

INTACT Quarterly E-Newsletter July, August & September 2010

Dear INTACT Members,

Welcome to our new issue of INTACT newsletter!

In this issue of INTACT Quarterly E-Newsletter, we have covered FGM information from the past 3 months to give you a glimpse of the most important happenings. Enjoy reading!

(This Issue of INTACT E-Newsletter is funded by UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme)

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Africa: Dynamics of decision-making and change in the practice of female genital mutilation in the Gambia and Senegal

(WHO) - Decades of programming efforts aimed at eliminating female genital mutilation (FGM) have yielded varied and, in general, limited results. Reviews point to limits in the understanding of the process of decision making and change in the practice of FGM, and call for theoretical models to understand better how and why interventions cause change. This WHO-supported study was developed to improve the understanding of the dynamics of decision-making, and to assess the correspondence of these dynamics to theories of behaviour change. Improved theoretical, methodological and empirical insights can assist in the design, implementation, and evaluation of increasingly effective programmes aimed at ending FGM.

To Download Full Report:

http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/fgm/rhr_hrp_10_16/en/index.html

Australia: Supermodel tells genital mutilation story

August 2010

(The Sydney Morning Herald) - IT'S a Cinderella story if ever there was one, the rise and rise of a goat-herding Somalian girl who, at 13, runs away across the desert to escape a forced marriage, gets to London, is spotted working in McDonald's by a fashion photographer and becomes a supermodel.

<http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/movies/supermodel-tells-genital-mutilation-story-20100802-11371.html>

Egypt: Men's and women's perceptions of the relationship between female genital mutilation and women's sexuality in three communities in Egypt

(WHO) – The practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) is still widespread in Egypt, with 91% prevalence in 2008 (Demographic Health Survey (DHS)). The limited reduction in spite of many years of campaigns against the practice indicates a limited understanding of factors influencing decision making. Particularly there is limited understanding of sexual concerns influencing the continuation or abandonment of FGM.

This study was therefore designed to understand and document local concepts and experiences of sexuality among Egyptian women in relation to FGM, and to investigate the links between FGM and marriageability, gender roles and sexual pleasure.

To Download Full Report:

http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/fgm/rhr_hrp_10_17/en/index.html

Egypt: Conference on women's rights in Egypt and Arab States

The Alexandria University Faculty of Law (AUFL) and The Protection Project at The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies are pleased to invite scholars and professionals to submit proposals for the third annual conference, "Women's Rights in Egypt and Arab States," which will take place December 1 - 2, 2010 at the Helnan Palestine Hotel in Alexandria, Egypt. The conference will bring together professors of law, religion and social sciences and representatives from NGOs and other elements of civil society to discuss a broad array of topics related to the rights of women in the Arab world, including Islamic law, personal status and family laws, and labor and political rights, among others.

<http://www.wluml.org/node/6514>

Gambia: Gambian journalists undergo training on FGM

September 2010

(Afrique En Ligne) - **A three-day, capacity-building training on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) for 30 media practitioners across the Gambia got underway here Friday**, PANA reported.

Organized by The Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices affecting The Health of Women and Children ((Gamcotrap), with the support of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) joint programme to accelerate the stoppage of FGM, the training is meant to build the capacity of the participants for effective and progressive reporting on the harmful traditional practices and domestic violence

<http://www.afriquejet.com/news/africa-news/gambian-journalists-undergo-training-on-fgm-2010090455579.html>

Global: Legislative reform to support the abandonment of female genital mutilation/cutting

(UNICEF) - The development and enforcement of legislation intended to bring an end to harmful practices that are accepted and even upheld within society poses a set of specific challenges. This paper presents the key features of a comprehensive legislative framework to support the abandonment of FGM/C. It also provides specific guidance on the content of the legislation, and its relationship to the process of social change that it is meant to support.

To Download the Full Report:

http://www.unicef.org/policyanalysis/files/UNICEF_LRI_Legislative_Reform_to_support_the_Abandonment_of_FGMC_August_2010.pdf

Global: The end is in sight

(UNFPA) - In 2007, UNFPA and UNICEF joined forces to actively contribute to the accelerated abandonment of FGM/C, supporting community and national efforts already identified as leading to positive social change. The Joint

Programme's sub-regional approach builds on initiatives that have demonstrated success and fosters coordinated action among countries with similar characteristics, such as the status of the practice, attitudes, ethnicity, an enabling environment and a history of abandoning FGM/C. In 2008, eight countries were involved in the programme. The increase to 12 countries in 2009 facilitated the programme's ability to build on positive social change towards a movement for large-scale abandonment across national boundaries. The Joint Programme's objective is to contribute to a 40 per cent reduction in the practice among girls aged 0-15 years. This target establishes a critical mass or "tipping point" after which abandonment of FGM/C becomes an almost unstoppable trend. It is expected that at least one country will declare total abandonment of FGM/C by 2012.

To Download the Full Report:

http://search.unfpa.org/search?q=cache:VnbQhkgUDcj:www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/publications/2009/endisinsight_2009report.pdf+FGM&access=p&output=xml_no_dtd&ie=UTF8&client=default_frontend&site=default_collection&proxystylesheet=unfpa&oe=UTF-8

Iraq: Female circumcision in Iraqi Kurdistan still high

June 2010

(TIME) - For many young girls in the world, a life-changing experience might be reaching puberty or discovering a first crush. For Gola, a 17-year-old student from Iraqi Kurdistan, it was the moment her mother and sister-in-law took her to get circumcised. "They put us in the bathroom, held our legs open and cut something," Gola, whose real name has been withheld for privacy reasons, recalls in the new Human Rights Watch (HRW) report, "They Took Me and Told Me Nothing": Female Genital Mutilation in Iraqi Kurdistan."

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1998966,00.html?iid=sphere-inline-sidebar>

Iraq: Religious fatwa on FGM practices may have negative consequences, NGO says

August 2010

(AKnews) - The representative of a German nongovernmental organization, WADI, stated the issued Fatwa made by the Kurdistan High Religious Commission (KHRC) has a negative effect on the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the Kurdistan Region.

Fallah Muradkhan, an official with WADI, said this was due to the continuous increase in the rate of FGM in the Region. "We believe that the issued Fatwa will encourage people to practice FGM on their daughters in the region, because it leaves the issue to the Kurdish parents," said Muradkhan.

<http://www.aknews.com/en/aknews/3/169940/>

Mali: 400 Malian villages stop female genital mutilation

August 2010

(Afrique En Ligne) - Despite some resistance, the fight against **female genital mutilations** (FGM) has recorded significant progress in Mali, with over 400 villages putting a stop to the practice, PANA learnt from the **Ministry of Women, Child and Family** on Thursday. According to the directorate of the National Programme of the Fight against Excision (PNLE), the good result arose from intense advocacy and sensitization programme across the country. Different associations and NGOs played significant role in the stoppage of the archaic and unhealthy exercise, accounting for a decline of the rate of practice from 95 percent to 85 percent.

<http://www.afriquejet.com/news/africa-news/mali:400-malian-villages-stop-female-genital-mutilation-2010081354394.html>

UK: Female circumcision growing in Britain despite being illegal

July 2010

(The Observer) – Police and health professionals have warned that a growing number of female circumcisions are being carried out in Britain even though the practice is illegal. Experts estimate that between 500 and 2,000 UK girls face genital mutilation this summer, when they can be “cut” during the school break without anyone questioning their absence. Female genital mutilation involves the cutting off of girls’ external genitalia, including the clitoris. Some 63,000 women in the UK have suffered genital mutilation and 20,000 girls are at risk. The practice was outlawed in Britain in 1985 and taking children out of the country to have it performed was made illegal in 2003.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/jul/25/female-circumcision-health-child-abuse>

****Thank you for Reading****

INTACT Network

The International Network to Analyze, Communicate and Transform the Campaign against FGC/FGM/FC (INTACT), which is managed by the Population Council, is an international group of researchers, scholars and activists committed to bringing scientific evidence to contribute to the abandonment of FGM/C through:

- **A**dvancing social, behavioural and epidemiological research;
- **P**romoting research on the impact of interventions;
- **F**acilitating the utilization of findings to guide policies and programs.

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