



GLOBAL MISSION SERVICES - KENYA (GMS-K)
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GRANT PROPOSAL CONCEPT NOTE

Breaking the Cycle: Protecting Girls from FGM, Forced Marriage, and Menstrual Poverty

Project Title	Breaking the Cycle: Protecting Girls from FGM, Forced Marriage, and Menstrual Poverty
Organization	Global Mission Services – Kenya (GMS-K)
IRS Status	Registered Washington State 501(c)(3) Nonprofit
US Headquarters	Tacoma, Washington
Target Counties	West Pokot and Turkana Counties, Kenya
Target Locations	Masol, Lomut, Cheseгон, and Turkwell Gorge
Contact Person	Juddy Opiyo, CEO
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Funding Request	\$135,000 over 3 years (\$45,000 annually)

1. Executive Summary

Global Mission Services – Kenya (GMS-K) requests \$135,000 over three years to deploy an integrated, community-led intervention in the crisis-affected border zones of West Pokot and Turkana Counties. The project targets the root drivers of school dropout and gender-based violence (GBV) among adolescent girls: severe food insecurity, acute period poverty, and the cultural commodification of young girls via child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

By implementing a cross-cutting nutritional safety net alongside robust protection services, GMS-K will establish food security and menstrual dignity within regional middle schools. This dual approach removes the primary incentives for early marriage, keeping vulnerable youth in education and systematically dismantling the regional dowry-cattle-rustling pipeline.

2. Statement of Need

The Dowry-Cattle-Rustling Pipeline

In the borderlands of West Pokot and Turkana, armed banditry and livestock raids serve as a primary economic engine. This cyclical violence is structurally tied to the systematic exploitation of adolescent girls. Following devastating cattle raids, families look to recover economic assets



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by trading young girls for bridal dowries. To maximize a daughter's dowry value and fulfill cultural expectations, communities subject young girls to illegal FGM. This procedure acts as a definitive marker of marital readiness, forcing girls out of school and into early, non-consensual marriages.

Extreme Hunger as an Exploitative Lever

The target region faces severe, climate-induced drought and deep systemic poverty. When food scarcity strikes a household, school-aged youth are the first to be withdrawn from education. Boys are removed to herd livestock across dangerous terrain. Girls are forced into early marriage by families using it as a survival strategy to reduce the number of mouths to feed.

Period Poverty and Geographic Isolation

This vulnerability is aggravated by acute period poverty and severe geographic isolation. Remote settlements like Masol, Lomut, and villages along the Turkwell Gorge are physically cut off from transport infrastructure and emergency security networks. Lacking access to basic menstrual products, adolescent girls miss several instructional days every month. The combination of academic failure due to truancy and severe hunger leads to high dropout rates, leaving girls fully exposed to predatory marriage arrangements.

3. Project Goals and Measurable Impacts

- **Goal 1 — Establish Institutional Food Security:** Deploy a bi-weekly nutritional program providing energy-dense meals during peak truancy days. Target: Achieve a 95% school retention rate among targeted middle school students.
- **Goal 2 — Eliminate Period-Driven Absenteeism:** Deliver comprehensive menstrual hygiene management (MHM) kits and undergarments. Target: Distribute reusable pad kits to 1,500 adolescent girls, reducing period-related absenteeism to zero.
- **Goal 3 — Deliver Rights-Based Leadership and Mentorship:** Facilitate structured life-skills, financial literacy, and protective peer network curricula. Target: Graduate 300 at-risk girls through Alternative Rites of Passage (ARP) and safely transition them to secondary or higher education.
- **Goal 4 — Secure Local Structural Protections:** Operate rapid-response mobile rescue teams and safe houses for girls fleeing imminent FGM or forced union. Target: Provide emergency shelter, trauma-informed care, and legal aid to 150 high-risk survivors.
- **Goal 5 — Drive Community Behavioral Shifts:** Mobilize intergenerational peace dialogues with tribal elders, church leaders, and youth warriors (morans). Target: Secure 15 signed community declarations legally banning FGM and child marriage across the target border zones.

4. Strategic Activities



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1. **Cross-Cutting Nutritional Safety Net:** Procure bulk, locally sourced commodities (corn maize, beans, fortified cooking oil, and rice). Establish institutional feeding programs inside target middle schools, serving one hot, balanced meal per student 2 to 3 times per week.
2. **High-Mobility Rescue Operations and Emergency Sheltering:** Deploy a dedicated 4x4 field vehicle and off-road motorbikes to navigate dried riverbeds, mountainous terrain, and unmapped border areas. Maintain a community-based early-warning network to execute immediate extractions of girls facing imminent FGM or forced marriage. Operate safe houses in Chesegon and Lomut, providing emergency medical care, trauma counseling, and legal representation.
3. **Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) and Health Distribution:** Distribute high-quality reusable and standard menstrual pad packs alongside essential hygiene products. Conduct peer-led reproductive health and bodily autonomy workshops in schools to de-stigmatize menstruation.
4. **“Transformed to Lead” Life-Skills and Mentorship Curriculum:** Conduct weekly institutional mentorship sessions focusing on girls’ human rights, personal safety, financial literacy, and academic goal-setting.
5. **Cross-Border Peace Dialogues and Cultural Transformation:** Facilitate community-led advocacy workshops with traditional elders, pastors, and morans along the Turkwell Gorge to substitute FGM with community-sanctioned Alternative Rites of Passage (ARP).
6. **Academic Transition Scholarships:** Administer targeted educational grants covering secondary school and college tuition fees, uniforms, and learning materials.

5. Budget Summary

Total funding request: \$135,000 over three years (\$45,000 annually).

- School Feeding Safety Net (maize, beans, rice, fortified oil): \$18,000
- Menstrual Health – reusable pads, undergarments, and soap: \$22,500
- Safe house care, trauma counseling, and legal aid: \$21,000
- 4x4 field vehicle fuel and maintenance: \$17,000
- First-responder and emergency rescue stipends: \$15,000
- Community peace dialogues and anti-FGM elder workshops: \$12,000
- Life-skills curriculum materials and mentorship sessions: \$11,000
- Secondary school and higher education tuition scholarships: \$13,500

6. Why Partner with GMS-K?



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- **Local US Accountability:** Our President is based in Tacoma, WA, offering US funding partners face-to-face updates, direct oversight, and full administrative transparency.
- **Ultra-Lean Efficiency:** We own no corporate buildings and pay zero rent. 88% of all grant funds go directly to field operations.
- **Proven Community Roots:** Our field team is recruited directly from target communities, fluent in local dialects, and integrated into regional tribal trust networks.