



BODA FOR ZERO NEWSLETTER



Introduction

On the 6th of February 2019 UNFPA KCO and the Boda Boda Association of Kenya (BAK) formed a partnership to create potential synergy in the delivery of Sexual Reproductive Health rights.

The Boda Boda sector plays host to millions of young people in the country, having secured gainful employment for the otherwise unemployed youth and helped address one of the critical pillars of the demographic dividends

As appertains the fight against FGM, the sector not only provides the greatest direct reach to young people but equally opens up opportunities to reach out to millions of other young people as well as adults with messaging on FGM

“I commit to be a champion to end FGM by 2022 and support H.E Uhuru Kenyatta’s Vision”

Kevin Badia-BAK Chairperson

. They have more often than not christened themselves as being “moving bill boards” in view of their ability to pass messages through the reflector jackets that they don.

It also provides avenues to address other closely related issues such as teenage pregnancy, HIV and AIDS, child marriages, safe motherhood, and family planning. Similarly, it provides an opportunity to strengthen surveillance on new incidences of FGM by providing relevant intelligence which is critical for response.

Strategic dialogue on ending FGM

On 4th March 2020, the Ministry of Public Service and Gender with support from UNFPA hosted a strategic partners dialogue to bring together development partners and other stakeholders to deliberate on the national action strategy (the Roadmap) to Accelerate the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation which would be resourced and executed through a broad multi-actor and multi-sectoral approach.

The Boda Boda Association of Kenya led by their chairman Kevin Badia gave a moving speech on his personal commitment to end FGM and ensuring he would gather the rest of his colleagues through the support of UNFPA and the Government of Kenya to ensure that each and every rider is well educated on the laws against FGM and play an active role in community surveillance to ensure FGM comes to an end by 2022



Kevin Badia BAK CHairperson makes his commitment during the Strategic dialogue on ending FGM



Deputy County Commissioner (DCC) of Mt Elgon hosts the team before the sensitization at the SDA church

Mt. Elgon Sensitization of Boda Boda Riders

On the 12th of March 2020, the Boda-Boda Association of Kenya (BAK) and UNFPA kicked off with the first sensitization of riders held in Kiminini in Mt Elgon region. BAK had assembled over 250 riders at the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) church in Kiminini sub county who came together for two agendas, to ensure that safety is at the utmost priority of all the riders and to accelerate the presidential vision to put an end to FGM by 2022.

The days events began at 10:00am with a visit to the Deputy County Commissioners (DCC) office in Mt Elgon where a brief introduction of the UNFPA staff, BAK members, OCPD and County officers took place. After a brief introduction on the UNFPA mandate and agenda for the day, the team led by the DCC set forth for the SDA church in Kiminini with a clear mission in sight.

The riders eagerly awaiting the team, welcomed us in anticipation to learn more and engage on how to ensure their voices are heard in the fight against FGM.

The sensitisation began with opening remarks by Dr Ademola, UNFPA Representative and were then followed by a visual presentation by Caroline Murgor NPPP, on what FGM is and the effects it has on our women and girls. By the close of the sensitization in Mt Elgon every rider made a powerful declaration to put an end to FGM and be the champions of change to accelerate the end of FGM by 2022.



Caroline Murgor trains the BAK riders on what FGM is.

Conclusion

The strategic partnership between the Boda Boda Association of Kenya (BAK) and UNFPA seeks not only to put an end to FGM in Kenya but serve as a rally call for SRHR in the country. With a following of over 1 million registered members the association will serve as a key platform to ensure messaging and awareness is created on SRH services as they don themselves as walking billboards.

The partnership with BAK aims to also provide avenues to address other closely related issues such as teenage pregnancy, HIV and AIDS, child marriages, safe motherhood, and family planning throughout the country in a bid to achieve Zero preventable maternal deaths, Zero harmful practices against women and girls and Zero need for unmet need for family planning



Dr. Ademola Olajide and the BAK chairperson during the Mt. Elgon Sensitization

