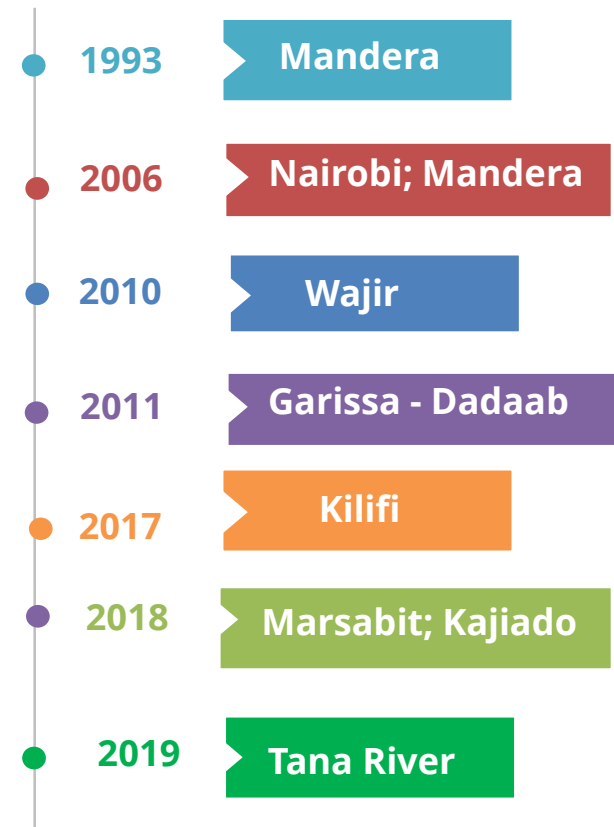




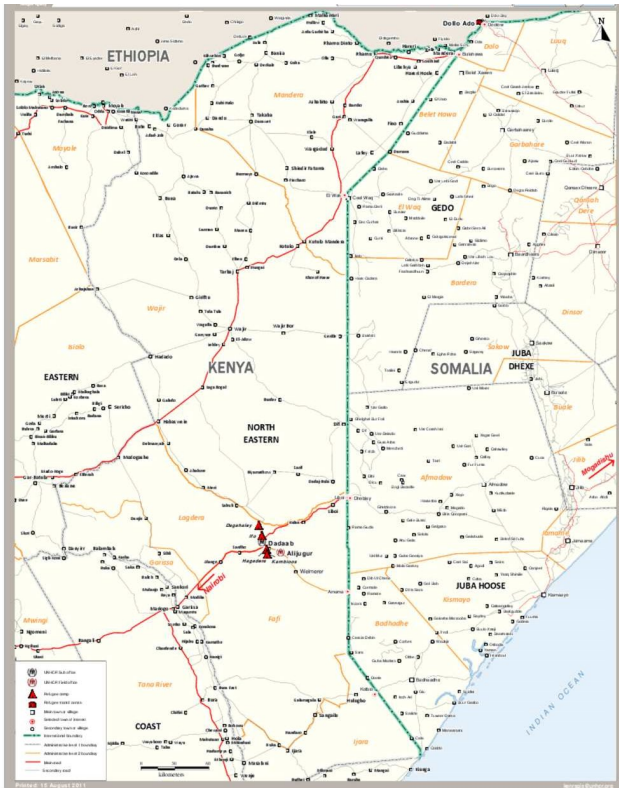
# Best practices in addressing stigma and discrimination including Gender Based Violence

Presentation By: Islamic Relief Kenya  
Prof. M. Karama

# Areas of Operation



# Migration patterns



- The Kenya-Somali border is a porous border running hundreds of kilometres.
- Migration is observed when displaced persons escape frequent clan conflict across the border.
- The Nomadic way of life the population in north-eastern increases health risk
- Cross border trade has nurtured local livelihoods.
- Enhances vulnerability of persons living along the borders to disease transmission

# Understanding forms of stigma

01

## HIV Related Stigma

Unfavourable attitudes, beliefs and practices directed towards people perceived to have HIV or AIDS.

02

## Self Stigma

PLHIV feel negative emotions because of their HIV status.

03

## External Stigma

Actions and attitudes directed to PLHIV by others including discrimination, violence, isolation.

04

## Associated Stigma

This is stigma directed to those who are related to PLHIV eg family members.

05

## Institutionalized Stigma

Discrimination or isolation is undertaken as a policy. If this is not well addressed prayer places can be turned to practice stigmatization.

# Gender based violence



- Gender-based violence is a problem in Kenya whose nature is multi-faceted.
- 39 percent of married, divorced or separated women aged 15 to 49 years have reported to have suffered some form of violence during their lifetime.
- Caused by unequal power relations between men and women, socio-cultural norms that normalize GBV, discriminatory practices and changing gender roles.
- Other factors contributing to GBV include poverty, illiteracy, breakdown of the family unit and support systems, insecurity, alcohol and substance abuse, uncensored media content.
- The most severe forms and the highest incidence (95%) of FGM are found in the Northeastern region and ethnically, Somalis record the highest incidence at 98%.

# Causes of Stigma



1 | Misinformation

Leads to  
condemnation

2 | Ignorance

Lack or inadequate  
knowledge on the  
disease and in  
transmission

3 | Prejudice

Negative attitude  
due to lack of  
knowledge and  
misinterpretation

# Effects of COVID-19 on general



- Fear
- Anxiety
- Trauma
- Fear of health services.
- Inadequate consultations by government.
- Guidelines against Islamic religion.
- Handling of the dead.
- Brutality in enforcing the COVID-19 guidelines.



- **Overcoming Stigma**

O you who believe ! Let not a group scoff at another group, it may be that the latter are better than the former. (Quran 49:11).

The Prophet SAW said “ The believer is not a defamer, nor does he curse others and nor is he immoral or talk indecently” (Tirmidhi: 1977, Ahmad 3839)



# Muslim understanding of COVID-19 in relation to devine position



## Test

- And certainly we shall test you with something of fear, hunger, loss of wealth, lives and fruit but give glad tidings to those who patiently persevere. Who when afflicted with calamity say: Truly To Allah we belong and to Him we shall return. They are those on whom descend blessings from their Lord and receive His mercy and it is they who are the guided ones” (Quran 2:155 to 157)
- Do the people think that they will be left alone because they say “We believe “ and will not be tested. And We indeed tested those who were before them. And Allah will certainly make it known those who are true and will certainly make it known those who are liars. (Quran 29: 2 and 3)

# Muslim understanding of COVID-19 in relation to divine position



- Developed strong working relationship with faith leaders on a number of advocacy areas i.e. child protection, education, HIV/GBV prevention, environment conservation and climate change adaptation initiatives.
- IRK is implementing multi-sectoral projects in health, livelihood, women and youth empowerment, WASH, education, orphan sponsorship and Islamic micro-finance to empower communities move out of vulnerability.
- With Funding from UNAIDS, Islamic Relief Kenya has trained 100 faith leaders, 50 health volunteers, developed faith sensitive training manual for faith leaders and health volunteers on HIV/GBV Issues and communality awareness creation on issues that pertain HIV/GBV in Garissa County.



THANK  
YOU