

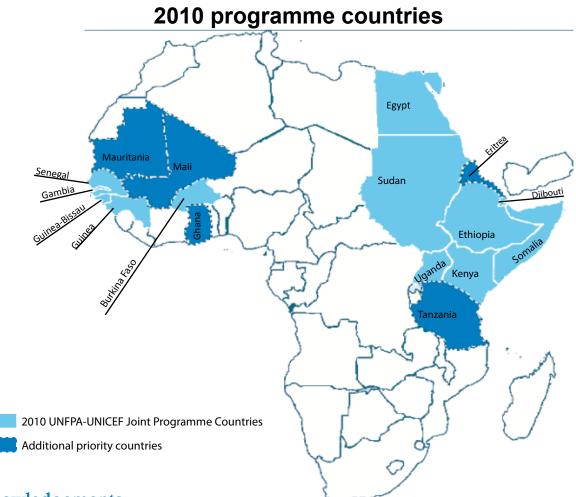


UNFPA-UNICEF JOINT PROGRAMME ON FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION-CUTTING: ACCELERATING CHANGE

Annual Report 2010



• • • NURTURING CHANGE FROM WITHIN • • • •



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ACRONYMS

AIDOS	Association for Women in Development
AMWIK	Association of Media Women in Kenya
AWEPA	Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CNLPE	Committee to Fight the Practice of Excision
CRC	Committee on the Rights of the Child
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
EMWA	Ethiopia Media Women Association
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
IAC	Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices
INTACT	International Network to Analyse, Communicate and Transform the Campaign against Female Genital Cutting
JP	Joint Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPWJ	Non c'e' Pace Senza Giustizia/No Peace Without Justice
PIHHR	Program on International Health and Human Rights (Harvard School of Public Health)
REACH	Reproductive, Educative and Community Health Project
SMS	Short Message Systems
SP	Permanent Secretariat
TAMWA	Tanzania Media Women Association
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
WHO	World Health Organization



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ending FGM/C within a generation

The objective of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FGM/C): Accelerating Change is to contribute to the abandonment of FGM/C in 17 African countries within a generation. The programme's holistic, cross-border approach is focused on Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. In 2010, the programme was implemented in 12 of these countries (see box), while also providing technical assistance to Mali, Eritrea and Mauritania. While the Joint Programme was meant to accelerate progress in 17 countries, due to shortages of fund it had to prioritize interventions in fewer countries. As such, during 2010, only 12 countries could be supported, with three additional receiving specific technical assistance.

2010 Programme Countries

Burkina Faso Djibouti Egypt Ethiopia The Gambia Guinea Guinea-Bissau Kenya Senegal Somalia Sudan Uganda

Launched in 2007, an innovative aspect of the programme is that two UN

agencies work in synergy under the leadership of national governments, supporting community-based and national activities that have been identified as leading to positive social change. Therefore the Programme main orientation is to support and accelerate the efforts already being undertaken at country and regional level through on-going programmes and not being a stand-alone initiative. Working in partnership with governments, civil society, religious leaders, communities and key stakeholders, the Joint Programme aims to achieve a 40 per cent reduction in the practice of FGM/C on infants and girls up to age 15 by 2012. It is also expected that at least one country will declare the total abandonment of the practice during the same period.

After three years of operation, UNICEF and UNFPA have enhanced their partnership by strengthening the development and implementation of joint annual work plans in country offices; by representing the Joint Programme at various meetings and by collaborating closely for the preparation of the biannual Steering Committee meetings. The Joint Programme acts as a catalyst for action at the country level. Although the programme countries have been working on the issue of FGM/C abandonment for quite a while, the value-added of the Joint Programme is that it addresses FGM/C with a uniform approach, applying lessons learned from social science and field experience on a large scale. The credibility of the two UN agencies working in synergy under government leadership is highly valued by partners. The Joint Programme also has the unique capacity to support a sub-regional approach, encouraging cross-border social change. When necessary, the partnership can be extended to other UN agencies to fill gaps identified through close monitoring of progress. Experiences are being shared and linkages facilitated among countries on a regular basis. Opportunities for additional sharing include capacity building and endorsements by governments.

Promoting change from within through human rights

Since it began operating in 2008, the Joint Programme has consolidated and expanded its collaboration with key development partners at the local, regional and global levels. These partners include community and faith-based organizations, religious leaders, safe motherhood projects, non-



governmental organizations (NGOs), relevant government ministries and other UN agencies. In 2010 the Joint Programme increased its activities to include lobbying for the enactment and enforcement of laws against FGM/C; supporting new research; and working with the media, community, religious networks and the health sector on various levels. Most important, in order to accelerate the abandonment of FGM/C, the Joint Programme has continued to broaden the understanding of the social norms surrounding the practice within countries and of the cross-border and global level policies that influence it.

FGM/C is a deeply embedded in social norm – woven into all aspects of social, cultural and political life.

Although the practice is a violation of human rights and causes untold harm to the health and wellbeing of women and girls, it has long been viewed as a cultural necessity. In this context, simply exhorting people to change their beliefs and behaviour is not effective and can, in fact, be counterproductive. People must arrive at these decisions on their own; public support and consensus are key to promoting sustainable change.

The holistic, participative approach is a most effective means for ending FGM/C and for promoting wider community empowerment.

In its work to change such a deeply ingrained cultural practice as FGM/C, from its inception the Joint Programme has supported a holistic, culturally sensitive and participative approach grounded on a firm foundation of human rights. This approach ensures that the principles of human rights guide all programmatic activities and analysis in the target countries. The aim is to create local environments characterized by participation, empowerment, non-discrimination, equity, accountability and the rule of law. This holistic, participative approach has proven to be a most effective means for ending FGM/C in a sustainable manner. It also tends to promote wider community empowerment. Similarly, a supportive national environment based on an accurate, country-specific, culturally sensitive understanding of the causes and effects of FGM/C is also crucial to accelerating the abandonment of the practice. There was major progress on this front in 2010.

The UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FGM/C): Accelerating Change has identified ten key outputs, eight taking place at the national and cross-border levels and two at the global level. Cumulatively, all ten outputs are crucial to the Joint Programme's holistic approach designed to produce sustainable, culturally sensitive change.

A Selection of Key Achievements in 2010: National and Cross-border levels*

OUTPUT 1:

Effective enactment, enforcement and application of national policy and legal instruments to promote abandonment of FGM/C

OUTPUT 2:**

Local level commitment to FGM/C abandonment

Communities that made public declarations abandoning FGM/C:	
Families in Sudan and Egypt who abandoned the practice:	16,095
Facilitators trained:	7,524
Community education sessions conducted:	71,245
Community education session participants:	3,075,363
Inter-community meetings held:	
Religious leaders declaring publicly that FGM/C should be abandoned:	6,356

* Although the target countries still use a variety of monitoring and evaluation systems, a uniform system is currently being designed to ensure that all target countries use the same evaluation standards.

** These achievements are a result of combined funds provided by several donors to UNICEF, UNFPA and NGOs partners

OUTPUT 3:**

Communication campaigns organized to publicize the abandonment of FGM/C and support the implementation of programme activities

Media events on FGM/	- .	2 7	₽ ⊿	
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OUTPUT 4:

Use of new and existing data for the implementation of evidence-based programming and policies and for evaluation

In 2010, the Joint Programme analyzed, disseminated and applied research conducted in 2009 in Egypt, Djibouti and Somalia. Nine country case studies and five articles on FGM/C programming were produced.

OUTPUT 5:

FGM/C integrated and expanded into reproductive health policies, planning and programming

Health facilities integrating the management of complications of FGM/C in 2010:	
Health care providers trained:	
Women and girls who received services for complications from FGM/C:	

OUTPUT 6:

Partnerships with organizations and institutions committed to the human rights of girls and women consolidated and new partnerships identified and fostered

OUTPUT 7:

Planning, monitoring and reporting of programme activities

In 2010, the target countries received regular and on-going capacity building through staff visits and on line. The 2010 country work plan was reviewed during the annual consultation in mid-2010; examples of targets and indicators were provided and countries received assistance in introducing result-based indicators.

The Joint Programme collaborated with the Program on International Health and Human Rights (PIHHR), Harvard School of Public Health, in developing more human rights-based, culturally sensitive monitoring, evaluation and reporting indicators and tools to guide fieldwork and future analysis.

OUTPUT 8:

Strengthened the regional dynamics of the abandonment of FGM/C	
Functioning sub-regional coalitions:	

A Selection Of Key Achievements in 2010 at the Global Level

OUTPUT 9:

Strengthened collaboration with key development partners	
Global advocacy events on FGM/C conducted:	3

** These achievements are a result of combined funds provided by several donors to UNICEF, UNFPA and NGOs partners

OUTPUT 10:

Existing theories on the functioning of harmful social norms are further developed and refined with a view to making them applicable to the specific realities of FGM/C

In 2010, 11 academic experts were invited to the fourth Academic Consultation on Social Conventions and Social Norms, organized by UNICEF.

The Joint Programme also collaborated with the Program on International Health and Human Rights (PIHHR), Harvard School of Public Health, developed a literature review, guidance for integrating human rights into the intervention (the theoretical and analytical framework) as well as country context summary reports.

The efforts of the 12 programme countries in 2010 have brought the world closer to realizing the goal of total abandonment of the practice. Through stronger laws, enforcement and community-led efforts, 2010 marked a measurable advance toward abandonment, while at the same time honouring, valuing and protecting the cultures of the communities involved.

Countries participating in the programme have benefited from collaboration and communication across borders at all levels, which has helped spur important initiatives to promote collective abandonment among ethnic groups and extended social networks. As three million of people have received new information about the harm and violation of human rights constitued by FGM/C, this has led to major shifts in attitudes about the practice. The Joint Programme has capitalized on these shifts by organizing collective discussions and large-scale events that enable communities, religious and government leaders and health professionals to reach a consensus about abandoning FGM/C.

One important aspect of the campaign has recently come to light: the mental anguish that women who have already been cut can experience. The emotional shock a women feels when she understands that – contrary to what she always believed – the pain she has endured actually serves no useful moral or cultural purpose, can be severe. Innovative action needs to be taken in the future to help women experience healing both of the physical and psychological effects of FGM/C.

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