



INSTITUTE FOR FAITH AND GENDER EMPOWERMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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GREETINGS FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends and Partners,

Happy New Year, 2025!

As we step into a new year, I extend my heartfelt greetings and gratitude to each of you. The past year presented both challenges and triumphs in our shared mission to create a world free from sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Kenya grappled with devastating floods, political unrest, economic protests, and rising femicide cases. Yet, in the face of adversity, your unwavering support, generosity, and prayers enabled IFAGE to drive meaningful change and advance gender equality in our communities.

Deeply ingrained cultural and religious beliefs continue to hinder youth access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in Siaya County, Western Kenya, leading to teenage pregnancies, new HIV infections, and cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

In response, IFAGE launched the SRHR Interfaith Coalition the first in the region—to dismantle these barriers and advocate for affordable, accessible, and quality SRHR services. We are fostering a community where women, men, boys, and girls can thrive.

This year, we also took a bold step in challenging gender norms through the Positive Masculinity and Biblical Gender Equality Training in partnership with the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). Delegates from East, South and West Africa, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe, challenged long-held preconceptions, redefined power dynamics, and promoted gender equality within faith spaces.

Through our Women's Health and Safety Program, we continue to empower survivors with psychosocial, legal, and economic support. A testament to this impact came during the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, where three courageous survivors reclaimed their voices, sharing their stories to inspire change.

I sincerely appreciate our supporters, partners, staff, and Board members. Your dedication is turning the vision of gender justice, equality, and empowerment into a reality. Together, we will continue to build a future where women, men, and youth are free from violence, discrimination, and oppression.

With gratitude,

Rev. Domnic Miso,

CEO & Founder, the Institute for Faith and Gender Empowerment (IFAGE)

WHO WE ARE

The Institute for Faith and Gender Empowerment (IFAGE) is a registered faith-based, non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Kenya founded in 2013.

We work with community, church, school, women and youth groups to end domestic abuse and gender-based violence (GBV) through capacity building, mentorship and advocacy. As a grassroots community organisation, IFAGE harnesses the potential of men, faith actors and community leaders to shift power relations and change attitudes and mindsets about equality for women and girls at home and in the broader society.

WHAT DRIVES US

VISION

We envision a world where both women and men, boys and girls, are equal and free from sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

MISSION

We exist to prevent domestic abuse and violence against women and children by engaging community leaders including faith actors, women, youth, and children through capacity building, mentorship, and advocacy.



OUR VALUES

Equality: We believe in equal worth and dignity for men and women in society. We proclaim justice as a key element for fairness, peace, and reconciliation.

Inclusivity: We uphold the dignity of all human beings regardless of gender, race, and colour. We value each other's contributions and believe that only from diverse backgrounds and divergent points of view can we find the best solutions.

Integrity: We recognise that how we work and collaborate with others is as important as what we seek to accomplish.

Teamwork: We are invested in the success of others, we treat each other with respect and kindness, and we will work diligently to lift each other.

Accountability: We believe in transparency and accountability in all activities we do.



WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Oppression of women and girls based on gender remains one of the most significant human rights violations. Every day in Kenya and across Sub-Saharan Africa, women and girls face discrimination, violence, and limited opportunities simply because of their gender. Harmful cultural norms, economic inequality, and gender-based violence (GBV) continue to hold them back from reaching their full potential.

In many communities, religious teachings are misinterpreted to reinforce patriarchal beliefs, positioning male dominance as God's ideal. These harmful norms contribute to power imbalances that fuel domestic abuse, early marriages, and limited access to education and healthcare for women and girls.

The impact is alarming; over 45% of women in Sub-Saharan Africa have experienced physical or sexual violence¹, with some cases leading to femicide. According to the WHO, pregnancy remains the leading cause of death for girls aged 15-19 in Africa, often due to a lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services.

In Kenya, this issue is further exacerbated by cultural and religious taboos that restrict women's rights over their bodies, leading to increased cases of teenage pregnancies, new HIV infections, and GBV.

¹[https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7037605/#:~:text=The%20pooled%20prevalence%20of%20IPV,and%20sexual%20\(18.75%25\)%20violence.](https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7037605/#:~:text=The%20pooled%20prevalence%20of%20IPV,and%20sexual%20(18.75%25)%20violence.)



WHAT WE DO

At IFAGE, we envision a world where boys, girls, women and men are equal and free from any form of violence.

Our work focuses on three core areas:

- 1. Positive Masculinity Program:** Addressing the root causes of gender inequality by engaging men and faith leaders in gender justice advocacy, biblical gender equality training, and faith-based movement building.
- 2. Sexual and Reproductive Health Education:** Empowering youth, faith leaders, and communities with age-appropriate and faith-inclusive sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) education, breaking cultural and religious barriers hindering sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services.

- 3. Women's Health and Safety Program:** Supporting survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) through psychosocial counselling, legal assistance, and economic empowerment, helping them reclaim their independence and dignity.



Through these three programs, IFAGE is not just responding to issues but working to transform mindsets, policies, and structures that perpetuate gender inequalities. By challenging harmful beliefs and advocating for inclusive, faith-based approaches, we create a future where women and girls are empowered, safe, and free to thrive.

2024 IN NUMBERS



1,500

reached through the Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Program



400

Sanitary packs distributed



150

dignity packs were distributed



50

youth equipped with digital literacy skills



15

cases of gender-based violence cases filed in court



10

cases were successfully resolved, ensuring justice for the survivors



8

cases underwent mediation and were settled amicably



6

Sub-Saharan countries reached through our programming

2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

1. POSITIVE MASCULINITY PROGRAM

6 Sub-Saharan countries reached through our programming.

The Positive Masculinity Program is at the heart of IFAGE's mission to challenge harmful gender norms, dismantle patriarchy, and promote gender equality within faith-based contexts. Recognising the profound influence religious leaders have on shaping societal values, this program focuses on equipping them with tools, knowledge, and theological frameworks to advocate for equality and tackle gender-based violence (GBV).

The program is rooted in egalitarian theology, and it leverages Biblical principles to reshape attitudes toward gender roles, empower communities, and foster justice. At the core of our mission lies a commitment to advocating for positive masculinity and gender equality using the Bible as a powerful tool for empowerment.

In 2024, IFAGE conducted three trainings: two regional trainings and one national training in Western Kenya, rallying Faith-based Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)-Mozambique, Clergy, Mother's Unions, Anglican Men's Association (KAMA), World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) Women's Commission and respective communities, drawing in leaders from East, Southern and West African countries, including Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda and Zimbabwe.

CEO Rev. Domnic and Executive Board Director Bishop Dr Joseph Wasonga facilitated the regional sessions. Through engaging discussions and thought-provoking sessions, participants explored a wide range of topics, from the role of gender in the context of the Bible and Christianity to contemporary challenges to gender equality in the church.

This session ignited an unwavering desire within IFAGE to amplify its efforts and establish a robust faith movement for gender equality and justice.



2. SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM



1,500

youth reached with sexual and reproductive health and rights information, education and services



400

sanitary packs distributed



150

dignity packs distributed



50

youth equipped with digital literacy skills
Formation of SRHR Interfaith Advocacy Coalition

2024 has been a transformative year for our ongoing efforts to promote youth engagement, address gender-based violence, and ensure access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services. Through collaborative efforts, innovative approaches, and steadfast commitment, we have reached over 1,500 individuals with life-changing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) programs. Here's a look at the milestones we achieved together. We are deeply committed to strengthening partnerships with women, youth, faith actors, the Government Ministry of Health (MoH), and local communities.

A. Enhancing SRHR Access

High rates of teenage pregnancies, new HIV infections, and cases of SGBV among youth in Kenya stem from inadequate access to affordable and youth-friendly SRHR services.

On 28 February 2024, IFAGE collaborated with the Rarieda Sub-County, Western Kenya, the Ministry of Health, Mildmay Kenya, and the Make Way Youth Panel to improve SRHR services at Pap Kodero Health Centre. This initiative brought together health service providers, youth leaders, and community stakeholders to address systemic barriers and advocate for Affordable, Accessible, Available, and Quality (AAAQ) SRHR services. We advocated for implementing youth-friendly SRHR services that address the needs of vulnerable populations, including adolescents and women in underserved areas.

The activity strengthened partnerships with health providers and local stakeholders, paving the way for improved access to SRHR services and youth-friendly initiatives at the Pap Kodero Health Centre.

B. Partnerships for Impact

Government Engagement

In July and September 2024, IFAGE visited the Bondo and Rarieda Sub-County Health Management Teams and the Siaya County Referral Hospital, respectively, to review SRHR initiatives and identify service delivery gaps to strengthen partnerships across all levels of health management to ensure accessible and youth-friendly SRHR services.

Radio Talk Show

On 18 September, IFAGE hosted a groundbreaking radio talk show on Radio Nam Lolwe, Kisumu County. The session engaged a broad audience through live calls, SMS, and social media to discuss intersectionality in SRHR advocacy using the Intersectional See-Judge-Act (ISJA) tool, an action-focused method for analysing religious matters. Faith leaders, youth advocates, and health experts shared insights and success stories.



Events

SRHR Camps

In partnership with the Siaya County Ministry of Health, IFAGE joined local, national and community non-governmental organisations in a

camp reaching over 300 participants with free SRHR services such as family planning, HIV testing, and cervical cancer screening. This strengthened partnerships with health authorities to improve SRHR services.

Commemorative Days

In 2024, IFAGE was also involved in commemorative International Days such as International Women's Day, World Menstrual Hygiene Day, Day of the African Child, International Youth Day and 16 Days of Activism.



Youth Feedback Sessions

IFAGE hosted a feedback session in Siaya County to improve youth-friendly SRHR services, bringing together youth and healthcare providers. Participants identified challenges such as privacy concerns, inadequate SRHR supplies, hidden costs, lengthy wait times, and unprofessional

treatment from providers. In response, healthcare providers pledged to enhance privacy measures and promote youth advocacy. Youth participants committed to using barazas (community forums) to raise health rights awareness and educate their peers.

Training

ISJA Tool Training for Interdenominational Religious Leaders

The rising cases of teenage pregnancy, SGBV, early marriages, and HIV reflect deeper societal issues. In March 2024, IFAGE trained 100 religious leaders in Siaya County using the Intersectional See, Judge, Act (ISJA) tool to create safe spaces for dialogue, aiming to reshape community attitudes and support sexual and reproductive health rights.

Formation of SRHR Interfaith Advocacy Coalition

After a follow-up evaluation with religious leaders, IFAGE achieved a significant milestone in advocating for SRHR in Siaya County by forming the first-ever SRHR Interfaith Advocacy Coalition. This coalition consists of 20 religious leaders from various denominations who were previously trained on the ISJA tool. Its goal is to collaborate with the county health department and other organisations to promote accessible and quality SRHR services, aiming to reduce teenage pregnancies, new HIV infections, and GBV cases. The coalition also seeks to create safe spaces for youth and women within religious settings to access SRHR information and services.



WOMEN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAM



68

Legal cases received at IFAGE



35

cases remain pending in court, some still awaiting hearings or mentions



15

cases of gender-based violence cases filed in court



10

cases were successfully resolved, ensuring justice for the survivors



8

cases underwent mediation and were settled amicably



3

Survivors supported to start businesses

Contribution to the Siaya County Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescents Health Bill 2024

The Women's Health and Safety Program (formerly the Survivors Support Network Group) is a newly established initiative to empower survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) through psychosocial support, economic empowerment, and legal advocacy. While this program has already made an impact, it remains in its early stages and faces financial constraints. Limited funding has affected the scale of support available; however, IFAGE remains committed to expanding these services to reach more survivors in the coming years.

Psychosocial Support: Counseling and Survivor Empowerment

Survivors of GBV often face emotional trauma, stigma, and isolation, hindering their recovery. Our "Victims to Voices" model provides monthly counselling sessions, creating safe spaces for healing. This support empowers survivors to share their stories, building confidence and resilience, and inspires them to advocate for GBV prevention and awareness.

Economic Empowerment for Survivors

Financial dependence on abusive partners often forces survivors to remain in unsafe environments, making economic independence a crucial step toward recovery. In 2024, IFAGE supported three survivors through financial literacy training and small business startup assistance who are currently operating small businesses and can now care for themselves and their children.

Legal Support

Access to justice remains a significant challenge for many GBV survivors due to stigma, legal barriers, and prolonged court processes.

In 2024, IFAGE received 68 cases. 15 cases of SGBV were referred for legal action. Out of these, 10 cases were successfully resolved, ensuring justice for the survivors. Additionally, 8 cases underwent mediation and were settled amicably. However, 35 cases remain pending in court, some still awaiting hearings or mentions.

Partnerships

IFAGE partnered with several organisations and institutions to champion gender justice and rights in 2024, including engaging in a multi-stakeholder forum on Ending Femicide and GBV in Kenya, holding a roundtable discussion with the Siaya County Health Management Team on Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), in partnership with FAWE Kenya and the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians.

Policy Advocacy

Siaya County Health Management Team roundtable discussions reviewed the findings from the ISJA research conducted by IFAGE. They explored key barriers to youth sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and the challenges adolescents and youth face in accessing critical SRH services, especially contraception.

The dialogue contributed towards the drafting of the Siaya County Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescents Health Bill 2024 (RMNCAH Bill 2024), which, once accepted into law, will allocate 5% of the county budget to SRH commodities, improving access to services.



Events

Nyaka Walk Against SGBV

In 2024, IFAGE staff participated in the Nyaka Walk Against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). This walk, held in Rukungiri, Uganda, was a testament to the power of collective action in addressing SGBV. It was a significant event that brought together diverse stakeholders to raise awareness and advocate for the rights and protection of survivors.



Celebrating with Our New Partner, Micah 6:8 Foundation

In 2024, IFAGE joined Micah 6:8 Foundation and World Renew representatives on a benchmarking visit to the Youth Running Club projects in Meru and Nyeri, Central Kenya. These projects, supported by the Micah 6:8 Foundation, provided invaluable insights into innovative youth engagement and development approaches.

This visit was an incredible opportunity to learn best practices we can adapt as we planned to kick start our Youth Running Clubs in Western Kenya supported by the Micah 6:8 Foundation.

Campaigns

Advocacy and public awareness are crucial in the fight against gender-based violence. In 2024, IFAGE actively participated in key campaigns to raise awareness, foster dialogue, and mobilise communities to take action. Through weekly and annual campaigns, we continued to amplify our message and engage stakeholders in meaningful discussions on gender justice and SRHR.

Thursdays in Black

Some of these events included **Thursdays in Black Campaign**, a global movement advocating for a world without rape and violence. Every Thursday, IFAGE staff wore black to stand in solidarity with survivors and raise awareness about the impact of GBV. This campaign has encouraged dialogue and fostered a culture of resistance against sexual and gender-based violence.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

From 25 November to 10 December, the world observes the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). In 2024, IFAGE collaborated with various organisations to conclude the campaign with an event in Bondo, Western Kenya.

The day included a vibrant street walk to raise awareness about GBV and femicide, followed by panel discussions featuring key speakers like Bishop Emily Onyango and GBV survivors. Topics included domestic violence, strategies to combat GBV, and the church's role as a refuge. The event also highlighted the Red Chair Campaign, symbolising the lives lost to GBV and calling for collective action.



Keeping Our Spike Alive

Every year, IFAGE board members and staff come together for a refreshing retreat, fostering connections with each other and our inner selves. Our two-day event in Homabay County included cultural activities and self-reflection, deepening our bonds and insights for future growth. We are grateful for the Imago Dei Fund's support in making this enriching experience possible.



IMPACT STORY



My journey with IFAGE began in 2023 when my mother and I sought help during one of the most difficult times in our lives. Financial struggles had made it almost impossible for me to continue my education, and my mother was battling personal hardships.

When we visited IFAGE, everything changed. I was enrolled in secondary school, and my mother received counselling and economic empowerment support. With time, she was able to start a small business, giving our family financial independence.

Today, I am a Form Three student at Nyamira Girls High School, thriving in my studies and pursuing my dream of becoming a lawyer. IFAGE has given me hope, stability, and the opportunity to work toward a better future.



Julian - IFAGE Beneficiary.

OUR FUTURE

In 2025, IFAGE intends to expand its programming to reach more communities across the continent.

1. Strengthen Existing Programs

- Expand the SRHR Interfaith Advocacy Coalition to include more stakeholders and deepen its impact.
- Scale up the Positive Masculinity Program to reach additional communities and regions.

2. Launch the We Run, We Rise Clubs in 15 Schools in partnership with Churches

This new initiative promotes healthy physical and mental health among youth while fostering dialogue on critical issues like SRHR, gender equality, and personal development.

3. Youth-Friendly Services Advocacy

We will continue working with local governments and partners to establish more youth-friendly SRHR services in underserved areas.

4. Capacity Building for Survivors

We intend to expand economic empowerment and legal support programs under the Survivors Support Network.

5. Faith-Based Gender Justice Advocacy

Increase engagement with faith leaders through regional conferences and interfaith collaborations to challenge patriarchal norms and advance gender equality.

TEAM

STAFF

Rev. Domnic Misolo – CEO
 Mercy Onywera – Programs Coordinator
 Rogers Odhiambo – Accountant
 Nancy Oyuga – Communication Officer
 Brenda Omondi – Office Administrator
 Peter Omondi – Intern

BOARD

Perez Odielo – Chairperson
 Rev. Domnic Misolo – CEO, Secretary
 Erastus Abidha – Treasurer
 RT. Rev. Dr Joseph Wesonga – Executive Board Member
 Dr Pamela Onyango - Board member
 Clarice Omondi – Board member
 Rev. Ruth Mboga - Board member
 Rev. Wilson Okonjo - Board member
 Pamela Oluoch – Board Member
 Rev. Dr Samuel Sudhe – Board Member

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

All we do is only made possible with the support of our amazing partners. We are incredibly grateful for their continued support.

FUNDING PARTNERS



COLLABORATING / IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



JOIN US

As we expand our impact across Kenya and regionally across Sub-Saharan Africa, we constantly seek more partners and funders. Please join us in realising a world free from gender-based violence and with a prosperous, egalitarian society where women, men, girls and boys live fulfilling lives free of discrimination and abuse.



IFAGE International,
Shalom House & Estate, Bondo
Opposite Sura View Hotel, Bondo
P.O. Box 417-40601, Bondo, Kenya

Email: info@ifageinternational.org

www.ifageinternational.org