



Polycom Development Project in partnership with United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nation Women –Kenya (UNWOMEN) came together to celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child (IDG) this year in style. The event took place on 11th October 2022 at Canaan Estate Community Hall. International Day of the Girl Child is an international observance day declared by the United Nations; it is also called the Day of Girls and the International Day of the Girl. October 11, 2012, was the first Day of the Girl Child. The observation supports more opportunity for girls and increases awareness of gender inequality faced by girls worldwide based upon their gender. This inequality includes areas

such as access to education, nutrition, legal rights, medical care, and protection from discrimination, violence against women and forced child marriage. The celebration of the day also "reflects the successful emergence of girls and young women as a distinct cohort in development policy, programming, campaigning and research.

This year's theme was 'Our time is now-our rights, our future' which was a call to all girls to own this moment and stand for their rights as their future depends on it. This was a moving theme that undoubtedly inspire the girls. This year's celebration was different, apart from 200 girls that were invited from the partner schools, 100 boys were also invited which was a result of the introduction of the Boy's Mentorship Program in the partner school. The day started on a high note where both girls and boys had the opportunity to show their performing talents which was very entertaining. Madam Jane Onyango – Director at Polycom formally opened the ceremony and inviting the guests of the day; UNFPA, representatives from UNWOMEN, She Leads Africa, Chief administrative Secretary Nadia Ahmed and UNFPA Youth Advisory Panel.





On the first session, Girls and Boys watched thematic films that addressed some of the challenges they go through in the community as they grow which were Menstruation, Bullying and FGM. A panel was formed to discuss lessons learnt and what was their take. The panel comprised of 3 girls and 2 boys after each film who had insightful opinions in regard to the topic of discussions and it was gratifying to hear the boys take. They were well informed in matters to do with Menstruation and how period shaming shouldn't be a thing.

On the second session we had a panel with the guests and mentors from both GYW and BYM where there were full discussions on the main topics of the thematic films and the role of both Boys and Girls in the community as they grow. One of our Mentors Keffa implored that boys have the power to eradicate FGM and they need to speak out about this vice. Representative from UNFPA Ms Faith urged the Boys to their sister's keeper and agent of Change. The message that was passed on to the audience by Ms Caroline FROM She Leads Africa was that one should not underestimate the power of their voice.





Our Guest Speaker Chief Administrative Secretary Ms Nadia Ahmed had a heart to heart conversation with the Girls and Boys and urged them to be friends who support each other to build the community. She reminded them of the importance of keeping their dreams alive for their future and how confidence and hard work is a key ingredient to a successful life.

Outcome:

1. From The films the girls were able to understand how to handle menstruation.
2. On FGM the girls learned how to say no and how to report cases to relevant authority.
3. Girls and Boys learned not to discriminate anyone in terms of their health condition.
4. Boys learned there is a different way of handling conflict and bullying
5. Celebrated achievements made by Young women in the community and used this opportunity to inspire the coming generation.
6. Boys to understand Gender equality and know how to prevent GBV.

This year 2022 was the 10th anniversary of the International Day of the Girl (IDG). In these last 10 years, there has been increased attention on issues that matter to girls amongst governments, policymakers and the general public, and more opportunities for girls to have their voices heard on the global stage. Yet, investments in girls' rights remain limited and girls continue to confront a myriad of challenges to fulfilling their potential; made worse by concurrent crises of climate change, COVID-19 and humanitarian conflict. Girls around the world continue to face unprecedented challenges to their education, their physical and mental wellness, and the protections needed for a life without violence. COVID-19 has worsened existing burdens on girls around the world and worn away important gains made over the last decade. With adversity, however, comes resourcefulness, creativity, tenacity, and resilience. The world's 600 million adolescent girls have shown time and time again that given the skills and the opportunities, they can be the change makers driving progress in their communities, building back stronger for all, including women, boys and men.

Girls are ready for a decade of acceleration forward. It is time for us all to stand accountable – with and for girls – and to invest in a future that believes in their agency, leadership and potential.