



160 Girls Justice Club Leadership Impact 2022

August 2023

The equality effect & 160 Girls

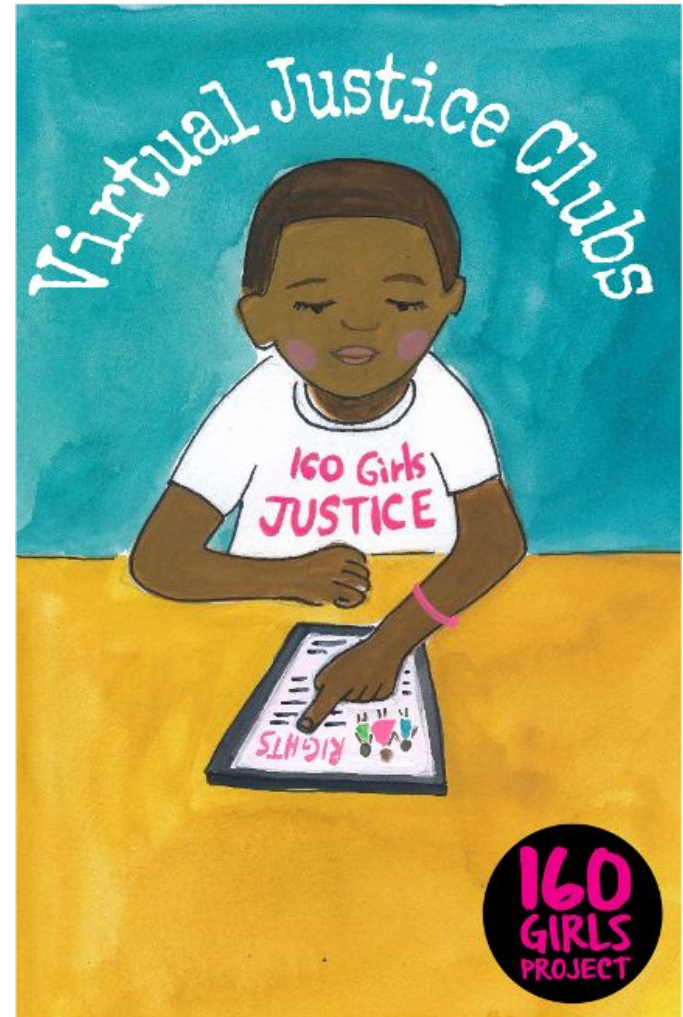


The *equality effect* (e²) is an international NGO that uses the law to make girls' and women's rights real so that they are safe from sexual violence, can attend school, and can live healthy lives.

In 2012, e² filed a Constitutional claim inspired by 160 girls, all rape victims between the ages of 3 and 12, who had been denied access to justice by the police. The Kenya High Court decided in favor of the girls; the decision set the high water mark for girls' rights internationally. In 2017 the U.N. recognized 160 Girls as a best practice for advancing women's rights and empowerment.

Virtual Justice Clubs An Introduction

Pre-Covid-19, the 160 Girls Justice Clubs were implemented in schools in 4 counties in Kenya to teach and empower children regarding their human rights with respect to rape, investigations, and access to justice. Student leaders worked with their peers, teachers and police using art, poetry, drama, music, etc. These Justice Clubs also provided opportunities for students to learn practical skills for dealing with rape, reporting rape, and access to justice.



Developed in response to the COVID pandemic



The Virtual Justice Clubs (VJC) are the reconceptualization of the 160 Girls Justice Clubs, developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic – done virtually via iPads in individual homes. VJCs provide human rights education, and also provide community engagement through the 160 Girls Justice Journal, a bi-weekly newspaper shared with community members, delivered by teams of VJC leaders, teachers, rape rescue workers and local police.

Justice Club 'Leaders' are selected by their teachers, using Justice Club selection criteria to identify students with good leadership potential. The role of the Justice Club leaders is to implement the Club activities, act as equality mentors to Club members, and act as advocates for peers who may report sexual assault.

Virtual Justice Clubs by the Numbers

6

month
program

3

Regions:
Homabay,
Kilifi & Kwale

45

cohorts of
students per
region

9

participating
schools

681

cohorts of
students per
region

2

rape rescue NGO
partners supporting
the program

20,320

Justice Journal
print outreach



Virtual Justice Clubs Measurement

VJC leaders and members were surveyed pre and post engagement. Surveys included questions grouped into different categories: demographic, defilement reporting, police interaction, empowerment, among others. The data collection was conducted through the VJC app.

2022 Virtual Justice Clubs Survey Respondents

Survey responses include 681 from VJC leaders of which;

- ❑ **412 (57.9%)** were female and 285 were male (40.1%)
- ❑ **81.2 % (577)** identified to be without disability.
- ❑ **18.85% (134)** identified to be with disability.
- ❑ **225** were from Kwale, **225** were from Kilifi and **231** were from Homabay Counties respectively.
- ❑ **75%** of the respondents are located within the radius of semi-urban or urban areas of Homabay, Kilifi and Kwale (approximate of 5km from towns).
25% are located within rural areas of Watamu/Homabay/Diani respectively.

**Note: % of respondents in each of the following slides reflects only responses that could be coded. For each question, only a small number, i.e. <5, could not be coded.*



Justice Club Leaders – Survey Analysis

Survey findings provide strong evidence that the 160 Girls Student Justice Clubs & Virtual Justice Clubs continue to change the culture of rape in the areas in which the clubs are implemented.

Data analysis of surveys of Justice Club leaders shows the following key themes:

- Community impact & cultural shift
 - **club leadership translates into community leadership** through building confidence
 - **talking about human rights & defilement becomes destigmatized** and more permissible in broader context (outside club confines)
- Personal growth & development
 - **Students develop important life skills through club leadership** – both hard (reading, writing, use of technology) & soft skills (confidence, empowerment)
- Police relations: **positive interactions with police remain high**, but scaling up program will impact how often club leaders interact with police (higher ratio of leaders to police)
- Political context: **election timing impacts club activities** and police relations due to political uncertainty & political campaigning, especially as it relates to delivery of Justice Club Journals

Community Impact & Cultural Shift

“I liked the way our uniform shines like stars, when we pass it make people alerts ⚠️”

“Yes, I would like if you continue helping people and encouraging people who think they are alone.”

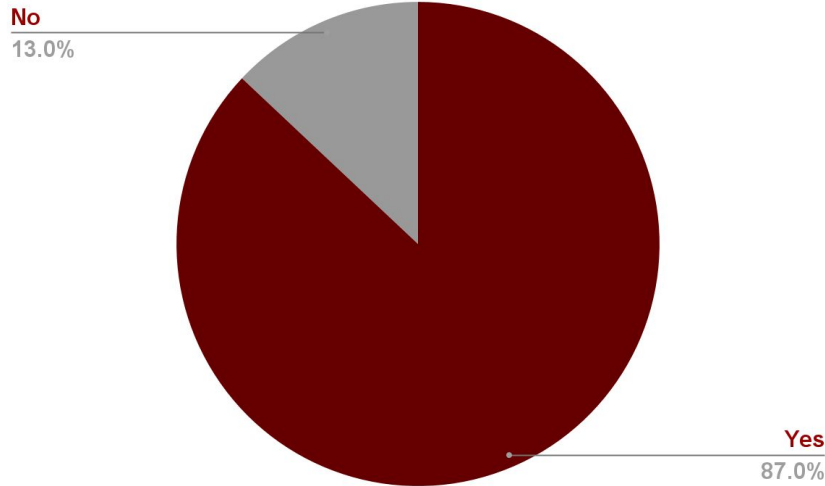
“I would like this club to be taken to rural areas.”

“I have learnt that we are not alone when we face some problems”

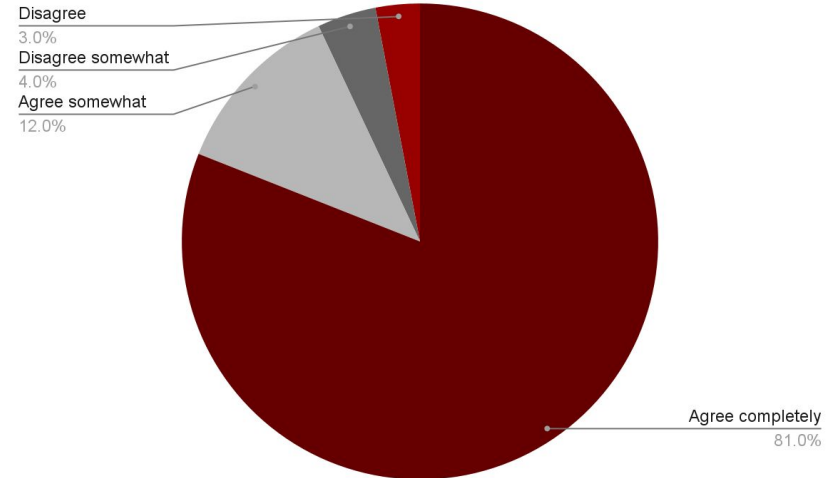


Consistent with 2021 findings, almost all VJC Club Leaders are seen as community leaders as a result of their VJC club leadership, with 93% of respondents believing that the Justice Journal provides a key opportunity for sharing ideas with their communities

QUESTION: Would your peers now consider you to be a leader in your community?



QUESTION: Participating in the Justice Journal through the community conversation gave you an opportunity to share your ideas with your community.

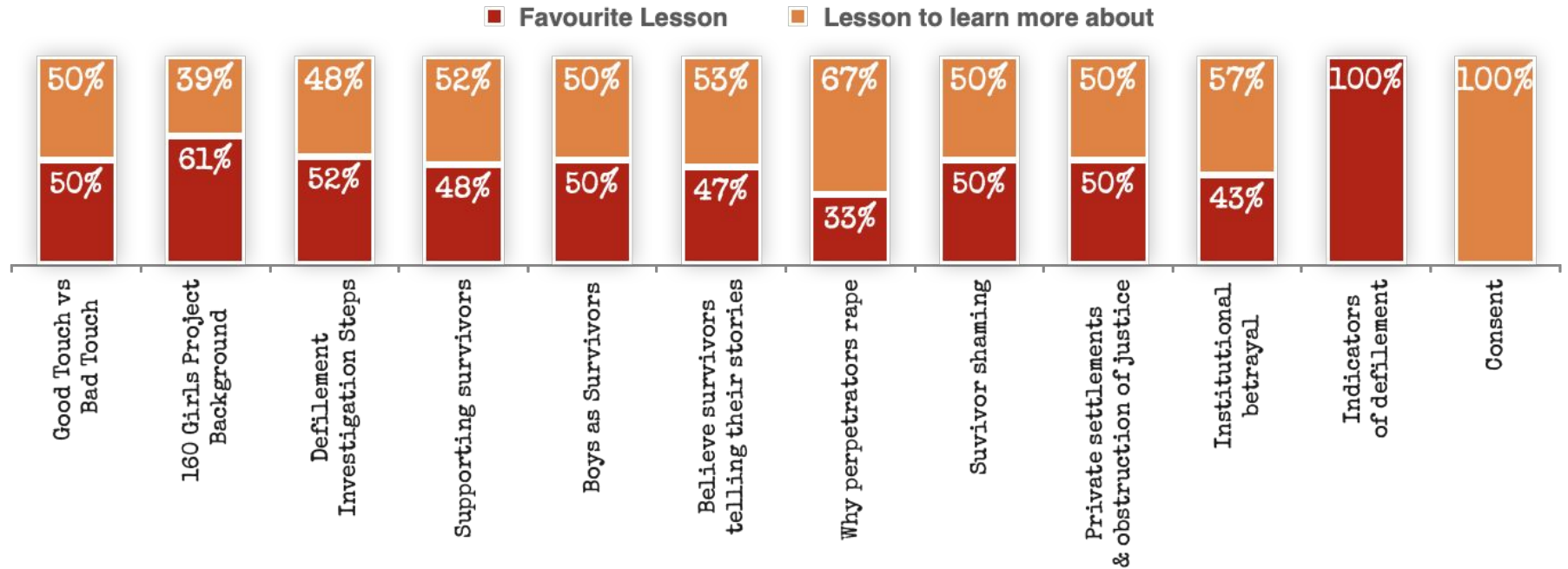


note: in the pre-survey, only 70% considered themselves leaders in the community (+17% as a result of VJC club leadership!)

Responses are not mutually exclusive

Seeking justice: Student's favourite lesson was good touch vs bad touch, and they want to know more about it as well as defilement investigation steps; as evidence of culture shift, topics that are highly stigmatized within communities are the most sought after within the safe space of the Justice Club

QUESTION: What was your favourite lessons from the virtual justice club curriculum? What VJC topic would you like to learn more about? You can select a VJC Lesson that you would like to learn more about, or any other human rights law topics that you are interested in learning about.



With the tools & learning provided by the Virtual Justice Club, VJC leaders became community resources, confidently offering support & information to those wanting to talk about gender & sexual-based violence, reducing the stigma associated with talking about these topics

question:

Through the VJC, you became a justice leader in your community. Did anyone ask you questions about gender or sexual-based violence?

77%

Answered YES

*Note: in the pre-survey, 71% of leaders had **never** spoken to anyone in their community about these topics*



question:

Did you feel confident answering their questions about gender or sexual-based violence?

79%

Answered YES

Note: in the pre-survey, 54% of leaders said they would be **uncomfortable** talking about these topics

Personal Growth & Development

“Yes, it improved my writing skills and reading.”

“It really helped in many ways especially the stories helped me to improve in my literature.”

“It made me gain more confidence.”

“It has helped me to sharpen up my English language”

“I would like to see the Justice Club helping other communities round the world and also, I would like to be a leader in future of the 160 project”

“Thanks for empowering us to know more about our rights.”

“It helps us to be more confident of ourselves.”



VJC leaders gained practical knowledge & leadership skills and learned how to help others as a result of their involvement in the club

Question: Through your experience with Virtual Justice clubs, what did you learn about yourself as a leader?

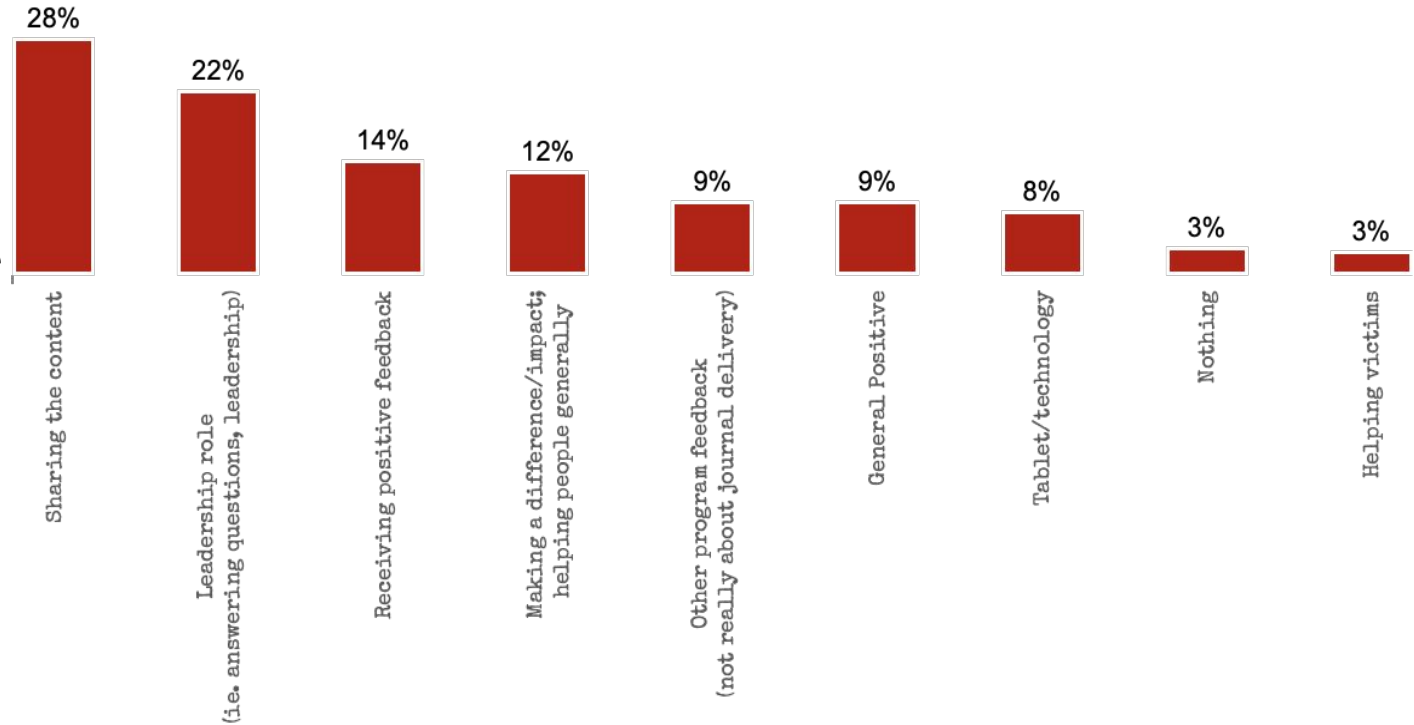


*Data analysis team assumes respondents answered according to what they learned more broadly vs what they learned about themselves
% of respondents reflects only responses that could be coded
Responses are not mutually exclusive*

VJC leaders enjoyed sharing content with their community, being in a leadership role, and receiving positive feedback from community members

QUESTION:

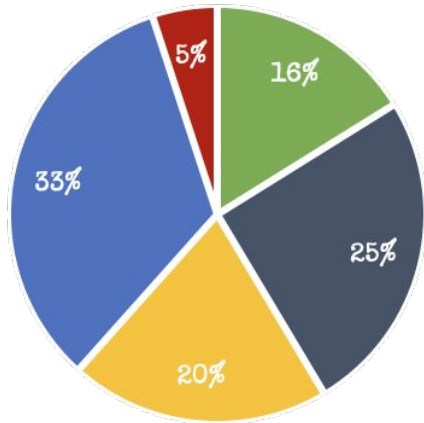
Please tell us all the things you liked about delivering the 160 Girls justice journal in your community.



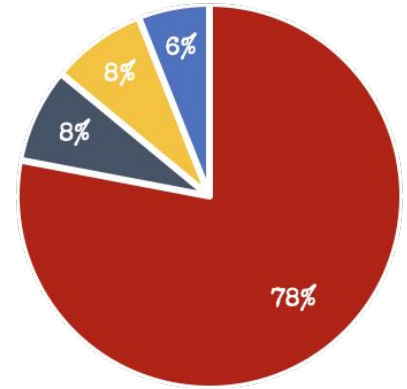
Devices enabled VJC leaders to improve reading, writing, & technological skills, while also allowing them to share content with siblings & friends, increasing the reach of the VJC – each device enabled 5 leaders to share content with their peers, averaging 3 peers per household (135 devices x 5 leaders x 3 peers = 2000+ reach, getting access to VJC content)

QUESTION: What was the thing you liked about having the device?

- The VJC app content was engaging and interesting
- Sharing the device with siblings & friends, completing the program with them
- I improved my technology skills
- I improved my English reading and writing
- None of the above



QUESTION: Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: I found the tablet good for sharing the VJC content with relatives/friends.



- Agree completely
- Agree somewhat
- Disagree completely
- Disagree somewhat

Police Relations

CRIME
OFFICE

“To continue helping people... so they can report to the police station and help them to get the child to go back to school in order to get a better life”

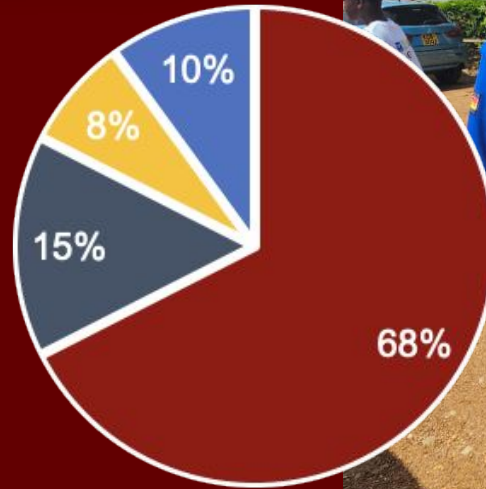
CRIME
BRANCH

160
GIRLS
PROJECT



83% of VJC leaders* had positive interactions with the police

QUESTION: Choose the statement that best describes your interactions with the police officers who supported the VJC and delivered the 160 Girls justice Journal - either with you or with other Justice club leaders*?



- Very positive
- Somewhat positive
- Somewhat negative
- Very negative

* Of the 81% of leaders that interacted with the police



Political context:

2022 General Election Probable Impact on VJC: election context negatively impacted community interactions specific to the Justice Journal distribution

“I dislike how some people chase me back with the news newsletter.”

“When we were giving out news letters people were talking bad about us, some were saying that we are devil worship.”

“When I gave the newsletter to people other people torn them into pieces”

In 2022, there was a General Election in Kenya. Compared to prior VJC results (2021), there were some changes observed in 2022 results which may be attributed to the political climate in which the 2022 VJCs operated.

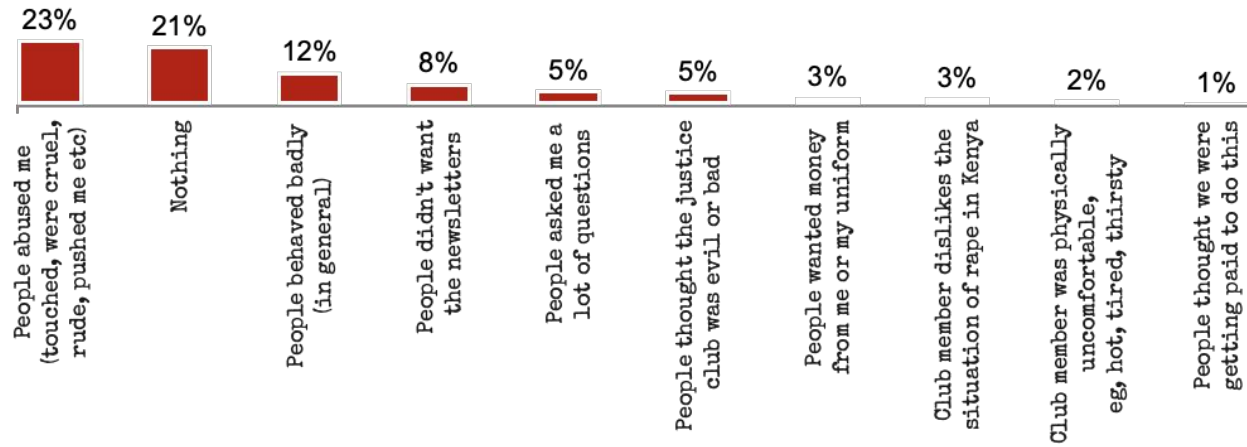
Notable changes observed vs prior club results:

- Slightly less club leaders perceived to be leaders in the community
- Less interaction with police, and slightly more negative interactions
- Significantly more feedback re: dislikes during journal distribution

For context, during election seasons in Kenya, it is typical that there is associated community disruption, and in some cases, violence (2007 post-election violence). During the months preceding General Elections, there are crowds of competing campaigning parties in public spaces (campaigning door-to-door, in markets) – these include some of the same spaces where VJC leaders are also trying to share information, and they could be seen as competing for a platform. Arguably, club leaders were confused with political candidates and the Justice Journal confused with political propaganda.

2022 Post

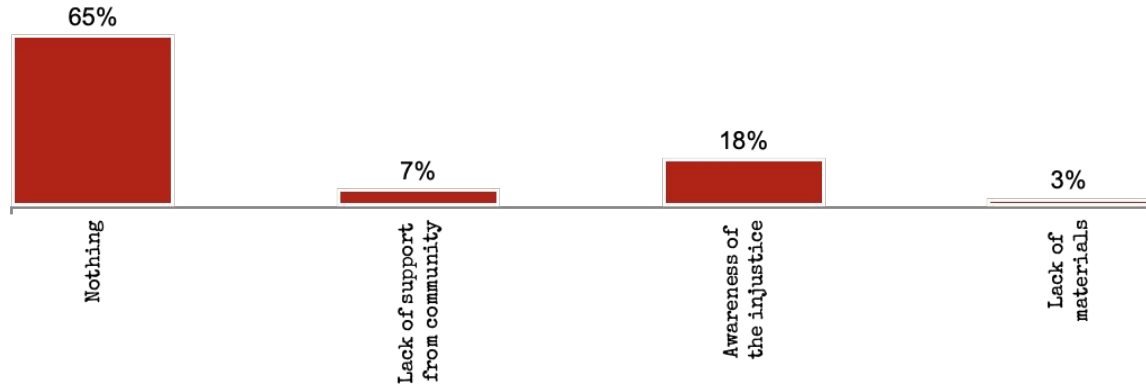
Please tell us all the things you disliked about delivering the 160 Girls Justice Journal in your community.



When comparing dislikes related to delivering the Justice Journals within communities, 65% said 'nothing' in 2021 vs only 21% in 2022; notably, 35% of VJC leaders in 2022 reported disliking various forms of abuse and people generally behaving badly towards them

2021 Post

Please tell us all the things you disliked about your experience with the 160 Girls Justice Journal.



The Bottom Line:

There is a **dire need** to continue funding the 160 Girls programming which has proven effective in empowering girls, changing the culture of rape, and providing resources and access to justice for those who have been defiled.

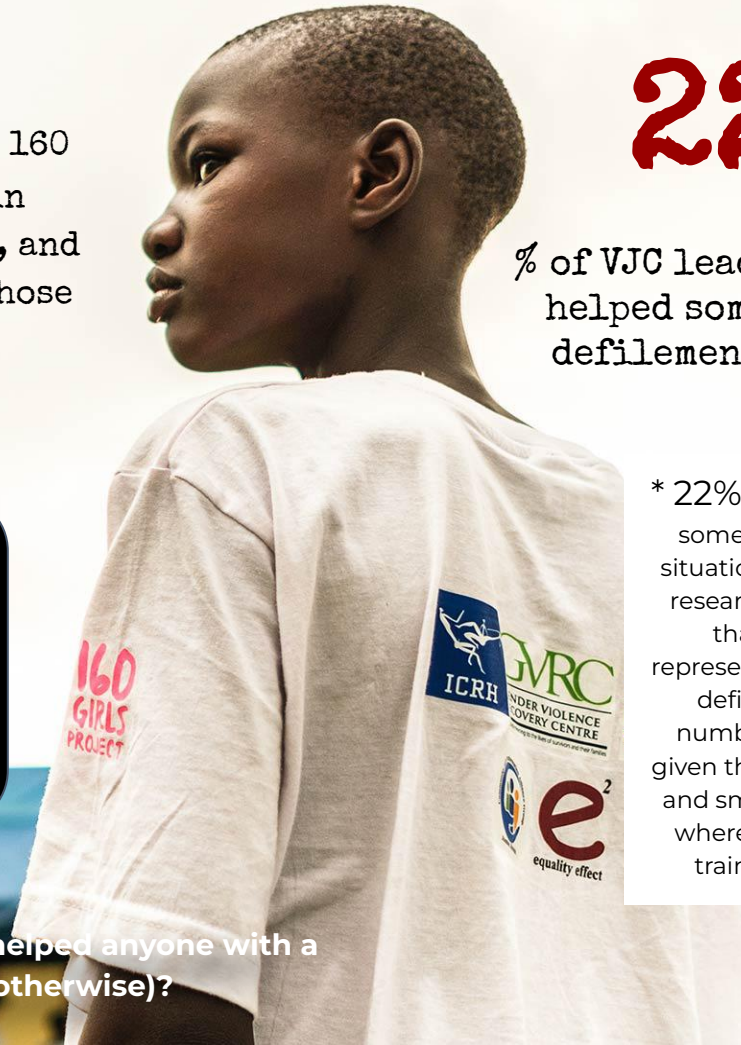
“Everything I experienced with the Virtual Justice Club have explained it all above and not to mention my experiences were so so pleasing and amazing..Thank you so much for your help and support and we love you”

QUESTION: Since you became a VJC leader, have you helped anyone with a defilement situation (During newsletter deliveries or otherwise)?

22%*

% of VJC leaders who have helped someone with a defilement situation

* 22% of VJC leaders helped someone with a defilement situation – based on previous research, it is safe to assume that 22% is grossly under representative of the true # of defilements, and yet still a number too high, especially given the short period of time and small number of regions where VJC exists and where trainings have taken place



Conclusions based on key findings

1. VJC leaders are seen as community leaders
2. The Justice Journal provides a key opportunity for sharing information within communities (specifically as it relates to defilement, which is information which may not be shared and/or discussed otherwise)
3. Topics that are highly stigmatized within communities are most sought after with respect to Justice Club lessons (i.e. good touch vs bad touch)
4. With the tools & lessons provided by the VJC, VJC leaders became community resources, confidently helping those seeking information about gender or sexual-based violence
5. As a result of their involvement in the clubs, VJC leaders:
 - a. gained practical knowledge and leadership skills
 - b. learned how to help others
 - c. enjoyed sharing content with their communities & received positive feedback from community members
6. Devices are key to the success of the VJC for three key reasons:
 - a. enabling VJC leaders to improve reading, writing, and technological skills,
 - b. increasing reach: VJC leaders use devices to share content with siblings & friends (each device enabled 5 leaders to share content with an average of 3 peers – 135 devices x 5 leaders / device x 3 peers = 2000+ youth reached)
 - c. Data collection & analysis to measure effectiveness & provide recommendations for future programming
7. Over 80% of VJC leaders that interacted with police has positive interactions
8. 2022 General Election in Kenya likely negatively impacted community interactions specific to Justice Journal distribution as more club members reported negative community interactions vs prior year
9. VJC leaders continue to help those who have been defiled in their communities seek justice and support resources

CRIME

Funding Recommendations

In light of the findings, the following actions are recommended to continue and build on the success of the Student Justice Clubs:

1. Continue to invest in improved technology & more devices as these enable:
 - a. reading, writing, digital literacy skills for club members
 - b. broader reach (more devices means access to VJC content for more youth)
 - c. more accurate data collection, management, & analysis
2. Continue to invest in the Justice Journal activities – distribution etc. while also ensuring VJC members are clearly distinguished from political groups
3. Expansion of digital content as devices are used to share content with peers & siblings
4. Continued expansion to as many regions & schools as possible to continue changing the culture of rape

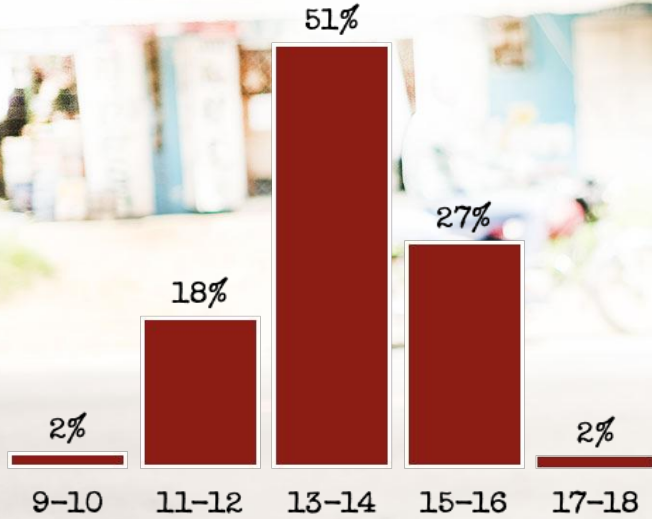


Recommendations to sustain programming

1. In election years, find better way of distributing justice journals & distinguishing VJC members from political parties
2. As program scales up, strategically plan more activities to collaborate with police in order to:
 - a. enable positive police interactions
 - b. continue building trust & relationships
3. Continue to teach practical change-making skills i.e. steps to report a defilement
4. Continue to encourage sharing of information/content with peers & siblings via devices
5. Consider including more interactive content / content specifically developed for sharing on devices and that encourage discussion while learning
6. Use resources more efficiently as program scales up i.e. sharing devices, consolidated data analysis
7. Tailor content based on survey responses
 - a. members want to know more about good touch vs bad touch so increase amount of related content
 - b. Evaluate most popular lessons – use format of these lessons and apply to other content to increase engagement



Demographic Data



Respondents by age

% of respondents reflects only responses that could be coded

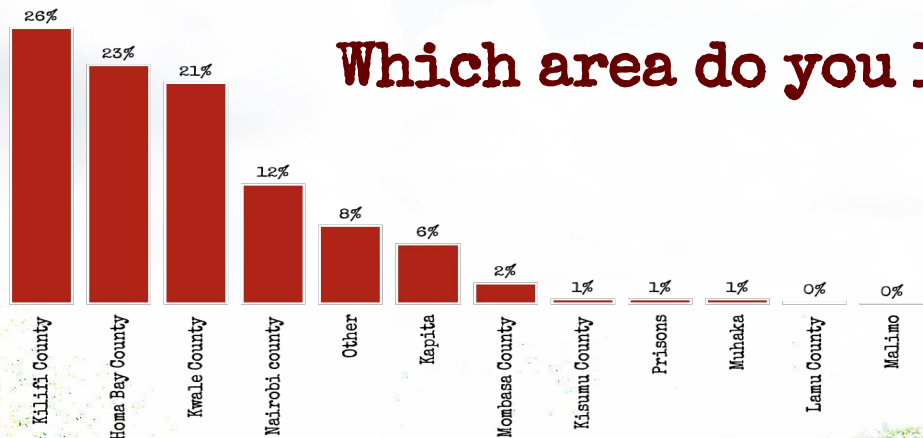
72%

of respondents identify as female

28%

of respondents identify as male

Which area do you live in?



% of respondents reflects only responses in regions with more than 5 people



Overview of Research Study



Purpose

to measure the impact of the distribution of the EE Justice Journals in communities where the children and the police have been trained on the rights and procedures pertaining to defilement of minors in Kenya. A series of informational journals were distributed by students with police escorts at public gatherings and door to door in the Kilifi, Homa Bay and Kwale counties from date to date

Method

Trained interviewers administered research surveys to people intercepted in the community and door to door. To establish a baseline of knowledge, 248 people were surveyed before the Justice Journals were distributed (dates??). 204 people were surveyed X months after a series of # journals were distributed in the community to detect changes.

Sample

Both pre and post samples were fairly evenly split between male and female respondents, were largely between 21 and 60 years old and over 55% had secondary or higher levels of education

The Justice Journals are Well Received

98%

of Justice Journal recipients are interested in receiving new issues

99%

learned new information about women and girl's rights and sexual and gender-based violence from the Justice Journals that they did not know before.





The Justice Journals Have Raised Awareness of Legal Rights

The journals significantly increased the awareness of “The 160 Girls Decision”:

36% of people aware before the journals;
98% after receiving the journals

More people agree that rape victims are entitled to justice under the new constitution:

82% before the journals;
94% after the journals

People are aware of court decisions that require the police to investigate defilement claims professionally

65% before the journal;
97% after receiving the journals

The Journals Have Provided Important Knowledge for the Management of Defilement



People are much better at recognizing signs of defilement”, how to tell if a child has been raped:

99% after the journals
78% before

People are more knowledgeable about the steps police must make to investigate a defilement:

97% after the journals
71% before



Thank you to all of
our partners!



www.theequalityeffect.org

