



Thematic Session III

Measuring Success: Sharing Knowledge Useful in Understanding Trends on FGM

Recommendations:

The evaluation of progress in relation to FGM elimination needs to reflect the recent conceptual shift which put FGM strategies in a human rights framework. As such:

1. Additional research needs to be conducted in order to better understand the processes that underlie large-scale change of socio-cultural norms, as well as the processes leading to the adoption of anti-FGM legislation.
2. It is necessary to identify those factors that influence an individual's decision about whether to practice FGM, including impacts tied to immigration, keeping in mind the studies already undertaken to this end.
3. Developing methods of monitoring the fundamental processes and influences mentioned above should be given higher priority, with a view to refining understanding of the question.
4. Further attention should be given to elaborating, improving and adapting indicators measuring shifts in knowledge, attitudes, behaviours and commitment on FGM, and which are practical to implement on a large scale.
5. It is necessary to elaborate methods of evaluation not based solely on traditional numerical statistical data but also on qualitative and participatory information.
6. Analyzing indicators already existing, there is a need to identify additional indicators of process and impact so as to gain a better understanding of shifts at all levels.
7. The success of programs combating FGM should not be determined solely by reference to evaluations based on the reduction of FGM prevalence levels as currently gathered, particularly when such indicators have either too large a time-lag for extracting useful data, or flawed methodological or implementation processes.
8. Successes should also be determined based upon a more comprehensive assessment of how a program has influenced different parts of a given society, leading to a change of attitudes and behaviours.
9. Reconversion and reinsertion of ex-FGM practitioners and their participation in campaigns for the elimination of FGM need to be taken into consideration within evaluation programs.
10. Indicators on medicalization of the practice need to be integrated into evaluation programs.

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11. Indicators regarding immigration and change among Africans in the diaspora and the linkages with communities of origin should also be monitored regularly, in particular trends in the practice.
12. Additional thought must be given to how to capture important information like increased political will, such as the willingness of first ladies to speak out against the practice, such as with the outstanding example provided by the participation of H.E. Mrs Mubarak and H.E. Mrs Compaore at this meeting.
13. Resources should be mobilized for the use of reliable existing indicators and the elaboration of other necessary indicators in collaborative efforts engaging all stakeholders, including civil society, communities, governmental institutions as well as funding agencies.
14. It is strongly recommended to organize to this effect workshops specifically devoted to indicators.