



This Project is co-funded
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CHANGE Plus – Promoting Behaviour CHANGE towards the Eradication of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Why we do what we do

Even though FGM is mostly practised in certain parts of Africa, Asia and the Middle East, it affects girls and women around the globe – including Europe.

In Europe, FGM is prevalent among certain diaspora-communities originating from countries where the practice of FGM is widespread. Therefore, depending on the number of migrants originating from a country with high FGM prevalence, the number of women affected by or girls at risk of FGM varies between the Member States of the European Union.

The exact number of women and girls living with FGM in Europe is still unknown, but the European Parliament estimates that there are around 500,000 girls and women currently living in the EU who already have undergone FGM, with another 180,000 at risk of being subjected to the practice.

As CHANGE Plus aims at promoting behaviour change towards the abandonment of FGM in affected communities across the EU, these girls and young women at risk are the direct beneficiaries of this project.

How we do it

In order to achieve its ambitious goals, CHANGE Plus is, in several respects, based on a highly innovative approach.

Firstly, the project builds on the multiplier approach of the previous CHANGE project by training persons of influence from affected communities as so-called CHANGE Agents: 48 persons from different African communities in four European countries are recruited by the partner organisations and trained on issues related to FGM. Afterwards, they act as multipliers and sensitise their communities to legal, cultural, religious, social and health dimensions of FGM in order to promote behaviour change.

Secondly, the project targets not only affected communities, but also the institutional level. Selected CHANGE Agents of the previous CHANGE project pass a special Leadership training to become so-called CHANGE Champions, which will enable them to advocate the support of survivors and the protection of girls at risk by seeking dialogue with key professionals and politicians at the local, national and European level.

Thirdly, the project is built on a broad transnational partnership between six experienced NGOs working towards the abolition of FGM, the End FGM European Network, the Coventry University and two associated partners in Burkina Faso and Mali.



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Who does what

Each of these partners contributes to the implementation of CHANGE Plus: TERRE DES FEMMES is coordinating the project and also training CHANGE Agents. APF and Equipop are training CHANGE Agents as well. Stiftung Hilfe mit Plan and FSAN, both of whom were already part of the previous CHANGE project, are training both CHANGE Agents and CHANGE Champions.

The Coventry University is assessing the communities' readiness for change regarding FGM. The results of this community mapping allow us to tailor the behaviour change activities exactly to the needs of every single target group and thus increase their chances of success significantly. Furthermore, Coventry University is evaluating all activities and reassessing the communities after the activities have been implemented. This evaluation process makes an important contribution to the academic research on the transformation of social norms related to FGM.

The End FGM European Network plays a key role in disseminating the project's results to EU policy-makers, its member organisations and to the public.

AIDOS is mainly responsible for disseminating information in Italy and supporting the project furthermore.

The associated partner organisations, Association Bangr Nooma in Burkina Faso and Plan International in Mali participate in the project by sharing their materials and experiences in the community-based work against FGM with all partners, specifically the CHANGE Agents and Champions. Both partners have long-standing experience in promoting the abandonment of FGM and apply similar community-based methods. The exchange of experiences contributes to building bridges between the continents.

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