

Stop FGM Middle East

Wadi • Association for Crisis Assistance and Development Co-operation

info@wadinet.de • www.stopfgmmideast.org • Tel: 030/ 60933390 • Fax: 069/975392640

Final Narrative Report

Stop FGM Middle East

October 2015



Name of Organization: Wadi e.V.

Program: Stop FGM Middle East

Contract No.: HO DRAG 1006945

Status:

Reporting period: 1.9.2014 – 30.9.2015

1. Introduction	3
2. Summary of Activities	3
2.1 Enlarging the network	3
2.2. Iran activities	4
2.2.1. Family Counseling Center Javanrod	4
2.2.2. Research	5
2.2.3. Advocacy	6
2.2.4. Publicity, Media Work	8
2.3. Awareness raising about FGM in Asia	8
2.3.1. Media Work	8
2.3.2. English Website	9
2.3.3. Arabic and Persian Website	9
2.3.4. Facebook	10
2.3.5. Participation in conferences/workshops and other lectures	11
2.3.7. Other contributions to UN and NGOs	12
2.4. Addressing Religion	13
2.5. Film project	14
2.6. Research Toolkit	15

1. Introduction

In the second year of the campaign Stop FGM Middle East, numerous networking, advocacy and fundraising activities took place. Team members from Germany as well as activists of the Middle East and Asia network spoke at several national and international conferences. While stressing the importance of FGM in Asia, contacts were made with potential donors and partners.

Several activities were supported in Iran. The family counseling center in Javanrod, Kermansheh is treating individual victims of FGM in psychotherapy and holding discussions at the center for different audiences: women, couples, parents of pre-schoolers. With reports translated from Persian media and two important studies from Iran being published during this period it was possible to draw international media and UN attention to Iran. This was flanked by continuous advocacy work in Iran leading to a government plan for a campaign against FGM. In July, the Iranian vice president in women and family affairs issued a program against FGM in Iran.

The network of activists against FGM in the Middle East and Asia was enlarged by a group of Dawoodi Bohra women from India. Furthermore it was possible to increase the number of fatwas by religious figures concerning FGM with the help of network activists.

The film project which was started in May 2014 at the conference in Istanbul has been continued despite difficult circumstances. Footage from Iraq, Iran and Malaysia was collected. In addition an Indian filmmaker from the group of Dawoodi Bohra contributed footage. A trailer has been compiled and crowdfunding has started.

With a fund from the Wallace Foundation a research toolkit (also discussed at the conference in Istanbul) was assembled and is awaiting its web launch in November.

Further activities included the launch of a Persian website, the collection of all relevant studies about FGM in the region, the production of several press releases and background articles, outreach to the press and regular updates of the English and Arabic website and the Facebook page. As a result, a number of media outlets reported on the new project and the number of page views and facebook page likes have risen significantly.

2. Summary of Activities

2.1 Enlarging the network

We contacted 33 organisations working on womens issues in Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, India and on the Maledives. Out of these 33, we only had two positive replies of women organizations in Indonesia. This supports our assumption that FGM is still a taboo in most other countries of the region and therefore not an issue for official organizations. We proceeded with our earlier approach which had worked in Oman to contact individuals activists, journalist and bloggers who are outspoken about FGM in their countries. This task proved more difficult because email addresses could not easily be obtained.

We were successful though in contacting a filmmaker from India through her facebook account who had made a documentary about FGM in the Dawoodi Bohra community in India in 2012 which won her the National Film Award in India.

Through her we became acquainted with a group of Dawoodi Bohra women all opposed to FGM and eager to start a campaign against it.

2.2. Iran activities

The partners of Stop FGM Middle East in Iran were incredibly active on many fronts. In addition to our direct partners, several other people became active and creative resulting in a number of media articles and even a pop song against FGM and child marriage. Even the government is expressing its opposition to FGM now and pledged to start a campaign soon. Thus, Iran has moved from a country where FGM was a complete taboo in only two year to a country where a campaign would fall on fertile grounds.

2.2.1. Hamraz Family Counseling Center in Javanrod

Since summer 2014 the Hamraz Family Counseling has included in its regular training sessions about marital problems, hygiene and health issues discussions about psychological and physiological risks of FGM. These discussions target housewives, others are designed for parents of pre-school children and were held in pre-schools of Javanrod, thereby addressing the one group which is most at risk of harming their daughters if not educated. From April to September, 20 such regular trainings sessions were held.

In addition to these regular trainings, special Ramadan classes were held for adolescents, young people and women. The trainings were held on all days of the month of Ramadan, 25 trainers held 200 training session for citizens of Javanrood. Altogether, more than 750 residents of Javanrood were trained about FGM and its complications. To undertake this large awareness raising campaign, the director of the center, Osman Mahmoudi (Ph.D. psychology) had trained 50 students of psychology how to conducts such sessions.

During these training, nearly 500 educational brochures about FGM and complications and religious views that reject it were distributed among the participants. The information material is based on a booklet originally compiled by WADI in Iraq, which has been translated last year into Persian and was revised and printed anew in June 2015.



In April 2015, Osman Mahmoudi and his wife Elham Hosseini started a new component of their campaign against FGM in Javanrod. Based on their research about marital relationships and FGM (see 2.2.2.) they concluded that FGM does not only make the wife unhappy, but also the husband. The study shows that FGM negatively affects the mental health and the marital relationship of couples. To help victims of FGM to have a fulfilled marital life, the family counseling center started offering free or low-cost counseling and couple therapy service for victims of genital mutilation for women and couples

The service has been advertising through SMS and among other clients of the center.

The counseling service includes:

1. Individual counseling to women victims of FGM
2. Couple Therapy for Couples victim of FGM
3. Awareness group sessions

Since April 2015, 109 clients were treated: 18 couples in addition to 64 individual women and 9 individual males.

Further more, Osman Mahmoudi and Elham Hosseini have printed a flyer about FGM in Persian.



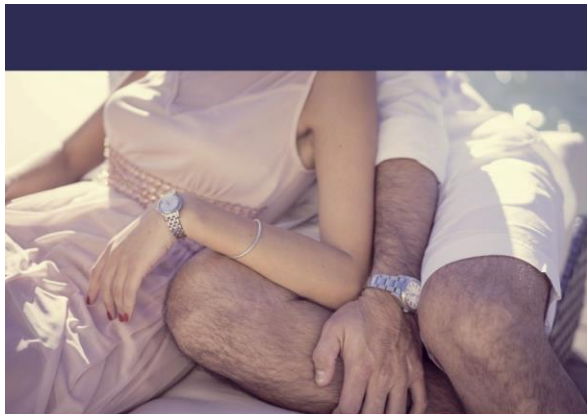
2.2.2. Research

Mr. Osman Mahmoudi finished his study “Comparison mental health, sexual functioning and marital satisfaction of couples victim of FGM and other couples” in April. The study, which also constitutes his Ph.D. thesis was published in September 2015 by Lambert Academic Publishing. For this study, his team interviewed 414 couples in the region of Oramat (province of Kermanshah). The wives in 206 couples had undergone FGM, while in the comparison group of 208 couples, wives had not undergone FGM.

In line with other studies, Mahmoudi found that sexual function and mental health of women who had undergone FGM was lower than in the comparison group.

At the same time, he found that husbands of women who have undergone FGM have also lower sexual function, lower mental health and lower marital satisfaction than husbands of

women who have not undergone FGM. Read more in our article [“New Study from Iran: Female Genital Mutilation Impedes Men’s Well-Being”](#).



Osman Mahmoudi

Couples Victim of FGM

Comparisons Mental Health, Sexual Functioning and Marital Satisfaction of Couples Victims of FGM and Other Couples

The Stop FGM Middle East campaign has supported Mr. Mahmoudi from the start of conducting interviews until last edits by giving advise, providing assistance on finding similar research and doing a rough correction of the text.

After publication of the book, Stop FGM Middle East has distributed news about the findings of the study to all relevant actors in the international development community including UNICEF and UNFPA as well as the majority of NGOs working towards an eradication of FGM worldwide.

During the same period, Iranian researcher Kameel Ahmady finished his “Comprehensive Research Study on Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting in Iran” which includes Ahmady’s own research he has done over the past ten years surveying 3000 women and 1000 men. In addition, he discusses all other research done in Iran about the practice. The Stop FGM Middle East campaign wrote a press release after the study was published: [Press Statement: FGM in Iran needs to be put on international agenda](#). This was distributed widely and picked up by international media, e.g. by the Weekly Standard on June 17th: [Confronting FGM in Iran and Iraqi Kurdistan](#).

2.2.3. Advocacy

Our partner Rayehe Mozafarian continued her efforts towards a government strategy against FGM. After discussing the issue in several meetings with the director of the National Association of Children's Rights from the Ministry of Justice, a representative of women’s affairs from the Ministry of Interior and the Presidential Adviser on Women's Affairs an agreement was reached. In July, the Iranian Vice President for Women and Family Affairs issued a program against FGM in Iran. This program, submitted by Rayehe Mozaffarian to this governmental section, has been approved and will be implied after allocating the needed resources and facilities.

“Developing an action against the procedures which are jeopardizing the health and well-being of girls under 18 and presenting a proposal to promote the legal system of the country in preserving the benefits of minors are some of this program’s plans” said Dr. Sussan Bastani, deputy of strategic studies in the presidential section for women and family affairs in Iran.

As a first step, a [conference was held at Tehran University](#) on July 11th under the title “Razor and Tradition” which is also the title of Mozafarian’s book on FGM published in 2013.



Rayehe Mozafarian also took part in advocacy work on the global level. Together with the coordinator of the Stop FGM Middle East campaign and two activists from Indonesia, she participated in the NGO Forum of the CEDAW conference in New York in March 2015.

On February 8th, she spoke at the Iraqi-Kurdish parliament in Erbil about FGM on the occasion of the Day of Zero Tolerance towards FGM.



In January, Stop FGM Middle East contributed to the Alternative (joint NGO) Report submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child for consideration of the third periodic report of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the 71st Pre-Sessional Working Group.

2.2.4. Publicity, Media Work

Numerous articles have been published in the international and Persian media following the efforts of Ms. Rayehe Mozafarian and the publication of the comprehensive study by Kameel Ahmady. The Stop FGM Middle East campaign has documented such activities, published several summaries of developments and translated a few articles, such as the [report about FGM by the BBC Farsi Service](#), [Deutsche Welle Persian service about FGM in Iran](#) and the radio feature [FGM in Iran: Blade of Islam or patriarchal custom – an interview with scholars, activists and survivors](#). This radio feature later won the New York Radio Award.

One wonderful example of the many activities now mushrooming in Iran is the song by Chimam Rahmani:



While Chimam Rahmani is not a partner of Stop FGM Middle East, hers and others work show how the discussion about FGM has taken root in society.

2.3. Awareness raising about FGM in Asia

2.3.1. Media work

Through our media contacts and continuous distribution of press statements a relevant number of media outlets reported about the Stop FGM Middle East campaign or our partner projects:

Weekly Standard: [Female Genital Mutilation a growing problem in Iran](#), 20.1.2015

Les Observateurs: [Journée contre les mutilations sexuelles : l'UNICEF toujours en plein mensonge](#), 6.2.2015

Al-Monitor: [KRG looks to enhance protection of women, children](#), 20.4.2015

Emirates Women: [FGM in the Middle East – Investigating Cutting customs](#), 28.4.2015

Weekly Standard: [Confronting FGM in Iran and Iraqi Kurdistan](#), 17.6.2015

Foreign Affairs: [Under the Knife – Grading Iraqi Kurdistan’s success against female genital mutilation](#), 27.7.2015

Independent: [ISIS may have issued a fatwa introducing FGM in Mosul – but cutting in the Middle East is not new](#), 11.10.1015

And many other media outlets quote Stop FGM Middle East without ever having been in contact:

Breitbart: [Feminists Muslims fight Female Genital Mutilation’s growing popularity in Malaysia](#), 28.2.2015

Particularly, the interview published in Pundit Facts with Stop FGM Middle East in October 2014 (also see Annual Review 2014) was quoted widely: [Revisiting Reza Aslan’s response to Bill Maher on female genital mutilation](#).

Stop FGM Middle East coordinator Hannah Wettig also submitted a long written interview to Guardian journalist Hillary Burrage to be published in her next book on FGM.

2.3.2 English Website

Layout: The header and general design was enhanced in February also adding a facebook widget and donation button.

Content:

Several new pages have been added:

[Malaysia](#)

[Pakistan](#)

[Sri Lanka](#)

[Singapore](#)

[Where in Asia is FGM practiced?](#) (thanks to the courtesy of Orchid Project which produced an Asia map)

The whole website was updated regularly according to new research and article findings. Particularly the page [Fatwas against FGM](#) was completed with new rulings and phrases from the Quran.

All new and newly found research about FGM in the region was collected on the [Research page](#) providing a comprehensive collection and data base for researchers and journalists. Short summaries of the studies ensure a fast find.

The newswire of the website was regularly updated with news articles about FGM in Asia and the Middle East.

During the reporting period 28 press releases, articles, blog entries and translations from Persian articles were written and published:

[New Study from Iran: Female Genital Mutilation Impedes Men’s Well-Being](#), 9.10.2015
[New Website Launched for FGM in Iran](#), 1.9.2015.

[Tehran University organized First Conference about Female Genital Mutilation](#), 3.8.2015
[New religious opinions in Iran reject FGM](#),16.7.2015
[Why is there little interest in FGM in Asia on the FFD conference in Addis?](#), 15.7.2015
[News from Iran: Vice president for women affairs issued a program against FGM](#),10.7.2015
[Film review: “In the name of tradition” – FGM in Iran](#), 29.6.2015
[Radio program on female genital mutilation in Iran wins New York radio award](#), 24.6.2015
[Press Statement: FGM in Iran needs to be put on international agenda](#), 9.6.2015
[“We need a great revolution for women” – Account from an anti-FGM mobile teamer](#),
 22.5.2015.
[Campaign in Iraqi Kurdistan: Paying a visit to a Mullah who promoted FGM](#), 20.5.2015
[Saudi Fatwa: A practice that leads to women losing their sexual desire is bad](#), 6.3.2015
[New publication about FGM in Persian](#),13.2.2015
[International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM in the Kurdistan Parliament](#), 11.2.2015
[Day of Zero Tolerance to FGM: We need more campaigns in Asia](#), 5.2.2015
[Video-Clip: At the mosque](#), 4.2.2015
[Video-Clip: At the doctor’s office](#), 4.2.2015
[Video-Clip against FGM: Mobile teams stop the practice](#), 4.2.2015
[Video-Clip against FGM: Information makes a difference](#), 4.2.2015
[FGM in Indonesia still of great concern](#), 29.1.2015
[FGM Change conference: Some thoughts on numbers and religion](#), 28.1.2015
[Combating FGM in Kurdistan: Some Statements of the Activists](#), 18.01.2015
[Yearly Report 2013-14](#), 11.1.2015
[Orchid Project: FGC in Iraqi Kurdistan](#), 22.12.2014
[Iranian Film tackles Female Genital Mutilation](#), 15.12.2014
[FGM in Iran: Blade of Islam or patriarchal custom – an interview with scholars, activists and survivors](#), 4.12.2014
[Kurdish FGM-Free Village invited to Talkshow](#), 3.12.2014
[Elimination of FGM in one generation possible – after 9 years campaigning 70% oppose practice in Iraqi Kurdistan](#), 15.9.2014

2.3.3 Arabic and Persian Website

In June, a website in [Farsi was set up for Stop FGM Middle East](#), but has not been filled yet.

For the Arabic website important articles were translated from English, such as the press statements for Day of Zero Tolerance and FGM in Iran needs to be put on international agenda, also the report about the conference in Tehran, the study and film by Kameel Ahmady and announcements of the launch of Persian booklets and flyers. In addition, pieces from the Arabic media about FGM were regularly posted.

2.3.4 Facebook

All articles from the Arabic and English Website were posted on Facebook in addition to other interesting FGM related articles and cartoons found on the Web. The number of Likes reached 670 by September 2015 with the number of people reached by posts during the day around 640. This is also due to frequent shares, especially by other NGOs.

Outreach to people in countries affected has decreased since last year. Top ranking are Iraq with 128 (down from 180), 35 from Iran, 30 from Egypt, 13 from Indonesia. Only four fans each come from India, Malaysia and Jordan.

It is interesting to note that men like the page almost as often as women: The biggest group being women between 25-34 years with 19% followed by men of the same age with 16%.

2.3.5. Participation in conferences/workshops and other lectures

In January, the coordinator of the Stop FGM Middle East campaign, Hannah Wettig held a lecture at the German network of NGOs working towards the eradication of FGM, [Integra](#).

Also in January, Hannah Wettig participated in the [EU Change Conference](#), organized by Terre des Femmes in Berlin.

On the occasion of February 6th (Day of Zero Tolerance towards FGM), Stop FGM Middle East Project assistant Oliver Piecha presented the case of Iraqi Kurdistan and FGM in Asia at a three-day conference on FGM in Geneva organized by the Global Alliances against Female Genital Mutilation.

On the same day, Hannah Wettig spoke about “Breaking the Silence: From a taboo to a broad campaign” as part of a [three-day program about FGM](#) at the University of Göttingen (Germany)

On February 7th, Arvid Vormann from WADI presented the film „A handful of Ash“ about FGM in the Iraqi Kurdish region in Paris (France) at the occasion of a full day event organized by [GAMS](#), Espoirs et Combat de Femmes and Osez le féminisme.

On March 9th, Hannah Wettig participated on a panel on FGM in the Middle East and Asia at the UN Chapel in New York as part of the NGO Commission on the Status of Women Forum. Rayehe Mozafarian from Iran, Rena Herdiani and Lilis Iskander from Indonesia were also on the panel organized by Orchid Project and funded by the Wallace Foundation. The panel was chaired by Reyhana Patel a former employee of Islamic Relief who Stop FGM Middle East had been in contact with before.



On July 13th, Hannah Wettig presented the campaign against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Iraqi Kurdistan and Asia at the side event of the conference on Financing for Development (FFD) in Addis Ababa. For this occasion [a flyer](#) was printed to distribute among the audience.

ORCHID PROJECT
WORKING TOGETHER TO END
FEMALE GENITAL CUTTING

We would like to invite you to join us for a panel discussion on the topic of

Ending female genital cutting

10.00 am – 12.00 am, Monday 13th July 2015
Elilly Hotel, Unison Room
Area Kirkos Subcity 17/18
Addis Ababa

Speakers will include:

- Dr. Faith Mwangi-Powell Global Director of the Girl Generation (Chair)
- Dr. Susan Bissell UNICEF Child Protection Chief
- Sister Fa Activist and musician
- Domtilla Chesang Kenyan activist
- Hannah Wettig Project Co-ordinator, Stop FGM Middle East
- Representative of UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)
- Representative of DFID (UK Department for International Development)



From July 22nd to July 24th, Hannah Wettig participated in the Trainers to Trainers Workshop “Addressing female genital mutilation (FGM) in development projects and programmes” organized by Aidos in Rome.

2.3.6. Other contributions to UN and NGOs

Stop FGM Middle East informed all relevant NGOs and the head of the UNICEF-UNFPA joint program on female genital mutilation regularly about the work we are doing.

A good work relationship development between Orchid Project in Stop FGM Middle East: Two conference were organized by Orchid where FGM in Asia was made a topic and Stop FGM Middle East was invited. In addition Orchid designed a map for FGM in Asia which is now used by Stop FGM Middle East. There have been talks about future cooperation.

Stop FGM Middle East and WADI were offered support by Women Voices Now and WADI and the Stop FGM Middle East campaign are now listed as partners on the website of [Women Voices Now](#).

In December, we submitted a [statement about FGM in Asia to the Bar of Human Rights Commission](#) in the UK.

In January, Stop FGM Middle East contributed to the Alternative (joint NGO) Report submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child for consideration of the third periodic report of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the 71st Pre-Sessional Working Group.


2.4. Addressing Religion

Stop FGM Middle East is continuously addressing the connection of religion and FGM and encouraging activities in favor of religious opinions condemning FGM. The results of this work are collected on the page “Fatwas against FGM”.

In March, our partner professor Abdulrahim Rouzi (FGM expert and gynecologist at the King Abdul Azziz hospital in Jeddah) called in the Saudi Arabian TV show “Yastaftunak” (asking you for a Fatwa) and asked Dr. Al Sheikh Abdul Aziz Fawzan for a Fatwa on FGM in March. Fawzan is a Saudi Professor of Islamic Law at Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University and a member of the Teacher’s Board at al-Imam University. Fawzan concluded after explaining the different rulings on FGM and religious quotes:

„It seems to me when the prophet allowed this woman to circumcise (in the hadith) he was not so comfortable with the idea, and therefore he specifically said a small piece. The practice that leads to women losing their sexual desire is bad for the women and for their husbands. Circumcision should be made following the conditions set by the prophet, and where it creates no impact on the women’s physical and sexual health. If these conditions can’t be existed, then I see it’s best to let it go and abandon the practice.”

In Mai, we noticed that the Shafii school of Islam had taken down their fatwa on female circumcision. The Shafii school is the only law school in Sunni Islam which calls female circumcision obligatory. Shortly after, we had send the question and answer appeared in reference to our question. This new ruling seems to be a bit milder than the previous one because it does give women an advise how to get around the obligation: *“The official position of the Shafi’i School is that it is obligatory for a woman. There is also a weaker opinion that Imam Nawawi relates in Rawdah 10/180 that it is recommended. This is the opinion maintained by other scholars who considered that it is recommended or simply a noble deed, like Imam Abu Hanifah and Imam Malik. A woman following the Shafi’i School could make taqlid of these opinions. She would thereby be omitting a meritorious act, but not an obligation.”*



Home > Answers > Read Answer

Answer

Rulings from your site regarding female circumcision appear to have been taken down. Is there is a change in opinion concerning female circumcision from a Shafii point of view? What do you say about issuing a fatwa on this issue which prohibits the practice?

In *Maratib al-Ijma'* p. 157, Ibn Hazm cited that there is an established consensus (ar: *ijma'*) that circumcision for women is permissible. This *ijma'* is related by other scholars too. In the Sacred Law, *ijma'* is a binding proof, and it is not permissible for any scholar to go against it.

In *Nihayah* 8/35, after mentioning the official position of the Shafi'i School, that circumcision is obligatory for both men and women, Ramli defines what it means for a woman. He says that it is the removal of some skin from the clitoral prepuce. This is also mentioned by Ibn Hajar in *Tuhfah* 9/198.

In these passages, the word "*bazr*" is mentioned. *Sahib al-Misbah al-Munir* mentions that the "*bazr*" in circumcision is the prepuce. Thus, what is intended is a part of the prepuce surrounding the clitoris and not the clitoris itself.

In *Sunan Abi Dawud* and Tabarani's *al-Mu'jam al-Kabir*, it is related that the Prophet Muhammad (upon him be peace) said,

أَشْمِي لَا تُتَوَكَّبِي فَإِنَّ ذَلِكَ أَخْطَى لِلْعُرَاةِ وَأَخْبُ لِلْبَيْظِ

In Iran, more Fatwas were collected. After Rayehe Mozafarian had already received last year a number of fatwas by high ranking Shia clerics, this year Osman Mahmoudi asked Sunni Mullahs in the region of Kermansheh. While they seemed in the beginning opposed to Mahmoudi's work against FGM and defended the practice, the rulings from July 2015 are taking clear positions against FGM: [New religious opinion in Iran reject FGM](#).

In New York, the program coordinator met with representatives of "Muslims for Progressive Values" and discussed cooperation specifically on the issue of FGM in Malaysia.

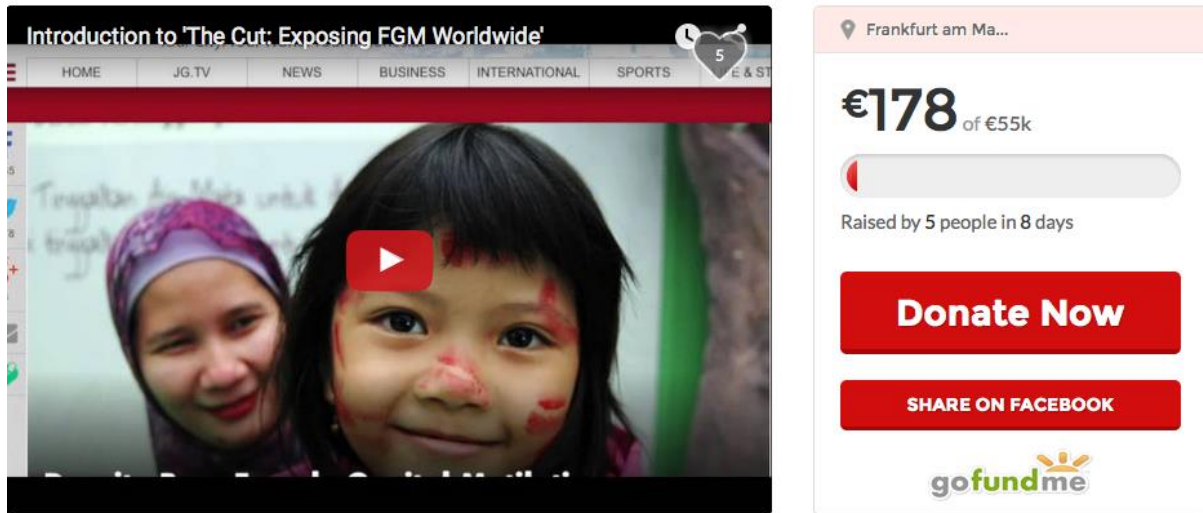
2.5. Film Project

A film project about FGM in Asia was already planned at the conference in Istanbul May 2014. A video workshop took place at the conference and activists from Iraq, Iran, Malaysia, and Oman were provided with Panasonic AG-AC90, an easy-to-use broadcast quality HD camera, to take back to their home country. These four countries were chosen because the activists from these countries already had a plan of what to film (e.g. activists, victims) and filming is possible even if under difficult circumstances. Participants from Indonesia already had their own filming equipment.

Since then, the film project's manager, John Chua, has maintained contact with the activists from those four countries and a number of interesting interviews have been done.

John Chua was able to compile a trailer from the existing footage. We have started fundraising activities with it recently.

The Cut: Exposing FGM Worldwide



The image shows a screenshot of a GoFundMe campaign page. On the left, there is a video player with a red play button icon. The video title is 'Introduction to 'The Cut: Exposing FGM Worldwide''. The video thumbnail shows two young girls, one wearing a purple headscarf and the other with red markings on her face. The video player has a navigation bar with 'HOME', 'JG.TV', 'NEWS', 'BUSINESS', 'INTERNATIONAL', 'SPORTS', and 'E & ST'. On the right, the GoFundMe campaign details are shown. The location is 'Frankfurt am Ma...'. The amount raised is '€178 of €55k'. A progress bar shows the amount raised. Below the progress bar, it says 'Raised by 5 people in 8 days'. There are two red buttons: 'Donate Now' and 'SHARE ON FACEBOOK'. At the bottom, the 'gofundme' logo is visible.

2.6. Research Toolkit

The idea for this project was born on the 2nd Middle East & Asia Conference on Female Genital Mutilation held in May 2014. Participants from countries like Oman, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia described their difficulties in determining the FGM prevalence in their countries and wished to have a manual and suggestions available online on how to conduct a simple survey.

After the Wallace Foundation agreed to funding this idea we have designed a toolkit for simple survey in different circumstances: Whether the users want to conduct their survey in villages or shopping malls of big cities.

Ready-made questionnaires are designed for different purposes depending on local needs. 20 internet pages have been written and designed. They will be online in early November.