

# World Day of Prayer and Action for Children

Brief Report



World Day of  
Prayer and Action  
for Children



20<sup>th</sup> November 2013



**Wamy Isiolo Children's Home**

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## Executive Summary

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of November parents, teachers, care givers, religious leaders and members of civil society from Isiolo County came together at the Wamy Isiolo Children's Home to commemorate the World Day of Prayer and Action for children.

The theme of the open forum was; *stop violence against children*. In line with the theme participants discussed several issues that touch on education and children in the marginalised areas like Isiolo. These issues included: early/child marriages, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), importance birth registration, positive parenting and positive discipline.

The open forum resolved to promote the following:-

- To practice and disseminate the information acquired at the forum to other parents, guardians and care givers.
- Increasing vigilance on early marriages and FGM.
- Promoting and sharing positive parenting principles, skills and tools.
- Participants vowed to be role models for their children
- Urging leaders in authority and outside to continue taking positive action for children in the area of education especially in the marginalised zones.

## **Acknowledgements**

Let me take this opportunity to thank the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children Director Meg Gardinier and her staff at DPAC headquarters in New York for providing us with the seed grant to facilitate this activity.

Special thank you also to Dr Mustafa Ali, the Secretary General of GNRC and Bro Mohammed Belall the Program Manager at GNRC Nairobi.

Let me also thank Issa Yunus the orphan program coordinator at WAMY and Irshad Ibrahim the WAMY Kenya country director for all their support and encouragement.

Your rewards are with Allah – the beneficial, the merciful.

**Said Abdalla**

Nairobi

21st November 2013

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## **1.0 Background**

The Global Network of Religions for Children GNRC's Third Forum held in Hiroshima 24-26<sup>th</sup> May 2008 adopted the 20<sup>th</sup> of November –the UN international children's day- as the *Day of Prayer and Action for Children (DPAC)*. The Forum together with relevant governments, non-governmental and community-based organizations, and other stakeholders called on all people of the world's religious and spiritual traditions, to take action with and for children on this day each year.

The World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY) partnered with GNRC's DPAC's implementing partner in Isiolo, Kenya and through the representatives of Somaliland Association of Youth Salvation (SAYS) in Hargeisa Somaliland.

## **2.0 Introduction**

Wamy-Kenya's principal goal is to produce future leaders who are patriotic, honest, well educated and who appreciate cultural diversity through youth education, empowerment and sustainable development. To achieve this Wamy endeavors to facilitate forums of dialogue and understanding between different religious and ethnic communities.

WAMY invited parents, teachers, children, religious leaders, women groups and civil society for an open forum at Wamy Isiolo children's Home (WISCH) to commemorate the World Day of Prayers and Action for Children 2013. The theme of the forum was: stop violence against children.

## **3.0 Issues**

The open forum discussed several pertinent issues affecting children including:-

- Impact of early marriages on children's education
- Impact of FGM on girl child education and general wellbeing
- Impact of child marriage on education of children and welfare
- Training on positive parenting and positive discipline
- Sensitization on the need for birth registration

Other issues that came up on the open forum include:-

- The challenges of poverty and its impact on education in marginalised areas where many schools are under-funded and lack qualified teachers.
- Cultural issues affecting children education where the boy child is preferred over the girl child.
- Corruption in distributing Constituency Development Fund (CDF) bursaries for children. Only certain tribes seem to be getting these bursaries.

- The need to learn self-reliance in order to deal with poverty.
- It was noted that farming for the pastoralists is possible through simple training and support.
- Alcoholism and drug addiction were identified as major contributing factors that increase violence against children.
- FGM was illegal and all efforts were to be put in place to stop this practice. The religious leaders were particularly concerned about this issue especially considering that we were moving towards the season when it is implemented (December)
- The dilemma of parents who sell their cows to get school fees for their children; only for their children to fail in national examination.
- The need for tertiary technical training institutes was discussed.
- Early marriages, FGM, poor parenting and lack of birth registration certificates all negatively affect children education an especially so in marginalised area like Isiolo.

#### **4.0 Participation**

There were 44 adult participants and 15 children from WISCH. The participants included parents/guardians of WISCH, teachers from WISCH and other neighbouring schools, religious and civil society members and opinion leaders.

Due to absence of the *pepo la jangwani* children's home manager (with apology attending to ill mother) we could not visit the children's home. The participants were encouraged to tour the WISCH instead. The participants were also entertained by the children who sang for them several *Kaswidias* and performed one play on the importance of hygiene for children's health.

#### **5.0 Methodology**

The following methods were used during the pen forum:-

- Open discussions
- Expert presentations
- Question and answer sessions
- Plays and songs

#### **6.0 Facilitation**

Six people where key facilitators and or speakers for the open forum:-

- Sister Amina Isaack from Pastoralists Women for Education
- Sheikh Mohammed Abdulkadir chairman supreme council of Kenya Muslim SUPKEM – isiolo
- Sheikh Dabaso Ali secretary general supreme council of Kenya Muslim SUPKEM –isiolo
- Reverend Judy Golicha Methodist Church of Kenya and Interfaith Committee Isiolo

- Said Abdalla from WAMY training on positive parenting and discipline (sitting in for Musa Mwale)
- Sheikh Abrahman Mweka of National Muslim Leaders Forum (NAMLEF)



## 7.0 Resolutions

**The following resolutions were adapted by the forum.**

- To practice and disseminate the information acquired at the forum to other parents, guardians and care givers.
- Increasing vigilance on early marriages and FGM.
- Promoting and sharing positive parenting principles, skills and tools.
- Participants vowed to be role models for their children
- Urging leaders in authority and outside to continue taking positive action for children in the area of education especially in the marginalised zones.

## Annex I Program

### World Day Prayer and Action for Children

20<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Venue: Wamy Isiolo Children Home

#### *Programme*

7.00 am - 8.30 am	Arrival of Guests at WISCH
8.30 am- 9.00am	Prayers, Introductions and brief background on the DPAC - Abdallah Kara and Abu Aamir Hassan (Introduction to WISCH) -Said Abdalla - GNRC and DPAC
9.00am -11.00am	Education in the Marginalized Areas; Importance, Challenges and Opportunities. -Presentation and open forum -Sister Amina Isaack (Pastoralists Women for Education)
10-30am-11.00am	Tea and Health break
11.00am-1.00pm	Positive Parenting and Positive Discipline Training -Question and answer session -Open Discussions -Bro Musa Mwale (Family Resource Center)
1.00am-2.00pm	Dhuhur Salah and Lunch
2.00pm-3.00pm	Poems and <i>Kaswidas</i> by (Children from WISCH)
3.00pm-4.00pm	Visit to <i>Pepo la Jangwani</i> Children Home.
4.00pm-onwards	Vote of thanks, Close and Asr prayers



## Annex II Attendance list

Abdub Halkano Tore	WAMY
Mohamed Roba	WAMY
Musa Abdul Majid Ibrahim	Moi University
Salim Umar Suleiman	Moi University
Abdi Wako	Parent WISCH
Ibrahim Halakhe Guyo	WISCH parent
Abdirahman Mweka	NAMLEF and interfaith group
Abdi Ibrahim	Isiolo Disabled county secretary
Rev Judy Golicha	Methodist church of Kenya Interfaith clergy
Muhammed methu	parent
Diamu Gofu	parent /WISCH staff
Fatuma Sheikh Abdinasir	Parent
Hawa Hassan	parent
Mohammed Dida	parent/WISCH staff
Pastor Francis Kimathi Ndegwa	interfaith committee and National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK)
Arch Decon Abraham Oche Riwe	NCCCK
Abdi Guyo	Teacher Kambi Garba primary school
Mahad Molu	Teacher kambi Garba primary school
Abdi Noor Mohammed	parent
Jamal Dida	parent
Nicholas Koome	interfaith committee
Pastor Christopher Lomwa	interfaith committee
Markabo G Jattani	WISCH
Fatuma M Said	Teacher Kambi Garba Primary School
Fatuma Mohammed	Teacher Kambi Garba Primary School
Fatuma Dida	Teacher Kambi Garba Primary School
Fatuma Abguelo	Teacher Kambi Garba Primary School
Habiba Hassan	Teacher Kambi Garba Primary School
Amina Ali	parent
Hawa Ibrahim	parent
Halima Mohammed	parent
Halima Juma	parent
Hawa Mohammed	parent
Halima Mohammed Ali	parent
Zuleikha Mohamed	parent
Asinimo Mohammed Noor	parent
Antoinette Nadoupua	parent
Ouqula Hassan	parent
Amina Omar Halima Abdillahi	parent
Sheikh Dabaso Ali	SG SUPKEM –Isiolo
Sheikh Mohammed Abdikadir	chairman SUPKEM –Isiolo
Sister Amina Isaack	Pastoralists Women for Education

Annex III Pictures





