RISING UP FOR RIGHTS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Abandoning female genital mutilation and cutting in the Fouta of Senegal

TEXT AND PHOTOS: Sabine Panet for UNFPA

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In Senegal, the movement to end female genital mutilation/cutting is reaching the most remote places. On the sandy roads of the Fouta region and along the river, the information circulates, inspiring people in dozens of villages to rise up in support of women's and girls' health. The following photo essay documents a site visit by members of the steering committee of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting, which is supporting communities in abandoning the practice.



IN MAGIC COUNTRY

We are in magic country. The elements exude their power: sand the colour of chalk, the water of the river, the fire of the sky. Sometimes, the whistling winds make the scorpions sing. The night has never had as many stars as it does here, nor the sun as many rays. All along the scorched banks of the Senegal River, the shadows evaporate in the heat. It is still a few weeks before the first rains; patience is one of the great virtues of the inhabitants of the Fouta. INDIGO REFLECTIONS



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