



2 Steps to measurable protection from FGM

Step One:

The sponsoring organisations admit that systematic violence like female genital mutilation enormously hinders the development of the practicing societies. Therefore, it is an indispensable condition to stop this violence and to protect the children – before other activities of help can be efficient.

- That's why, before any money or material is invested into the concerned countries/regions, the organisations have to investigate, which local groups and initiatives are working there to end FGM. The sponsoring organisations have to get in contact with them and should offer them active co-operation.

- If the local groups are interested in such co-operation, the first sponsored children will be determined, for example, from own members. Under the strict conditions to keep them safe from female genital mutilation, donations from German/international donors can start to be acquired with the sponsored childrens' faces, names and stories.

- The money that is gathered within this first step will be directly used for the Anti-FGM-campaigns run by the local initiatives. These campaigns are well suited to prepare step two.

In Africa, members of the largest network that works for an end FGM, IAC, have been informing the population about the devastating effects of genital mutilations for more than 25 years – therefore, for a much longer time than all the mentioned development organisations – mostly with only very limited support from Western organisations. As a result of this work, there is a growing number of villages and communities, whose male decision-makers are willing to change and to abandon the violence of female genital mutilation. With it, they signalise their strong-willed readiness to develop and to grow - and should selectively be supported by

Step Two:

The local groups inform the sponsoring/development organisations about all the villages/communities in which information-campaigns to end FGM have been passed so far – and whose decision makers are well informed about the consequences of that violence.

- To these villages/communities, the organisations offer support and help with the most needed things, like fonts, schools, hospitals and so on: One of the conditions to afford this support will be the true abandonment of female genital mutilation!

- The decision makers of the villages/communities decide for their entire community: If they insist to continue the mistreatment and mutilation of the female children, the sponsoring/development organisations will have to react consequently and step back from any financial or material support. With this consequent renouncement, they would fulfil their responsibility towards the sponsored children as well as towards the donors.

- If the decision-makers agree to let the further/upcoming female generations grow up as intact and healthy human beings, the sponsored children will be chosen.

- The community with that obligates itself to protect these female children - as well as all other girls in the village - from female genital mutilation. The state of health of the sponsored children will frequently be checked. The results run into the annual reports which are communicated to the donors in the Western countries. This medical check up will have to include a specific examination of the girl's genital intactness – which will make sure that the condition to stop FGM really is respected. It will be a simple but effective instrument to make the success really measurable...