



Integrating female genital mutilation content into nursing and midwifery curricula: A PRACTICAL GUIDE



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CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	iv
i. Introduction	1
ii. FGM learning outcomes	3
STEP 1. PREPARE FOR CURRICULUM UPDATE/DEVELOPMENT	8
Provides guidance on the preparatory steps, such as conducting a context assessment regarding FGM and identifying relevant stakeholders to be involved in the curriculum development or update.	
STEP 2. DEVELOP FGM CURRICULUM CONTENT	12
Details how the responsible Curriculum Review Committee (CRC) or equivalent body applies the findings of the context assessment and review of existing FGM training content already in the curriculum to develop FGM content aligned with the six learning outcomes.	
STEP 3. PILOT TESTING, IMPLEMENTING AND EVALUATING CONTENT	18
Describes how to pilot test the FGM content and scale-up and evaluate the implementation process.	
ANNEX 1: Checklist for integrating FGM content	20
ANNEX 2: Terms of Reference of the Curriculum Review Committee	24
ANNEX 3: FGM stand-alone training timetable	25

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i. Introduction

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a harmful practice and has no health benefits. The World Health Organization (WHO) opposes this practice and supports the health sector to provide high-quality FGM prevention and care services, including by building knowledge and skills of health workers.

Despite the numerous and often severe physical and psychosocial health consequences associated with FGM, evidence shows that health-care providers often lack the knowledge and skills to provide FGM prevention and care services. A preliminary review of the existent pre-service midwifery and nursing curricula from countries with high FGM prevalence and countries that are home to diaspora populations from these areas revealed gaps in content. It was noted that trainings on FGM content are often ad hoc and stand-alone, and they target licensed health workers as opposed to those in the pre-qualification stage of training. To respond to the gaps in FGM training content and to address an increasing demand from countries for guidance on integrating FGM content into midwifery or nursing curricula in a systematic manner, this document explains how to develop context specific FGM training content in a step-by-step approach.

PURPOSE OF THE GUIDE

This guide is intended to promote a global health sector response to FGM for the provision of high-quality prevention and care services to women and girls at risk of FGM or living with the consequences of FGM. It also aims to support the systematic development of pre-service and in-service FGM content for midwifery and nursing education curricula which are relevant to context and need. This document could also be used for training materials of other cadres of health-care providers.

Curriculum planners can use this document to update an existing curriculum to include FGM prevention and care, or to develop a new one if a suitable curriculum does not exist. The process described here will follow the same steps in both cases; however, some adaptations would be made depending on whether it is an initial curriculum development process or an update. It is intended that this document be used as appropriate for a particular context to ensure midwives and nurses are able to provide the care that women and girls need. Though it is recommended that FGM training content be integrated throughout curriculum content, this may not be feasible for all countries. Different approaches that could be considered as interim solutions are also described. In cases where a more immediate teaching tool is needed, a content guide that can be adapted for developing and conducting a two-day training is provided in **Annex 3**.

MIDWIFERY AND NURSING COMPETENCIES

Midwifery and nursing practice and education benefit from international standardized competencies established by the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) (1) and International Council of Nurses (ICN) (2). However, ICM and ICN competencies are not specific to FGM prevention and care services. The FGM learning outcomes in this guide will enable curriculum developers to align the specific knowledge and skills to these competencies.

Similarly, in curricula where ICM and ICN competencies are not covered in midwifery and nursing education, the FGM learning outcomes will need to be aligned to the most relevant or appropriate training module/s.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This document is aimed at curriculum planners and educators who have been commissioned to develop, review and update existing national and subnational nursing and midwifery pre-service and in-service curricula with relevant FGM content.

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