



NEWSLETTER

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HIGHLIGHTS

500+ MEN STEPPED UP

Engaged over 500 men, elders, age-set leaders, chiefs, and faith leaders—across Narok County, turning dialogue into public pledges, community action plans, and sustained male leadership against FGM/C and child marriage.

HIGHLIGHTS

1,000+ BOYS REACHED

Through school-based mentorship and sports-for-change, Menvolved Initiative reached over 1,000 boys, nurturing positive masculinity, empathy, and respect for girls' rights, laying the foundation for safer communities and gender-equal futures.

HIGHLIGHTS

MALE ENGAGEMENT

Advanced the development of a Male Engagement Manual, capturing proven community dialogue, mentorship, and advocacy approaches to guide scalable, evidence-based engagement of men and boys

Jimmy Carter (Former U.S. President and Nobel Peace Laureate)

“

It is time that men and boys recognize the part they must play in gender equality and join with the voices and actions of the women and girls who are trying to re-shape society in the interests of us all

”

A Note from the Executive Director

2025 marks a defining chapter for Menvolved Initiative. What began as a bold belief, that engaging boys and men is essential to ending gender inequality, has grown into a movement grounded in community trust, courageous conversations, and visible action. This first issue of our annual newsletter captures a year of learning, listening, and leading alongside communities. It tells the story of men choosing allyship, boys choosing empathy, and families choosing equality.

Isa Ndegwa
Executive Director



OUR JOURNEY IN 2025: FROM DIALOGUE TO OWNERSHIP

Across villages, schools, and community spaces, we spent 2025 meeting people where they are. A defining moment came on 25th November 2025, at the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism, when we witnessed the Elders' Declaration to End Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) at Suswa Girls Secondary School, Narok.

This historic declaration reaffirmed community-led commitment to protecting girls and ending harmful practices, and underscored the power of engaging elders and men as custodians of positive change. We facilitated honest dialogues, mentored young men, partnered with institutions, and amplified voices often left out of gender equality conversations. The result was not just participation, but ownership. Men stepped forward as champions against harmful practices, parents opened space for intergenerational dialogue, and young people reimagined masculinity rooted in care, respect, and accountability.

A LANDMARK MOMENT: ELDERS SPEAK OUT

25 NOVEMBER 2025 | SUSWA GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL, NAROK COUNTY

At the official launch of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Menvolved Initiative stood alongside community elders, government representatives, and civil society actors as elders publicly issued a Declaration to End Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). This landmark moment reaffirmed elders' commitment to safeguarding the rights and dignity of girls and demonstrated the critical role of men and traditional leaders in dismantling harmful practices.

The declaration marked a shift from silence to accountability—anchored in culture, but guided by human rights.

"Ending this practice is not just a legal obligation, it is a moral one. Let us build communities where our daughters grow in dignity, safety, and purpose."

First Lady Rachel Ruto (Chief Guest)

SPOTLIGHT: MALE ENGAGEMENT DIALOGUES - WHEN MEN CHOOSE TO PROTECT GIRLS

JUNE-NOVEMBER 2025 | KILIGORIS (TRANSMARA), EOR ENKITOK (NAROK NORTH), NAROSURA (NAROK SOUTH)

Between June - November 2025, Menvolved Initiative, in collaboration with AMREF Health Africa, the Narok County Government Department of Gender, Afyafrika, Kakenya's Dream, Community Health Partners (CHP), faith leaders, and local administration, convened a series of powerful three-day Male Engagement Dialogues for the Protection of the Girl Child across Kiligoris (Transmara), Eor Enkitok (Narok North), and Narosura (Narok South).

Rather than speaking about men, these dialogues spoke with men—traditional elders, religious leaders, fathers, clan leaders, chiefs, youth leaders, and opinion shapers, recognizing them as critical gatekeepers of culture and change. In spaces defined by respect and truth-telling, men confronted the real cost of silence: girls cut, married early, pushed out of school, and denied their futures.

Across all three locations, conversations moved from law to lived reality. Facilitators unpacked the legal and human rights framework outlawing FGM/C and child marriage, while health experts illustrated the devastating physical and psychological impacts of FGM/C and early pregnancy. Education advocates demonstrated, through data and lived examples, that educating girls is not a threat to culture, but a pathway to community prosperity.



Crucially, the dialogues challenged harmful masculinities. Men were invited to redefine leadership—not as control over girls' bodies, but as responsible fatherhood, protection, and advocacy. Through group work, participants identified local drivers of FGM/C and child marriage and developed community-specific action plans, signaling a shift from awareness to accountability.

Each dialogue culminated in a public commitment and pledge, where male leaders openly declared their resolve to protect girls, support education, and speak out against harmful practices. These pledges marked an important step toward collective abandonment, reducing fear of backlash and strengthening community courage.

What emerged was clear: when men are engaged respectfully, equipped with evidence, and supported through partnerships, they do not resist change, they lead it.

CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE: MEN LEADING THE WAY








Our flagship Champions of Change program, funded by the Children's Rights Innovation Fund (CRIF), mobilized young men and male community influencers to actively prevent FGM/C, child marriage, and gender-based violence. Through structured dialogues, mentorship circles, and peer learning, participants reflected on social norms and committed to positive action within their families and communities. Many champions went on to convene local conversations, demonstrating that change multiplies when men lead with example.

BOYS' MENTORSHIP AND SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT BOYS' MENTORSHIP AND SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

We also engaged boys in schools through mentorship sessions, life-skills discussions, and sports-for-change activities. Using relatable role models and participatory methods, we supported boys to develop empathy, emotional intelligence, and respect for girls' rights—laying foundations for healthier relationships and safer communities.

Recognizing the power of sport and creativity, we integrated football, dialogue, and advocacy to spark conversations on equality. Matches became platforms for learning; jerseys and trophies carried messages of protection and respect; and spectators became participants in change.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

-  Reached over **500** men through male engagement dialogues, including elders, age-set leaders, chiefs, assistant chiefs, religious leaders, and other influential male community leaders across Transmara, Narok North, and Narok South
-  Reached **over 1,000** boys through school-based mentorship, life-skills sessions, and boys' engagement forums promoting positive masculinity and respect for girls' rights
-  Strengthened partnerships with civil society organizations, community leaders, and government stakeholders
-  Witnessed and supported the **Elders' Declaration to End FGM**, issued on 25 November 2025 during the official launch of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence at Suswa Girls Secondary School, Narok County
-  Awarded a **Certificate of Recognition by the Narok County Gender Technical Working Group (GTWG)** in recognition of Menvolved Initiative's contribution to coordinated male engagement efforts and community-led prevention of FGM/C and child marriage
-  Supported the growth of a visible network of male champions advocating against FGM/C and child marriage
-  Advanced the development of a **Male Engagement Manual** to guide future trainings and dialogues

"These conversations helped me understand my role, not just as a man, but as a protector of our children's future."

Jeremy Lerianakai (Male Dialogue Participant)

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

Our work in 2025 was rooted in strong partnerships and coordinated action. Menvolved Initiative collaborated closely with **CRIFUND**, **AMREF Kenya**, the **Gender Department - Narok County Government**, **Afyafrika**, **Kakenya Dream**, **Youth AntiFGM Network Kenya** and other civil society and community stakeholders. These partnerships strengthened technical expertise, community access, coordination, and sustainability of interventions. Through joint planning, implementation, and learning, we amplified impact and reinforced the principle that ending FGM/C and child marriage requires collective, multi-stakeholder commitment.



LOOKING AHEAD: OUR VISION FOR 2026

As we move forward, Menvolved Initiative will:

- 🌐 Scale the Champions of Change model to new communities
- 📖 Roll out the Male Engagement Manual nationally
- 🎓 Deepen school-based mentorship for boys and young men
- 🗣️ Strengthen evidence-building and storytelling to influence policy and practice
- 👥 Continue centering survivor-informed, community-owned solutions

Our commitment remains clear: to engage boys and men as allies in advancing children's rights, protecting girls, and building equitable communities.

GET INVOLVED

Change grows when more people join the journey. Whether you are a community leader, educator, parent, donor, or young person—there is a place for you at Menvolved Initiative.

Together, we can redefine masculinity and build a future rooted in dignity, equality, and justice.

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CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE: MEN LEADING THE WAY

Our work in 2025 came alive through powerful moments of connection, courage, and commitment. Here are some highlights captured in photos:



1 November 2025 | Suswa Girls Secondary School, Narok County Community elders stand proudly as they issue the Declaration to End FGM during the launch of the 16 Days of Activism. A landmark moment of cultural leaders choosing accountability and protection for girls.



Men—elders, fathers, youth leaders, and religious figures—gather in respectful circles, sharing truths and making public pledges to protect girls and reject harmful practices.



Menvolved Initiative receives the Certificate of Recognition from the Narok County Gender Technical Working Group, honoring our contributions to male engagement and community-led prevention efforts.