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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
U.S.A.I.D. MISSION TO KENYA

UNITED STATES POSTAL ADDRESS

US AID MISSION TO KENYA  
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10 SEP 1997

Hon. Catherine M. Nyamato  
Chairlady  
Federation of Women Groups Nyamira District  
P. O. Box 51079  
Nairobi

Subject: Award No. 698-0541-G-00-7015

Dear Hon. Nyamato:

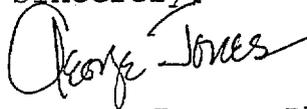
Pursuant to the authority contained in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, the U.S. Agency for International Development (hereinafter referred to as "USAID" or "Grantor") hereby grants to the Federation of Women Groups Nyamira (herein after referred to as FWGM or "Recipient"), the sum of \$24,900.00 to provide support for a program in Female Genital Mutilation Elimination, as described in the Schedule of this award and the Attachment 2, entitled "Program Description."

This award is effective and obligation is made as of the date of this letter and shall apply to commitments made by the Recipient in furtherance of program objectives during the period beginning with the effective date and ending September 30, 1998. USAID shall not be liable for reimbursing the Recipient for any costs in excess of the obligated amount.

This award is made to FWGM, on condition that the funds will be administered in accordance with the terms and conditions as set forth in Attachment 1, entitled "Schedule"; Attachment 2, entitled "Program Description"; and Attachment 3 entitled "Standard Provisions, which have been agreed to by your organization."

Please sign the original and each copy of this letter to acknowledge your receipt of this award, and return the original and all but one copy to the Grant Officer.

Sincerely,



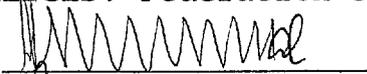
George Jones, PhD  
Grant Officer

Attachments:

1. Schedule
2. Program Description
3. ~~Standard Provisions~~
4. ~~Standards for USAID Funded Communications Projects~~

ACKNOWLEDGED: Federation of Women Groups Nyamira District

BY:



Title:

Patron

Date:

17th September 1997

ACCOUNTING AND APPROPRIATION DATA

A. GENERAL

1. Total Estimated Amount: \$24,900.00
2. Total Program Amount: \$33,150.00
3. Total Obligated Amount: \$24,900.00
4. Cost-Sharing Percentage  
(Non-Federal): 25%
5. Project No.: 698-0541
6. USAID Project Office: OSPP  
P. O. Box 30261  
Nairobi
7. Tax I.D. Number:
8. CEC No.:
9. LOC Number:

B. SPECIFIC

1. PIO/T Number: 698-0541-00
2. Appropriation: 727/81021
3. Allotment:
4. BPC: GDV7-97-21615-KG75
5. PIO/T Obl. Amount: \$24,900

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ATTACHMENT 1

SCHEDULE

1.1 PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT

The purpose of this Agreement is to provide support for the program described in Attachment 2 of this Agreement entitled "Program Description."

1.2 PERIOD OF AGREEMENT

The effective date of this Agreement is the date of the Cover Letter and the estimated completion date is September 30, 1998.

1.3 AMOUNT OF AWARD AND PAYMENT

- (a) USAID hereby obligates the amount of \$24,900.00 for the purposes of this Award.
- (b) Payment shall be made to the Recipient in accordance with procedures set forth in the Standard Provision of this Award entitled Payment - Periodic Advance as shown in Attachment 3.

1.4 AWARD BUDGET

The following is the Award Budget, including local cost financing items, if authorized. Revisions to this budget shall be made in accordance with the Standard Provision of the Award entitled "Revision of Grant Budget".

ESTIMATED GRANT BUDGET

Cost Element	USAID US\$	Counterpart US\$	Total US\$
Personnel	6,000	0	6,000
Workshops	15,000	0	15,000
Transport	3,900	6,000	9,900
Administration	0	2,250	2,250
Total	<u>24,900</u>	<u>8,250</u>	<u>33,150</u>

Exchange Rate: KShs. 55.00 to US\$ 1.00

1.5 REPORTING

1.5.1 Financial Reporting

- (a) Financial reporting requirements shall be in accordance with the Standard Provision of this award entitled Payment - Periodic Advance as shown in Attachment 3.

1.5.2 Performance Monitoring and Planning Reports

- (a) Reports. The Recipient shall submit an original and one copy of brief quarterly program performance reports, which coincide with the financial reporting periods, to the USAID Project Office specified in the Cover Letter of this Award.

1.5.2 (Continued)

These reports shall be submitted within 30 days following the end of the reporting period.

(b) Paying Office. The paying office for this award is:

RFMC  
P. O. Box 30261  
Nairobi

(c) Final Report. Within 90 days following the estimated completion date of this Award, the Recipient shall submit the original and one (1) copy of a final report to the USAID Project Office specified in the Cover Letter of this Award. It will cover the entire period of the Award.

1.6 RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS

Conflicts between any of the Attachments of this Award shall be resolved by applying the following descending order of precedence:

Attachment 1 - Schedule  
Attachment 2 - Program Description  
Attachment 3 - Standard Provisions

1.7 COST SHARING

The Recipient agrees to expend an amount not less than 25% of the total Federal contribution. Cost sharing contributions will meet the criteria as set out in the Standard Provision entitled "Cost Sharing (Matching)" as shown in Attachment 3.

1.8 TITLE TO PROPERTY

Title to all property financed under this award shall vest in the Recipient in accordance with the Standard Provisions of this Award set forth in Attachment 3.

1.9 AUTHORIZED GEOGRAPHIC CODE

The authorized geographic code for procurement of goods and services under this award is 935.

ATTACHMENT 2

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Recipient's proposal entitled "Female Genital Mutilation Elimination" and dated January 24, 1997 is attached hereto as the Program Description (Attachment 2) and is made a part of this Award.

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FEDERATION OF WOMEN  
GROUPS - NYAMIRA DISTRICT  
PROPOSAL FOR FEMALE  
GENITAL MUTILATION  
ELIMINATION

HON. CATHERINE M. NYAMATO  
M.P.

**FEDERATION OF WOMEN GROUPS NYAMIRA DISTRICT  
P.O. BOX 222 NYAMIRA or P.O. BOX 51079 NAIROBI**

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January 24, 1997

George Jones Ph. D  
Director  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
USAID TOWERS  
The Crescent  
P. O. Box 30261  
Parklands, Nairobi

Dear Dr. Jones:

**RE:- PROPOSAL FOR SUPPORT TO ELIMINATE FEMALE GENITAL  
MUTILATION (FEMALE CIRCUMCISION IN NYAMIRA DISTRICT)**

I wish to submit a proposal to you in connection with the elimination of female genital mutilation, also known as, female circumcision, in Nyamira District.

Enclosed is a proposal outlining how female circumcision is currently viewed in the Gusii community of Nyamira District, the best approach that can be used to eliminate it and why it is necessary to eliminate this practise.

In view of the foregoing, I look forward to your response and if there is any further clarification you need, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I am therefore kindly requesting you to support this programme as part of implementing the Beijing Conference Resolution on the girl child, the elimination of all forms of gender discrimination.

Yours sincerely,

  
Hon. Catherine M. Nyamato.  
Encl.

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# PROPOSAL

## ELIMINATION OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FEMALE CIRCUMCISION) IN NYAMIRA DISTRICT

*Submitted by*

Hon. C. M. Nyamato

“The Federation of Women Groups of Nyamira District”

to

**U.S.A.I.D.**

*January 22, 1997*

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    Map of Nyamira District

## Background

Nyamira District is in Nyanza Province. It is inhabited by the Gusii Community who still practices female circumcision. The Women of Nyamira District came together in May 1996 and formed "The Federation of Women Groups." The Federation has a membership of 250 women's groups in the whole of Nyamira District.

Nyamira District covers an area of 861 square kilometres.

The population is about 1.2 million, with women and girls expected to be about 700,000.

Women of Nyamira District came together and formed 250 groups all registered. The 250 women groups have formed "The Federation of Women Groups of Nyamira District." Each group has membership ranging from 50 - 100 women.

The leaders of the 250 Women Groups met and agreed to nominate two members from each group who number 500 women all educated up to form four, working either as teachers, nurses or opinion leaders.

These are the women to be trained by qualified personnel, and elderly church leaders on how to tackle the circumcision issue. Female circumcision is one area the Federation of Women Groups wants to see eliminated.

## Aims/Objectives

The purpose of this project is to sensitize the Gusii community, stimulate the public by creating awareness without causing any psychological trauma in the process of eliminating the act of female genital mutilation, also known as female circumcision, in Nyamira District.

The problems that are currently encountered due to this practice are as follows:-

(a) **Marriage of daughters at an early age.** Circumcision prepares very young girls of ages 8-12 years into adulthood/motherhood. Other problems caused by early marriages:-

- Broken families (victims:- women and children)
- High population
- Land scarcity
- Environmental degradation
- Food shortage
- Poor education (lack of school facilities)
- Poverty and diseases. Etc.

(b) **The cruel practice of female genital mutilation is in itself backward and**

retrogressive. It amounts to violation of human rights.

- (c) **Women suffer some psychological traumas as well as have low self-esteem** among modern educated women from other communities. A circumcised woman has her sexual feeling taken away, hence does not partake in the sexual act. Her sexual feelings are taken away by the circumscion act.

### **Rationale**

Female circumcision among Gusii people is practised as a ritual with a lot of sentiments attached as a tradition imbued in the Gusii Culture. It therefore requires proper planning, psychological preparation, of the people involved, to understand that the practice does not serve the intended purpose it is meant to. That is:-

- a) preparation of young girls for passage in life from girls to teenagers, teenagers to adults.
- b) prevention of early pregnancies and
- c) marriage preparation.

When a young girl undergoes the circumcision ceremony, she is locked up in a house and during the healing process, she is prepared for the following.

- (1) She is taught to know when reaching puberty and therefore advised the various steps involved, growing of breasts, breasts grow tender if monthly periods are near and the actual menstruation itself and finally what to do when it comes.
- (2) When the menstruation period arrives she is advised and counselled on the dangers of associating and playing with men intimately as this would lead to pregnancy before marriage.
- (3) She is told when and where to get married because marriage in most cases/instances is arranged by families between known clans as certain clans are considered related by blood and therefore no inter-marriages can take place.
- (4) She is coached on marriage itself, her relationship with her in-laws, relationship with her husband including sexual behaviour in bed.
- (5) Pregnancy experiences and related child birth and how to care for the child and eventually the children.
- (6) The peer pressures where girls age are known or united through the circumcision age groups.

From the details above, it can be seen that you cannot abolish circumcision through legislation

or otherwise. It can only be done away with, through education and intensive consultation with the parents and the young girls involved.

What emerges from what is enumerated above is that the only way to eliminate the practice is through education - (information dissemination and information exchange/sharing). This could be achieved through seminars/workshops, exchange visits outside the district, particularly to communities which don't practice the cut and those who have completely eliminated female circumcision.

### **Implementation Plan**

The Project will start with a training programme for 500 women for 14 days. These women will be trained by 10 resource persons. The support staff will include a Project Manager, a Clerk and a Typist.

The first seminar for the parents will be in April 1997 during the school holidays for two days.

Another seminar in the month of August for the young girls, their parents and traditional female circumcisors who have to be involved since they play a major role in encouraging, being part of their business.

The women leaders to be trained represent a small area of villages where they are considered opinion leaders. Each trained leader will keep a register of young girls likely to under-go circumcision.

Those trained will be expected to start work in the respective areas under their jurisdiction by first recording down names of young girls in various families and talking to the parents individually.

As I have stated above, the trained/disseminators would be able to go from village to village, collecting data and at the same time informing the community of the dangers of female circumcision and the serious consequences to themselves, i.e., high divorce rates, high population, high unemployment, crime, violence, drug abuse, food shortage, land scarcity, poverty, environmental degradation, diseases etc.

The target groups will then be identified so that a separate seminar is held for them, i.e., the parents and young girls. The target groups are the young girls ready for circumcision in 1997, 1998, 1999, their parents in particular the mothers. These are the groups to be targeted for counselling and training towards understanding that a Kisii girl would still grow to become a respectable woman without under-going the barbaric and primitive cut.

The initial pilot project is intended to run for a period of seven months just in time to save the young girls who would be circumcised in December 1997.

The second phase will start in January 1998 after evaluating the success of the 1997 pilot project with actual accounts of the girls who have been spared their sexual genital mutilation and the reaction from the parents and the community at large.

The Federation of Women Groups of Nyamira District expect to eradicate this practice by the year 2000.

The elimination process of female circumcision is twofold:-

- (1) **Community based:-** That is, the community itself has to handle and participate in the issue themselves, because it affects them directly and indirectly. The community just needs to be assisted morally and financially.
- (2) **Girl children to be encouraged to go to school:-** Education is the key to the future social economic development of the community, and the country in general. Education of girls/women is the way to bring change of attitude (peer group pressures) issue and society as whole.

The training materials that will be used are, slides, films, video cassettes from cultures that practised female circumcision/female genital mutilation. Editing and writing of the final report, producing a pamphlet with guidelines to be used by trainers.

Some individuals from target groups and the trainers will be taken on exposure trips. The trips will be educational tours to areas where circumcision was being practised but now have stopped or in the process of stopping e.g. Meru, Central Province, Nyeri, Kirinyaga District, Kericho District, Baringo, Kajiado and Narok.

I will be having meetings with these trainers once a month to get an update on what has been accomplished. The Executive Committee of the Federation will meet monthly and submit the same information to the donor U.S.A.I.D. on the achievements.

#### **Participants/Beneficiaries**

The seminars and meetings planned for above will go a long way in sensitising the community against the practice. In order to create more impact, I plan to identify two or three women (Kisii Women) circumcised, but have not had their daughters undergo the cut. In this way our people can appreciate that the practice can be discarded without offending their cultural beliefs etc.

Elimination of female circumcision would bring to an end early marriages which are brought about by the feeling that a young circumcised girl is ready to perform her wifely duties. Due to community pressures a Kisii woman produces between 8 - 15 children, leading to heavy population in the two Gusii Districts of Nyamira and Kisii.

## **Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation**

The young girls would get a chance to go to school and get an education which would lead to them being employed and therefore improving their economic status. With an improved economic status, the community will eventually be progressive. The women would also have an improved self image as they will be participants in the workforce.

There will be a permanent office to receive and maintain records of the accomplishments with continuous assessment and evaluation of the project. The 500 trained women will start by registering all the young girls likely to undergo circumscion.

## **Project Feasibility**

### Alternatives

One method that have been suggested in the past to nullify female circumcision is through legislation. However the most apporprate method for these objectives is through education. Female cirmcumcision is a ritual that has been practiced in the Gusii community for a very long time and to suddenly stop it through legislation, would cause psychological problems as the girls would be tormented by thier peers and eventually circumscion would be practised illegally

It is practical to expect a change in behaviour and attitude, as the beneficiaries will be exposed during the exposure trips. They will see for themselves that it is not necessary to under-go a cut to be considered mature. The "passage" in life would still take place without the cut. It has happened in other communities and they have progressed.

The staff responsible for this project are all educated up to form four and are working as either teachers, nurses or opinion leaders.

**FEMALE AND SEXUAL GENITAL MUTILATION ELIMINATION PILOT PROJECT  
FOR 1997 FOR 14 DAYS IN NYAMIRA DISTRICT**

**Budget**

Meals:- One meal a day which will include tea. The cost being Kshs. 300.

Kshs. 300 x 500 .....	Kshs. 150,000
Meeting hall at a cost of Kshs. 1,500 a day for 14 days .....	Kshs. 21,000
10 Trainers Resource persons .....	Kshs. 200,000 ✓
Transport at Kshs. 200 per day .....	Kshs. 1,400,000
Training Materials .....	Kshs. 500,000
Exposure Trips .....	Kshs. 500,000
Support Staff Salaries	
Project Manager at a Salary of 10,000 per month for 12 months.	
Clerk at a salary of 3,000 per month for 12 months.	
Typist at a salary of 3,000 per month for 12 months.	
.....	Kshs. 192,000
<b>Total Amount Required .....</b>	<b>Kshs. 2,963,000</b>

Contributions by the local community leaders will be raised to pay the salary for a messenger and the office.

FEDERATION OF WOMEN GROUPS - NYAMIRA DISTRICT  
A SKETCH MAP OF NYAMIRA DISTRICT SHOWING ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

