



## DINING FOR WOMEN

Interim Progress Report | October 2019

### 1. Basic Information:

- a. Organizational Name: Women's Global Education Project
- b. Project Title: Eliminating FGM/C through ARP & Community Engagement
- c. Grant Amount: \$47,766 over 2 years
- d. Contact Person: Amy Maglio, Executive Director/Founder; amy@womensglobal.org
- e. Address: 136 N. Marion Street, Suite 201, Oak Park, Illinois 60301

2. **Purpose of Grant:** WGEP is working to lower the incidence of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C), a harmful traditional practice that is prevalent in the Tharaka region of Kenya where WGEP operates. In this region, 71% of women aged between 15-49 years have undergone some form of FGM/C (Tharaka District Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2008). FGM/C presents significant health risks that can lead to death, as well as serious injuries that can plague a woman throughout her life. These risks are exaggerated and more commonplace in rural areas like Tharaka where a local individual, rather than a medical professional, often carries out the procedure in a non-sterile setting. Moreover, girls who undergo genital cutting are exceedingly more likely to drop out of school since both girls and their communities consider that this ritual renders them ready for marriage, typically between the ages of 9 and 12. FGM/C puts girls at higher risk for early marriage, early pregnancy and drop out. Since 2007, WGEP has worked with Tharaka Women's Welfare Program (TWWP), local community members and stakeholders to promote an effective, holistic approach to combating this destructive practice.

In partnership with Dining for Women, the project's main goal is the eradication of FGM/C in Tharaka-Nithi County through educating communities and engaging them in combatting FGM/C. WGEP focuses on community sensitization, youth education and providing a healthy alternative to this harmful practice through its Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP) program.

3. **Has funding changed for this project?** Funding has not changed significantly for this project. We secured a small \$3,000 grant in September 2019 towards our ARP program as expected. The majority of our funding for our ARP program is from Dining for Women. We do not anticipate any changes to the cost of the program as outlined in our approved proposal.
4. **Is your organization or project different than presented in the approval proposal?** There have been minimal changes since the project's approval. Women's Global Education Project and TWWP recently hired Dorcus Kinyua as an Outreach Officer. She is a former WGEP scholarship recipient and a recent graduate of the University of Embu. Dorcus will be helping to support the ARP program, oversee community outreach meetings and provide general assistance to the Program Director.

Additionally, TWWP's Program Director, Aniceta Kigira, will be representing Women's Global Education Project at the Obama Foundation's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Summit in late October 2019. This is an incredible opportunity to share our ARP program with some of the Obama Foundation Fellows and Scholars, Africa Leaders and other representatives of the Girls Opportunity Alliance.

5. **Have the number of beneficiaries changes?** This project was estimated to reach 1,510 direct beneficiaries annually (no duplicates), 940 of whom will be women and girls. This includes 250



Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP) graduates, 10 ARP mentors, 10 ARP facilitators, 350 after-school molding club students, 90 teachers and 800 parents and community members. Last year, 266 girls from 12 villages enrolled in our ARP program, and we are slated to have an additional 300 this December and nearly 400 girls the following year in 2020. Additionally, we will be reaching thousands more through community meetings and workshops and to enlist parents and community members as advocates against FGM/C and early marriage/pregnancy.

In addition, the project is expected to reach an estimated 1,200 indirect beneficiaries annually (no duplicates), 750 of whom will be women and girls. This includes 500 younger siblings of ARP participants and 700 community members. Program activities implemented by local partner TWWP this year ensure that we are on track to reach these beneficiaries.

6. **What challenges are you facing as you move forward with this project? How are your approaching these challenges?** We occasionally encounter a lack of support for girls' education and backlash to our ARP program as some view it as pressure to abandon the deeply embedded tradition of FGM/C. However, TWWP has been working in Tharaka since 1996 and WGEP has been partnering with them for over a decade. This local partnership has helped ensure that our program is led by local leaders who themselves galvanize the support of the community through grassroots meetings, gathering testimonials by parents of the beneficiaries, and inviting both women and men to become advocates and allies of our work.

Climate change has brought droughts to the Tharaka region in Kenya where we operate, which can potentially create difficulties that hamper successful program. This summer was especially dry and in the month of July in particular, no rainfall was recorded, making permanent river flows low and drying up the critical boreholes. As a result, the food insecure population has continued to rise to date and the percentages of children at risk for malnutrition in the area has increased due to a lack of available food and rising food prices. WGEP and local partner TWWP is directly addressing this issue and making sure our beneficiaries and their families have enough food and clean drinking water to minimize risk of illness or worse. These interventions will also serve to increase the participation and performance of students and the community.

As word spreads through the community about our ARP program, we have encountered increased demand for this program – not only from the families of girls entering the ARP program to avoid FGM/C, but also from the parents of boys who also want to have a safe space to enter adulthood too. Currently, our program also provides medically safe male circumcision and a path to manhood through discussions about female empowerment so that participants can consider their roles in supporting gender equality and publicly support their sisters, cousins, and female friends in standing up against FGM/C. Women's Global Education Project continues to seek additional funding to expand this program to meet the growing demands of the community and to provide both girls and boys a safe, healthy and supported alternative passage into adulthood.

Transportation in this remote rural area has always been a challenge, but WGEP recently received a one-time bequest which it was able to use to purchase a second hand vehicle for local partner TWWP. The vehicle, which is an SUV, will greatly facilitate travel in the region where there are few paved roads and will cut down on travel times and costs.

7. **Have you revised your original objectives since the project began? If so, why? What are your new objectives?** Women's Global Education Project has not revised the original objectives since the program began. The project's main goal is the eradication of FGM/C in Tharaka-Nithi County through youth education and community engagement. Girls who participate in Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP) are more likely to stay in school and lead healthier lives.

The proposed program will achieve the following original proposed objectives: 1.) support 250 adolescent girls in rejecting FGM/C; 2.) increase girls' secondary school enrollment rates; 3.) increase girls' secondary school retention rates; 4.) educate 400 4th-8th grade students on important topics in after-school clubs; 5.) train 100 teachers on updated methodology and programmatic interventions; and 6.) change underlying beliefs and attitudes towards FGM/C in Tharaka.

8. **What progress have you made toward achieving your objectives? Please address each stated objective.**

- a. Support 250 adolescent girls in rejecting FGM/C – Last reach we exceeded the number of participants in our ARP program by 16, reaching a total of 266.
- b. Increase girls' secondary school enrollment rates – We provide comprehensive scholarships to underserved girls in the Tharaka region. In 2018, we provided 122 scholarships to girls in need and in 2019 we will be providing 133.
- c. Increase girls' secondary school retention rates – Girls who undergo FGM/C drop out at alarming rates as they are viewed as ready for marriage and child-rearing by their community. We are proud to boast a 99.5% retention rate year-after-year, compared to the rural regional average of 59%. Further, 75% of our scholars qualify for university enrollment versus 51% nationally.
- d. Educate 400 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students on important topics in after-school clubs – Last year, 439 girls and boys participated in our after-school clubs to discuss gender equality, the importance of education and engage in health workshops. In the coming year, we anticipating reaching 524 students.
- e. Train 100 teachers on updated methodology and programmatic interventions – Teacher training is vital to help enhance student's comprehension and experience in the classroom. In 2018, we trained 104 teachers and will be reaching an additional 104 in the coming academic year, helping to build the foundation for an effective education system.
- f. Change underlying beliefs and attitudes towards FGM/C in Tharaka - This past year, we had 800 parents and community members attend the workshop and ceremonies in support of ARP as a safe alternative to FGM/C, creating an army of advocates voicing their disapproval of FGM and their insistence that their daughters, sisters and peers remain in school.

9. **Do you anticipate any difficulties in completing your project in the timeframe outlined in your proposal?** Women's Global Education Project does not anticipate any difficulties in completing the project in the timeframe outlined in our proposal.



**Message to Members and Donors:**

Women's Global Education Project is beyond grateful for the members and friends of Dining for Women! Your partnership and belief in our mission helps to provide an alternative to FGM/C, access to education and develop training programs that empower women and girls to build better lives and foster equitable communities in rural Africa. Since our founding in 2004, our programs have reached 15,486 girls, women and community members in 75 of the most impoverished communities in rural sub-Saharan Africa. Thank you, Dining for Women family, for helping to transform lives.

**Expenses:**

Please see below.



## WGEP ARP Budget/Actuals 2018

Revenue	DFW Budget	DFW Actuals
DFW	\$23,833	\$23,833
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$23,833</b>	<b>\$23,833</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Project Support Staff Salary & Benefits		
Travel		
Total US support		
<b>Alternative Rite of Passage (250 adolescent girls)</b>		
Facility	\$1,200	\$365
Meals	\$4,550	\$4,999
Adolescent Mentors	\$200	\$122
Guests	\$200	\$18
Facilitators	\$200	\$980
Tshirts	\$1,250	\$1,189
Lessos/Skirts	\$1,000	\$1,010
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$8,600</b>	<b>\$8,683</b>
<b>CMC moulding Clubs (400 students)</b>		
Club Projects & Supplies	\$1,250	\$822
Health Training	\$1,500	\$943
Club Teachers	\$3,250	\$2,337
Exchange Visits (between clubs)	\$1,000	\$810
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>\$4,912</b>
<b>Community Awareness (2,000+ individuals)</b>		
Community Leaders Meetings	\$1,000	\$2,144
Teacher Training	\$700	\$0
Community Members Meetings	\$1,000	\$2,878
ARP Girls' Mothers Meetings	\$500	\$183
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$3,200</b>	<b>\$5,205</b>
<b>In-Country Operations</b>		
Director	\$1,000	\$1,000
Assistant Officer	\$750	\$750
Transportation	\$300	\$300
Communications	\$100	\$100
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$2,150</b>	<b>\$2,150</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$20,950</b>	<b>\$20,950</b>
Indirect Cost	\$2,933	\$2,933
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,883</b>	<b>\$23,883</b>



Photos of Women and Girls:



WGEP collaborated with the Obama Foundation's Girls Opportunity Alliance to highlight our work combating FGM. The short film they produced, *Rebecca's Story*, can be viewed [here](#).



Aniceta Kiriga, Program Director, and community members take a break from a meeting for a quick photo.



Rebecca holds the script of *Rebecca's Story*, made in partnership with the Obama Foundation.



Scholarship recipient, Scholastica (age 14), dreams of becoming a doctor to help others in her community.



Community members celebrating girls graduating into adulthood through our APR program in Kenya.



WGEP scholars in Tharaka, Kenya.