



# FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING:

Accelerating Change

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## 1. Summary

UNFPA and UNICEF will work jointly towards actively contributing to the accelerated abandonment of FGM/C, in specific areas of implementation within 17 countries, by 2012. The focus of this joint proposal is to leverage social dynamics towards abandonment within selected communities that practice FGM/C. The main strategic approach is to gain the support of an initial core group, which decides to abandon FGM/C and mobilises a sufficient number of people to facilitate a tipping point and thereby create a rapid social shift of the cutting social convention norm. A core feature of implementation would be fostering partnerships with government authorities both at decentralised and national levels, religious authorities and local religious leaders, the media, civil society organisations and the education and reproductive health sectors. These partnerships will serve to disseminate acquired knowledge and foster an enabling environment for collective social change towards an FGM/C social convention shift. Further, it may contribute to an improvement in the well-being of girls and women in societies, where the FGM/C is practiced.

#### **O**BJECTIVE

To contribute to the accelerated abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) in one generation, with demonstrated success in 17 countries in Africa by 2012.<sup>[1]</sup>

#### **EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

- The process of abandonment of FGM/C is accelerated in the 17 countries covered by the programme, with at least one country declared FGM/C free by the end of the programme.
- Community and national efforts already identified as promising for leading to positive social transformation are expanded and constitute a large-scale movement, within and across national boundaries.

<sup>[1]</sup> Demonstrated success refers to 40 percent reduction in prevalence among daughters (0-15 years) over a five year period, in specific areas of programming implementation, and cannot be extrapolated to the entire country or region. This 40 percent estimate is based on evidence from specific field experiences where community-led approaches were implemented. Egypt and Senegal are good examples of demonstrated success.

#### **EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

- Effective enactment and enforcement of legislation against FGM/C.
- Knowledge dissemination of socio-cultural dynamics of FGM/C practice.
- Collaboration with key global development partners on a common framework for the abandonment of FGM/C.
- Evidence-based data for programming and policies.
- Consolidation of existing partnerships and forging of new partnerships.
- Expanding networks of religious leaders advocating abandonment of FGM/C.
- Media campaigns emphasising FGM/C abandonment process in Sub-Saharan Africa, Sudan and Egypt.
- Better integration of implications of FGM/C practice into reproductive health strategies.
- Building donor support to pool resources for a global movement towards abandonment of FGM/C.

#### **PARTNERSHIPS**

UN Agencies, UN Country Teams, national and decentralized Governments, donors and grant-making foundations, academic institutions and specialised consulting organisations, NGOs, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and the media.

#### PROGRAMME DURATION

January 2008- December 2012.

#### FUND MANAGEMENT OPTION

Pass Through (UNFPA as Administrative Agent).



#### ESTIMATED BUDGET

UNFPA: \$21,051,813 UNICEF: \$22,520,591

Total programme costs: \$43,572,405

(For details, please refer to paragraph 12, below)

### 2. Rationale

FGM/C affects between 100 and 140 million women and girls worldwide and three million girls are at risk of being cut annually. In terms of the Millennium Development Goals (MGD), it is increasingly clear that, when perceived as a manifestation of gender inequalities, progress towards abandonment of FGM/C will contribute to the empowerment of women (MDG 3); improvement of maternal health (MDG 5) and reduction in child mortality (MDG 4). The Secretary General's (2005) report Map Towards the Implementation of the United Nation's Millennium Declaration, reiterated the negative consequences of FGM/C. It stated, that the practice of FGM/C transcends cultural, racial, socio-economic and age factors and undermine individuals, families, and societies worldwide.

An increasing number of international instruments underscore the commitments of many nation-states to end harmful practices, including FGM/C. Some of the major instruments include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. A commitment towards ending harmful practices is also included in the plans of action emanating from the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the UN Special Session on Children, as well as a number of UN General Assembly Resolutions. African States have also made a concerted commitment to take all appropriate measures to eliminate harmful social and cultural practices, as outlined in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and in the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa ('Maputo Protocol') and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Further, in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness the international community committed itself to undertake wide-ranging and monitored actions to reform how aid is delivered and managed. It also reinforces the centrality of a development model based on national ownership; mutual accountability and partnerships between donors and partner countries, but also the involvement of civil society and communities themselves at grass-roots level. At the same time, the demand is for new policies, tools and partnerships where different actors need to ensure complementarities, mutual accountability, policy coherence and alignment with nationally led development strategies and processes. In addition, the principle of managing for results and achieving the aims of the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals should be the driver for aid effectiveness and related actions in clearly measurable ways.

3. Lessons Learnt

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