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The FGM/C research programme

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The FGM/C Research Programme

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Population Council

Inter-African Committee (IAC)
International Conference to end FGM
Geneva, Switzerland: 10-11 May, 2016

Why a research programme on FGM/C

- ✓ Intensive Africa-led advocacy in the past decade has led to widespread agreement on the need for intensifying efforts to end FGM/C within one generation
- ✓ Historically low levels of funding for FGM/C research has led to a global evidence base suffering from many critical gaps
- ✓ Global and national efforts to end FGM/C rapidly can be more effective and efficient when informed by high quality evidence generated through rigorous, ethical and appropriate research

Our goal for 2020

DFID's Programme 'Towards Ending FGM/C in Africa and Beyond'

3 components

- Population Council
- UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on FGM/C: accelerating change
- The Girl Generation

Contribute to Impact

End to the practice in one generation and a reduction in the practice by 30% in at least ten countries within five years

Research Goal

Generate evidence to influence strategic investments, policies, and programs to end FGM/C

Duration: 2016 – February 2020

Geographic focus: 7 countries

Criteria

Scale of the practice: Six countries with combined population of over 90 million girls and women who have been cut, 70% of total

Represent all 5 stages of transition in abandonment

Socio-cultural variations

UNJP and TGG programming and intervention priority countries

VfM through cost-effective programme implementation: Experienced research teams available in all six countries; Consortium managed within the region; Partners able to work in Anglophone, Francophone and Arabic contexts



The FGM/C Research Programme

Our Consortium



Programme is guided by 3 principles

1. Doing no harm
2. Supporting an African led movement for FGM/C abandonment
3. Understanding FGM/C within the wider context of violence and discrimination against women and girls

Our Research Goal

- Expanded global evidence base on FGM/C influences decision-making for strategic investment, policy and programming to end FGM/C

Four research themes



Study method

3 Desk-based literature reviews and syntheses of key evidence:

- i. Synthesis and translation of existing evidence for new strategies to test for FGM/C abandonment
- ii. Compendium of ongoing and recently completed FGM/C interventions to inform future designs
- iii. Synthesised evidence on FGM/C health impacts in formats appropriate for strengthening training of mid-level health workers

Synthesis of key evidence issues and measurement challenges

- i. Summary syntheses of current knowledge on associations between FGM/C and HIV, infertility and fistula to inform policy dialogue
- ii. Summary synthesis of experiences with social norms theory and measurement

Countries

Global

Global

Study method

Desk-based multivariate analyses of recent DHS/MICS datasets to expand the global evidence base about the practice of FGM/C.

Proposed Countries

Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan

| Study /Method | Proposed countries |
|--|---|
| <p>Mixed method studies that use social network analysis to explain the role of gender norms on continuation of FGM/C in 3 countries with differing strengths of male support for the practice</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Egypt, Senegal, Sudan</p> |
| <p>Qualitative studies to understand and explain the reasons some communities prefer to change the nature of the practice rather than abandon FGM/C</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan, Somalia</p> |

| Study /Method | Proposed countries |
|---|---|
| <p>Mixed-method studies explaining how interventions designed to change social norms through combined community values deliberations and public declarations perform in varying contexts, the resources required and their VfM, their likelihood of effectively ending FGM/C, and their wider impacts on the lives of girls and women</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ethiopia, Kenya</p> |

| Study /Method | Proposed countries |
|--|--|
| <p>Qualitative studies that explain the causal pathways through which engaging religious leaders can contribute to FGM/C abandonment</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan</p> |
| <p>Implementation research study that documents and explains how the role of health systems can be strengthened, for prevention and management of FGM/C, through more effective engagement with health professionals</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan</p> |

| Study /Method | Proposed countries |
|--|---|
| <p>Mixed-method studies that provide key insights into the design and implementation of social marketing campaigns to change social perceptions of uncut girls</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Egypt, Somalia, Sudan</p> |
| <p>Qualitative studies that explain why people do or do not comply with FGM/C legislation to inform future investments in legal instruments for accelerating abandonment</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Kenya, Somalia, Sudan</p> |

| Study /Method | Proposed countries |
|--|---|
| <p>Case-control study that improve understanding of the impact of FGM/C on female sexuality and inform the improvement of appropriate services for women</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria</p> |
| <p>Qualitative studies that describe the tensions faced by girls, women and their families who are early or late in the abandonment transition and propose intervention modifications to mitigate these tensions</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Egypt, Nigeria, Sudan</p> |

| Study /Method | Proposed countries |
|--|--|
| <p>Small-scale, nested studies within the intervention evaluation studies proposed above to determine the extent and nature of wider impacts on girls' and women's lives</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Somalia, Sudan, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya</p> |
| | |

Continuous process throughout the life of the research programme

Stakeholder engagement

Generation of high quality evidence

Evidence communication

Capacity building for researchers and stakeholders

Monitoring and evaluation



The Evidence to End FGM/C programme consortium generates evidence to inform and influence investments, policies, and programs for ending female genital mutilation/cutting in different contexts.

Evidence to End FGM/C is led by the Population Council in partnership with the Africa Coordination Centre for Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (Kenya); Gender and Reproductive Health & Rights Centre (Sudan); MannionDaniels, Ltd.; Population Reference Bureau; University of California, San Diego; and University of Washington. Evidence to End FGM/C is funded by UK aid by the UK Government.



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THANK YOU