



ORCHID  PROJECT

WORKING TOGETHER TO END
FEMALE GENITAL CUTTING

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Orchid Project's vision is of a world free from female genital cutting (FGC).



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FGC is the full or partial removal of a girl's external genitals.

Over 200 million women and girls worldwide are living with the impacts of FGC today, and at least another 3.6 million girls are at risk of being cut within the next year.

Orchid Project's mission is to foster and accelerate abandonment of FGC around the world.

We achieve this by:

Partnering with organisations that deliver a sustainable, proven end to FGC.

Sharing knowledge and the potential to end the practice within a generation.

Advocating to ensure that stakeholders prioritise and resource an end to FGC.

WHAT IS FGC?

FGC is the full or partial removal of a girl's external genitals. It is a harmful practice that contravenes human, child and women's rights. There are no known health benefits to FGC, and it is not a religious requirement.

On average, a girl will be cut before the age of five, although this varies between different communities around the world; from being cut at birth to adolescence.

FGC happens in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, as well as within diaspora communities globally. The practice impacts women and girls in at least 45 countries, 30 of which collect national data on FGC from women aged 15 - 49.

There are four different types of FGC as classified by the World Health Organization:

TYPE

I

The clitoris or clitoral hood is partially or fully removed (clitoridectomy).

TYPE

II

As well as the clitoris, the labia minora are partially or fully removed. The labia majora may also be cut.

TYPE

III

The clitoris, labia minora and labia majora are cut away, and the remaining skin is sewn or sealed together leaving a tiny hole for menstrual blood and urine (infibulation).

TYPE

IV

All other harmful procedures to the female genitals including pricking, piercing, rubbing and scraping.



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FGC can affect women and girls physically and psychologically throughout their lives, and these impacts can be devastating.



1 CHILDHOOD

The majority of girls are cut before the age of five. The potential impacts of this include shock, fear, pain, haemorrhage, infection, septicaemia, tetanus, HIV transmission due to unsterilised instruments, problems urinating and, in some cases, death.

2 GIRLHOOD

At puberty, FGC can continue to damage a girl's health and welfare. The effects of FGC at this stage of life may include urinary infections, chronic pelvic inflammation, painful periods due to infibulation, scar tissue, cysts, abscesses, ulcers, problems urinating, poor academic performance, school drop-out and economic disparity.

3 MARRIAGE & INTERCOURSE

FGC has a strong link with child and early marriage. A girl is often cut to ensure her marriageability, or in preparation for marriage. At this stage of life, the impacts of FGC may include painful sex, adverse psycho-sexual effects, forcible penetration as a result of infibulation, being re-cut to allow for penetration, and decreased fertility.

4 PREGNANCY & CHILDBIRTH

FGC has a direct impact on maternal and infant mortality. The impacts of the practice include women being 70% more likely to suffer haemorrhage after giving birth, being twice as likely to die in childbirth, having a higher likelihood of stillbirth due to obstructed labour, and impacts including obstetric fistula, foetal asphyxia, and perineal tears.

5 LATER LIFE

FGC can cause long term physical and psychological impacts including traumatic stress disorders, depression, memory loss, isolation, marital problems, and flashbacks to obstetric complications.

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Orchid Project is working to end FGC through partnering with grassroots organisations, sharing, and advocacy.

Our approach to ending the practice considers that FGC is a social norm which is held in place by an entire community. Parents will have their daughter cut because they believe it is the right thing to do for social acceptance, and because it is an expectation held in place by their whole community. It is difficult for individual families to stop the practice on their own, for risk of social sanctions. One of the most effective ways for a community to abandon FGC is through a collective process of deliberation, often followed by a public declaration.



The three strands of our work aim to accelerate and catalyse an end to FGC around the world, and change is already happening.

PARTNERS

Orchid Project partners with inspirational grassroots organisations that are promoting an end to FGC through non-directive, human rights-led approaches. Together with our partners, we believe in respectful, non-judgemental community dialogue around issues of FGC. We currently support partners working within communities in Kenya, India, Senegal and West Africa.

SHARING

Orchid Project catalyses the abandonment of FGC globally by sharing knowledge between our partners and across the wider movement. We disseminate research and best practice through our Knowledge Sharing Workshops, which bring representatives together to learn and create networks of local organisations working to end FGC. Orchid Project also supports global activists and grassroots partners to attend the Tostan Training Centre in Senegal to understand how change can happen.

ADVOCACY

We advocate globally to governments and decision makers to ensure that ending FGC is a priority. Orchid Project believes that FGC can only end with the help of stakeholders at every level; from community members, to regional, national and international actors. We make the case for FGC to be represented in frameworks and policies, as it is in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, and for work to be fully resourced.

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TOSTAN

Orchid Project partners with Tostan, an NGO based in Senegal. They deliver a 30-month long human-rights based Community Empowerment Programme (CEP), which takes a holistic, social norms-based approach and engenders a collective community decision to abandon FGC. Orchid Project supports Tostan's Social Mobilisation Programme, which allows teams of volunteers from communities who have chosen to abandon the practice to travel and spread the message of abandonment to surrounding communities.



SAFE Maa

SAFE Maa works with the Maasai of the Loita Hills, South West Kenya, using an FGC abandonment programme devised by a team of staff from the Maasai community. They spread the word of FGC abandonment through traditional performances which are interwoven with human rights messaging. Together with the community, SAFE Maa have developed an alternative rite of passage which allows a girl to graduate into womanhood while remaining uncut.



COVAW

Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW) works throughout Kenya on three key strands of work: access to justice, movement building, and advocacy and communications. Orchid Project is supporting COVAW to grow its project work, which focuses on shifting negative social and gender norms and attitudes that perpetuate FGC among the Maasai people in Narok.



ECAW

Education Center for the Advancement of Women (ECAW) is a grassroots organisation working for the rights and empowerment of girls and women in Kuria, South West Kenya. Orchid Project works alongside ECAW to deliver a programme that facilitates a movement of champion girls and paralegals who spread the message across the region of how FGC can end.



SAHIYO

Sahiyo is a transnational organisation with a mission to empower the Dawoodi Bohra community in India, South Asia and the diaspora to end FGC and create positive social change. They work through advocacy and community dialogue on issues that affect the lives of women and girls, including FGC. Orchid Project is supporting Sahiyo's organisational development and strengthening its capacity to work on FGC.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017



In Senegal, 247 communities declared that they are abandoning FGC through our partner Tostan's Social Mobilisation Programme.



We worked with the UK, Canadian and Norwegian governments, to ensure that they prioritise and resource an end to FGC.



We supported two pieces of research: 'Research on opportunities for investment on FGC abandonment in Africa' conducted by HERA, and 'SOFHA - Female genital cutting in Somaliland: Baseline assessment' supported by Population Council and Norad.



In the Loita Hills, South West Kenya, 33% of girls from the Maasai community went through an alternative rite of passage and remained uncut as a result of the work of SAFE Maa between 2010 and 2017.



Orchid Project facilitated the sharing of knowledge, research and best practice by holding four Knowledge Sharing Workshops with grassroots organisations in Kenya, Tanzania and Somaliland.



Orchid Project joined global conversations to champion the cause of bringing FGC to an end at conferences such as the Commission on the Status of Women and the International Conference on Global Adolescent Health.



Our partner COVAW carried out a 3-month pilot project supported by Orchid Project to raise awareness around FGC, which reached 930 people in the Narok region of Kenya.



An external review found that since 2012, Tostan's Social Mobilisation Agents have reached over 48,000 people in 876 villages in Senegal with support from Orchid Project.



In Kuria, South West Kenya, our partner ECAW reached over 4,000 people with their programme, 'Positive Choices towards the abandonment of FGC' through 60 workshops between October 2016 and June 2017.



YOUR SUPPORT

Orchid Project is ending FGC. By working together with partners, sharing knowledge and advocating for the resources and prioritisation needed to end FGC, we are seeing great change within communities that are choosing to abandon the practice.

This work would be impossible without the generous donations of our supporters.

There are 200 million women and girls who are affected by FGC worldwide, and at least 3.6 million girls at risk of being cut within the next year. However, with your help we can continue to make a difference.

Your donation will allow us to work with local partners, raise awareness around FGC and its impacts, and accelerate the movement to end the practice.

Your support will mean we can continue our work, and achieve our vision of a world free from FGC.

To donate please visit www.orchidproject.org

Financials 2014-2017

Statement of financial activities (April-March)	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
Income			
General funds	£561,807	£197,019	£197,124
Restricted funds	£361,858	£285,342	£289,528
Total	£923,665	£482,361	£486,652
Expenditure			
Charitable expenses	£621,622	£425,354	£487,763
Governance	£4,470	£5,045	£3,737
Total	£626,092	£430,399	£491,500
Net income			
Net income (expenditure) for the year	£297,573	£51,962	(£4848)
Balance Sheet			
Net assets at year end	£489,986	£192,413	£140,451

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