

Final report for granted project

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Title of the granted project	Men Speak Out: Engaging Men in Female Genital Mutilation Prevention in Europe
Amount granted by the ESC (in euro)	8000
Project number:	P-2013-B-03
Allocated mentor:	no mentor assigned
Date project actually started:	01-01-2015
Date of completion:	31-03-2017

Please provide a report of your findings and data.

“MEN HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY BUT THEY DON'T PLAY IT”: A mixed methods study exploring men's involvement in Female Genital Mutilation in Belgium, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom

Authors: Sarah O'Neill, Dominique Dubourg, Stephanie Florquin, Marthine Bos, Solomon Zewolde, Fabienne Richard

Background

Research on men's views on FGM and their implication in the decision making process regarding the practice is limited (Kaplan et al. 2013; Varol et al. 2015).

Methods

A mixed methods study (qualitative and quantitative research) was conducted in Belgium, the UK and the Netherlands to increase knowledge of men's role in the perpetuation of the practice. For the qualitative research 60 in-depth interviews and 9 FGDs were conducted. For the quantitative study, a total of 1618 men aged 15 to 59 years from Somalia, Guinea and Sierra Leone and Sudan were interviewed. This research is part of a European Daphne project “Men Speak Out” coordinated by the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp in collaboration with GAMS Belgique, HIMILO foundation in the Netherlands and FORWARD UK.

Results

The qualitative research found that the decision of whether or not to cut a girl, when to cut, where to cut and who should cut, is mainly made by women. The father is more often than not uninformed about the whole process. However, informants suggested that by not speaking out against it or by staying silent on the issue, men consent to having their daughters cut. Men and women from FGM practising communities found it was extremely difficult to talk about FGM across gender or cross-generationally. The taboo around the practice was linked to codes of social decency and shame. The ways in which participants talked about FGM has changed since they came to Europe. Our quantitative study found that men who have been in Europe for a long time were less likely to think that the practice should continue (odds ratio 0,9332). In the qualitative research, men reported that they changed their mind about the practice after migrating to Europe when they learnt that it was harmful to women's health. The majority of male and female research participants reported that FGM affected their sex lives in a negative way. A few stated that it was impossible for a man to tell if his partner was cut or not. The belief that FGM is a religious requirement is an important factor influencing attitudes regarding the continuation of the practice. Men who think that FGM is required by religion are 15 times more likely to think the practice should continue.

Conclusion

Once informed about the health-consequences of the practice and that it is not a religious requirement, many men are in favour of the abandonment of FGM. Men's implication in anti-FGM campaigns is crucial to stop the practice as their authority in the family influences the decision making process. Facilitating communication between men and women about FGM and providing new migrants with information on the practice could significantly decrease the incidence of FGM.

Please provide a final detailed budget on how much you have spent. Was any money not spent? Receipts may be requested.

We have spent 8049,37 euros

4655,44 euros: Staff cost for the research

649,39 euros : Travel and registration to the ASA conference in Durham to present the preliminary result of the research (July 2016)

580,98 euros : Travel and hotel cost for the G3 Meeting in Geneva " FGM Management and prevention " to present the final result of the research (March 2017)

2163,56 euros : layout and printing of the summary report, 32 pages (see the pdf attached)

How will your findings be presented?	Publication in journal Presentation
Was your paper published? Indicate journal and acceptance date	We plan to submit our research to the European Journal of Contraception and Reproductive Health.
Presentation – note meeting organisation and date	<p>ASA2016: Footprints and futures: the time of anthropology, 4 July 2016 in Durham, UK - Panel 64 (P64) What value can anthropologists bring to ending violence against women and girls?</p> <p>House of Commons, UK, 8 December 2016, Press conference hosted by Baroness Jenny Tonge of the UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health</p> <p>Federal Parliament, Belgium, 6 February 2017, International Day against Female Genital Mutilation hosted by the Federal Deputy Els Van Hoof, AWEPA FGM coordinator</p> <p>Platform 6/2, Den Haag, Netherlands, Zero Tolerance Day against FGM, the role of men</p> <p>G3 Meeting, "Management and prevention of FGM/C: Sharing data and experiences, improving collaboration", 13-14 March 2017</p>
Add any other information you feel we should have	We printed a summary of the research (32 pages), we are finalising the layout and printing of the full report.
Please let us know whether having a mentor has been helpful or not	No mentor assigned.
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