





ActionAid Ethiopia in the fight against FGM

Ethiopia has entered a national commitment to end female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage by 2030's programme to in line with SDG target 5.3 by 2030. Besides, *ensuring gender justice and women and girls' empowerment through promotion of their rights* is ActionAid Ethiopia's 1st Programme Priority amongst its four priorities. ActionAid Ethiopia has been involved in this endeavor as a member of the National Alliance to End FGM and Child and local government and non-government stakeholders in the project areas: Amibara Woreda of Afar and Guna and Farta Woredas of Amhara regions respectively.

Guided by the country's Constitution and legal framework including the National Costed Roadmap to End Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (2020-2024) as well as AAE's prime priority of promoting and protecting women's and girls' rights, AAE has been and is currently intervening with a set of strategies that keep girls at the center in the Post People Lottery project (PPL) which was implemented in ten Kebeles of Amibara Woreda Afar and The Girl Generation Support to African Led Movement to end FGM/C (TGG ALM FGM/C) is under implementation in ten kebeles of Guna and Farta Woredas.

1- Empowering adolescent girls to express and exercise their choices, and their families to protect their children from FGM



This was done through establishing and equipping gender clubs to promote egalitarian principles. increase awareness on FGM and different VAWGs with special focus on FGM/C to improve their legal literacy, knowledge, and life skills, and acquire information on the harmful social and health impacts of FGM. This will help ensure that they have support networks and role models who increase their confidence, voice, and agency to resist harmful practices. In Amibara Woreda 5 schools were provided with material support and school clubs were strengthened. More than 100 girls were trained on peer discussion facilitation; advocacy and SRH issues in selected schools and mini media materials to promote messages on harms of FGM and VAWGs. In Guna and Fara Woredas as well trainings

were provided for gender club leaders and peer discussions are underway. Periodic consultations with girls also take place to accommodate their perspective in informing the design and implementation of the program.

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In Amibara Woreda, 13 income generating activities groups with members 15-25 with a total of 70 women were provided with business skill development training and seed money to start income generating activities.

2. Strengthening community engagement (including faith and traditional leaders) for increased social action to support girls and generate shifts in social expectations relating to the elimination of FGM.

This has been done through community conversations; intergenerational dialogues; community campaigns and experience sharing as well as media outreach on the adverse health and social impacts of FGM to address the root causes of gender inequality and advance the rights of girls. Women Watch Groups (WWGs); community elders and religious leaders, institutions have been involved and mobilized in this regard.

3. Enhancing systems, accountability and services across sectors that are

responsive to the needs of girls at risk of or affected by FGM. In this regard, training was provided for law enforcement actors towards improving FGM/C and VAWG reporting and referral mechanism. Capacity building refresher training was also provided for 157 (51F) members of anti HTP committees.



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