

## **Austrian input to questionnaire regarding GA resolution A/RES/73/149**

Please find below the Austrian input regarding the implementation of General Assembly resolution A/RES/73/149 on "Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation". It describes measures taken by the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (including the Austrian Development Cooperation), the Federal Chancellery (Women and Integration), the Federal Ministry of Justice as well as the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection.

### **Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation (A/RES/73/149)**

- **Measures for the elimination of female genital mutilation, as per resolution 73/149, including:**
  - o Most recent data on FGM prevalence, including, if available, among immigrant and refugee populations, and information on root causes and factors contributing to the practice.
  - o Measures taken to protect women and girls from FGM, including when the practice occurs outside the country of residence.
  - o The role of stakeholders in eliminating the practice of FGM, including of: traditional leaders; faith-based and religious institutions; families and communities; youth; men and boys; grassroots and women's organizations; as well as health sector workers, particularly their ability to prevent FGM, including medicalization, and manage FGM complications.

#### **1. Federal Chancellery/Integration**

The Federal Criminal Police Office and the Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF) support integration projects with a focus on violence and genital mutilation against women and their prevention. 12 projects with overall 637.025€ were promoted in 2018. In 2019 16 projects with 872.842,94€ and in 2020 15 projects with 823.621,49€ were encouraged.

These include following projects:

- „intact – enlightenment, awareness-building and support with female genital mutilation – Phase 2" from the institute for women`s- and men`s health/ FEM south

improvement of the health situation of women and girls who are affected by genital mutilation and the protection of endangered girls

professional support for women and girls with psychic and physical problems

men and women should be equally sensitized about the problems

In 2019 the project is promoted with 58.472,55€

- „STAR\*K – pilot project about the sensitization for violence against women" hosted by the Caritas from the archdiocese Vienna – help in need

Aim: Young men and women should be sensitized about traditional violence against women and girls.

Within the framework of education workshops, participants learn how to recognize traditional ways of violence and how to develop actions against them. At the end of the training the graduates should educate their peers.

In 2020 the project is promoted with 49.800,00€.

Further information can be found on the homepage of the Federal Criminal Police Office: <https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/agenda/integration/projektfoerderung/foerderschwerpunkte/frauen.html>

Due to a special call in 2019, the ÖIF will support in counseling and prevention projects with EUR 1 Mio. – until the end of 2021, due to benefit women and girls who are affected by either female genital mutilation (FGM) or violence against women in the context of integration

The aim is to provide women affected by genital mutilation with information about therapy options and professional support in order to increase their quality of life. Women and girls who are at risk of genital mutilation and violence in the context of integration should be informed about their rights and possible support measures. In addition, male relatives and men in general must be educated on prohibition of violence in Austria and the consequences of sexual and physical harassment of women.

Besides the funding of projects aiming to those affected by FGM and violence directly, projects to provide employees can be promoted. This is targeting: Women`s health centres, victim protection groups and other aid organisations as well as personnel from the health-care sector, persons that push opinions and facts, community workers, teachers and school classes with expertise contributing to the information for the target group and prevention.

Overview of the funded is provided at: [https://www.integrationsfonds.at/fileadmin/user\\_upload/20190918\\_Sonderaufuf\\_gefoerderte\\_Projekte.pdf](https://www.integrationsfonds.at/fileadmin/user_upload/20190918_Sonderaufuf_gefoerderte_Projekte.pdf)

In 2020, the ÖIF issued a call for funding concerning “projects against violence and to strengthen women and girls in the context of integration in all Austria”. Therefore EUR 2 Mio. will provided for projects with a duration from 1.10.2020 to 31.12.2021. For further details see: <https://www.integrationsfonds.at/themen/foerderungen/sonderaufuf-fuer-projekteinreichungen>

Austria participates in the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) launched study „Estimation of the number of girls at risk of female genital mutilation in the EU“.

Austria gained legal precaution concerning FGM: FGM is explicitly a punishable crime under Austrian criminal law. It is also a punishable offence to carry out FGM abroad (for example, during a visit to a home country), even if it is not an offence in that particular country.

In 2019, projects and services focusing specifically on FGM were funded with a total of app. 420,000 Euros by the Division for Women and Equality within the Federal Chancellery. This is +21% more than in 2018, due to shift in budgets and focus on violence prevention initiatives.

The role of stakeholders in eliminating the practice of FGM

An effective way to combat FGM apart from sufficient legal precaution, is awareness-raising and information measures, prevention and victim protection. Communication and education are therefore needed to bring about a change in values, perceptions and behaviour. A sensitive

approach to the culture allows communities to realise themselves that not everything which is legitimised by the culture is also consistent with human rights. Therefore, we focus on preventive information and counselling.

Measures include the funding of specialised counselling services and of prevention work in the communities as well as specific information-folders.

The 57 acknowledged women's services with their 10 regional offices offer help, counsel and support Austrian-wide, including online, and were funded with a total of 3,036,000 Euros in 2019.

## 2. Austrian Development Agency (ADA)

Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation (A/RES/73/149)

**Fighting** sexual and gender based violence and **FGM** in areas of conflict and fragile states are **key priorities** of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), which is set forth in the *Three-Year Programme for the Austrian Development Cooperation 2019-2021*.

In **2019**, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the operational unit of the Austrian Development Cooperation, invited its partners from CARE Ethiopia to hold a **training on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)** in the context of ADA's stronger funding focus on topics such as SRHR and **Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM)**. Around 15 ADA staff at headquarter level attended – mostly from ADA's quality unit and programme managers.

In the margins of the open debate of the UN Security Council on sexual violence in conflict in **April 2019**, Austria pledged to finance **EUR 5 million in the fight against FGM** in the next 3 years. The following initiatives are a result of this pledge:

Contribution to the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme to Eliminate FGM, EUR 2.5 million, 2019-2021. The Joint Programme will target approximately 8 million girls who will receive FGM preventive services and 4 million who will receive protection and care services. In addition, more than 8,200 new communities, covering approximately 18.45 million people, will make public declarations abandoning FGM across 16 countries, helping to ensure that girls will remain free from FGM.

Agreed funding agreement for "Sexual Reproductive and Health Rights Initiative in Amhara, Ethiopia", implemented by CARE, EUR 2.8 million, Ethiopia, 2019-2023. The project targets 31,396 direct beneficiaries (70% of which female) and 156,980 indirect beneficiaries (family members, relatives and friends).

On the International Women's Day in 2018, the Austrian Development Cooperation launched an **initiative on women's health and FGM**. This initiative currently supports four projects (3 in Ethiopia, 1 in Burkina Faso) with total funding of **EUR 1.2 million**. Around 110,000 people benefit directly from measures against FGM.

„Combating female genital mutilation and promoting sexual and reproductive health in the Boucle de Mouhoun region“, implemented by Privatstiftung Hilfe mit Plan Österreich, 300,000 EUR, Burkina Faso, Nov. 2018-Oct. 2021.

„SEKAYEN ATABIZUT – Do not make me suffer -Reduce Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Dugda, Bora, ATJK, Zeway Dugda and SNNPR Tulla sub city“, implemented by Österreichische Caritaszentrale (ÖCZ), 300,000 EUR, Ethiopia, Nov. 2018-Oct. 2021.

„Reduce Female Genital Mutilation in Ethiopia“, implemented by HORIZONT3000 - Österreichische Organisation für Entwicklungszusammenarbeit, 300,000 EUR, Ethiopia, Nov. 2018-Oct. 2021.

„Empowerment of women and equitable access to health care in Assosa Woreda“, implemented by Österreichisches Rotes Kreuz, 300,000 EUR, Ethiopia, Nov. 2018-Apr. 2021.

## **B. COVID-19 Response**

All local offices of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) were reminded/instructed to consider gender issues when reallocating funds/responding to COVID-19. Where possible, a COVID-19 response is integrated in ongoing projects.