

# Bridging Cultural Norms and Religious Beliefs in Promoting Modern Child Spacing Methods Among Nomadic Communities

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**Theme:** Community Engagements and Local Narratives

## INTRODUCTION

Low modern contraceptive use among the nomadic and semi-nomadic communities in Wajir and Mandera Counties is attributed to challenges in health systems, policy issues, resource constraints, and strong socio-cultural and religious beliefs.

Although Islamic faith accommodates child spacing, it is often cited as a reason for disapproving modern methods of family planning.

## METHODS

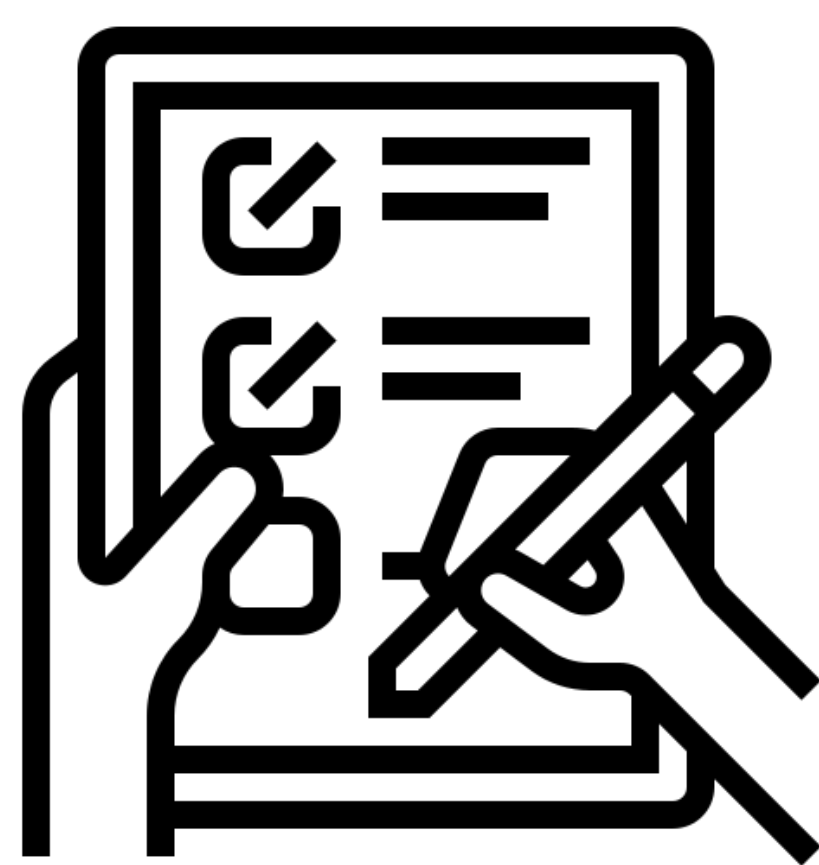
The SBC strategic approach framed child spacing as a protective measure for mothers and children.

**Religious and community leaders were pivotal** in changing social norms, focusing on male partners to build trust and foster quality interactions.

The **'5 keys' campaign** was developed based on the symbolic nature of pillars and keys in Islam, to emphasise on maternal and child health.

Each key was **supported by statements or quotes from the Quran or Sunnah**, ensuring the messages were deeply resonant and authoritative.

## CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

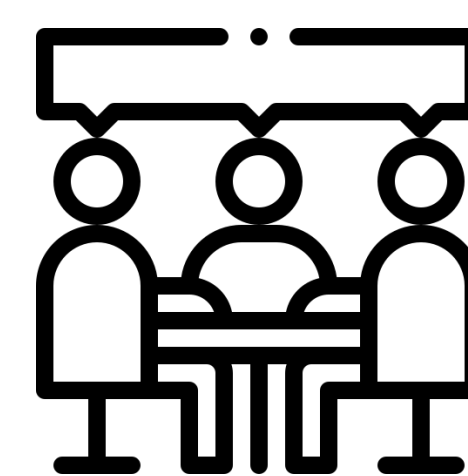


- ❖ Training religious leaders
- ❖ Delivering Friday sermons
- ❖ Engaging men
- ❖ Hosting roundtables with Duksi (Madrasa) teachers

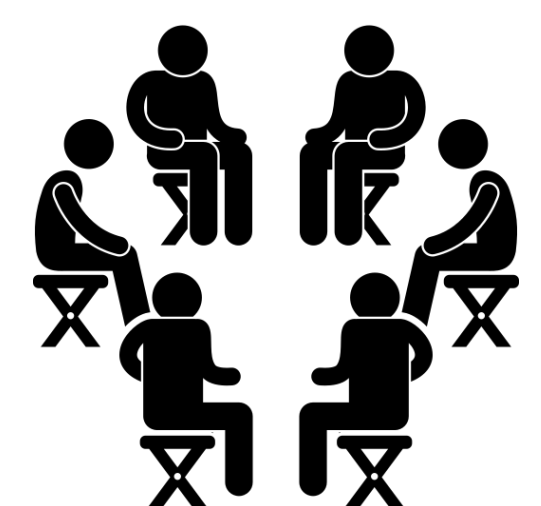
## CAMPAIGN CHANNELS



Portable solar-powered radios with audio sermons and radio dramas.

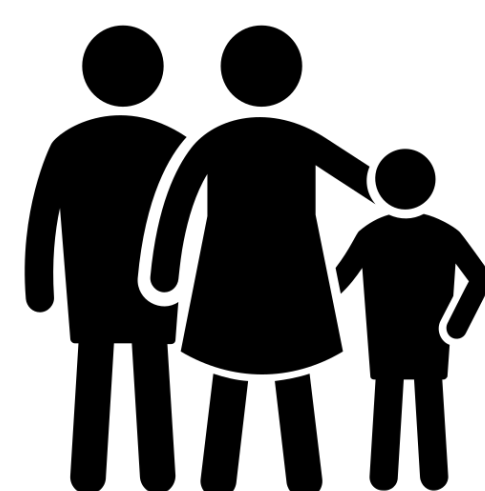


Community health volunteers facilitated dialogues.



Mother-to-mother support groups.

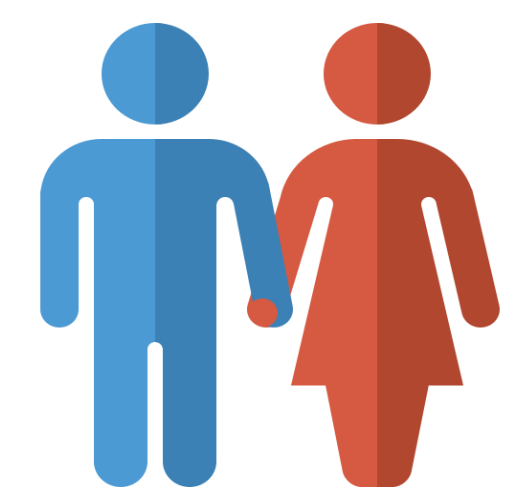
## RESULTS AND CONCLUSION



**97%** of interviewed religious leaders pledged support for family planning.



**85%** of women knew their spouse's fertility intentions.



**96%** believed their spouse supported their use of family planning. There was a **19%** monthly increase in new family planning adopters.