

FINAL REPORT

Project Nr: JAI/DAP/01/247/C

IDIL – *Instruments to Develop the Integrity of Lasses*
(Somali female name meaning intact)

Start Date: 1st December 2001

End Date: 30th November 2002

Co-ordinating Organisation's name:

Centro Piemontese Studi Africani

Contact person: Director

Name: Mrs. Costanza Prada

Address: Piazza San Giovanni 2

Postal code: 10121

City: Torino

Country: Italy

Tel. N°: 0039-011-4365006

Fax Nr.: 0039-011-4366044

e-mail: csa@unito.it

Partner Organisations' names and countries:

CIE – Centro d'Iniziativa per l'Europa - Torino/Italy

Associazione Alma Terra – Torino/Italy

Cooperativa Senza Frontiera – Torino/Italy

Centro Frantz Fanon – Torino/Italy

Associazione Iroko – Torino/Italy

Associazione Nosotras – Firenze/Italy

Associazione Donne in Rete – Milano/Italy

Associazione Naga – Milano/Italy

Casa dei Diritti Sociali – Roma/Italy

Centro Salute per Donne Straniere -Bologna/Italy

Clinica Pediatrica – Novara/Italy

Gruppo Lavoro Nazionale Bambino Immigrato – Palermo/Italy

UNICEF –Comitato Provinciale – Italy

Amnesty International - Piemonte/ Valle d’Aosta/Italy

Somali Women Organization –Arhus/Denmark

Federation of Somali Associations in Netherlands – Amsterdam/Holland

EQUIS – Barcelona/Spain

Associacio’ Catalana Llevadores –Barcelona/Spain

FORWARD – Frankfurt/Germany

Association for Integration and Development -Goteborg/Sweden

1. Aims of the project

The project aims to define and test strategies to prevent Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) among immigrant families/communities in the partner countries (Italy, Spain, Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, Denmark), and builds on earlier Daphne projects which resulted in a collection of materials produced in Northern Europe.

Female genital mutilation consists of all procedures, which involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injuries to female genital organs both for cultural and other non therapeutic reasons, and has been classified in 4 types:

- Excision of the prepuce, with or without excision of part or all of the clitoris;
- Excision of the clitoris with partial or total excision of the labia minora;
- Excision of part or all the external genitalia and stitching/narrowing of vaginal opening (infibulation);
- Unclassified: including pricking, piercing or incising of the clitoris and/or labia; stretching of the clitoris and/or labia; cauterization by burning of the clitoris and surrounding tissue; scraping of tissue surrounding the vaginal orifice (angurya cuts) or cutting of the vagina (gishiri cuts); introduction of corrosive substances or herbs into the vagina to cause bleeding for the purpose of tightening or narrowing it; and any other procedure that falls under the definition of female genital mutilation given above.

The procedures described above are irreversible and their effects last a lifetime.

The age at which the mutilation is carried out varies. FGM is carried out during infancy, childhood, up to adult age. Several reasons are given to justify FGM: custom and tradition;

religion (purification); hygiene (cleanliness), aesthetic reasons; virginity protection to increase marriage opportunities.

FGM has immediate consequences: severe pain, shock, haemorrhage, tetanus or sepsis, urine retention, ulceration of genital and adjacent tissues. Long term consequences: cysts and abscess, keloid scar formation, urinary incontinence, dyspareunia and sexual dysfunction.

Most of girls and women who have undergone genital mutilation live in 28 African countries, although some live in Asia. They are also increasingly found in Europe, Australia, Canada and USA, primarily among immigrants from Africa and Asia.

Beneficiaries of the project are 0-12 year-old girls from migrant communities where FGM are practised living in all country partners (Italy, Spain, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden).

Expected results

- To raise awareness among the communities and families affected by this practice in the EU migration countries.
- Empowerment of migrant women, meaning an increasing consciousness of the role of women inside their communities and families.
- Equal opportunity for migrant young girls: raising consciousness in young migrant girls of the social exclusion coming from the practice of FGM.
- To produce instruments preserving the integrity and dignity of young girls –informative kit, training guidebook, 2 booklets and informative campaigns. This can be done on different levels:

1. Multipliers are given informative kits and guide books consisting in tools for information and training for communities.
2. Professionals (health operators, social, educational and information staff) in Italy and Spain are given booklets in Spanish and in Italian in order to be informed and aware of the practice in their countries, prevent and take actions on FGM and their side effects.
3. General public: an informative and awareness campaign will be started in the second year of the project aiming to a wide information in the target countries. This will consist of seminars, debates, media communication, public meetings and advertising (tee-shirts, bags, pins, posters to distribute during public events).

2. Implementation of the project

The project proceeded according to schedule and the planned activities were fully implemented as follows:

- **January 25th, 2002:** Italian partners meeting, it was the first real contact among the Italian associations to know each other and identify the role to play in the different steps of the project.

- **March 15th-16th, 2002: Frankfurt general meeting:** *in this occasion an extension of associations network dealing with FGM issues was established and developed, experience acquired in past Daphne projects were transferred in Italy and Spain, setting up instruments and schedules, definition of roles, ex-ante evaluation among participating partner*

- Participants: 18 partner delegates and 5 local members.

In the meeting the following steps were scheduled:

- **Mapping** of migrant communities of Italy and Spain affected by FGM and existing social services available.

- **Re-elaboration** of available materials of past Daphne projects and adaptation to Italy and Spain, elaboration of guide lines for health/educational staff, social workers, cultural mediators and animators for Italian and Spanish users.

- **Lay-out of training skills** for multipliers in all partner countries.

- **Lay -out of leaflets** for Communities affected by FGM practice, in order to awake awareness and give tools for prevention: to be given to all partner.

- **Dissemination:** correct information on mapping and guidelines for target groups in all partners' countries

- **Creation of a web site:** a valid permanent instrument for circulation of information through internal and external forums and general information on FGM and their effects in social changes.

- **Implementation of the web site.**

- **November 1st-2nd, 2002, Barcelona general meeting:** exchange of information on the development of the project and elaboration of best preventive strategies, in itinere evaluation and planning of the activities previewed in the second year of the project.

Participants: 22 partner delegates and 4 local members

The timetable of the project was respected.

Unforeseen activities

Exhibition: African art for the protection of women's rights.

In this first year of the project, an exhibition was scheduled (it will take place by the end of April 2003 in Torino) of paintings and sculptures of Nigerian artists expressing the sorrow, the sadness and the setback occasioned by female genital mutilation.

These works are valid instruments of awareness and informative campaign for professionals and communities on cultural/social/legislation changes in Africa on the issue of FGM.

The aim of the exhibition is to encourage the African migrant communities affected by the phenomena to face such harmful traditions, to reevaluate cultural and social interpretations of the integrity of girls and women, to discuss the fragility of the adduced cultural motivations.

Seminar

A seminar will take place in the time of the exhibition and will provide a useful forum for the exchange of best practices and experiences between immigrants and activists women coming from countries like Egypt, Tanzania and Burkina Faso.

Mapping of young girls (pediatric age patients) from target communities in Italy.

Italian partners such as Clinica Pediatrica and Gruppo Lavoro Nazionale Bambino Immigrato, are carrying out an up-dated statistics of young girls from groups affected by FGM in their areas.

Each of the planned activities was undertaken by a Working Group formed by different partner organizations:

A) **Mapping:** a quantitative and qualitative research on communities from countries where the practice is carried out, in Italy and Spain including identifying of territorial social services

A statistical selection on the basis of nationality of the groups at risk was made. Data show the ethnic groups, which are involved in FGM practice, although it was not possible to give statistical data on an ethnic basis. Female population is identified on the basis of age groups and their consequent exposure to the risk of FGM.

Working group:

- Ass. Iroko Onlus: coordination of Italian group and experts for mapping of Northern Italy;
- Ass. Nosotras: experts mapping Central Italy;
- Ass. Alma Terra: experts mapping Northern of Italy;
- Ass. Casa dei diritti sociali : experts mapping Southern Italy.
- Ass. Catalana Llevadores: coordination and experts for mapping in Spain.

B) **Re-elaboration of materials** and adaptation to Italy and Spain.. Research of materials on FGM and existing social services in Europe. Elaboration of guidelines for legal/social/educational/health operators.

Working group:

- Ass. Donne in Rete in Italy
- Ass. Catalana Llevadores in Spain

C) **Lay-out of training skills for multipliers meant for** cultural mediators and animators from target groups on legal, social and health aspects and side effects of FGM, with an outlook on the cultural changes on hi practice in some African countries.

Working group:

- CIE : coordination in Southern Europe
- FORWARD : coordination in Northern Europe
- Participants: all partners

D) Lay-out of informative kit (toolkit) for multipliers:an instrument for the sensibilization of communities and families (opinion leaders, cultural animators and mediators) consisting of legal and health aspects of FGM.

Working group:

- CSA: coordinator
- Participants: all partners

E) Lay-out of leaflets for communities: consisting on legal and health advice.

Working group:

- CIE : coordinator
- Participants: all partners

F) Dissemination of results consisting in information for target groups.

- Participants: all partners

G) Creation/ animation of the web site

Working group:

- Ass. Donne in Rete
- CIE

H) Implementation of the web site

- Participants: all partners

I) 4 Workshops for the elaboration of the training skills (2 in Southern Europe and 2 in Northern Europe) .

Participants: all partners

In the first year of the project, partners from women and migrant organizations, such as Iroko, Alma Terra, Nosotras and Donne in Rete, held several debates, lectures and workshops, in public events and inside their organizations.

3. Results and impacts of the project

- A network between project partners was established.
- Best practices between partners and other organizations were defined.
- Exchanges of information/experiences between project partners and immigrant communities were established and developed.
- Communication strategies, in which women from target groups had an important role, were elaborated.
- Awareness among migrant women organizations and professionals on side effects and social/cultural/legal changes on FGM practice in some African countries was raised.
- Up-to-date statistics of migrant communities affected by the phenomena in Italy and Spain were produced;
- Guide lines for professionals (socio-medical, educational, communication staff, cultural mediators, communities animators) effective in Italy and Spain were produced;
- Leaflets and multi-lingual informative kit for communities were published. In the second year, these shall be translated into: English, Italian, Spanish, French, Dutch, Swedish, German, Arabic, Somali and Amharic.
- Training guidebooks for trainer were handed out.

Evaluation

Different moments of evaluation were planned, with the contribution of all partners and of the women from the communities affected by the phenomena.

The two meetings –Frankfurt and Barcelona- scheduled in the first year of the project, have acted also as an internal evaluation. All partners were involved in the evaluation of the steps to be taken, the agenda and proposals.

Members from the target groups took part in the meetings and workshops for moments of self-evaluation and they gave their opinion on the correct implementation of the objectives of the project.

UNICEF and Amnesty International supervised the implementation of each step of the project, because of their institutional experience in implementing awareness-raising campaigns, training schedules, and community awakening.

All partners agreed on the fact that sharing the evaluation of the project with the target groups would give a feedback on proceedings and methodology in the running activities. This allowed to have a straightforward evaluation of the implementation of the project, which is essential for the dissemination of the results and for the follow up. The ultimate beneficiaries of the project could not be involved in this evaluation proceedings because of their class of age (girls between 0/12 years). In this first year only target groups and

professionals were involved and a general information and awareness campaign was started on the web site.

4. Dissemination and follow-up

Different paths for the dissemination of the results were taken:

1- A multi-lingual web site planned by the project as an instrument for world-wide dissemination of information, issues and results which was built as follows:

A- About us (HTML), institutional pages on IDIL project and the partners involved;

B- Information (Database)

News

Publications : review on research and materials on FGM

Bibliography: list of references

Campaigns / events

C - Training / education (HTML)

Legal issues

Health issues/side effects

Preventive strategies

Operating territorial health and social services

D- Bookmarks (DB): list of main national and international links on FGM

E- Interactive services

Internal mailing list

External mailing list

Conferencing system: debates for partners and users (professionals, communities, families), tutored by the coordinator of web site

Research engine

F- Multimedial presentation (Flash)

2- The materials and research results are disseminated to target groups (eg educators, social servants, cultural mediators), through direct information, seminars, debates.

3- The guidelines, are reviewed on medical/social workers magazines.

Further dissemination is planned in the second year of the project, through training courses delivered to opinion leaders, cultural mediators, animators, religious leaders, by means of an awareness campaign in all partners' countries and in the final seminar.

As this is a multiannual project, the follow up will be elaborated and developed in the second year.

All documents and materials bear the European logo. In all debates, seminar, workshop, awareness campaign, meetings the European Commission role and contribution were communicated and stressed.

5. Conclusions

IDIL

Instruments to Develop the Integrity of Lasses

IDIL (Somali female name meaning intact), is a multiannual (2001/2003) project of Daphne Programme, aimed at defining and experimenting strategies to prevent FGM (female genital mutilation) among immigrant communities/families in partner countries (Italy, Spain, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden).

Female genital mutilation, constitutes all procedures which involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injuries to female genital organs both for cultural and other non therapeutic reasons, and has been classified in 4 types.

The age at which the mutilation is carried out varies. FGM is carried out during infancy, childhood, up to adult age.

Several reasons are given to justify FGM: custom and tradition; religion (purification); hygiene (cleanliness), aesthetic reasons; virginity protection to increase women's marriage opportunities.

FGM has immediate consequences: severe pain, shock, haemorrhage, tetanus or sepsis, urine retention, ulceration of genital and adjacent tissues. Long term consequences: cysts and abscesses, keloid scar formation, urinary incontinence, dyspareunia and sexual dysfunction.

The aim of the project is to define and test strategies to prevent Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) among immigrant families/communities in the partner countries (Italy, Spain, Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, Denmark), and builds on earlier Daphne projects which resulted in a collection of materials produced in Northern Europe.

The beneficiaries are young girls from migrant communities affected by the practice of the FGM, in all partner countries.

The target group are opinion leaders from migrant communities, cultural mediators, animators, health, social, educational and media staff, in the partner countries.

The project built up strategies to prevent such harmful tradition, through the follow activities:

- 1- defining best practices on FGM prevention between partners and other organizations;
- 2- establishing and developing exchanges of information/experiences between project partners and immigrant communities;
- 3- raising awareness among migrant women organization and professionals on the side effects and socio/cultural/legal changes of the practice in some African countries;

- 4- empowering migrant women, increasing consciousness on their role inside the community and family;
- 5- elaborating instruments for migrant women, to achieve equal opportunities through the respect for their integrity;
- 6- producing the following instruments for operators and communities, to preserve the integrity and dignity of young girls
 - informative kit
 - training guide book
 - guide line for operators
 - leaflets for communities
 - awareness campaign

The following activities concerning the project were carried out by groups of partners

First year

- **Frankfurt general meeting:** extension of the associations' network active in FGM issues, transfer of experience acquired in past Daphne projects to Italy and Spain, ex-ante evaluation.
- Mapping: quantitative and qualitative research on communities affected by this practice, including identifying of territorial social services, in Spain and Italy.
- Re-elaboration of available materials of past Daphne projects and adaptation to Italy and Spain. Elaboration of guidelines for social/legal/educational/health operators.
- Lay-out of training skills for multipliers: cultural mediators, community animators, opinion leaders, religious leaders from the target groups on legal, social and health aspects and side effects of FGM, with an outlook on the cultural changes on this practise in some African countries.
- Lay- out of informative kit (toolkit) for multipliers:as an instrument for the sensibilization of communities and families, consisting of legal and health aspects of FGM, in all partners countries.
- Lay-out of leaflets meant for communities on legal and health advice, in all partners country.
- Dissemination of results consisting in information for target groups in all partner countries.
- Creation and animation of web site : a valid permanent instrument for the circulation of information.
- Implementation of the web site.
- **Barcelona general meeting:** exchange of information on the development of the project and elaboration of best preventive strategies, in itinere evaluation and planing of the activities previewed in the second year of project .

The target group were involved frfrom the very beginning in the planning of the project, and

in all steps of the implementation, schedule and agenda during this first year of activity.

For that reason, we came to the conclusion that sharing the evaluation of the project with the target group has been an effective way of involving them, because of their direct evaluation of the implementation of the project, which is essential for the dissemination of the results and for the follow up.

- 1- ANNEX: KEYWORDS

Beneficiaries	Daphne Objectives	Areas
.xChildren	<i>Support to the collaboration</i>	Sexual violence
X Young people	x Support to	x Gender violence
◇ Women	x Exchange of good	Violence in family
	Studies	x Violence in
Specific groups	<i>Support to public awareness</i>	Violence in schools
Homosexuals	x Information campaign	Violence in
X Migrants	x Information sources	Violence in urban
XRefugee	Recognition and reporting	Violence in rural
X Asylum seekers		Violence in the
Trafficked persons		Trafficking in
X Ethnic minorities	Specific Objectives	Commercial sexual
Handicapped	x Prevention of violence	Internet
Domestic workers	x Protection from violence	Child Pornography
People in prostitution	Treatment of victims	Racism
Elderly	Reintegration of victims	Self-harm
Prisoners	Counselling victims	Physical
	x Support to families	x Female genital
Targeted Audience	Legislative measures	x Health impacts
Violent men	Treatment of offenders	
Perpetrators / offenders	Reintegration of offenders	Instruments
Public Authorities		x Network with NGOs
General Public		x Multisector network
X Medical staff		x Awareness-raising
X Educational staff		x Dissemination of good
Police staff		x Guidelines / Counselling
Judicial staff		Models (analysis /
X Media / Journalists		x Training
		x Production of materials
		x Conference / seminar
		Telephone /
		x Field work

2- ANNEX:LIST OF MATERIALS

- 1- Up-to-date statistics of migrant communities affected by the phenomena in Italy and Spain;
- 2- Guide lines for professionals (socio-medical, educational, communication staff, cultural mediators, communities animators) effective in Italy and Spain;
- 3- Informative kit (toolkit) for multipliers – opinion and religious leaders, cultural mediators and community animators.
- 3- Leaflet for communities. In the second year, these shall be translated into: English, Italian, Spanish, French, Dutch, Swedish, German, Arabic, Somali and Amharic.
- 4- Training guidebook for trainers