“My deep concern about the harm caused by female genital mutilation (FGM) originated when I was working as a nurse in Sudan in the 1980s. I will never forget my horror when I first saw FGM—the extent of mutilation and the indescribable legacy of physical and mental health problems. I supported the introduction of the first Bill to outlaw FGM in the UK in 1985 and, when I re-engaged with the issue last year, I was profoundly shocked to learn that FGM has continued unabated globally. In the UK alone it is estimated that 66,000 women have had FGM and 24,000 British girls under the age of 18 are at risk. That number is doubtless below the real figure, because many go to secret clinics or suffer in silence.

The time is long overdue for action to end FGM and therefore I pay tribute to Ann-Marie and the team at 28 Too Many for their tireless campaigning on this issue. I fully support their strategic, research-based approach to tackling FGM which will help ensure future generations of girls and women live free from the pain and suffering of FGM.”

Baroness Caroline Cox
Founder and CEO
(Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust)
28 Too Many is a UK based anti-female genital mutilation (FGM) charity working to end FGM across Africa and the diaspora communities through:

- Research
- Building community networks
- International advocacy

Our aim is to provide knowledge, tools, best practice models and support networks which help anti-FGM campaigners and organisations working with communities to bring about a sustainable change to end FGM.
OUR VISION
A world where every woman is safe, healthy and lives free from female genital mutilation.

OUR VALUES
We are committed to doing no harm in all aspects our work. Our approach is one underpinned by:

• **Respect** – We recognise the value of each person and celebrate diversity in personality, race, culture and belief.
• **Compassion** – We are driven by our desire to protect vulnerable women and girls from FGM and to support those living with its impact.
• **Excellence** – We have a strong sense of purpose and always do our best to deliver professional, high quality results.
• **Honesty** – We do what we say we will do and approach all our work with conviction and integrity.
• **Pioneering** – We are forward thinking and creative to find solutions to make a lasting change to end FGM.
In just a year 28 Too Many progressed from one woman with a dream, to a fully-fledged charity with five staff members, a board of trustees and more than twenty volunteers in several countries. In our first full year of operation as a registered charity we have researched FGM in four African countries; spoken at events held by the UN and at conferences across the world; and worked collaboratively with government officials, large international organisations and anti-FGM campaigners working in communities where FGM is practised.

Fundamental to our work is our belief that a top-down, externally imposed strategy is not workable or desirable, and that change must come from within communities. As such, our work focuses on providing knowledge, tools, best practice models and support networks, which help locally based campaigners and organisations to bring about sustainable change to end FGM. Our team has worked tirelessly to promote the eradication of FGM and, as you will read in this report, we are already seeing the impact of this work.

At the end of this year we were very sorry to say goodbye to Ros Pateman, one of our founding trustees, who is retiring from charity work after a long and distinguished career. We wish her a happy and well-deserved retirement and are delighted that she will be remaining an active supporter of our work.

We are pleased to welcome Karen Walkden and Anya Stern onto the board. Karen is a chartered psychologist with extensive experience on child protection issues, and has been appointed as Vice Chair and Company Secretary to the Board of Trustees. Anya has a background in law and now works in community and international development. She also has previous experience supporting anti-FGM programmes in the UK. Fraser MacKay, our Treasurer, and Jill Garner continue as founding trustees, providing continuity and a wealth of charity experience.

We thank everyone who has contributed to our work and look forward to another year in which we move towards achieving our vision of a world where all women and girls live free from FGM.
We undertook detailed research on FGM in 4 African countries.

25 volunteers helped us deliver our research and education programmes to professionals in the police, health service, education and other child support organisations.

We published key statistical summaries for the 28 countries in Africa where FGM is traditionally practised.

We raised awareness of the harm of FGM at more than 50 events in the UK and campaigned internationally at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

We raised over £55,000 to fund our work to end FGM.
INTERVIEW WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - DR ANN-MARIE WILSON

At the end of its first year, what are 28 Too Many’s key achievements?

“In addition to completing detailed research on four countries, I am proud of having produced two research papers, one for Tearfund and one for the Journal of Gender Studies. We joined the Gender and Development Network and have established good relationships with a wide range of organisations. We have also been cited by the UK Department of International Development (DfID) as contributing to the research body on FGM, and raised £55,000.”

What were your personal highlights during the last year?

“Having the opportunity to speak at the 57th United Nations’ Commission on the Status of Women (no. 57) has to come top. I spoke about FGM and harmful traditional practices at four events, which was pretty extraordinary, and helped the event to end positively with a specific conclusion about a global ban on FGM. I have greatly enjoyed working with our volunteers and meeting so many talented and dedicated people. I was also very honoured to be awarded an Inspire Magazine Award and granted a Tearfund Inspired Individual Scholarship.”

Looking ahead, what are 28 Too Many’s plans for the coming year?

“We are planning a strategic review of our first four pilot research reports and then we will begin to disseminate the research findings from our reports in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia. We will continue our international campaigning work and have visits planned to South Africa and Australia. We are also looking forward to sharing our research findings at conferences in Kenya, Thailand and the UK.”
“I was in grave danger and almost dying.” These are the powerful words of Mary Laiza from Arusha Region in Tanzania who had female genital mutilation (FGM) as a young girl and now campaigns to protect others from the pain and suffering of FGM.

Mary was born in Maasai society in 1973 and when she was 14 years old her mother started to prepare her for FGM. She was told that FGM was a great honour for Maasai women and that it was important for the family’s dignity, bringing respect to her parents and recognition in the community. It was emphasised that FGM was necessary to be able to marry a rich and respected husband. She was not told anything negative about FGM by her mother nor was there any information provided by her school. Like many other girls Mary looked forward to the time she would be cut.

On the day of her cutting, Mary recalls that a respected Maasai excisor came to her parents’ house. The cutting does not involve anaesthetic to minimise the pain and, unprepared for what was happening to her, Mary was deeply shocked

“I want to join hands with people around the world to end FGM”

Mary Laiza
and traumatised. She recalls the great pain and confusion, “I started to panic. I believed I was in grave danger and almost dying but my parents did not share any concern with my pains and were shouting in jubilation, rejoicing that I was becoming a Maasai woman.”

Mary stayed in bed for a month as her wounds healed and has since had to overcome many problems caused by the FGM. She felt betrayed by her parents, after marriage she was unable to enjoy sex with her husband and, like many women who have FGM, she faced difficulties giving birth.

Despite these challenges, Mary completed her education and successfully supports her three children. Since learning about anti-FGM programmes whilst working with World Vision, she has become a passionate advocate for ending FGM in her Maasai community. Mary now works with an organisation called TEMBO. She has organised 22 alternative rites of passage for Maasai girls under the support of their parents and also travels around Tanzania training other anti-FGM activists. She has broken the cycle in her family by protecting her daughter from FGM and is now helping other families end this harmful tradition.
OUR RESEARCH PROGRAMME

28 Too Many is committed to the sustainable eradication of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the 28 African countries in which it is practised and the global diaspora. Undertaking comprehensive research is key to providing knowledge to all those working to end FGM and is at the centre of our strategy. We believe within 10 years, our intervention could make a significant contribution to the protection of millions of African girls at risk.

We publish detailed country profiles of FGM for each of the 28 countries in Africa where FGM is traditionally practised that are free to access by all through our website. Our research methodology is:

- primary research with communities where FGM is practised and with anti-FGM organisations
- secondary research using literature review including anthropology, sociology, religion, education, law and health
- reviewing quantitative research on FGM in each country.

During 2012-13 we undertook research in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Our first full report, Country Profile: FGM in Kenya was published in May 2013.

“The 28 Too Many country profile report shows the value of their approach. With a comprehensive set of data available and the ability to produce analysis from this data, 28 Too Many will transform the global and local anti-FGM agenda in the years to come.”

Sean Callaghan, Director, Tearfund Inspired Individuals Initiative
We carried out a research consultancy commissioned by Tearfund in late 2012. This report on the role of the Church in tackling FGM in Tanzania revealed the complicity of the Anglican Church in allowing violence against women and girls, including FGM, to take place within their communities. The research was shared with over 25 Bishops from all three regions in the study and with the Christian Council of Tanzania, a national ecumenical body for churches and parachurch organisations. Church leaders felt impelled to take action in response to the research and developed a Church Leaders Action Plan to prioritise their response and engagement with the issue.

28 Too Many is building a reputation as a source of academic material on FGM. Dr Ann-Marie Wilson, Executive Director of 28 Too Many has published four papers that have been well-received by academic and professional audiences including the health sector through The Lancet and Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. The Journal of Gender Studies published Dr Wilson’s paper on foot binding and FGM in May 2012 and the paper has been quoted as an inspiration for the end of FGM.
COLLABORATING TO BECOME STRONGER – BUILDING NETWORKS IN AFRICA

Our networking strategy aims to enable collaboration between anti-FGM organisations within countries and across borders. Our intention is to facilitate joint projects, sharing of information on good and promising practice and to build skills and expertise of practitioners. Developing partnerships and alliances means efforts to end FGM will be made more robust and can be scaled up, replicated and capacity built among organisations.

From our research in East Africa we have already identified over 360 organisations working to end FGM, to protect girls at risk and to support survivors. We have visited organisations and activists in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Mali, Senegal, Sudan, Sierra Leone and Liberia. As we continue our research programme and disseminate our findings we will build deeper connections in each country. Knowing who else is doing what and how effective it is in ending FGM is crucial to developing solutions. It opens up opportunities for joint projects and campaigns.
“Tearfund has had the pleasure of working with 28 Too Many in Tanzania, where their formative research exploring the practice of FGM among Christian communities helped launch Tearfund’s work in this area. This research resulted in Tearfund’s report, ‘Made in the image of God’ which sets out the issues and challenges faced by Churches in Tanzania. 28 Too Many brought their depth of knowledge and research abilities in helping Tearfund lay the foundations for its FGM work. In addition to this 28 Too Many have participated in joint events with Tearfund at the UN Commission on the Status of Women 2013.

28 Too Many are keen to work in partnership with others and are committed to sharing information. They provide a valuable learning space. Their single minded commitment to this issue makes them a key ally for anyone working to see the end of FGM. From Tearfund’s perspective, we see the importance and niche contribution 28 Too Many brings and we hope our partnership will grow further.”

Veena Sullivan, Head of HIV and SV Unit, Tearfund
In our first year as an independent charity some key milestones were achieved in the International campaign against FGM. In December 2012 the United Nations General Assembly passed a historic resolution calling on all countries to eliminate FGM. In March 2013 the 57th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) agreed conclusions on the elimination of all forms of violence against women and included specific mention of FGM for the first time.

28 Too Many participated at CSW and Executive Director Dr Ann-Marie Wilson delivered four speeches. We attended the inaugural Trust Women Conference in London in December 2012 and took part in debates that led to an international call to action for the creation of effective national FGM legislation.

During 2012, alongside other leading anti-FGM organisations we took part in meetings and workshops with the UK Department of International Development (DfID) and which led to the announcement of a ground-breaking £35m programme to end FGM. We look forward to working with DfID as this programme evolves over the coming years.

We were active in the wider campaign against gender based violence through memberships of the We Will Speak Out coalition, the Restored Alliance, CMS, CMS Africa, the Inspired Individual Violence against Women cohort and the Gender and Development Network. We also campaigned alongside the Inter-Africa Committee, Soroptimists International and Zonta!, and participated in the 2013 One Billion Rising Campaign.
CAMPAIGNING IN THE UK

2012 saw the beginning of a change in attitude to FGM in the UK and successful campaigning by activists led to FGM increasingly being on the agenda at key events. Combined with a growing awareness and pressure on social media networks, FGM was finally moving up the political and media agenda.

As members of the Home Office Vulnerable Groups Forum, Manor Gardens (FGM Forum for London based anti-FGM organisations) and through discussions at DfID, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Government Equalities Office, we were able to increase knowledge about FGM and encourage policy makers to take action. We supported Baroness Cox in asking a question on FGM in the House of Lords and briefing peers on the issues relevant to FGM in the UK.

During 2012-13 we spoke about FGM at more than 50 events, educating thousands of people about the harm of FGM and highlighting what action they can take to help end it.

Working with the media is an important way to raise awareness of FGM and increase pressure for action to end the practice. During the year we featured in articles in various magazines including Inspired magazine and the Huffington Post, we were interviewed by BEN Television (a UK based media company for the African diaspora) and we took part in an in-depth panel discussion for Voice of Russia radio.
WORKING WITH FAITH BASED ORGANISATIONS

We work with those of faith and no faith. We regularly give talks on FGM to faith groups as well as sharing about our work at religious conferences and festivals. FGM is not a religious practice and our Country Profiles include an analysis of the religious context in each country that show religious leaders and faith based organisations have the potential to be major agents of change. One of our achievements has been to engage the global Christian community to take on FGM as an issue to be tackled. This is a key factor in building trust with practising communities given that 80% of Africans will visit a religious building every week.

28 Too Many is committed to working with faith communities to encourage a positive role in ending FGM. We have strong partnerships with CMS, Restored, Tearfund, New Wine, Inspired Individuals and other UK and International Christian organisations.
OUR VOLUNTEERS

28 Too Many relies heavily on the work of passionate volunteers who share our vision and desire for ending FGM and to improve the lives of women and girls all over the world.

There are many reasons why people choose to get involved. Here are just a few:
• making a difference to women and girls both in the UK and in Africa
• doing something inspiring
• learning new skills
• meeting new people.

Katherine Allen - Research Intern
“I’m proud to have worked collaboratively on the Country Profiles for Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Tanzania. My work with 28 Too Many has helped me grow as a person and has positively influenced my career as an academic”.

Julie Zinzan - Health Educator
“I had heard of FGM through Childline and my work in a North London Children Centre, but had no idea about why it is done, the trauma it causes and how much it happens in the UK. Through my work with 28 Too Many, I have been to the Houses of Parliament, Oxford House, and the Home Office. I may be one person but together 28 Too Many are a team which makes a difference and I am proud to be part of this team”.

Kelly Denise - Researcher
“I had the privilege of volunteering full time with 28 Too Many for over a year and it was amazing. The people, the vision and the work were inspiring. I served as a researcher for Uganda and Kenya and found it challenging, intense, wonderful and beautiful every day. I had opportunities to meet with large organisations and small women’s groups all working to end FGM. The work I have done this past year has changed my life.”

Volunteer Kelly Denise getting a new hairstyle from children in Uganda, 2012 ©28TooMany
Income and expenditure during 2012-13

During the year 2012-13, 28 Too Many’s income was £56,031 and expenditure was £19,949. Most of the income came from individual donations, grant-making institutions and from consultancy.

All figures are taken from the 28 Too Many independently examined accounts for 2012-13 for the year ended 31 March 2013. Full accounts are available on request.
THANK YOU

We are enormously grateful to the many individual donors who support the vision of 28 Too Many and whose generous contributions make our work possible, in particular Robbie Steinhouse.

We would also like to thank the charitable foundations that have contributed to our work to end FGM, in particular the Tearfund Inspired Individuals Programme, New Wine, CARE International, the Rowan Trust, the Maranatha Trust, All Souls Langham Place and St Mark’s Harrogate.

There are also individuals and organisations that have supported and encouraged us, provided expert advice and offered pro-bono services. We thank everyone who has helped especially CMS, Restored and St Barnabas Church who all greatly assisted our transition from an idea to a successful charity.

The work of 28 Too Many benefits enormously from the in-kind donation of time, expertise and effort of our dedicated team of volunteers. We estimate that the value of our volunteers’ contribution for 2012-13 was approximately £90,000 and we thank them for their enthusiasm, dedication and tremendous talents.
28 Too Many

Trustees:
Dr Ann-Marie Wilson Chair / Executive Director
Fraser Mackay Treasurer
Karen Walkden Vice Chair / Company Secretary
Jill Garner
Any Stern
Ros Patemen (resigned 3rd December 2013)

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