



*“Mobilising communities
for better health and
sustainable development”*

Mobilising Men against FGM

Mobilising Men on FGM in the UK Project is the latest of WoManBeing’s project. Funded by Community Fund (The Big Lottery) the project will be carried out for 2 years (January 2005 to December 2007)

1. Description of the project:

The project is divided into 2 phases a research phase and an intervention phase as follows:

- Phase 1:** Conducting a preliminary qualitative survey of African men’s knowledge, attitudes and practice (KAP) on issues of female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
- Phase 2:** Planning appropriate interventions to address the issues of FGM with African communities with focus on men as well as implement a pilot intervention: ‘Men against FGM’, in London.

2. Project Outputs:

Phase 1:

- Determine the attitudes of men towards female genital mutilation and whether or not there are differences in attitudes between boys and older men.
- Determine the role men playing encouraging, perpetuating or discouraging FGM
- Assess men’s awareness of the harmful effects of FGM.
- Investigate men’s willing ness to participate in FGM elimination programs and the actual role they would want to play.
- Determine women/girls attitudes and opinions about the significance of FGM as it relates to men/boys, and their perceived role in perpetuating or eliminating the practice.

Phase 2:

- Train and involve men in the campaign against FGM
- Develop and produce culturally sensitive campaign materials.
- Integrate men's activities towards FGM elimination with those currently being undertaken by women in the proposed project sight.
- Conduct a sharing of experience workshop involving other local organisations that campaign against FGM.

3. Justification for the project

Research has shown that in most FGM practising communities, the practice is considered to be a female issue. Most men feel that they should not interfere in women's matters, such as 'female circumcision' and some of the processes and ceremonies that surround it.

However, as in many African societies patriarchy is the norm, as such men dominate decision making at a family and community level. On this basis, there is potential for men to either perpetuate FGM or facilitate efforts towards its eradication. This therefore means that it is within men's power to stop FGM in their families and hence the larger community, especially when they have adequate knowledge about the harmful effects of this practice. The fact that girls are circumcised for marriage to men and that men's support is necessary to enforce adherence to FGM needs to be fully investigated.

Another need for the project is to raise awareness on the recently modified law on FGM in the UK in practicing communities

This project will link up with other on-going campaigns against the practice of FGM in the UK. There are 3 main organisations working with women organisations on the issues of FGM. Some have worked on the issue for over 20 years both here in the UK and in Africa. However, this is the first intervention that will focus on men/boys and its outcome will be shared with other organisations to plan and implement future intervention on FGM in the UK. Since this project is a pilot one, at the end of the grant, the intervention will be replicated in other cities with high prevalence/incidence of FGM in the UK in collaboration with community based organisations.

4. PROJECT TOOLS

- Focus group discussions
- In-depth interviews
- Online surveys
- Questionnaires

5. The scope of this project includes five major cities in the U.K.
These are:

1. Birmingham
2. Sheffield
3. Manchester
4. Cardiff
5. London

Organisations that will be involved in the project cities include:

- ACCM - Sheffield
- Woman Action Forum – Manchester
- Nechells Association of Community Education (NACE) – Birmingham
- Various organisations in London
- Partners are still being sought for Cardiff