

# Cementing Change Towards **Zero Tolerance** to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

A Joint Programme of Save the Children & Norwegian Church Aid



Norad



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Save the Children



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actalliance

## Context:

65% of women between the ages of 15-49 and 16% of girls under the age of 14 in Ethiopia have undergone FGM, with varied regional prevalence rate (EDHS 2016) <sup>1</sup>.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is prevalent in most parts of Ethiopia and is practiced by many of the ethnic groups. It is practiced by both urban and rural communities and followers of almost all religions.

Although the practice has shown a reduction, in some areas, trends in the practice of FGM are emerging such as the medicalization of FGM and shift from Infibulation to 'Sunna' type of FGM <sup>2</sup>. This continues to have further implicate on the well-being of millions of girls in the country.

## About the joint programme:

In Ethiopia, Save the Children and Norwegian Church Aid have been implementing a joint programme on FGM since 2006/07 with the support of Norad through the Royal Norwegian Embassy. The strategic partnership has been crucial in mobilizing grassroots communities and a long-standing partnership with faith-based organizations; local civil society organizations, government, and community-based structures and women; child and youth-led initiatives.

The programme, currently in its' third phase (2016-2019). The following are the three program outcomes:

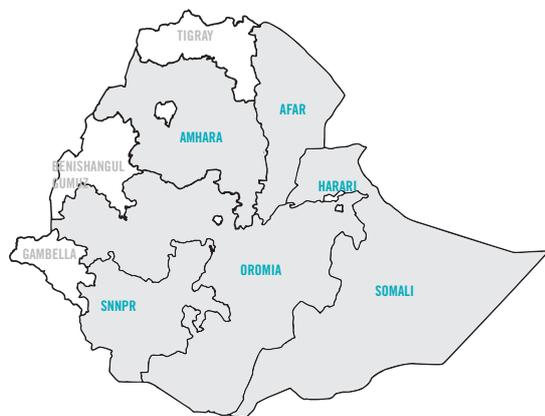
- Faith and local communities uphold social norm changes that reinforce action against any forms of FGM.
- Services (education, health, legal, livelihoods) are responsive to protect girls at risk and to care for those affected by FGM.
- National level commitments, policies and evidence inform actions at all levels.

## Our Goal:

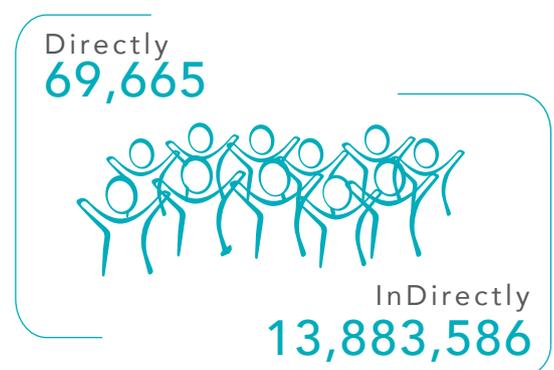
The programme aims to end all forms of FGM by building sustained community engagement and capitalizing on the national commitment to end the practice by 2025.

The programme targets to reduce the incident of FGM by 40% among girls (0-18) in the programme intervention areas.

## Geographic Intervention :



## People reached :



<sup>1</sup> Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey, Central Statistical Agency, 2016

<sup>2</sup> 'Sunna' type of FGM means partial or total removal of the clitoris for non-medical purposes (indicates type I and II FGM)



### Our Approach:

The joint programme has demonstrated the importance of complementary efforts and holistic approaches of working at different levels, with a wide range of locally rooted partners that understand the local context. Working with various partners such as faith-based, umbrella organizations, media, and government structures made the joint Norwegian Church Aid and Save the Children programme comprehensive and able to reach a diverse group of community members.

### Result Highlights (2016-2018)

We worked with faith and clan/opinion leaders who have an influential reach to address social norms. Using the various dialogue forums and discussion platforms, community groups reached consensus and issued declarations. Community and faith-based organizations also integrated the issue of FGM in their bylaws and articles so that any member that supports or practices FGM will be reported to the justice system.

We established and strengthened school-based child-led structures through training and material provision. The discussions enabled the girls and boys to support the cause, report incidents and sensitize the rest of the school community about FGM. With the consecutive capacity building activities, girls declared that they would not undergo FGM. As marriageability is one of the justifications given for FGM, engaging men and boys has been one of the programmes' key strategies.

The programme assisted women and girls who are affected by FGM so that they access health, education, legal and economic supports. With referral pathways established and strengthened, women and girls accessed and benefited from medical, counseling and other services. Those who are affected by FGM and at-risk girls enrolled in income generation activities so that they have their gain economic independence, develop their self-esteem and protect themselves and their daughters.

Evidence shows that the more girls are staying in school, the more they are empowered to say no to FGM and child marriage. We assisted girls through the provision of scholastic materials such as school uniform and stationaries.

### In numbers :

<b>13.8 million</b> children, youth and adults received information on FGM	<b>56</b> community groups issued collective statements and declarations on FGM	<b>127</b> community and faith-based actors integrated FGM in their by-laws, operations
<b>162</b> school-based child-led structures established	<b>3,888</b> girls pledged not to undergo FGM	<b>6,859</b> girls declared they would not support FGM
<b>153</b> cases reported to justice systems	<b>11,351</b> at risk & out of school girls enrolled & maintained in schools	<b>43</b> districts setup FGM coordination mechanisms

### Partners :

- African Development Aid Association (ADAA)
- Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Commission (ECC-SADCO)
- Ethiopian Muslim Development Agency (EMDA)
- Ethiopian Muslim Relief and Development Association (EMRDA)
- Ethiopian Orthodox Church - Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC)
- Evangelical Churches Fellowship of Ethiopia (ECFE)
- Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia (IRCE)
- KMG-Ethiopia
- Mother and Child Development Organization (MCDO)
- Organization for Welfare and Development Action (OWDA)
- Rohi Weddu Pastoral Women Development Organization

**And in close collaboration with:** Women, Children, & Youth, Education, Health & Justice Bureaus

### Budget (2016-2018) :

NOK : 36,759,885

ETB (approximately) : 118,000,000

### Future Direction :

The Ethiopian Government has taken efforts through the development of policies and committed to ending FGM and Child Marriage by 2025. In August 2019, the Government launched the National Costed Roadmap to End Child Marriage and FGM/C(2020-2024). The Roadmap, in which Norwegian Church Aid and Save the Children played a key role during its' development, has set clear priorities and strategies and requires ETB 2.72 Billion. The joint Norwegian Church Aid and Save the Children programme, in the next phase (2020-2024) will align to the key pillars of the National Costed Roadmap and will consider child marriage as an additional focus area.