



# Adolescent Champions for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Abandonment:

## Innovative Strategies for Eradicating FGM

**W**ith the support of community structures, young people now lead on a set of gender-specific interventions being implemented by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). These interventions, Girls' Survival Project (Phase I & II); Adolescent Boot Camp; Art Competition to End Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and Safe Space for Girls in Secondary Schools, were executed in partnership with the State Ministries of Health and Women Affairs, community leaders, adolescent girls, and Value Female Network.

According to UNFPA, these innovative interventions complement the multi-sectoral approach to end FGM by putting women and girls in the middle of interventions to build their capacity. The interventions have started to document quick wins such as the case of girls who were rescued from FGM incidences and communities declaring abandonment of FGM because of the girls' activities.

Similarly, a platform was created where the girls are able to communicate and enlighten religious leaders and parents. Furthermore, girls now have life and advocacy skills which led to stakeholders' renewed commitment to end FGM in Osun State. This was actualized during a boot camp. There are plans to replicate the boot camp with the inclusion of boys, to build their advocacy skills and and train more adolescent girls in other states.

## The Goal

- 1 The Girls' Survival Project (Phase I & II):** An activity designed to protect girls from harmful traditional practices during pandemic while ensuring their safety from COVID-19.

 | **1000 Girls**  
(60% of whom are FGM survivors)

One thousand girls, 60% of whom are FGM survivors, received menstrual hygiene packs containing WASH items and IEC material on FGM which has a 24/7 rescue line to call for help during the COVID-19 lockdown. During the second phase of this intervention, girls trained as FGM champions subsequently influenced their communities to End FGM.

- 2 The Adolescent Boot Camp:** An annual 3-day anti-GBV/FGM and skills camp. The camp provides mentorship, networking opportunities, SRHR information, life skills, vocational skills and self-defense training for girls.





 | **1,485**  
Girls directly impacted.

- 3 Art Competition to End FGM:** Adolescent and young people (AYP) speak about the harmful effects of FGM and how to End FGM through Arts. Entries include drawings, paintings and poems. Young people were able to question FGM practice with over 1,500 entries. A follow-up virtual meeting was held with participants to train them on advocacy skills. Art work has been produced and exhibited at high level events.
- 4 Safe Space for girls in Secondary Schools:** Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Club led by girls. They meet fortnightly to discuss SRHR topics, review books, biographies, share personal stories and seek help. Club is active in 18 schools in Osun State.



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