Evaluation of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C): Accelerating Change

Introductory Meeting with the National Reference Group
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Sudan Case Study
Part 2

Ellen Gruenbaum & Samia Elnagar
Sudan Case Study Team Leaders
Universalia
Topics for discussion

1. Positioning the joint programme in the broader Kenya context

2. Joint programme design, contributions and value added
   – Programme characteristics
   – Value added and key achievements
   – Effects of the joint programme modality

3. Potential Challenges for the Evaluation
Joint programme intervention logic

Contribute to a forty percent reduction of the practice among girls aged 0-15 years with at least one country declared FGM/C free by 2012.

Changes in social norms & behaviours at community level

Enabling national environment

Enabling regional and global environments

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OBJECTIVE: Contribute to a forty per cent reduction of the practice among girls aged 0–15 years, with at least one country declared free of FGM/C by 2012.

OUTCOME 1. Change in the social norm towards the abandonment of FGM/C at the national and community levels

OUTPUT 1. Effective enactment, enforcement and use of national policy and legal instruments to promote the abandonment of FGM/C.

OUTPUT 2. Local level commitment to FGM/C abandonment.

OUTPUT 3. Media campaigns and other forms of communication are organized and implemented to support and publicize FGM/C abandonment.

OUTPUT 4. Use of new and existing data for implementation of evidence-based programming and policies, and for evaluation.

OUTPUT 5. FGM/C abandonment integrated and expanded into reproductive health policies, planning and programming.

OUTPUT 6. Partnerships with religious groups and other organizations and institutions are consolidated and new partnerships are identified and fostered.

OUTPUT 7. Tracking of programme benchmarks and achievement to maximize accountability of programme partners.

OUTPUT 8. Strengthened regional dynamics for the abandonment of FGM/C.

OUTPUT 9. Strengthened collaboration with key development partners on the abandonment of FGM/C.

OUTPUT 10. Existing theories on the functioning of harmful social norms are further developed and refined with a view to making them applicable to the specific realities of FGM/C.

OUTCOME 2. Strengthened global movement towards abandonment of FGM/C in one generation.
Theory of change (key assumptions)

At the community level, key steps in the process of collective social change are:
• Strengthened community education, dialogue and decision-making: Related joint programme expected results: none at this level
• Public declarations: Related joint programme expected results: none at this level
• Engagement of traditional and religious leaders as agents of change: Related joint programme expected results: none at this level

Across communities, collective social change is accelerated and sustained by:
• Organized diffusion of the decision to abandon the practice among intramarrying groups: Related joint programme expected results: none
• Strengthened sub-regional dialogue and exchange across and beyond borders among practicing communities and actors involved in the abandonment movement: Related joint programme expected results: none

At the national level, an enabling environment is built/strengthened by:
• Legal and policy reform: Related joint programme expected results: none at this level
• Strengthened capacities of national stakeholders: Related joint programme expected results: none
• Effective media campaigns and other forms of public communication: Related joint programme expected results: Output 3
• Accurate data and relevant, culturally sensitive knowledge of the practice at the national and sub-national levels: Related joint programme expected results: Output 4 (and possibly 7)
• Partnerships among key stakeholders both at decentralized and national levels: Related joint programme expected results: Output 6

At the regional and global level, an enabling environment is built/strengthened by:
• Increased awareness and buy-in among global stakeholders in favour of the abandonment of FGM/C (and the specific approach to it): Related joint programme expected results: Output 9
• Strengthened knowledge production and circulation: Related joint programme expected results: Output 10

As a consequence of its social and collective dimensions, the decision to end FGM/C rests within the community. Ending FGM/C is a process of collective social change led by informed and empowered communities. Related joint programme expected result: Output 2

FGM/C is a cultural practice that is performed by communities belonging to the same ethnic group, often across borders. The decision to abandon the practice in order to become sustainable has to be made by a critical mass of people within and across borders. Related joint programme expected results: outputs 2 and 8

The change in the social norm the abandonment of FGM/C is supported and accelerated by an enabling national environment, which includes:
• The existence and enforcement of a legal framework against FGM/C: Related joint programme expected result: output 8
• The existence and implementation of evidence-based policies, strategies, programmes and plans supporting the abandonment of FGM/C in relevant sectors (including education, health, child protection, etc.): Related joint programme expected results: outputs 1 and 5
• The existence of a visible, well-informed empowered (capacities and resources) national movement for the abandonment of FGM/C: Related joint programme expected results: none at this level
• A supportive public opinion (including opinion leaders): Related joint programme expected results: none at this level

FGM/C is a significant sexual and reproductive health concern as well as a violation of women and girls’ fundamental human rights. For these reasons, the practice of FGM/C has to end. Related joint programme objective: Contribute to a forty per cent reduction of the practice among girls aged 0–15 years, with at least one country declared free of FGM/C by 2012.
Evaluation: Potential Challenges

• Sensitive nature of FGM/C
• Accessing and engaging with communities
• Assessing cumulative progress results
• No agreed-upon indicators & baselines on coordination between UNFPA and UNICEF
• Others?
Over to You

Questions, Comments, Suggestions...