

Africa Coordination Centre for abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation Website Launch

Africa Coordination Centre for abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (ACCAF) Website Launch (<http://accaf.org>) was held on April 12th 2017 at silver springs Hotel. ACCAF was formally established in 2012 as a trans-disciplinary, both in approach and personnel to champion efforts and address the gaps in abandonment of FGM/C in the Africa region within one generation. The Centre is hosted by the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, at the University of Nairobi with the overall aim of strengthening capacity in the region for research, implement interventions and monitor progress in accelerating efforts towards the abandonment of FGM/C and improved care for women and children suffering negative consequences of the practice. During 2011 international conference hosted by the Centre, it was mandated to coordinate research, training/capacity building, dissemination of evidence based practices and strategies for abandonment of FGM, influence policy and behavior change.

A Resource/Coordination Centre in Africa could help to stimulate and facilitate the situation for many who feel alone in their work in their own institutions and countries, providing support of various kinds and opportunities for capacity building. Strengthening capacity in Africa for producing evidence, improving care, implementing interventions and monitoring progress is the key to hastening abandonment efforts.

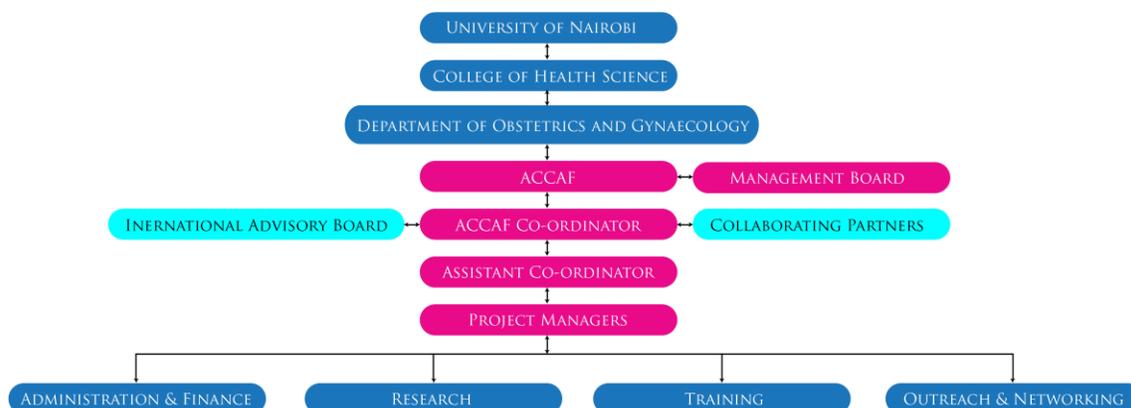
ACCAF OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES

The Centre will have four objectives:

1. Identify knowledge gaps and support and stimulate research in the field of FGM/C.
2. Support networking and knowledge exchange between researchers, health professionals and community workers on the abandonment of FGM/C.
3. Improve health care for women and children who have undergone FGM/C.
4. Advocate, educate and create a supportive environment for cultural change.

ACCAF STRUCTURE

Administrative Structure of ACCAF: As a Collaborative Centre, ACCAF will be expected to respond to national, regional and international needs. The Centre has the following administrative framework in order to effectively manage the Centre's activities and meet the expectations of various collaborators, partners, and stakeholders.



What We Do

To achieve our goals, ACCAF works with other stakeholders to combat Female Genital Mutilation (FGM/C) through community engagement and government lobbying, in recognition that many levels must be engaged to end these practices. Engaging with the communities affected by FGM/C forms the basis of our work. Our programs enable women and girls from affected communities to gain the confidence and skills to become advocates for change.

Our work on FGM/C is informed by research carried out by women and girls in their communities. This enables them to become champions of the change they want to see, and ensures that our work is based on the community's expressed needs. Our aim is to provide knowledge, tools, best practice models and support networks which help anti-FGM campaigners and organisations working with communities bring about a sustainable change to end FGM.

CAMPAIGNS

These are our themes, awareness raising campaigns or pledges to mobilise the public, professionals and decisions makers to act to end female genital mutilation/cutting.

ADVOCACY

For increased attention and resources to be invested in ending FGM/C, we seek the help of actors, activists and decision makers at every level – from grassroots, to regional, national and international actors. We advocate for governments and influential decision makers to accelerate a global end to the practice and use the most appropriate advocacy actions for whichever issue we may be working with, or for whichever level we are working at.

We endeavour to continue our advocacy at all levels and to further promote understanding around FGM/C and the ways in which we can bring an end to the practice within a generation.

ANTI-FGM/C POLICY FRAMEWORK

ACCAF builds partnerships and collaboration with organizations and bodies involved with FGM eradication in the continent and abroad including holding coordination and networking meetings for key stakeholders.

We use our network of country, regional and liaison offices to drive changes in practice and policy at local, national and global levels in the fight against FGM/C