FACTORS INFLUENCING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION
PRACTICES AMONG WOMEN IN KURIA DISTRICT.

A PROPOSAL SUBMITTED IN PART FULLFILLMENT FOR
AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
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AUGUST 2006
DECLARATION

I Mwita L.O declare that this research proposal is my original work and has not been presented at any other university.

Signature ______________________________  Date ______________________________

MWITA L.O

H32/2558/2002
AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my family for their support throughout my entire time of study.

I would also like to thank my colleagues for taking their time to read and edit earlier versions of this proposal and for making numerous helpful suggestions.

My sincere gratitude to my supervisor Mrs. Margaret Muiva for her assistance and insights during the development of this document.
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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARP</td>
<td>Alternative Rites of Passage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBO</td>
<td>Community Based Organisation</td>
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<td>CHW</td>
<td>Community Health Workers</td>
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<td>COVAW</td>
<td>Coalition Of Violence Against Women</td>
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<td>FGM</td>
<td>Female Genital Mutilation</td>
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<td>GOK</td>
<td>Government of Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>IEC</td>
<td>Information Education and Communication</td>
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<td>IRIN</td>
<td>Integrated Regional Information Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>KDHS</td>
<td>Kenya Demographic Health Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOH</td>
<td>Ministry Of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>MYWO</td>
<td>Maendeleo Ya Wanawake Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non Governmental Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>PATH</td>
<td>Program for Appropriate Technology in Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>RVF</td>
<td>Recto Vaginal Fistula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDA</td>
<td>Seventh Day Adventist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP</td>
<td>Traditional Practitioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations International Childrens Education Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>VVF</td>
<td>Vesico Vaginal Fistula</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organisation</td>
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</table>
### OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Initiates</td>
<td>Girls or women who have undergone the FGM rites and rituals</td>
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<tr>
<td>RVF</td>
<td>Recto Vaginal fistula, a communication between the rectum and vagina that occurs due to prolonged obstructed labour and leads to leaking of fecal matter through the vagina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub tribe</td>
<td>Groupings of variant dialects of the Kuria speaking people of Kenya. Each group is resident to a specific division in the district and has slight variation in custom and tradition from the rest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VVF</td>
<td>Vesico Vaginal fistula, a communication between the bladder and vagina that occurs due to prolonged obstructed labour and leads to leaking of urine through the vagina</td>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a cross sectional descriptive survey conducted to give insight into factors influencing Female Genital Mutilation practices among women in Kuria District.

FGM has serious negative implications on women’s health. Notably, it increases maternal and infant mortality rates (World Heath Assembly, 1993). The procedure itself is physically and psychologically traumatic and may culminate in psychological distress (Baasher, 1979), death due to hemorrhage and it also contributes to the spread of HIV/AIDS directly or indirectly.

Kuria District remains one of the few districts in Kenya with an almost universal prevalence of FGM, standing at 95.9%. This is a great contrast to the prevalence of the practice in the whole country which is 38%.

This study aims at establishing factors that influence FGM practices among women in Kuria district, the level of community awareness on effects of FGM as well as highlighting the changes that have occurred in the practice over time and how they have influenced the practice.

A total of 61 respondents will be interviewed as determined by the Fishers formula. Non probability quota sampling method will be utilized to for sampling. The strata will correspond to administrative divisions of the district which also mark the boundaries of the subtribes of the people of Kuria District. Quota will then be determined disproportionately with each stratum being allocated an equal number of participants.

Data will be collected through interviewing participants. Both men and women will be interviewed. A structured interview schedule with both open and close ended questions will be administered to participants by trained research assistants.

Collected data will be cleaned after each day in the field. The data will then be coded, entered into information systems and analyzed using the statistical program for social sciences (SPSS).

The findings of the study will then be compiled in a report together with recommendations and suggested areas for further study and research. This will then be tabled to relevant stakeholders including NGO’s and agencies dealing with FGM eradication and gender empowerment in the district, the District Education Office and Ministry of Health to aid in strategic planning, policy making and evaluation of instituted interventions in the fight against FGM.