



Marie Adelaide Girls' Rescue Center

— Ewuaso Kedong, Kenya —



**“For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.”**

PSALM 27:5

Executive Summary

Description

This project will provide food, shelter and education for up to 12 Maasai girls threatened by ritual female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced early marriages.

Purpose

The Marie Adelaide Girls' Rescue Center gives these at-risk girls a secure place to live and study, allowing them to thrive under compassionate care and providing them with opportunities to learn and grow spiritually.

Location

Ewuaso Kedong, Kenya.

Cost

\$18,000 will cover the rescue center's operational expenses, including staff salaries and food for all the girls.

Highlights

NEED

- In the Maasai community, protecting girls' human rights is a challenge. Female genital mutilation (FGM), or female circumcision, is a deeply rooted tribal practice that many young girls must undergo — even though FGM is illegal in Kenya.
- Most Maasai girls are circumcised between the ages of 11 and 13. They are forced into marriage soon after, usually ending their educational growth and limiting their freedom to pursue a career.
- The UN estimates that 1 in 5 Kenyan women and girls between the ages 15-49 have undergone FGM. The practice has an immediate physical and emotional impact and can also lead to serious health problems in the future.

IMPACT

- The Marie Adelaide Girls' Rescue Center, run by the Daughters of the Heart of Mary, welcomes young girls who are seeking refuge from FGM and early marriage.
- At the center, girls receive food, spiritual counseling, training in practical skills, the opportunity to attend school and tutoring.
- The center also engages in community outreach activities, including education about human dignity and Christian values, working to bring about cultural change.



The Need: Hope for Vulnerable Girls



With your help, young girls like Resiato will be able to pursue their dream of education without the fear of FGM and early marriage.

When the coronavirus pandemic plunged 15-year-old Resiato Manyara's family into deeper poverty, her personal dreams were dashed and her future prospects were suddenly turned upside down. She had expected to finish school, but her struggling Maasai father had other ideas. To make ends meet, he announced he would marry young Resiato off in exchange for cattle and cash, an illegal but accepted tribal custom.

In Maasai tribal culture, young girls have often been forced into "convenient" marriages like these and experience a double trauma as a result. When the match is set, they are expected to undergo the ritualistic practice of FGM, or female circumcision, before the marriage takes place. FGM is extremely painful and can cause severe bleeding, childbirth complications and even death.

By the grace of God, Resiato's schoolteachers intervened when they learned of her upcoming marriage. They convinced Resiato's father to allow his daughter to continue her studies, postponing the dreaded union. This seemed like a victory for the girl, but things changed when COVID-19 forced school closures. Resiato returned home and her father saw the change as an opportunity to resume his plans in secret.

As the wedding ceremony drew nearer, Resiato chose to act on her dream of receiving an education and implemented a drastic plan. She walked more than 20 miles to the Marie Adelaide Rescue Center! Thankfully, the Daughters of the Heart of Mary received her, Resiato found a safe haven there, and she was again able to pursue her ambitions.

While we celebrate Resiato's new opportunities, we also realize her journey toward a brighter future is just beginning — and we know that many other girls need the same protection from FGM and early marriage. The Marie Adelaide Rescue Center stands ready to receive these vulnerable girls, but they need our help to continue their mission of mercy. ***Please, join us in helping them rescue these precious daughters of God!***



Rescue Girls!

The Marie Adelaide Rescue Center is a powerful light of hope to girls like Resiato who want to flee FGM and forced early marriages. These dangerous practices are deeply rooted in Maasai culture, and without the intervention of Church and community leaders, they will continue to destroy the dreams of young women in Kenya.

Fortunately, this problem can be solved with your help.

Through their personal development and family reconciliation programs, the Daughters of the Heart of Mary are equipped to end the generational cycle of trauma once and for all — and with your support, they can succeed. Please give generously and empower the center to rescue these girls, ensuring they have a restored path of opportunity and a new reason for hope!



Seize this important opportunity to rescue and empower young girls in Kenya!

Our Mission

We mobilize the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Good Stewardship

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach.



Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2024, the close of our ministry's fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.

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