



# 160 Girls Justice Club Leadership Impact 2023

August 2024

# The equality effect & 160 Girls

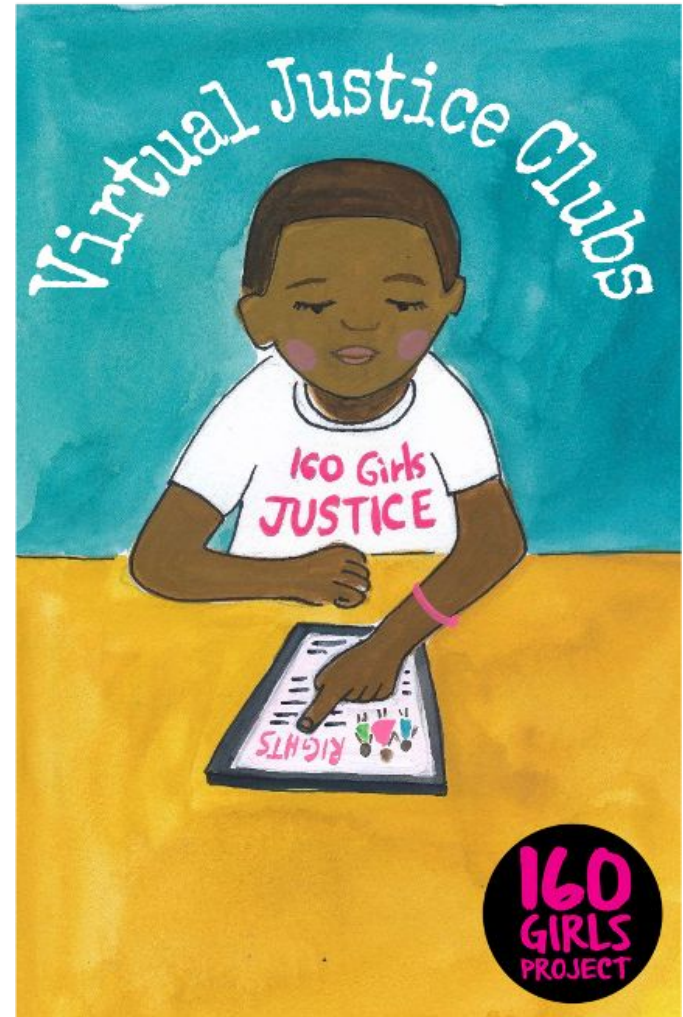


The *equality effect* (e<sup>2</sup>) is an international NGO that uses the law to make girls' and women's rights real so that they are safe from sexual violence, can attend school, and can live healthy lives.

In 2012, e<sup>2</sup> 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

**227**

VJC leaders  
per region

**9**

participating  
schools

**681**

total VJC  
leaders

**3**

rape rescue NGO  
partners supporting  
the program

**25,260**

Justice Journal  
print outreach



## Virtual Justice Clubs Measurement

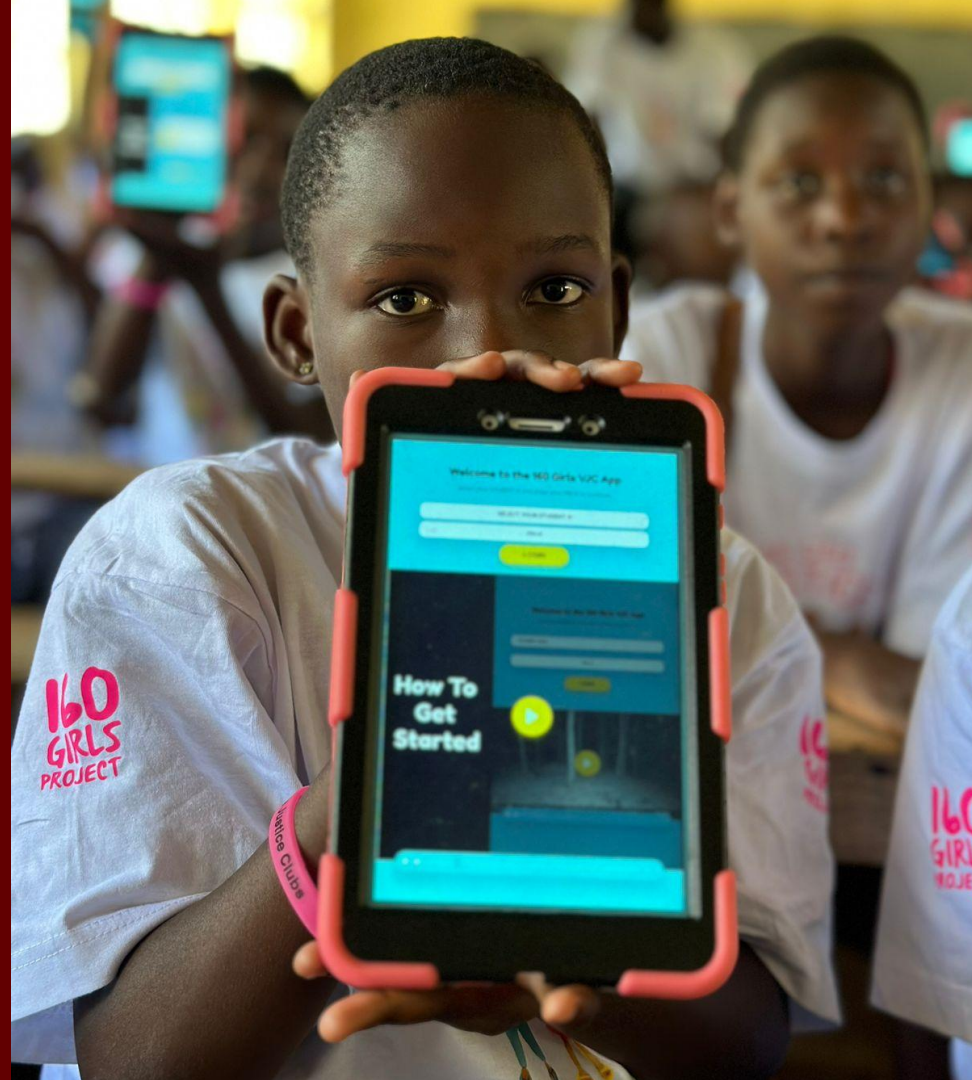
VJC leaders and members were surveyed pre and post engagement. Surveys included questions grouped into different categories: demographic, defilement reporting, police interaction, empowerment, among others. The data collection was conducted through the VJC app.

# 2023 Virtual Justice Clubs Survey Respondents

Survey respondents include 711 VJC student leaders, of which;

- ❑ **412** were female and **285** were male and **14** other.
- ❑ **577** identified to be without disability.
- ❑ **131** identified to be with disability.
- ❑ **228** were from Kwale, **248** were from Kilifi and **235** were from Homabay Counties respectively.
- ❑ **16.31%** of the respondents are located within the radius of semi-urban or urban areas of Homabay, Kilifi and Kwale (approximate of 5km from towns).
- ❑ **83.68%** 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.**

## **Key themes:**

- Community impact & cultural shift
  - **Club leadership translates into community leadership** through building confidence
  - Community conversations about human rights & child rape continue to decrease stigma
- 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.**
  - Scaling up program will increase frequency of police interactions (higher ratio of leaders to police).



# Community Impact & Cultural Shift



“I liked the way the community was supporting me.”

“I would like to help other people who not joined the club of the 160 Girl. I would also love if the people who are teaching us know will continue the best work that they are doing.”

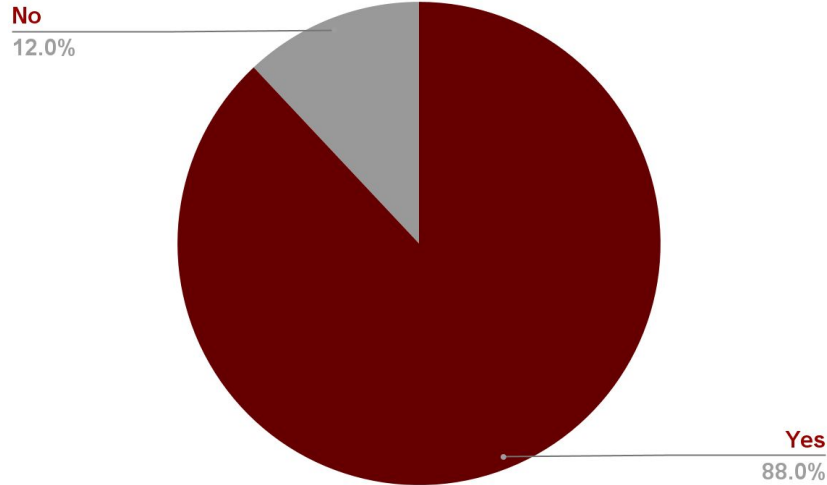
“I like how people were asking me questions and I was responding them correctly they were said that we are hardworking and we should not give up.”

“People taking the journal always encourages us to continue empowering the community members.”

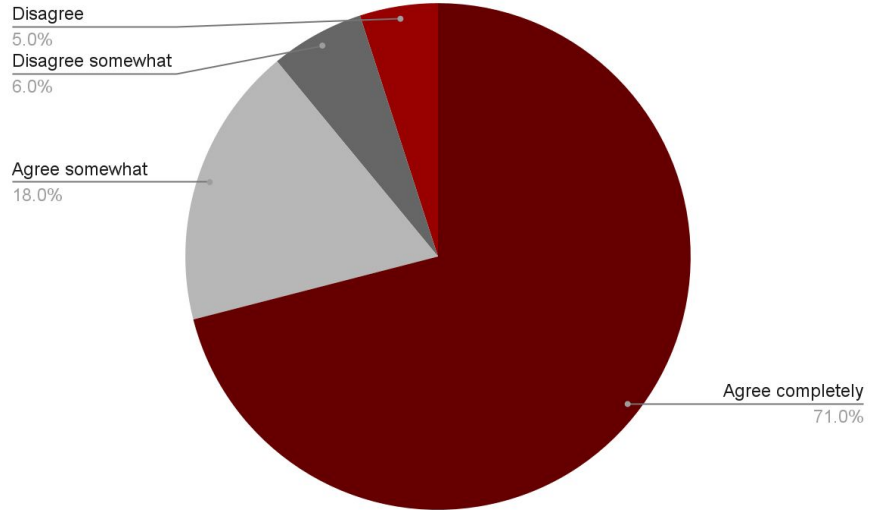
“First I would like to thank all the members of 160 projects for saving us because we didn't know what to do.”

The majority of VJC Club Leaders are seen as community leaders as a result of their VJC club leadership, with 89% 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?**



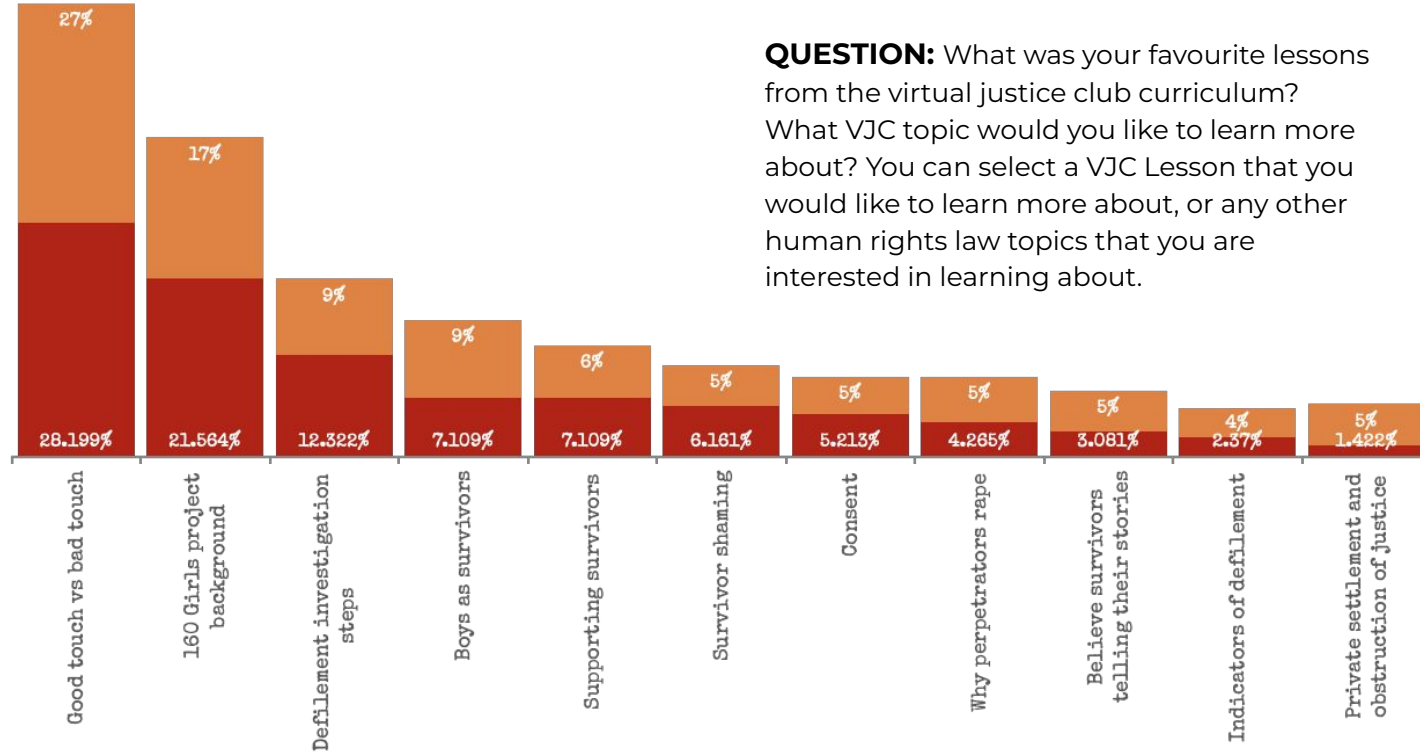
**QUESTION: Participating in the Justice Journal through the community conversation gave you an opportunity to share your ideas with your community.**



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 the background of the 160 Girls Project and defilement investigation steps. This is evidence of a shift in culture to learn more on topics that are highly stigmatized within the community are the most sought after learning within a safe space of the 160 Girls Project.



**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, 55% 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?

76%

Answered YES

*Note: in the pre-survey, 37% of leaders said they would be **uncomfortable** talking about these topics*



# Personal Growth & Development

“Yes I can tell you that now I can talk to people face to face.”

“This club encourages me. I would like to encourage the club to help others community in our country even other countries in the world. This club has encouraged me to be whom I am, and I can now talk with no fear in front of many people or a gathering. It has developed my self esteem. It has made other children to feel they are cared for by the VJC club, that makes me congratulate this club.”

“I feel happy because we have learnt something from virtual justice club and we have improved in reading and typing letters.”

“It made me to know my rights as and have me confidence as girl.”

“Virtual justice club has totally changed my life.”

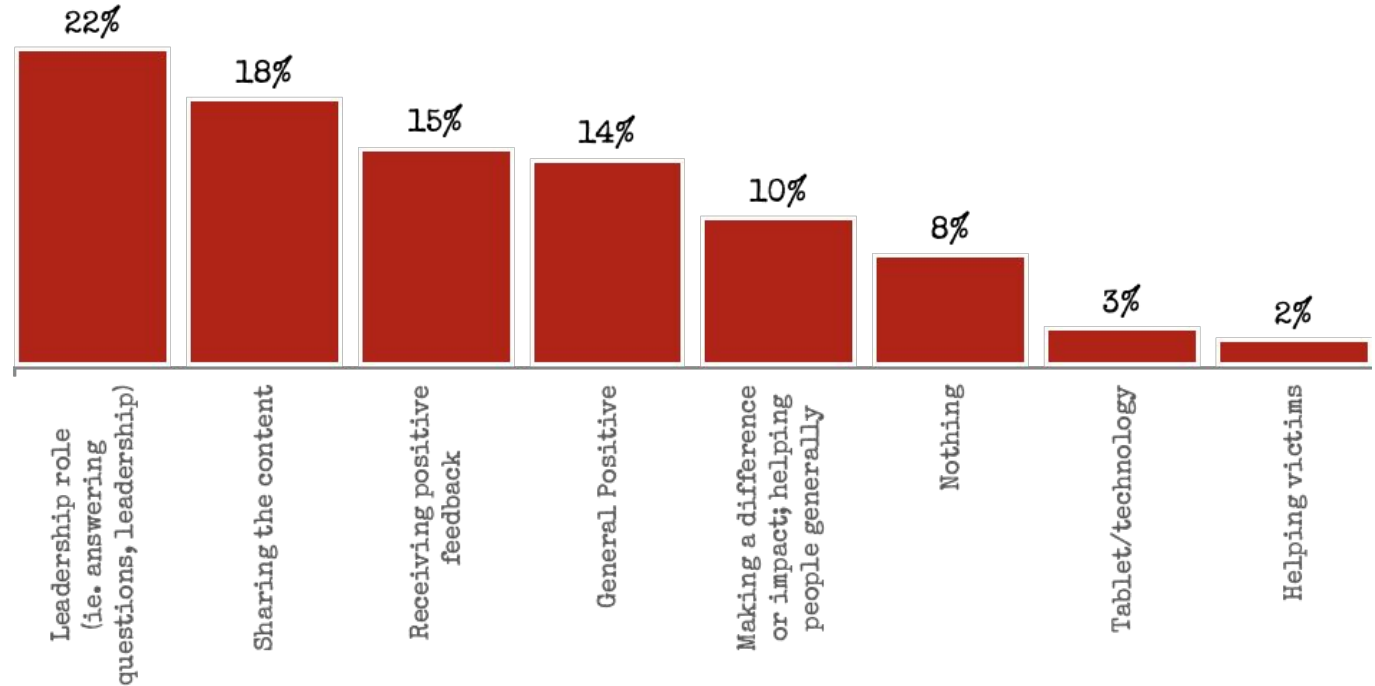
“Informing people about Defilement and how to prevent them, it's gain me with a lot of confidence, courage and the ability to stand firmly as a vjc leader.”



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

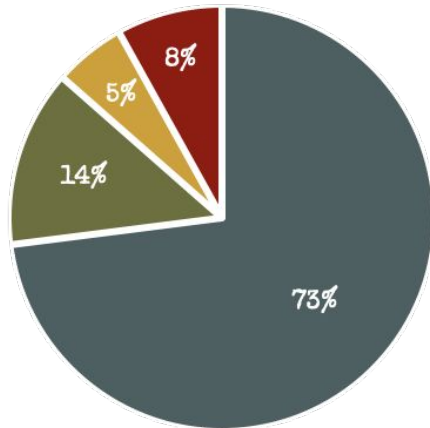
## QUESTION:

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



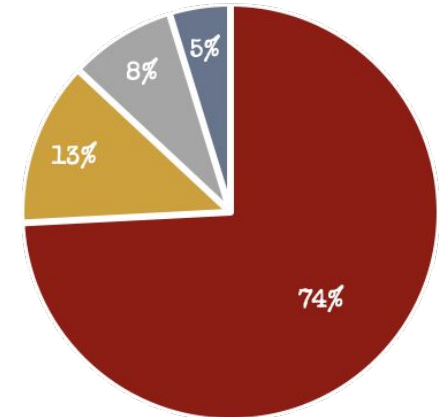
Devices enabled VJC leaders to improve reading, writing, & technological skills, while also creating a greater comfort level with technology that will extend past their participation in the project.

**My reading and writing skills in English have improved because of my VJC participation.**




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

**Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. I feel more comfortable using technology after completing the VJC program.**



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

# Police Relations



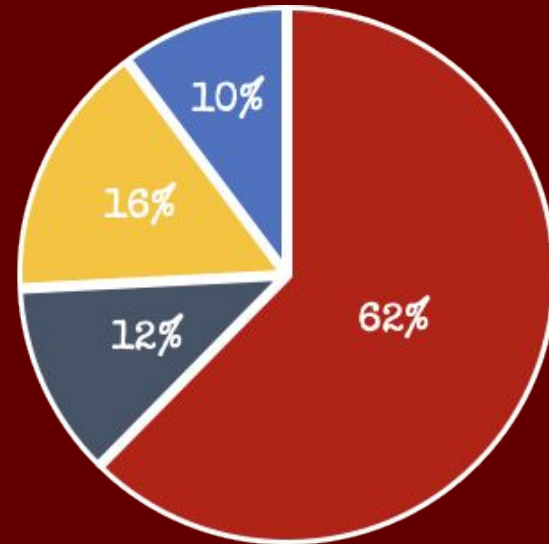
“I talk to the survivor and we went to police station and report what has happen.”

“I like delivering the 160 girls justice journal because I also help the police and the community.”



# 74% of VJC leaders\* had positive interactions with the police

**QUESTION:** Choose the statement that best describes your interactions with the police officers who delivered the 160 Girls Justice Journal with you (\*).

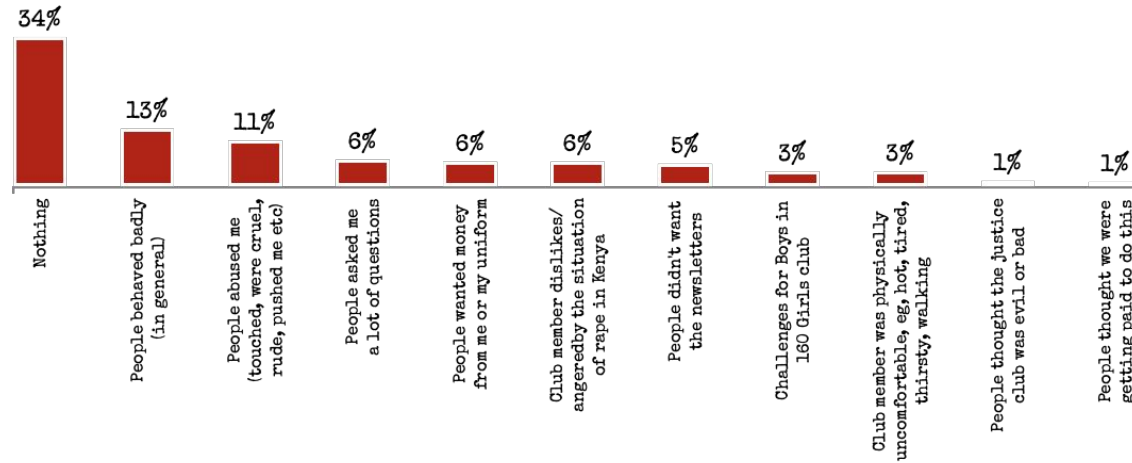


- Very Positive
- Somewhat Positive
- Very negative
- Somewhat negative

*\* Of those that interacted with the police*

## 2023 Post

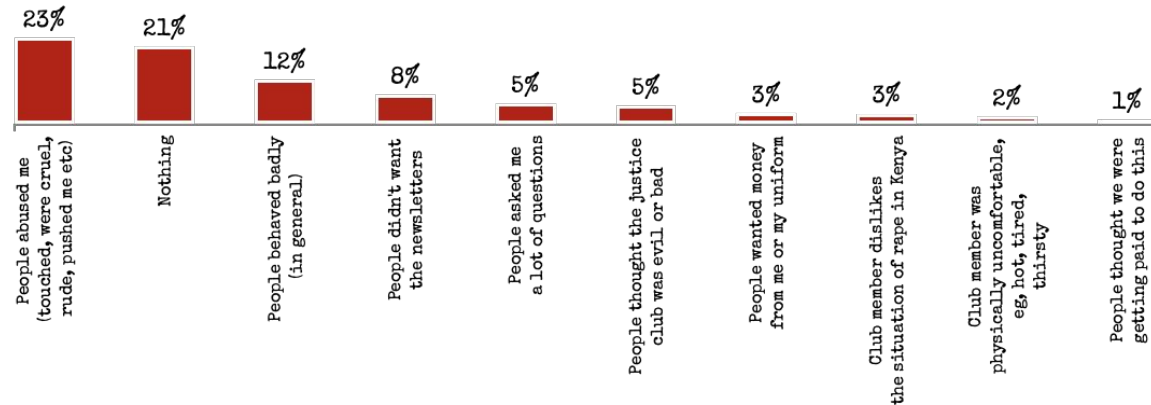
Please tell us all the things you disliked about delivering the 160 Girls Justice Journal in your community.



When comparing dislikes related to delivering the Justice Journals within communities, 21% said 'nothing' in 2022 vs 34% in 2023 ; notably, only 24% of VJC leaders in 2023 reported disliking various forms of abuse and people generally behaving badly towards them, compared to 35% in 2022 .

## 2021 Post

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





# 33%\*

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

\*33% of VJC leaders helped someone with a defilement situation – based on previous research, it is safe to assume that 33% is grossly under-representative of the true number of defilements. This number has increased by 11% from last year, indicating an increase in reporting that can lead closer to true numbers.

## The Bottom Line:

The 160 Girls Justice Clubs continue to prove effective in empowering girls, changing the culture of rape and increasing positive community engagement with the police to increase access to justice to victims of child rape.

“It changed my life It helped so many people who have been involved with the most important events It help girls to get back into their routine and help them with their own careers”

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

# Conclusions based on key findings

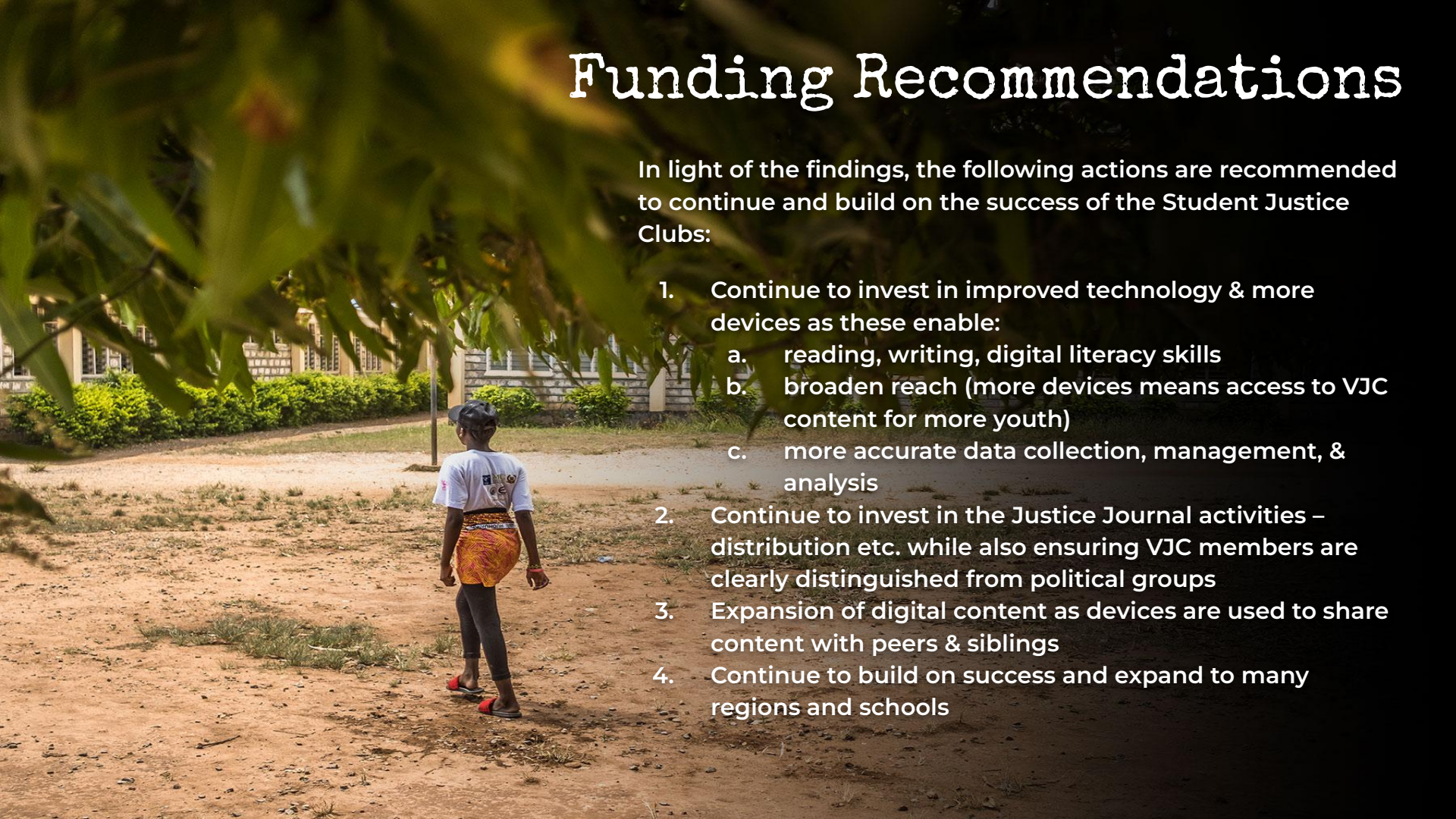
1. VJC leaders continue to be seen as community leaders
2. The Justice Journals engages community in discussions on defilement, providing an opportunity to speak about a topic that would not otherwise be discussed.
3. Topics that are highly stigmatized continue to be the most sought-after Justice Club lessons (i.e. good touch vs. bad touch).
4. Interest in the 160 Girls project is strong, with student eager to explore the project's history lesson.
5. With the tools and resources provided by the VJC, VJC leaders became community leaders, confidently helping those seeking information about gender or sexual-based violence.
6. As a result of their involvement in the clubs, VJC leaders:
  - a. Gained practical knowledge and leadership skills
  - b. Learned how to help victims of child rape
  - c. Enjoyed sharing content with their communities, receiving positive feedback from many community members
7. Devices are key to the success of the VJC because:
  - a. Enable VJC leaders to improve reading, writing and technology skills
  - b. Improve digital literacy: leaders are engaging in additional educational and recreational content that is improving their comfort level with technology, developing an important modern life skill.
  - c. Data collection and analysis to measure effectiveness and provide recommendations for future programming
8. Over 70% of VJC leaders that interacted with the police had positive interactions .
9. VJC leaders continue to help those who have been raped in their communities seek justice and support.

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
  - b. broaden 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. Continue to build on success and expand to many regions and schools

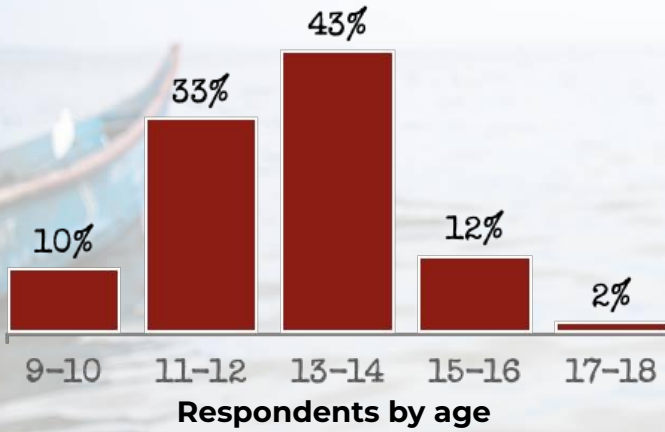


# Recommendations to sustain programming

1. As program scales up, strategically plan more activities to collaborate with the police in order to:
  - a. Enable positive police interactions
  - b. Continue building trust and relationships
2. Continue to teach practical change making skills (i.e. steps to report a child rape)
3. Continue to encourage sharing of information/content with peers and siblings via devices
4. Use resources efficiently as program scales up (i.e. sharing devices, consolidated data analysis).
5. Tailor content based on survey results
  - a. Students want to learn more about good touch vs. bad touch and the 160 Girls project background, increase amount of related content
  - b. Evaluate most popular lessons for learning to increase engagement in other lessons



# Demographic Data



56%

of respondents identify as female

36%

of respondents identify as male

29%

of respondents have a disability

71%

of respondents do NOT have a disability

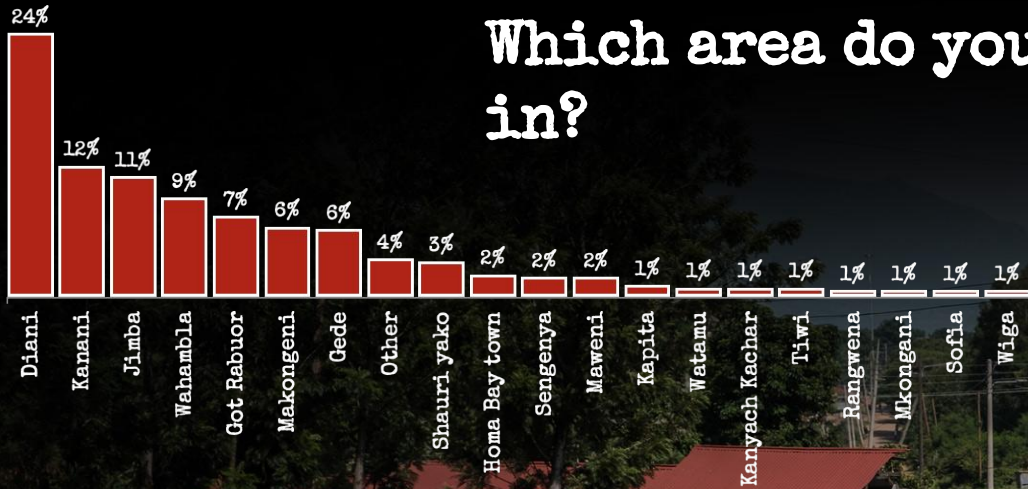
8%

of respondents identify as other

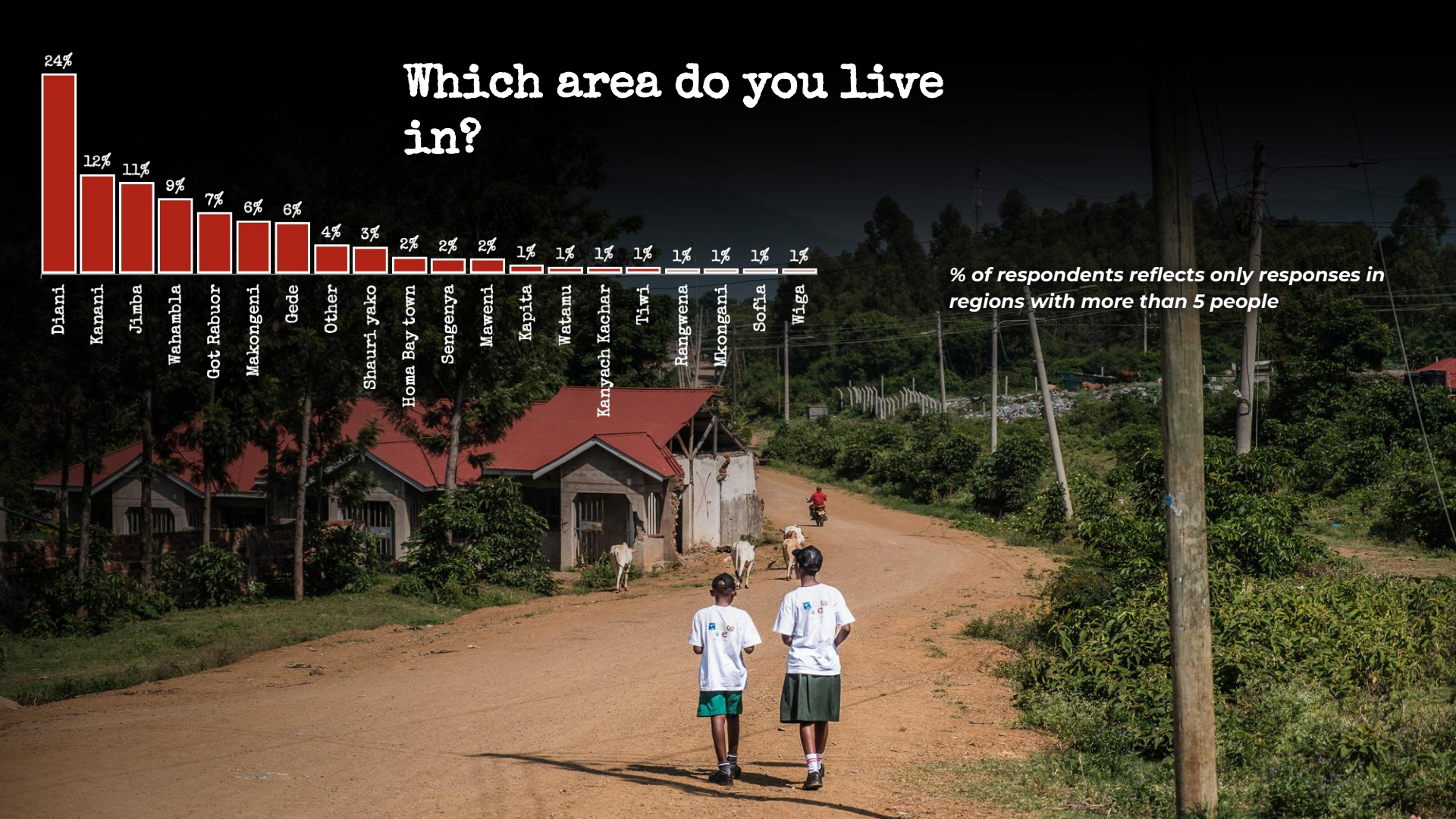
*% of respondents reflects only responses that could be coded*



# 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 January 30, 2023 to July 5, 2023.

## Method

Trained interviewers administered research surveys to people intercepted in the community and door to door. To establish a baseline of knowledge, 203 people were surveyed before the Justice Journals were distributed (January 30, 2023 – February 6, 2023). 212 people were surveyed 6 months after a series of 12 journals were distributed in the community to detect changes. Total number of newsletters distributed was 25,260.

## 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

98%

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”:

**74%** of people aware before the journals;

**97%** after receiving the journals

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

**66%** before the journal;

**91%** 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  
85% before

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

98% after the journals  
75% before



Thank you to all of  
our partners!



[www.theequalityeffect.org](http://www.theequalityeffect.org)

