

PRACTICAL SHEET ON THE COMMUNITY GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACH TO END FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



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1. INTRODUCTION

In 2023, the Community of Practice focuses on how to work with men to end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and create a society free of all negative social norms that affect girls and women, such as FGM.

The COP organized a training webinar on the Community Gender Transformative Approach (CGTA) as a means to promote the involvement of men in the fight against FGM.

The objective of this webinar was to introduce the methodology of the CGTA, and allow participants to gain an in-depth understanding of this approach and how it promotes the involvement of men in the fight against GBV /FGM.

CGTA is much more than just a one-off intervention - it is a profound transformation process that requires the commitment and cooperation of all members of the community.



The Community Gender Transformative Approach (CGTA) is a strategic approach that aims to combat gender inequalities by working directly with communities. Founded on principles of inclusion, participation and empowerment, The Approach seeks to empower individuals and create lasting changes to social norms and power structures leading to harmful consequences such as FGM

To learn
more



Webinar Report: Community Gender Transformative Approach to end FGM and GBV

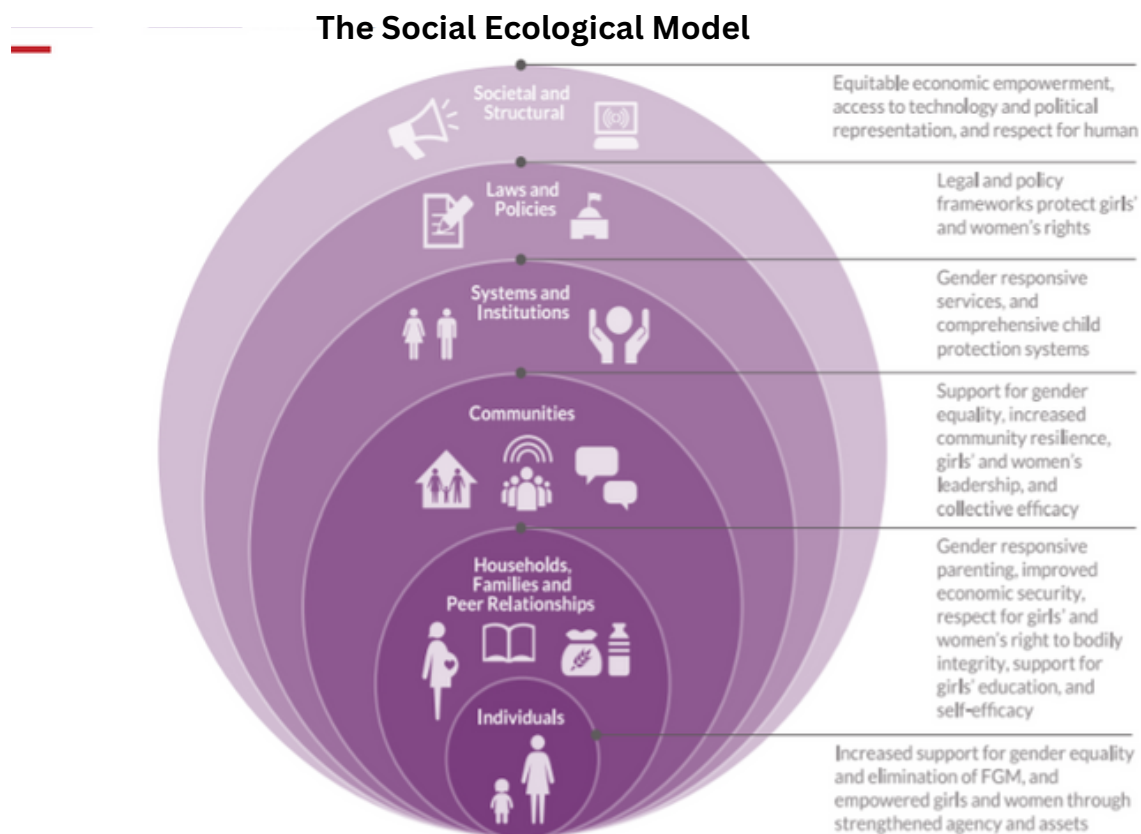


Male involvement in ending FGM

WHAT IS GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACH?

The gender transformative approach aims to deconstruct stereotypes, to become aware of how we have been socialized and the roles expected by society in order to realize the inequalities of power and the discrimination that this entails.

Change can take place at the individual level, but also at the structural and societal level (work, school, institutions, etc.)



Source: UNICEF, 2020, Technical Note: gender transformative approaches for the elimination of female genital mutilation.



The socio-ecological model of gender transformative approaches describes 6 levels, it is important to have a coordinated approach on the different levels for a lasting impact via a set of actions

TO learn more



The Community Gender Transformative Approach: one of the pillars of the gender transformative approach to ending FGM



THE COMMUNITY GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACH, HOW DOES IT WORK?

It is composed of 3 phases. These three phases were constructed, implemented and validated during several cycles of action research carried out in Guinea in Mamou and N'Zérékoré.

The approach consists of training facilitators from the communities concerned who will lead non-mixed gender and generational dialogue sessions (in order to encourage discussions). They will discuss relationships between men and women, the way in which we have been socialized, question of sexuality, pleasure (to make the link with the impact of FGM), sexual and reproductive rights, gender-based violence.

PHASE I Cycle of 7 sessions with 4 different groups

PHASE II Day of exchange between the sexes and generations among the 4 mixed groups (1 day) and plenary workshop with local key actors

PHASE III Feedback workshop at the national level

The 7 dialogue sessions of phase 1 of the CGT approach!



- *Introduction. What is a man, What is a woman (difference between sex and gender)*
- *How we are socialized, what role is expected of us*
- *Sexuality, Family planning, Intimate hygiene*
- *FGM and sexuality, notion of pleasure*
- *Sexual and reproductive rights*
- *Gender violence*
- *How to prevent violence: managing emotions, dialogue*

THE 11 STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMUNITY GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACH

1



A grassroots community organization (GCO) and a funding agency or state service decide to work together to implement the CGTA. They contact local authorities, community leaders and partners who work in the same geographical area to encourage the active participation of key stakeholders who will have an impact on the implementation of recommendations and the sustainability of the project. **This is the phase of information and mobilization of local authorities.**

2



After having the approval of local authorities and community leaders on their participation in the approach, the GCO and the project promoter (cooperation agency or State) finalize the formulation of the project by validating the geographical area, the number of communities affected, the number of participants, facilitators taking into account the exchanges held in stage 1. **This is the phase of formulating the action, planning activities and budgeting.**

3



Local authorities are invited to propose names of people who will be trained as facilitators, those selected are people who know how to read and write and who have already been noted in their community for their commitment. **This is the selection phase of facilitators** (8 per site). They have the same profile as the 32 participants, i.e. 2 married men, 2 married women, 2 unmarried young men, 2 unmarried young women.

4

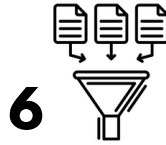


The GCO and the operator organize a 5-day training session with the selected facilitators who will lead the dialogue sessions. IF the GCO and the operator do not have internal expertise, they can call on external expertise to provide training on the CGTA. **This is the training phase for dialogue sessions for facilitators.** If the training is not carried out in the language spoken by the communities concerned, it will be necessary to translate the messages and certain tools that use written language or only use photolanguages.



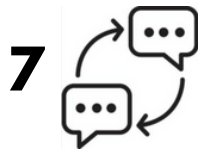
5

In each site concerned, 32 people who will participate in the 7 dialogue sessions are identified by local authorities and community leaders. The GCO with the help of trained facilitators validates the profiles correspond to those sought: 8 married men, 8 married women, 8 unmarried young men, 8 unmarried young women. People come from different sectors of the municipality to cover the entire intervention area. **This is the phase of identifying participants at the community level.**



6

A baseline study is carried out at the community level in order to have an inventory of the situation before starting the approach. Facilitators administer a questionnaire based on questions from demographic and health studies on FGM and GBV. **This is the data collection phase for the baseline.**



7

The GCO organizes the 7 community dialogue sessions with the 4 groups 15 days apart. Each participant chats with at least 5 people from their community in order to disseminate the information and topics discussed during the dialogue sessions. The GCO organizes a rehearsal day before each session and a reporting day after each session. Data collection grids are prepared to summarize the exchanges. **This is the implementation phase of the 7 dialogue sessions.**



8

At the end of the 7 sessions, the same questionnaire is administered by the facilitators individually to the participants to make a before-after comparison. **This is the before-and-after evaluation phase of the CGTA!**



9

A day of exchange between the sexes and generations is organized at the end of the 7 sessions to share between the 4 groups the themes which were easy or difficult to discuss, the changes which took place at the individual level, at the level of the family or community. Messages and recommendations are prepared for local authorities. **This is the phase of dialogue between the sexes and generations.**



10

The GCO and the project promoter organize a local restitution day with administrative and political authorities, community and religious leaders, partners where the participants of the dialogue sessions, the facilitators present the results and their recommendations for structural changes that will have an impact on gender power relations and GBV. **This is the restitution phase to local authorities.**



11

The GCO and the promoter also present the results at the national level in the coordination platforms for the fight against FGM and GBV to disseminate the approach and allow scaling-up and better coverage of the CGTA! **This is the restitution phase at the national level.**

Success factors of the community gender transformative approach



- we only approach the issue of FGM and GBV after understanding the difference between sex and gender, having become aware of how we were socialized as a boy and a girl.
- we call on collective intelligence, empowerment, participatory method
- a "safe" framework which frees speech and ensures security: non-mixed group (age, sex), non-judgment, possible to talk about sexuality without taboo
- we work with facilitators who know the region well, the community approach, gender-based violence including FGM
- very supportive and involved regional and local authorities

CONCLUSION

The strength of this approach is that: Before beginning the CGTA process, it is essential to understand the target community (married men, unmarried young men, married women, unmarried young women), identify specific gender issues and form a competent team that will organize community dialogue sessions to raise awareness, educate and engage members in discussions on gender equality. This is how real transformation which aims to create concrete change in the community will be achieved, by implementing actions and initiatives with public authorities that challenge sexist norms and behaviours.



Limiting factors of the community gender transformative approach

- Many are still attached to beliefs, witchcraft in Guinea (Forest part) with people who fear facing bad fate if they stop FGM.
- Duration of the approach: this approach is not recommended for short-term projects (3-4 months)

For more
information



[Guide to implementing the CGT method!\(French\)](#)

