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Gender-Transformative Approach ACT! – Overview

Domain	Gender, knowledge of the body and of human rights
Addresses	Gender-based violence including FGM, child marriage, marital violence
Target group	Women & men / married & unmarried; community; political decision-makers
Objective	Achieve greater equity (empowerment) between females and males
Approach	Question and deconstruct gender norms
Average duration	1 cycle: 6 months
Impact on individual	Awareness of gender conditioning, change of attitude and practice
Participants	<u>4 homogeneous groups from same community:</u> 8 young unwed women 8 older married women 8 young unmarried men 8 older married men
Facilitators	8 experienced facilitators (literate) from local community (2 each of same categories as participants), positive attitude, in agreement with the programme content – receive a 4-day preparation including an implementation manual
Implementation guide	Detailed manual with instructions, icebreakers, exercises, pre- and post-test on knowledge, attitude, practice etc.
Language	Local language (prepare technical vocabulary that is easily understandable to participants)
Sessions/ Topics	<u>7 dialogue sessions (3 hours, at 2-week intervals):</u> 1. Difference between sex and gender 2. How we are socialised 3. Sexuality, contraception, intimate hygiene 4. FGM and sexuality 5. Sexual and reproductive rights 6. Gender-based violence 7. How to express and manage my emotions Exchange between the 4 groups (1 day) Restitution to local/regional/or national decision-makers (1 day)
Organisation	3-hour sessions are held every 2 weeks, separately for each of the 4 groups. Between sessions each participant must share what he or she has learned with 5 other community members of their same category. After 7 sessions the 4 groups meet and share their assessment of the different topics treated and what they recommend for their community.
Associated activities	Public meeting with local and regional decision-makers to share participants' learnings and recommendations: authorities' resolutions.
Follow-up activities	Two workshops at national level: One intermediate and one final workshop with key stakeholders from all relevant constituencies including from the regions. Follow-up depends on resolutions taken by decision-makers.
Advantages	4 homogeneous groups (same sex and age) make individuals feel safe to express themselves. Content is pre-structured in manual (focus on FGM and gender equality in GBV), making it easier for less specialised facilitators to conduct the sessions. Well-trained and -sensitised participants become potential resource persons.
Lessons learned	The ACT! approach shows that FGM abandonment should be integrated across all sectors at national and decentralised levels: Health, Education, Justice, Social Action, Culture, etc... Therefore, public and community organisations need to assume responsibility and in a coordinated way contribute to fight FGM.