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**Facebook: [Adventure Youth Group Kenya](https://www.facebook.com/AdventureYouthGroupKenya)**

## **ADVENTURE YOUTH GROUP**

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**MT. ELGON RUN FOR THE GIRL CHILD HALF MARATHON 2019**

**ORGANIZED BY ADVENTURE YOUTH GROUP**

### **CONTACT PERSONS**

Solomon Kiterie – Chairperson

Cell Phone: 0728939399

Peter Kemei – Secretary

Cell Phone: 0701045320

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### **PREAMBLE**

Adventure Youth Group hosted the first edition of the Mt Elgon End FGM half marathon on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at Chemoge high altitude training center. This was the first mass sensitization event held in Bungoma County since time immemorial. The event attracted more than 200 participants, with 97 taking part in the 21Km race, in which the winner was awarded Ksh. 30,000 and gift hampers from Miss Tourism Bungoma.

The event, which attracted more than 3,000 audiences at the finish line, was the first of its kind to be held in Mt Elgon. The main objective of the event was to create awareness on effects of FGM, child marriage and teenage pregnancies to our community. Other objectives included provision of scholarship to 50 victims of teenage pregnancies from Mt Elgon, roll out of girl mentorship programs and entrepreneurial training to 100 young mothers.

### **SPONSORS**

The first edition of the half marathon attracted the following sponsors, who financed the listed budget items:

- The Anti FGM Board and its partners – UNICEF, UNFPA – three days national radio adverts (Milele FM and Radio Citizen), facilitation of youth delegates, PAS, free give-aways (t-shirts, caps, lessos, wrist bands and head bands), refreshments for 500 pax.
- County government of Bungoma – reward money, printing of certificates of participation and provision of the venue.
- Seth Project – Finish line
- National government affirmative action fund – refreshments
- Mediheal hospital Eldoret – Water and first aid
- Miss Tourism Bungoma – Gift hampers and flowers to the top three winner
- Office of the Mt Elgon Sub County Commissioner – Security



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### **PROJECT SUCCESSES**

The event lived up to its main objective, which was to sensitize the residents of Mt Elgon and Bungoma County at large on effects of FGM, early/child marriage and teenage pregnancies to the society. Through the event, heated debate on social media platforms based in Mt Elgon discussed in detail these vices and offering solutions for the same. The event has also put on alert the security personnel to be watchful during the cutting season to ensure no girl undergoes FGM. The following are key notable successes of the event:

1. A much enlightened Sabaot community on FGM, teenage pregnancies and child marriages. There has been continuous conversation on these matters and the need to address them collectively as a community.
2. Goodwill by leaders to address these problems. Led by the Chief Officer – Tourism and the Minority Leader, the leaders pledged support on the campaign against FGM, child marriage and teenage pregnancies in Mt Elgon.
3. The need by the Anti FGM Board to hold a breakfast meeting with Bungoma MCAs for development of a bill to legislate on FGM and child marriage within the county. Minority leader in the county assembly was tasked with liaising with the Board to have the MCAs trained on legislating the on FGM and child marriage bill next year.
4. The education department through Mt Elgon KNUT Officials promised to be on the alert on the cases of teenage pregnancies. KNUT Women Rep Mrs. Jemima Pkomu revealed the shocking statistics of teenage pregnancies among school going girls. A detailed report of these cases is available at our offices.
5. The county government, through the ministry of Gender, culture, youth and sports pledged to work closely with all stakeholders to ensure these vices become a thing of the past not only in Mt Elgon, but the County at large.

### **CHALLENGES**

Adventure Youth Group experienced a host of challenges to host the event. The following were our biggest challenges:

1. Limited funding  
We were unable to achieve our other objectives due to lack of funds. Our proposal to provide scholarships for 50 victims of child marriage and teenage pregnancies, train and capacity build 100 victims of FGM and child marriage on entrepreneurship and resource



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mobilization, provision of free sanitary towels to schools and rolling out girl child mentorship programs failed due to lack of sponsorship for the same.

2. Opposition from some members of the community

The event was fiercely opposed by some members of the community who advocates for FGM. Being a cultural practice, some elders hold the practice dear, and threatened members of AYG against hosting the event. Incitement of community members against the group spread like whirlwind. This demoralized some members of the planning committee, with some pulling out for fear of their lives.

3. Late commitment of some partners

Some of our key partners responded very late to the event dates. It was not until 22<sup>nd</sup> November that we were sure of holding the marathon as planned. Lack of enough resources also meant we do away with the 10KM race and only have two: 21KM and 5KM Walk. We were also unable to provide meals to the participants and the guests due to insufficient funds.

4. Lack of commitment

Despite its massive success, there was no commitment from the sponsors and partners with regards to the future of similar event. AYG was requested to host the event on annual basis. However, there was no commitment from partners as to whether they will support future events, thus leaving us with a huge task to organize this year's half marathon. Additionally, the fate of the top 10 participants is unknown, despite being talented with a huge potential to hit the world stage as far as this race is concerned.

### **2019 EDITION**

Having organized the first edition, which was dubbed End FGM Half Marathon to suit the interest of the main sponsor – The Anti FGM Board, we have learned a lot, and are confident of holding a much bigger and better similar event this year. We are building on the goodwill from the community members, who have seen the need to educate our youths and shun harmful cultural practices.

We reached out to Safaricom through Ndoto Zetu program, through which they visited one of the rescue centers and covered the plight of these girls. We therefore intends to organize a MT. ELGON RUN FOR THE GIRL CHILD HALF MARATHON 2019 through which all matters affecting the girls in Mt Elgon and Bungoma county as a whole will be addressed. Additionally, this year's edition seeks to raise funds to:



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1. Sponsor victims of teenage pregnancies and FGM to continue with their high school education
2. Partner with relevant organizations to undertake entrepreneurial training and capacity building of young mothers (victims of child marriage) with a view of empowering them economically to help meet their basic needs.
3. Roll out school mentorship, with special focus on the girl child in Mt Elgon and other sub counties within Bungoma County affected by teenage pregnancies and child marriage.
4. Continuous advocacy against all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination affecting both boys and girls in Bungoma County.

It is on this basis that we are seeking your financial support. Below is the budget for this event.

### **BUDGET**

ITEM	UNIT COST	TOTAL
Comprehensive Public address system	60,000	60,000
Main stage finish line set up	70,000	70,000
Price money for the top 10 male and female athletes	425,000	850,000
Emergency services	20,000	20,000
Security	20,000	20,000
500 T-shirts for sale (polo)	650	325,000
Tents and décor	25,000	25,000
Meals for guests and participants (500 pax)	1,000	500,000
Media costs (local based) and social media	500,000	500,000
Race observers and volunteers	100,000	100,000
Entertainment	150,000	150,000
School fees for 24	50,000	1,200,000
Shopping for 24	20,000	480,000
Water and refreshments for 1,000	100	100,000
<b>TOTAL COST</b>		<b>4,400,000</b>



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### **REQUEST FOR SUPPORT**

AYG wishes to request for support from Safaricom to participate in this year's edition as well as sponsor the event. Your participation on this year's edition will be a fulfillment of so many shuttered dreams among the marginalized communities of Sabaot, Ogiek, Ndorobo and Pokot.

Payments can be made to the following account details:

**Account Name: ADVENTURE YOUTH GROUP**

**Account Number: 1232994251**

**KCB BUNGOMA BRANCH**

Thank you in advance.

Prepared by

Peter Kemei

AYG Secretary

*Attached are some of the photos from our 2018 event. More of these photos can be accessed from our Facebook page – Adventure Youth Group Kenya and twitter through the hashtag #Run4Girls and #MtElgonHalfMarathon*



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### #RUN4GIRLS PICTORIAL







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Figure 1 Hon. Jane Chebet and Hon. Francis Chemion take part in the 5km walk



Figure 2  
Chief Officer Tourism Moses Soet having a chat with Anti FGM CEO Mrs Loloju



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Figure 3AYG Chairman SOlomon Kemei giving his address



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Figure 4 KNUT Women Representative Mrs. Jemima Pkomu giving her remarks



Figure 5 AYG Members pose for a group photo



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Figure 6 Hon. Moses Soet giving his address





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Figure 7 Winner of the Half marathon - men category receives a flower bouquet from Miss Tourism Bungoma



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Figure 8 One of the top 10 finalists receives her reward from Madam Ann



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**Figure 9 Tools used to carry out FGM downed by reformed circumcisors**