained on how to add health information to our online database, and we are in the process of collecting data within 30 villages that will cover information on health center facilities and schools. This is part of a much bigger global program focused on the mapping of rural areas.



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16 Days of Activism (November - December)

During 16 Days of Activism, Hope for Girls and Women organized a forum in collaboration with Serengeti District Office, Gender Desk Police, Serengeti District Commissioner, and the District Judge, which a total of 100 people attended. The forum attendee list included retired cutters, retired elders of tradition, Digital Champions, church leaders, village executive officers, community members, and other partner organizations. The purpose was to have a dialogue on the best approach to mitigate FGM and GBV by law, in order for communities to abandon these traditions, which hinder the safety of girls, women, and their rights.

A visit from Tanzania police teams (December)

150 members of Tanzania and Zanzibar Gender Police Desk as well as the Regional Police Commander visited Butiama Safe House and spoke to the girls about the importance of gender equality. They also shared insights on how we can collaborate in the fight against GBV and FGM in the Mara region.

Anti-GBV Battle Award

Hope for Girls and Women received an anti-GBV battle award that was issued by UNFPA, UN Women, the European Union, and several Tanzania-based embassies. This award was given to the top six organizations that have campaigned against GBV in Tanzania. We are so grateful to receive this award, and we believe that it is indicative of the profound work that we are doing.

Farmer training

Agriculture is the main source of income in rural Mara, with almost every family growing their own food. By helping farmers to improve the value of their yields, we were also able to open up important conversations and deliver education on FGM and GBV. Hope for Girls and Women, Tanzania, collaborated with digital agriculture solution, [PlantNuru](#), to provide the training. The 20 farmers were equipped with smartphones in order for them to utilize their new digital skills for their crops and also to report any cases of GBV and FGM.

FAWCO Fundraising

Fundraising for Hope for Girls and Women by FAWCO through to the end of November 2021 reached \$155,882USD. This is an incredible amount to have raised in a period of limited inperson club activities. It demonstrated the passion of this galvanized global FAWCO community, something we are very grateful and humbled by.



Virtual screenings of *In the Name of Your Daughter* (a docu-film about cutting season in Serengeti, featuring the stories of girls who have run away from being cut and into the care of Hope for Girls and Women) were held throughout 2020 and 2021.

These special screenings often included Rhobi and some of the girls from the film, who participated in Q&As with the audience. In total between 2020 and 2022, there have been 19 FAWCO promoted screenings of the film.

In addition to this, there have been numerous incredible fundraising efforts that have helped to continue dialogue and engagement with FAWCO members.

"The FAWCO Foundation is honored to support the work of Rhobi Samwelly and Hope for Girls and Women. We commend them for their dedication and perseverance in their fight to eliminate FGM"

Barbara Buhling,
President of The FAWCO Foundation





S.A.F.E. IMPACT

Education is the backbone of the work we do. We ensure the girls in our care are studying, whether that is in school or through our vocational courses delivered in the safe houses.

Education is empowerment for girls and re-education allows us to challenge deep-rooted mindsets within the community. The S.A.F.E. program has helped us to forge even stronger community relationships.

Data capture happens on a regular basis - allowing us to monitor the effectiveness of our work and to identify trends to help better prepare for future challenges. We share reports on a monthly basis via our website within the 'Updates from Rhobi' section.

The following pages outline the results of the milestones listed in the Target Project Statement of Agreement.



S.A.F.E. IMPACT

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

424 girls received counseling through to February 2021. This has included group counseling, individual counseling as well as talking therapy with families within the community. Group counseling can prove beneficial to girls who find hearing the experiences of their peers reassuring.

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

402 girls were successfully reconciled with their families following their removal from situations considered to put their health and well-being at risk including FGM and GBV. The families received legal contracts to sign outlining their commitment to keeping their girls safe and not proceeding with FGM and/or GBV in any form.

January to April 2021: Train 200 women and girls on life skills, reproductive health, maternal health, and neonatal care

672 Girls and women were trained in the Serengeti District and a total of 454 in the Butiama District. This training helped to improve knowledge of:

- sexual reproductive health
- GBV
- maternal health
- life skills
- neonatal care



Continued...

January to April 2021:
Provide counselling sessions
to 200 girls and women who
have been cut.

In total, 268 people were provided with counseling: where

- 93 GBV Survivors from the community
- 175 GBV survivors in our care

across Butiama and Serengeti.

July to September 2021:
Provide counselling sessions
to 200 girls and women who
have been cut.

In total, 223 people were provided with counseling across
Butiama and Serengeti

June 2021 to March 2022:
Facilitate 50 girls and 50
women on income
generating skills training,
examples of projects that
can be selected include:
tailoring, agriculture, soap
and batik making, food
processing, cookery, hotel
management, and driving.

A total of 20 groups (with 10 from Serengeti and 10 from Butiama, each group with 5 people) were trained on income-generating skills during this period. This included designing and making clothes and other fabric-based products that can be produced economically and sold for a profit.

We also trained the girls and women on agriculture skills and techniques to help improve crop harvests and increase the amount that can be sold in local markets.



Continued...

September to November 2021: Training of 80 Trainers / Peer Educator trainers for ARP

A total of 146 Trainers/Peer educators from Butiama and Serengeti were trained on Alternative Rites of Passage (ARP) to support the fight against FGM in the community by empowering local people to find alternative solutions.

September to November 2021: Conduct community consultations on ARP in 5 nearby communities

5 ARPs ceremonies were conducted in small groups:

- in Serengeti 987 males and 1,276 females participated (2,263 in total)
- in Butiama 693 males and 718 females (1,411 in total)

September to November 2021: Identify and recruit 500 girls to participate in the ARP process

683 girls were identified and recruited to participate in the ARP process in Butiama, Serengeti, Tarime, and Rorya.

November to December 2020-2021: Conduct education and empowerment workshops with 500 ARP initiates and conduct workshops for 1000 key decision makers including parents and boys

1,731 key Decision-makers, parents and boys participated in the workshops on ARP workshops across Serengeti and Butiama.



Continued...

August 2021 - March 2022:
Provide seed capital to 20 economic groups of 5 persons each

20 women's economic groups were provided with capital to enable them to initiate their income-generating projects such as tailoring, batik making (printing designs on cloth), agriculture/gardening, mama ntilie (selling street food), small shops and Cereal selling.

August 2021 - March 2022:
Facilitate 100 females to acquire NHIF cards while contributing to family income and access to health services

100 females from Serengeti and Butiama acquired NHIF* cards while contributing to family income and access to health services facilitated.

*Tanzania's National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF)—the largest public health insurance scheme in the country

December 2020 to January 2021 and December 2021 to January 2022: Conduct 5 ARP ceremonies which include community celebrations, declarations denouncing FGM by leaders and award 500 dignity kits for graduates *Dates for these activities depend upon cutting seasons in the community.

13 ARP ceremonies were conducted (including community members and leaders) with celebrations in small groups denouncing FGM, and the awarding of 810 dignity kits for graduates. Dignity Kits contain products that allow girls and women to maintain good feminine hygiene throughout their menstrual cycle.



Continued...

September to November 2021: Conduct community sensitisation campaigns

- 5 community dialogues,
- 25,000 leaflets,
- 15 road shows,
- 20 school programmes,
- 15 women's forums,
- 5 radio programmes
- 6 billboards

to create awareness across 50,000 members of the local community about: the launch of ARP and to inform communities about FGM, FGM law and women's health needs.

- 5 clan (sub-tribe) meetings were conducted to create awareness (in order for them to declare they are against FGM) to respected traditional leaders of Wanyabasi, Wakenye, Warenchoka, Wairege, and Wakira clans in Serengeti and Butiama. A total of 13,119 (made up of 6,577 males and 6,542 females in attendance)
- 293,000 leaflets
- 46 roadshows and film screenings were conducted where 51,232 people participated across Butiama and Serengeti
- 43 School programs conducted in Butiama and Serengeti Districts were a total of 57,192 participants
- 20 women's forums were conducted on FGM, FGM law, and women's health needs in Serengeti and Butiama where 1,090 women participated.
- 13 radio programs were conducted to create community awareness of FGM, FGM law, ARPs, and women's health
- 6 billboards were prepared and installed at Butiama center, Kiagata center, Kongoto center, Mugumu center, Maburi center, and Ngarawani center



FINANCIALS

\$10 will pay for an initial health check for a girl who seeks protection from FGM

\$60 will pay for one counselling session per girl

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

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

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

FINANCIALS

Expenses

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 (2020):
1 USD = 2318.52 TSH
1 EUR = 2840.53 TSH

The FAWCO Foundation transferred \$40,000 (in 2020) 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.

Income up to December 2021

Month	Amount in TSH	Amount in USD
February 2021	87,742,000.00	37,729.06
April 2021	39,253,000.00	16,878.79
July 2021	46,180,000.00	19,857.40
August 2021	1,454,410.32	625.40
October 2021	41,220,000.00	17,724.60
Total	215,849,410.32	92,815.25

FINANCIALS

Expenses up to January 2022

Activity	Amount in TSH
Support reconciliation between girls and parents	32,055,300.00
Provision of counselling to girls*	13,700,000.00
Community sensitisation to schools/village**	45,046,600
Identify girls who were cut	2,150,000.00
Providing a safe and healthy environment for girls, away from FGM and other forms of violence	36,471,350
Identify girls in schools who were not cut	TBC
Rescue girls from FGM	TBC
NHIF farming	28,580,000.00
Other costs like M&E	28,580,000.00
Total	TBC

Total as of 31st December 2021	166,685,550
Money left as of 31st December 2021	49,163,860.32

*considering an exchange rate of 0.00043 (1 TZS in USD) Tanzanian Shillings in US-Dollar rate on XE) as of 7 January 2022



Thank you to FAWCO members and clubs around the world for your generous support, interest and kind words over the last two years. It has been a very challenging period, but you have helped us to navigate it and to be stronger.

We all hope to welcome you to Tanzania before too long.

Asante sana | Thank you



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GIRLS & WOMEN**
Tanzania

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