2013/14 was an exciting year for the global movement to end female genital mutilation (FGM). Increased international awareness of FGM, substantial financial commitments from the UK Government and others, support for locally led initiatives and community based programmes to tackle the practice are creating a climate for change. This gives all of us working to see the end of this harmful practice hope that significant progress can be made in the next few years.

As trustees we are proud of the contribution of 28 Too Many over the last year through our continuing research programme, partnerships with community based activists and international advocacy work. 28 Too Many shines a light on an often secretive practice and gives a voice to the many voiceless women and girls whose lives are irrevocably changed by FGM. Therefore we are pleased that this review focuses on achievements being made every day against FGM.

Looking forward, 28 Too Many will progress its country research programme and continue to share our work to inspire local, national and international efforts to end FGM. We will also work collaboratively with our partners to build on recent progress and implement effective models of behavioural and attitudinal change based on sound research.

We thank our dedicated team and volunteers for their hard work, the supporters and donors who have contributed financially and all who have shared their stories and knowledge about FGM.

OUR TRUSTEES

Dr Ann-Marie Wilson
Fraser Mackay
Jill Mills
Ros Patemen  Resigned 2.12.13
Anya Stern  Appointed 3.12.13
Karen Walkden  Appointed 3.12.13
Suzy Goodson  Appointed 15.7.14
Siobhàn Crawford  Appointed 15.7.14

Karen Walkden, Anya Stern, Suzy Goodson, Jill Mills and Ann-Marie Wilson
© 28 Too Many
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**OUR VISION**

A world where every girl and woman is safe, healthy and lives free from female genital mutilation.

**OUR MISSION**

To work with anti-FGM activists to promote, sustain and safeguard the physical and emotional wellbeing of girls and women by the global eradication of FGM.

“28 Too Many’s country-based research on FGM and support to local organisations is a practical and effective way to help countries tackle FGM. Therefore I was delighted that the Executive Board of the Inter-African Committee on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children (IAC) approved 28 Too Many as an affiliate member earlier this year. IAC members are dedicated to collaborative working and we look forward to working together on campaigns and projects.”

Dr Morissanda Kouyaté  
Executive Director of Inter-African Committee (IAC)
For many years the world has ignored the cries of the millions of girls and women suffering as a result of FGM. Following much hard work by campaigners this is beginning to change and, even though there is still a great challenge ahead, there is now a growing sense that we can end this terrible practice.

Over the last year all of us at 28 Too Many have worked alongside other anti-FGM campaigners, women’s rights advocates, professional groups and government officials and this is yielding results. Stakeholders from countries across the globe are committing to take action to tackle FGM. There is much still to do but I believe that we are now seeing the beginning of the end of FGM.

A highlight in my year was a month long trip to East Africa where I met with over 350 people in Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania. It was inspiring to hear their commitment to educate and support communities to abandon FGM. I was proud that 28 Too Many could share our research and help develop best practice solutions to support local projects.

This was also a key year for our advocacy and campaign work to influence governments, policy makers and faith leaders. We briefed parliamentarians and government officials on FGM in the UK, Australia and Kenya and worked closely with the UK Government preparing for the recent Girl Summit which was focused on ending FGM and child early forced marriage.

It is exciting to be part of the growing international movement to end FGM and 28 Too Many has ambitious plans to increase the pressure for change. Our research team have widened our focus into West Africa and we are expanding our networks of individuals and organisations who are working against FGM. Building on our research in East Africa we are working with partners to develop community projects in Kenya and Uganda and I am looking forward to another exciting year when we see progress towards achieving the end of FGM.

Dr Ann-Marie Wilson visiting the New Hope for Girls project in Tanzania 2014 © 28 Too Many
FGM is a harmful traditional practice involving the cutting or removal of the external female genitals for non-medical reasons. FGM is an extreme form of violence against women and girls and is a recognised human rights violation.

FGM has a severe impact on those affected causing lifelong physical and emotional harm and can result in death at the time the FGM occurs or later due to infection. It also leads to complications in childbirth and increased risks for mothers and infants.

Despite the harm caused by FGM it continues to be practised and 140 million women are estimated to be living with the consequences of FGM with a further three million girls at risk each year. Most FGM takes place in 28 countries in Africa but it is also practised in other countries including Iraqi Kurdistan, Indonesia and Malaysia, and in diaspora communities worldwide.

“We must end this lethal practice.” Esther, FGM survivor, Tanzania

Chagga women in Tanzania © 28 Too Many
FGM is a deeply entrenched practice that has become a social norm in the communities where it is carried out. Ending FGM is not easy and will take time and effort but change is already underway and our 3 step strategy will help all working against this harmful practice.

STEP 1 – RESEARCH

We provide detailed reports on FGM in each country and undertake new studies to understand the current situation and who is working to end FGM. These reports provide essential knowledge to guide action to prevent and end FGM.

STEP 2 – COMMUNITY BASED ACTION AND NETWORKS

We share our research findings and provide training to organisations and activists working to end FGM. We support the development of local networks through which people can come together to share knowledge, form collaborations and accelerate the abandonment of FGM across regions and countries.

STEP 3 – ADVOCACY

We support those speaking out against FGM and provide a platform for survivors, researchers and activists to tell their stories. We make sure FGM is effectively and widely communicated to create a supportive environment for change locally, nationally and internationally.
We are passionate about providing clear and useful information about FGM. We want everyone working to end this harmful practice to have access to up to date and relevant information to guide their actions and help accelerate the end of FGM.

Our team of researchers have prepared detailed country profiles on FGM in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Tanzania which are available on our website. We have also researched FGM in Sierra Leone and Mali and will complete reports on Liberia, Gambia and Senegal over the coming months.

We also publish focused reports such as our briefing paper on the impact of conflict and other emergencies on FGM, blogs, news articles and links to other sources of information on FGM.

In addition we share our research findings at international conferences, meetings and in a range of online and print media. In the last year we presented papers and posters at conferences in Kenya, Thailand and the UK, sharing our research with academics, policy makers and programme managers working on gender based violence and FGM.

“FGM a very dangerous practice; it is so painful and can even result in death. Girls and women who undergo FGM can lose their self-esteem and feel unworthy in society. This is why I support the work of 28 Too Many. We need this research to raise awareness and create a new generation with no FGM. It is possible and will happen when we all get involved and work together.”

Consoler Wilbert, Founder, New Hope for Girls, Tanzania
CASE STUDY – PROMOTING CULTURALLY RELEVANT PROGRAMMES IN SIERRA LEONE

During our research in Sierra Leone we met an organisation that bridges the need for cultural continuity and the ethos of no harm to women or girls.

Among the Temne in Masanga village and surrounding areas, FGM is often carried out on girls between the ages of 3 and 5. Masanga Education Assistance (MEA) has been working in the area since 2004 sponsoring education for young children. In 2007 they opened their own kindergarten and made the condition that anyone who is to access education with their help, has to ‘trade excision for education’. In 2009 reports came back to MEA that these girls were being socially excluded from even simple activities like bathing with Bondo initiates. It was at this point that Michèle Moreau the founder of MEA came up with the idea of persuading the Soweis (traditional excisors) to initiate without cutting.

An early convert and now president of MEA Sierra Leone Ramatu Fornah was the head Sowei in the village. Her conversion and ‘putting down of the basket’ representing a ceremonial renunciation of the Soweis’ cutting tools was very influential in the community. Following her lead a number of Soweis in Masanga and surrounding villages have also renounced FGM, discarded the old Bondo colours of red and white and embraced yellow as the colour of the new Bondo.

In 2010 the first ceremony without FGM was conducted, after which the Paramount Chief of Tonkolili, the District’s highest authority, asked Michèle to extend the programme to the District’s seven sections. Since then there have been five more initiations incorporating 391 girls in total.

Soweis wearing their new colours in a MEA run project, showing they now conduct Bondo without cutting (MEA)
CASE STUDY – EDUCATING TEACHERS IN RWENTOBO, UGANDA

According to data gathered in 2011, 1.4% of women in Uganda are estimated to have undergone FGM. While this rate is considerably lower than other parts of Africa it remains a significant issue in certain communities and needs to remain high on the agenda when it comes to discussion, education and raising awareness.

This was a fact discovered by Lydia Miller, a volunteer from Tonbridge Baptist Church when she travelled to rural South Western Uganda in order to run safeguarding workshops for teachers in a school founded and run by NGO World Shine Ministries.

When asking 20 teachers which of them had heard of FGM, only one was aware of the subject. Their particular knowledge extended to the hearsay that FGM was a medical procedure that deterred women from having extramarital sex and, as a result, prevented them from contracting HIV and AIDS. This ignorance about the harsh realities of FGM is often commonplace among practising communities. The taboos that surround not only the topic but also open discourse about female sexuality in general mean that many may remain entirely uneducated until directly affected. In non-practising communities, or communities in which FGM is practised on the fringes of society, there is a propensity to overlook the problem entirely.

The lack of knowledge that Lydia encountered was neither unusual nor uncommon and is demonstrative of the significance of education in the fight to end FGM. With this in mind, Lydia worked with 28 Too Many to develop and run a workshop for the teachers that looked in detail at the data on FGM gathered by 28 Too Many and also examined with the group the social, emotional and physical repercussions of the practice.
Ways in which to protect girls at risk and to recognise girls who had been subjected to FGM before they succumbed to further potential complications were also discussed. An important aspect of the session was the time set aside for the teachers in attendance to discuss ways in which they could act to eradicate FGM in their communities.

Those present were full of enthusiasm and determination to act and proposed, among other things, a meeting with local faith leaders in order to disseminate their new found knowledge and so galvanise the community into action. Perhaps the most promising aspect of the session was the clear understanding that in order to see FGM eradicated in our lifetime education of not only girls who may fall victim to it but also of whole communities is paramount.

This project was presented at the first Girl Summit in London in July 2014 to highlight how faith organisations can show leadership in tackling FGM and encourage communities to abandon the practice. Our partner, World Shine Ministries have committed to continue work to educate and advocate to end the harmful practices of FGM and child early forced marriage.

“Now I am determined to report anyone involved in FGM and I know where to go for help.”
Teacher at Rwentobo School

Ann-Marie Wilson and Rev Medad Birungi from World Shine Ministries at the Girl Summit © 28 Too Many

Girls at Rwentobo School © 28 Too Many
28 Too Many continues to build strong relationships with organisations in Africa and internationally to develop and support community based programmes to tackle FGM. Over the last year we met with 85 organisations in East Africa and presented to the United Nations Joint Programme on FGM in Kenya to share knowledge on FGM and support local actions to protect those at risk and end the practice.

In partnership with World Shine Ministries in Uganda and volunteers from Tonbridge Baptist Church we developed a training programme on child safeguarding and FGM for teachers and youth workers.

We were also pleased to partner with pioneering obstetrician Dr Sophia Webster who flew across sub-Saharan Africa from August to November 2013, stopping in more than 20 countries to promote maternal health and educate against harmful practices like FGM. During her successful trip Sophia provided vital equipment, training and support to local medical, health and midwifery centres.

“We should all be ashamed that FGM continues even though we know the pain and suffering it causes.” Geoffrey Otieno, Anti-FGM campaigner, Kenya
ADVOCACY

Through our reports, website, blog and social media we communicate about FGM and why it must end. We tell the stories of girls and women who have experienced FGM as well as promote the work of those campaigning to end the practice.

We briefed parliamentarians in the UK leading to questions on FGM in the House of Lords in April and October 2013 as well as briefing local government officials and representatives from the UK Department of International Development (DfID) in Kenya and Australia to develop awareness of FGM. We worked with other anti-FGM organisations and DfID to shape the UK’s commitments to end FGM and we are members of the UK Home Office Vulnerable Groups Forum.

Through our memberships of the Gender and Development Network (GADN) and National Alliance of Women’s Organisations we share our knowledge of FGM with a wide audience and influence international policy.

“I want to join hands with people around the world to end FGM.”
Mary, FGM survivor, Tanzania

Our work with other organisations and networks including Soroptimist International, Zonta, the Mothers’ Union and Manor Gardens FGM Forum helps us educate local groups about FGM and how they can support change in their communities. We also participated in and supported campaigns for International Women’s Day, One Billion Rising and the White Ribbon campaign.
INTER FAITH WORK

FGM is not a religious practice but our research shows that with over 80% of the population in Africa attending a faith building at least once a week, working with faith organisations is important to bring about the end of FGM. Faith organisations can be a major agent of change, and their international, regional, national and local presence and structures offer platforms for teaching, education, support and health provision regarding issues such as FGM.

We briefed religious leaders from across Africa on FGM at the CMS Africa Conference in Kenya. We also met with many religious leaders and faith based organisations during our visits to Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda and will deepen our relationships over the coming months.

We continue to partner with CMS, Restored, Tearfund, Inspired Individuals and the We Will Speak Out Coalition on faith and inter faith projects including a photo exhibition to raise awareness on gender based violence, a new learning initiative and joint presentations at international conferences.

In the UK we regularly give presentations and run training events for religious groups and speak at many conferences and events such as the New Wine Summer Gathering and Women’s Blaze Conference, the Gweini Conference and CMS Wales Conference.

“We claim it’s our practice but biblically it’s wrong and therefore the churches must come in full to fight against it.” Pastor in Bukwo district, Uganda

Ann-Marie Wilson at a multi-faith peace vigil for Iraq outside Westminster Abbey © Mazur/catholicnews.org.uk
Selina Chepkorir is a community development worker with Anglican Development Services (ADS) in West Pokot County, Kenya. In her work Selina sees the impact of FGM and with 28 Too Many wants to raise awareness of this issue and to help end FGM.

Selina told us that FGM is very extensive in some areas in West Pokot but is fading in other areas. In her village in Pokot Central very few women escape FGM. Girls are usually cut between age 10 and 15 years as a rite of passage to become a woman.

“90% of the community knows that FGM is illegal,” said Selina. “They continue the practice because of very strong beliefs in the cultural importance of FGM for the Pokot people. This is a challenge for those campaigning against the practice who must take into account the community issues behind FGM.”

Selina was inspired to campaign against FGM when she went back to her village in 2012. She learnt that people’s awareness of laws and actions against FGM had increased but this had led to some people carrying out FGM in secret and not reporting any complications to a medical professional. A girl almost died of bleeding because the parents were afraid to take her to hospital in case they were reported to the Government. Worried about how many more girls were facing complications and not getting medical help, Selina vowed to advocate for treatment for girls who had FGM and work with 28 Too Many to get rid of the practice completely.
28 Too Many in 2013/14

• Four country profiles published and research undertaken in a further five countries.

• Visited Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda to present our country profiles on FGM and plan actions to end FGM with 350 people in 85 organisations.

• Research findings shared at international conferences in Kenya, Thailand and the UK.

• Teacher training on FGM and child safeguarding launched in Uganda.

• Briefed parliamentarians, policy makers, lawyers, health and social care professionals, NGOs and charities on FGM in the UK, Africa, Europe and Australia.

• Worked with more than 500 faith leaders across Africa, the UK and Australia to engage faith communities in taking action against FGM.

• Raised awareness of FGM with thousands of people at more than 50 events in the UK and internationally, and reached many more people through articles in print and online media, radio and diaspora television.
During the year 2013-14 most of 28 Too Many’s income continued to come from individual donations and a number of trusts and foundations. We could not do our work without their support.

### Income and Expenditure 2012-14

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<th>April 2013 – March 2014</th>
<th>June 2012 – March 2013</th>
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<td>Investment income</td>
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<td>Training &amp; seminar fees</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>Governance Costs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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The figures quoted are taken from the 28 Too Many independently examined accounts for the year ended 31st March 2014. Full accounts are available on request.
VOLUNTEERS

We have an amazing team of volunteers, offering their time and expertise to help others. During 2013-14 we estimate that the value of our volunteers’ contribution was approximately £92,000 and we thank each volunteer for their enthusiasm and dedication.

Ebru Sahin - “I started volunteering for 28 Too Many while studying for my communications degree. I decided to do my dissertation on FGM because I have very strong feelings about the topic and wanted to raise awareness. My role is to participate in events and take videos and photographs for our website.”

Halima Sayed - “I have always been passionate in trying to understand the complexities of FGM and I realised that the best way to understand FGM was through research. I joined 28 Too Many because it finds solutions to abandon FGM without demonising practicing communities. My role is to research literature and compile data for the country profiles.”

Ruth Samuels - “I had heard about FGM but only learnt how common it was after meeting 28 Too Many. I decided to use my research skills and background in anthropology to make a difference to the lives of women and girls at risk of being cut. I worked on the Tanzania country profile and I also help 28 Too Many at different events. It’s really nice to know that I can contribute and help end FGM.”

Winnie Cheung - “I began volunteering with 28 Too Many as a guest blogger discussing the UK Government’s stance on the FGM campaign. I now work with the research team and have recently finished writing on the education sector in Mali. I volunteer with 28 Too Many because I am passionate about advancing the rights of women and children.”
THANK YOU

28 Too Many gratefully acknowledges the many individual donors, charitable trusts and other organisations who share our vision and give generous donations to fund our work. We would like to thank the Tearfund Inspired Individual Programme, the Cross Pollinate Foundation, Alan Burke Memorial Trust, All Saints Mission Trust, Seba Trust, St Marks Harrogate, Christ Church Harrogate, New Wine Women, the 6th form pupils at Camden School for Girls, Robbie Steinhouse and Sara Ferguson.

We also wish to extend our thanks to the individuals and organisations who offer support, expert advice and pro-bono services. Your help greatly encourages us and we are grateful to everyone who assists our work especially CMS, Restored, Tearfund, St Barnabas Church, Ramsay Brown Ltd, CARE, Rooted Support Ltd and Joanne Robinson.

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

Together we can end FGM. You can join the campaign and help our work in many ways:

• Donate to support our work – visit our website for more details.
• Volunteer with us – email info@28toomany.org for information.
• Support us on social media by liking our Facebook page, following us on Twitter and sharing information with your family and friends.