

E- learning course on a public health approach to addressing female genital mutilation 2023

Role of The Health Sector and Health Professionals in Addressing Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Accountability

Module 1 – Session 3



Module Objectives

- To understand why health sector should actively address FGM
- To understand the different roles health workers can play to intervene



Presentation Outline

- Why the Health Sector needs to address FGM
- How the Health Sector can contribute in FGM abandonment efforts
- How health workers can contribute to end FGM



Gaps Identified in The Health Sector to Effectively Respond to FGM

- Lack of protocols, manuals and guidelines
- Insufficient training and support for health-care providers
- Limited governance, finance and political will for health sector engagement
- Lack of laws and regulations
- Weak and strained health systems



Why The Health Sector Needs to Be Involved in Efforts to End FGM

- FGM is a public health issue affecting over 200 million girls and women
- FGM is costly to the health sector costing 1.4 billion USD/year
- FGM medicalization trends are increasing
- Health care providers can be influential opinion leaders and can change the attitudes towards FGM (evidence on this)
- Health systems offer:
 - Wide network and reach to communities
 - Mandate to provide preventative/health promotive and curative services
 - Intersectoral linkages with other sectors such as legal, education that are already involved in FGM abandonment interventions



Contribution of Health Sector

Who can participate from the health sector

- Ministry of Health
- Professional associations
- Health workers at facility and community level
- Health service users

How can they contribute:

- Develop plans tailored to context and maximizing on resources (funds, health sector players)
- Advocate for funding, legal enforcement
- Provide FGM prevention and care services
- Champion for change



Health Sector Response Pillars

- Strengthening governance and political will
- Improving training of health care providers
- Enacting regulatory and accountability mechanisms for professional codes of conduct
- Monitoring and evaluating programs and actions to document impact within the health sector



Importance of Health Care Provider to End FGM

- Health-care providers are first level care providers to victims
- They are a bridge between the health-care facility and the community
- Health-care providers also have knowledge and skills that are highly valued, and they are respected and listened to by individuals and families
- They have a unique position in bringing about positive change



Role of Health Care Providers for Prevention of FGM



PROVIDER OF HEALTH
CARE TO PATIENTS



CAREGIVER



REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM

Health workers not only provide care but through their different roles can be effective advocates for change to end FGM



OPINION LEADER



TRAINER (PEER)



EDUCATOR

End FGM

Story of Lea

Planting a seed of Hope

To end FGM: A deep rooted traditional practice



<https://www.who.int/multi-media/details/health-workers-communicating-to-end-fgm-a-motivational-video-for-training#>



References

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