

# GAMCOTRAP



**Protect the Girl-Child**

## **REPORT ON THE EFFECTS OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION AND EXISTING ANTI-FGM LAWS**



*Cross session of Senior Police Officers and Child Welfare Officers*

## **WORKSHOP REPORT 2023**

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023

Venue: NaNA Conference Hall

Funded : GIZ Police Programme: Joint German-EU support to The Gambia Police Force

## Acronyms

- ❖ FGM- Female Genital Mutilation
- ❖ GPF- Gambia Police Force
- ❖ HTPs- Harmful Traditional Practices
- ❖ GAMCOTRAP- The Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children
- ❖ GIZ- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
- ❖ SGBV- Sexual and Gender Based Violence
- ❖ VAW- Violence Against Women
- ❖ SRHR- Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights

## Table of Content

✚ Title	
✚ Acronyms	
✚ Acknowledgements.....	2
✚ Introduction.....	2
✚ Programme Background.....	3
✚ Objectives.....	4
✚ Methodology.....	4
✚ Tools.....	5
✚ Activities.....	5
○ Opening and welcoming remarks.....	5
○ Effects of FGM on SRHR of Women and Girls.....	6
○ Public Declaration “Dropping of the Knife initiative” (DOK).....	6
○ Existing Laws that promote and protect women and girl-children’s from HTPs....	7
○ Group Work.....	7
✚ Evaluation.....	8
○ Pre-test and power analysis in the implementation of the law on FGM.....	8
○ Post-test .....	11
✚ Lesson learnt.....	15
✚ Outcome and Recommendations.....	16
✚ Conclusion.....	16
Annex .....	17,18

## **Acknowledgement**

GAMCOTRAP would like to extend a heartfelt gratitude to GIZ Gambia Police Programme for the opportunity given to conduct the one-day trial workshop training on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and the existing national, international laws and conventions in the Gambia for the Gambia Police Force. This training aimed to enhance their understanding of the issue and equip them with the necessary knowledge and tools to effectively combat FGM within our society through implementation of the laws.

We extend our deepest appreciation to the GIZ for their unwavering commitment to the advancement of human rights and their dedicated efforts in addressing the grave issue of SGBV through enhancing and equipping the Gambia Police Force (GPF).

We would also like to express our gratitude to all the resource persons and facilitators who generously shared their expertise, experiences, and guidance during the workshop. Their professionalism and passion for combating SGBV particularly FGM were truly inspiring and played a vital role in shaping the success of this training.

Furthermore, we would like to also extend our thanks to the Gambia Police Force for their active participation and enthusiastic engagement throughout the workshop. Their commitment to protecting the rights and well-being of our citizens is commendable, and we are confident that the knowledge gained during this training will greatly enhance their capacity to enforce anti-FGM laws and support victims. We remain committed to working together in our collective efforts to eradicate FGM and create a safer, more inclusive society for all. We hope for more engagements in the future.

Lastly, we would like to acknowledge all the individuals who attended the workshop, including the GIZ and GAMCOTRAP team. Your presence and active involvement contributed significantly to the insightful discussions and fruitful exchange of ideas.

## **INTRODUCTION TO A DAY-TRAINING ON THE EFFECTS ON FGM AND EXISTING ANTI-LAWS**

On the 23rd May 2023, a one-day workshop/training was organized for the Gambia Police Force, focusing on the effects of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) on the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) of women and girls and the existing Laws and International Convention. The workshop, sponsored by GIZ (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) Gambia Police Programme, aimed to provide the GPF with a comprehensive understanding of the detrimental impact of FGM on SRHR and to enhance their knowledge of existing anti-FGM laws in The Gambia. The workshop was mainly attended by the GPA Senior Police Officers and Station Officers within the Greater Banjul Area.

The workshop comprised a series of informative sessions and interactive discussions led by the facilitator and two resource persons. The resource persons comprised of an expert in the field of health who provided a comprehensive insight into the physical and psychological effects of FGM on the SRHR of women and girls. Session one highlighted the long and short-term consequences of FGM, including increased risks during childbirth, sexual dysfunction, and psychological trauma.

The second session focused on the community outreach activities and social mobilization to raise awareness about FGM and Women and Children's rights. This session was presented by the facilitator who showcased many years of advocacy across the country reaching out to various target groups. She noted that FGM is wrongly associated with religion and the sources used to justify them are unauthentic and there is nowhere FGM is prescribed for women and girls in the Koran. She informed the participants that the awareness created about Islam and FGM and using the Rights Based Approach has resulted in acceptance by the communities to end FGM and called for a law to prohibit it. She noted that it is the duty of the law enforcement officers to ensure the effective implementation of the law.

The third resource person, a legal expert, presented an overview of the existing anti-FGM laws and international conventions in The Gambia. This session explored the legal framework surrounding FGM, including relevant statutes, penalties for offenders, and the role of law enforcement agencies. He stressed the need for effective implementation, collaboration, and coordination among the police force, GAMCOTRAP and the judiciary to ensure the enforcement of these laws. He noted that this type of training should be undertaken across the regions for law enforcement Officers to engage in ending FGM.

### **Programme Background**

Since 2008 the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) GmbH has been carrying out a programme on behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office (AA) to strengthen the capacities of police structures in Africa. The Police Programme Africa supports police institutions and other relevant actors by providing expert advice, training, and capacity development, strengthening of partner institutions management capacities and equipment support. The programme contributes to the promotion of peace and stability, prevention of conflicts and security threats, and the promotion of human security.

GIZ has been commissioned by AA to implement the above mentioned programmes in Africa and has supported the implementation of programmes in 11 African Countries, African Union, and the G5 Sahel Secretariat in the previous phase of the programme. Within this new phase (2023-2025), the programme will implement programmes in 3 African countries and 1 regional organizations.

The first Phase in The Gambia Component ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 and supported the Gambia Police Force in the strengthening of its human resources management capacity, the public relations/community policing strategy, promotion of gender equality and promotes a robust internal complaints mechanism to ensure access to trusted and accountable police services for the public. It also aimed at strengthening the performance of Gambia Police Force through training, equipment supports and infrastructural enhancement.

The new phase (second phase) of The Gambia component is expected to be commissioned by the Federal Foreign Office for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. The programme is also expecting an EU co-financing agreement for the period 04/2023 – 09/2025.

The overall objective of the current phase is to strengthen the institutional and human capacities of the Gambia Police Force (GPF). An institution that holds up the rule of law and is close to its' citizen will contribute to the fight against serious and transnational organized crime. The new commission has three result areas.

- The tasks of the police in the areas of crime prevention have been modernized. This has improved the confidence of the population in the capabilities of the police, including prevention work and victim protection, especially in the area of SGBV.
- The capacities of the criminal investigation authorities to collect material evidence professionally are strengthened.
- The national and regional networking and cooperation of the Gambian law enforcement authorities, especially with regard to serious and transnational organized crime, has been further expanded.

## **Objectives**

- ❖ To educate the Gambia Police Force about the physical and psychological consequences of FGM on the SRHR of women and girls.
- ❖ To enhance their understanding of the existing anti-FGM laws and international Conventions in The Gambia
- ❖ To facilitate knowledge exchange and promote collaboration between the GPF and GAMCOTRAP in addressing the issue of FGM.

## **Methodology/Approach of the Workshop**

The methods used in the workshop were;

- ❖ Ground rules were set taking suggestions from the participants.

- ❖ Participants were asked to express what they hope to achieve from the training. (Setting expectations)
- ❖ During the introduction of participants, they were asked to choose a friend, find out about their names, job experience, likes and dislikes then introduce them to the rest of the class.
- ❖ The sitting position was set in a way that participants would be able to see what is been projected at the same time work as a team.
- ❖ There was also syndicate groups session where participants were grouped and given tasks to accomplish.
- ❖ Participants were provided copies of the relevant legal instruments for the sessions.
- ❖ Participants were interviewed by the media officer to capture their views, perception, and opinion about the training.

### **Tools/Materials Used**

- ❖ Pre-test and Post-test questionnaire
- ❖ TIP write-up
- ❖ The Case of Institutional Commitment to Address SGBV
- ❖ Human Rights Instrument
- ❖ A Copy of Women and Children’s Act
- ❖ Information Series on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- ❖ Write-up on Harmful Traditional Practices Affecting Women and Girls
- ❖ Writing pads and Pens
- ❖ Cards and Markers for group works

### **ACTIVITIES**

#### **Opening and welcoming remarks**

The Gambia Country Component Manager of the GIZ Police Programme, gave a brief welcome remark and acknowledged the presence of everyone with due protocol. She stated that GIZ supports the Gambia Police Force in the areas of crime prevention and cases related to SGBV, and today's event is a training/sensitization on SGBV. A small but key group of persons from the GPF has been invited to raise awareness of FGM. GAMCOTRAP will provide an in-depth understanding of the subject in the Gambian context. The training also includes resource persons who are specialists in both FGM and the country's laws. She encouraged everyone to actively participate in all aspects of the training.



The Executive Director of GAMCOTRAP opened the event with a brief but detailed remark on what

participants should expect during the training. She expressed heartfelt appreciation to the event sponsors for giving GAMCOTRAP the opportunity to engage with senior police officers on a topic that has been a critical issue in the country for many years. She was grateful for the opportunity to discuss the subject with law enforcers who deal with these issues and needs empowerment to effectively execute their duties using the right legal framework. She encouraged participants to ask questions to gain a clear understanding instead of making assumptions. She also introduced the resource person, Dr. Aboubacarr Jah, the Proprietor of SHARAB Hospital, who has been a valuable resource in the fight against FGM. Dr. Jah would reflect on the effects of FGM on SRHR of women and girls, while Lawyer Lamin Mboge, a legal luminary would discuss the existing laws that promote and protect these target groups on HTPs.

### **Effects of FGM on SRHR of Women and Girls**

Dr. Jah presented an overview of the facts about FGM. He mentioned that he has been involved in the fight against FGM for a long time due to the inhumane act committed against women, which affects their dignity and human rights. He began by defining FGM as a



*Dr. Jah Presenting the Effects of FGM*

procedure that intentionally alters or causes injuries to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. He emphasized that these practices have no medical justification or basis. His presentation included pictures that revealed the extent of damage these acts can cause. He also provided charts on the prevalence of FGM and SGBV worldwide.

Dr. Jah explained that male circumcision is essential because it involves the removal of redundant skin, which may help prevent infections in men, especially phimosis, and reduce the risk of infection for their partners, as well as HIV transmission. He further stated that FGM involves the cutting of functional organs that play crucial roles in the sexual and reproductive health of women and girls. Removing these organs can have short-term or long-term effects on women. He announced that the 25th of May, the day of the event, marks the global celebration of the end of Vesicovaginal fistula (VVF), and he added that one of the causes of fistula is FGM.

The session was emotional as the participants were confronted with the harsh reality of the harm caused by FGM. Some shed tears, and others vowed to fight to end it.

### **Public Declaration “Dropping of the Knife initiative” (DOK)**

Dr. Touray, the Executive Director of GAMCOTRAP and an activist, facilitated the entire event. She presented on the DOK, starting with a discussion on the connection and misconceptions between FGM and religion. She encouraged everyone to refer to religious books for clarification and not let others misguide them. She further explained that some male religious leaders use FGM as a means to dominate and control women's sexuality. Referring to the Holy Book Quran, she explained how the Holy Prophet addressed the issue by not associating it with Islam. She supported her statements with citations from the holy book, providing participants with a better understanding of the subject. Some participants also linked FGM to cultural practices.

Regarding the DOK, Dr. Touray explained that it is a comprehensive module that circumcisers undergo for a minimum period of 2 years. They willingly come forward to swear an oath and declare their abandonment of the practice. The DOK is usually implemented using a cluster approach, where villages are grouped together to form



*Dr. Isatou Touray Presenting on cluster approaches to DOK*

clusters. To achieve positive outcomes effectively, one region must be completed before moving on to the next, to prevent the practice from resurfacing. GAMCOTRAP has successfully covered several communities but requires funding to continue their efforts. Although GAMCOTRAP has previously trained police officers, there are still gaps that need to be addressed to effectively implement the laws and meet

the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

### **Existing Laws that promote and protect women and girl-children’s from HTPs**



*Lawyer Lamin K Mboge*

The legal expert presented an overview of the existing anti-FGM laws and international conventions in The Gambia. This session explored the legal framework surrounding FGM, including relevant statutes, penalties for offenders, and the role of law enforcement agencies. He stressed the need for effective implementation, collaboration, and coordination among the police force,

GAMCOTRAP and the judiciary to ensure the enforcement of these laws. He noted that this type of training should be undertaken across the regions for law enforcement Officers to engage is ending FGM.

### **Group Work**



During the group work, which is also known as the syndicate groups, participants were divided into four groups, given cards with markers and asked to write down three or more things as a group what they have learnt or recommendations.

#### Group1

- Sensitizing the people on the harmful effects of FGM
- Arresting and prosecuting offenders of FGM
- Capacity building for officers to combat FGM

#### Group2

- Extending the training for more officers of the law
- To intensify grassroots sensitization
- Strict laws on FGM

#### Group3: The roles of Police in FGM are;

- Protect children from FGM
- Investigate cases
- Prosecution of offenders
- Arresting
- Engage on community sensitization and outreach on programme on FGM and related laws

#### Group4: Roles of Police in ending FGM are;

- Detect and prevent FGM
- Investigate cases
- Prosecute perpetrators
- Public sensitization

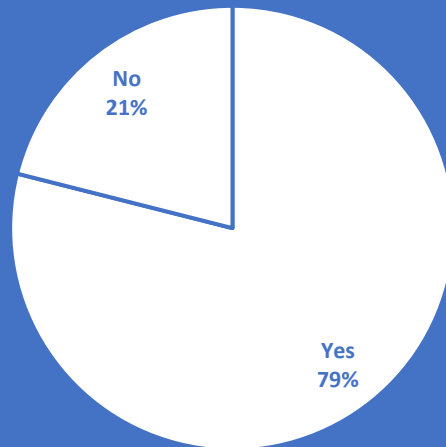
### **Evaluation**

To assess the level of understanding of the Gambia Police Force on FGM, GBV in general and the laws prohibiting the act, they were administered pre-test questionnaire with which below gives a brief response on their level of knowledge on the subject.

#### **Pre-test and power analysis in the implementation of the law on FGM.**

In both pre and post-tests all participants consented to the pre and post-tests. Thus, they were given the questions individually and at their own time and privacy responded to the questions. Below are the questions and analysis of their response;

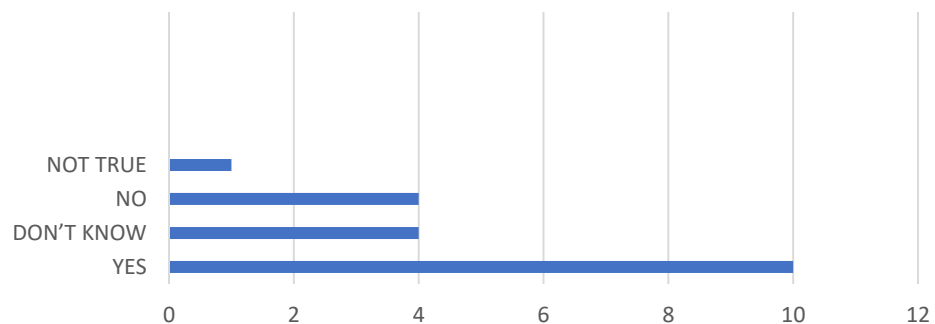
## HAVE YOU EVER ATTENDED FGM TRAINING?



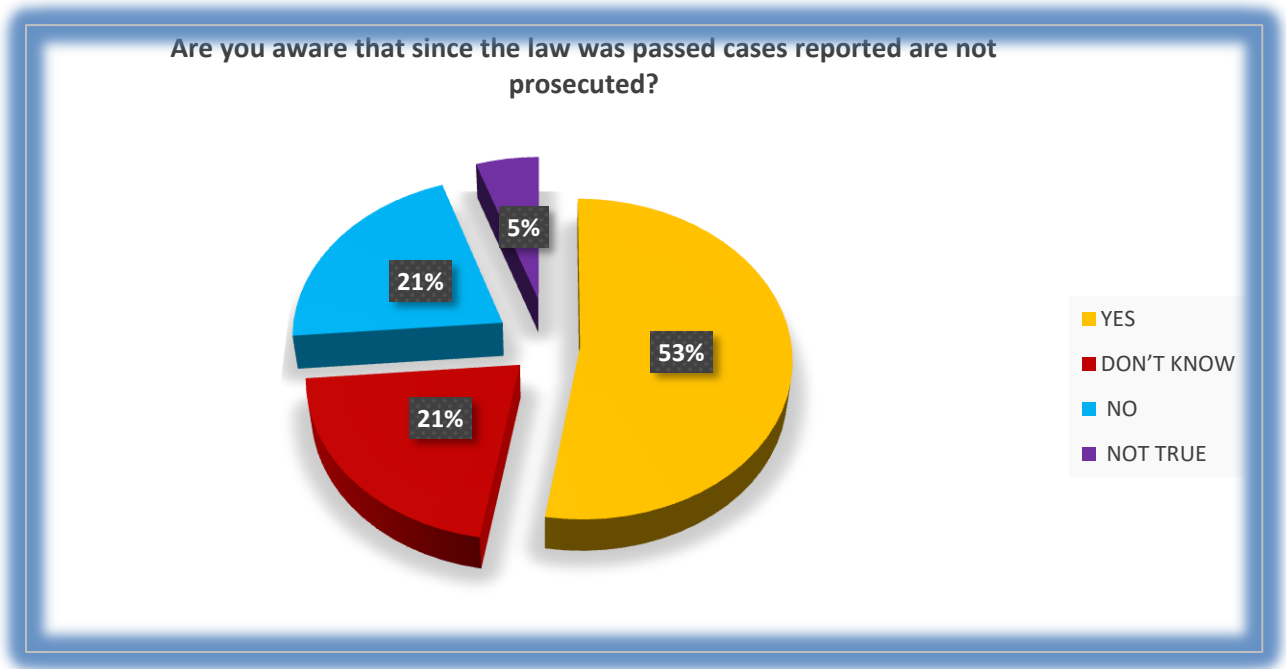
Do people in uniform need any training on FGM and Women's and Children's rights issues?

- All of them 19 people answered AGREE.

Which institution(s) do you think are the primary duty bearers in the implementation of the law against FGM?

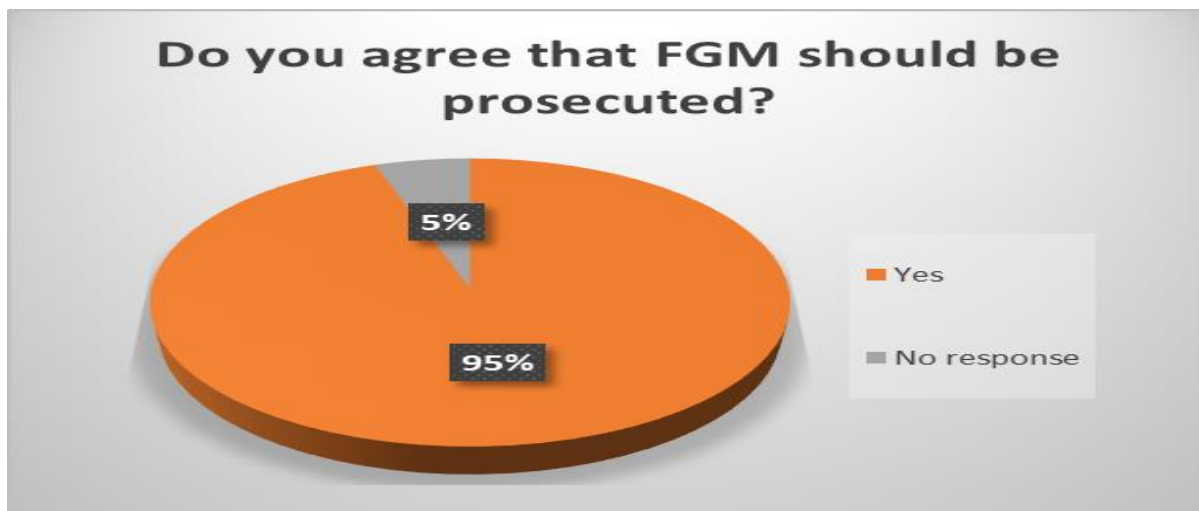


In the chat, 33% of the participants identified the police as the primary duty bearer, while 20% assigned it to Social Welfare, 18% to the Community, 8% to the Judiciary, 5% to Schools and Parental/Homes, and 3% to CSOs. This analysis indicates that the implementation of the law is the responsibility of all actors. However, considering the high percentage of responsibility assigned to the police, it is important to enhance their capacity through continuous engagement with human rights issues to effectively implement the law.



Since the passing of the law, 21% of respondents indicated that they are unsure whether cases are being prosecuted or not. Another 21% responded with a clear "No." Additionally, 5% stated that it is not true that cases are prosecuted. The majority, comprising 53% of the respondents, responded that cases are not being prosecuted. When they were asked to explain, someone stated that they have never witness a case of FGM prosecuted, another said all the cases they dealt with were taken to court. One person stated in the case of FGM, perpetrators are mostly immediate family members and witnesses never want to testify.

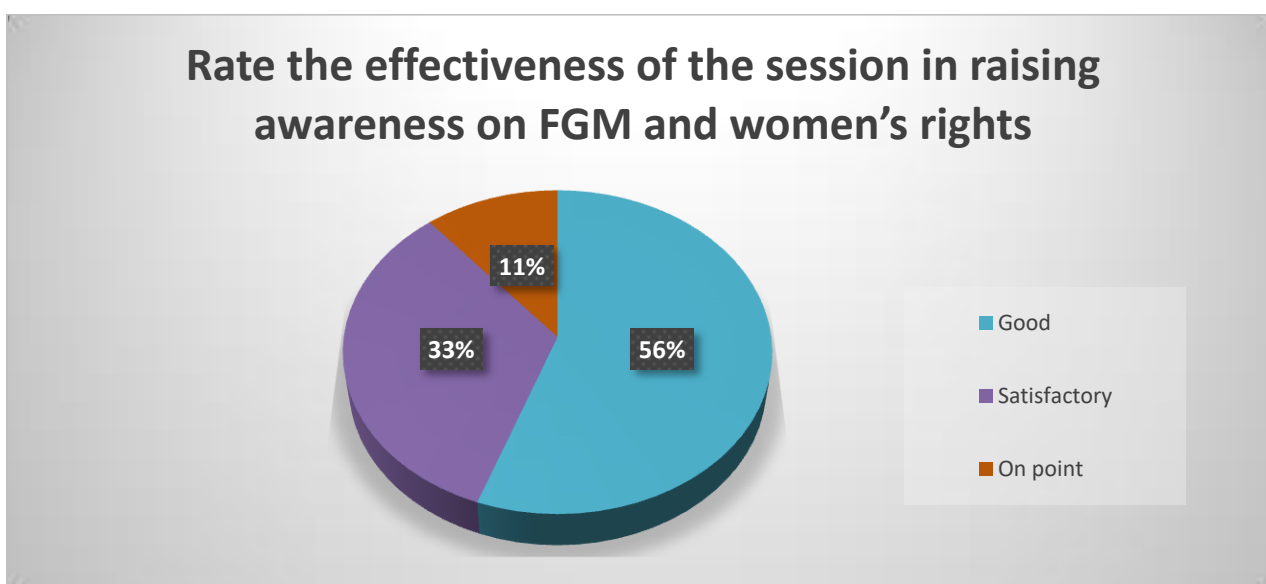
This analysis suggests that while cases are being reported and, to some extent, progress is made towards prosecution, there are still gaps that hinder full implementation. Furthermore, it highlights the importance of capacity building not only for community policing but also for higher-ranking police officers to ensure thorough case follow-up at every level until full implementation is achieved. The findings also indicate that the police hold the primary responsibility, followed by Social Welfare and the communities. Therefore, it is crucial to engage with communities and empower them to collaborate closely with the police in addressing the issue.



95% of the respondents stated that female genital mutilation (FGM) is a violation of human rights and causes harm to the female genitalia and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Consequently, they believe that FGM should be prosecuted. Meanwhile, 5% did not provide a response. Among the respondents who expressed the need for prosecution, 5 individuals cited health complications as a reason, 4 believed that prosecuting perpetrators would make them take the law or act seriously and cease the practice, 1 mentioned that FGM is against the law, and another emphasized that it is a violation of human rights and can even result in the death of the victims, thus necessitating prosecution of the perpetrators.

#### Post-Test

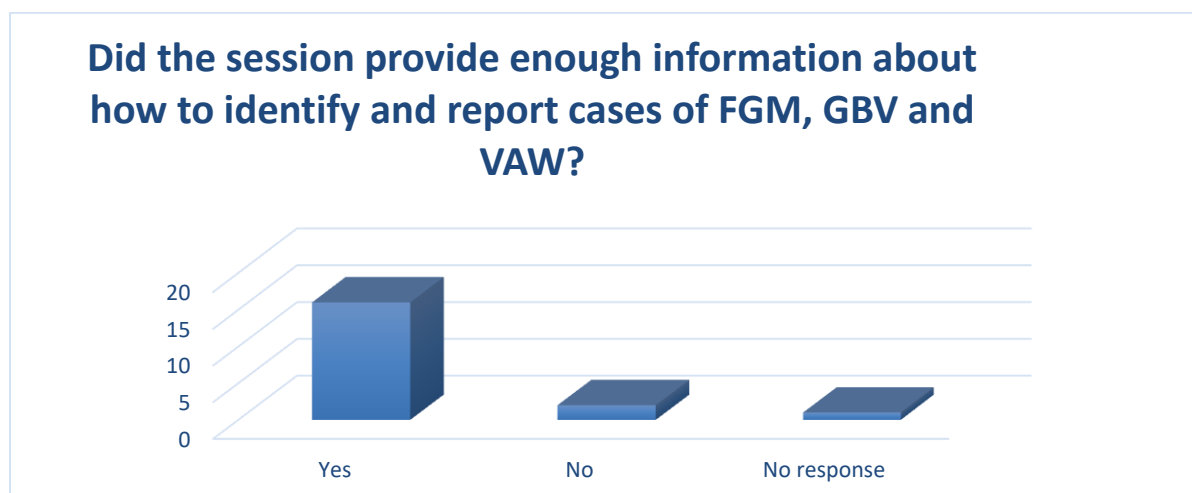
After the workshop, they were administered an evaluation on how much they have learnt and if they will want to in-cooperate it in their annual program by recommending it to their units and below is the response.



The analysis of the chart suggests that even with just a one-day or a few hours' session, participants experienced a significant enhancement in their knowledge. They were exposed to new situations, laws, and conventions that many of them were previously unaware of. This indicates that conducting more extensive training, capacity building, and sensitization programs on a larger scale can greatly elevate the effectiveness of the GPF in implementing laws, particularly those related to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in The Gambia. By extending the duration of these programs, there is a strong potential to make significant progress in achieving the SDGs 2030 targets.

When asked about the actions to be included in the routine of the Gambia Police based on what they learned in the session, 10 participants recommended conducting intensive training for all security forces on the subject. They emphasized the importance of ensuring that all security personnel are well-informed and equipped to address issues related to FGM, SGBV, and security services.

Additionally, 8 participants suggested revisiting the policies concerning FGM, SGBV, and the security services. They emphasized the need for updates and improvements in these policies to effectively address the issues at hand. Furthermore, they proposed the inclusion of these subjects in the curriculum of training programs for new recruits to ensure that future generations of security personnel are adequately educated on these matters. One participant did not provide a response regarding the actions to be included in the Gambia Police routine.



Participants felt that they were provided with adequate information on how to identify and address SGBV, FGM as well as VAW. However, the most impactful part of the session for most of them were as follow;

- Cutting of the clitoris in the part of the vagina which causes discomfort, depression etc. to the girl child
- FGM causing women to go through tears in labor which I went through

- It can cause a woman to lose her life in the process of performing FGM due to loss of blood, unhygienic environment, unsterilized equipment etc.
- The health implications associated with FGM
- Lack of empathy on a child been circumcised
- Seeing the pictures of FGM
- The entire session
- The results for cutting and the different types of FGMC
- It was made clear to that it has no religious backing as we are made to understand, the excessive bleeding can cause death and once it is cut cannot be repaired
- It is violating the dignity of women and reduction in the sexual pleasure of the woman
- The deliberation made by the lawyer
- The Video and photographs of FGM session on the how FGM is conducted
- It has created a knowledge guided by laws on the illegality of the act
- The harmful effects of FGM been presented by an expert Dr. Jah
- I learned new things I have not known earlier

The participants upon gaining this knowledge realized the need for collaboration of CSOs/ NGOs and the Security force on the rights of women. They also found the facilitator's knowledge and presentation style well-articulated and to their expectations. They also agreed to recommend this session for the Security Forces in all units. Thus, some of them expressed a couple of concerns that can be improved in next training as well as their intervention units.

- Provided materials and enough resources for the security sector for proper implementation of the subjects.
- Time management should be improved
- Number of days of the training should be extended
- To implement some of the charges that are not in the criminal code or the Sexual Offence Act
- Improve prosecution of perpetrators of FGM despite whoever is found guilty.
- Sensitization and popularization of the law on FGM
- More security officers be train on the dangers of FGM. The session was well organized and met my satisfaction
- The session was really good and more time should have been given to Dr. Jah because his side of the session was very important to us
- Time is short thus the need to make it a two-day program.
- The facilitator on the relevant provision could have introduced the Domestic Violence Act as well
- The laws need to be revised and create more consistency. The government should take more responsibility to institute lawyers to take the matter more seriously

- The session was interesting but if you can improved on how to handle the victim of FGM i.e their privacy and also involve the Ministry of Justice and the Judiciary in the session so that the implementation will be easier.

### **Any comment?**

- This session is wonderful, educative and trust me I will inculcate every knowledge gathered here to my fellow subordinates in my institution and my community as well
- It's an honor for me to be part of the training because I have learnt a lot about FGM and its types
- This is a good training that come at a right time, with this training will make people be aware of the importance of fighting the practice FGM
- FGM is a harmful act and it need to end
- I disagree on FGM in the Gambia
- The training is a very successful and educative one as there are so many agendas discussed and I pray it goes smoothly
- The training was successful and educative about FGM how it affected women in their marriage and during birth
- There should be more training on FGM in the country so that many people can know its implications
- I recommend more training of such to fellow security officers to enable them combat effectively
- I would like this training to be conducted every six months and everybody within the force to have the know how
- I have learned a lot and we will make good use of the lesson learned today
- There should be effective engagement with security and more strict measures be taken for better implementation of the law.
- It will be important that all police officers to attend the training so that the implementation will be effective
- I thank you for all the knowledge and wish to share it would have been better if we can be having the training frequently
- Need for the printing and circulation of books on FGM related matters e.g. Sexual Offence Act

After the training, 95% of the participants reported that their expectations were met, and they gained additional knowledge regarding the effects of female genital mutilation (FGM) and the relevant laws and international conventions on human rights. Some participants expressed their satisfaction verbally, mentioning that they now feel fully informed about cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and the importance of taking stronger measures within their respective sectors. One participant specifically mentioned how the training enhanced their understanding of effective law implementation and how to raise

awareness among community members about FGM, its health implications for women and their families (including the risk of death during childbirth), the negative impact on sexual desire, the absence of religious justification, the violation of women's dignity, and the associated stigma. Additionally, some participants learned about the various types of FGM and recognized the urgent need for its cessation. 5% gave no response.

### **Lesson learnt**

The one-day workshop on the effects of FGM on the SRHR of women and girls, along with existing anti-FGM laws, held with the Gambia Police Force, provided valuable lessons. Here are some key takeaways from the workshop

**Understanding the Impact:** The workshop highlighted the severe physical, psychological, and social consequences of FGM on the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of women and girls. Participants gained a deeper understanding of how FGM can lead to complications such as infections, chronic pain, childbirth difficulties, and psychological trauma.

**Legal Framework:** The workshop emphasized the importance of existing anti-FGM laws and international convention in the Gambia. Participants learned about the legal provisions in place to protect women and girls from FGM, and the role of law enforcement agencies, including the police, in their roles in enforcing these laws. They gained insights into the legal instruments and mechanisms available to combat FGM effectively. They appreciated the resource materials provided to them to update them on development regarding women and children's rights and FGM and the law.

**Collaboration and Empowerment:** The workshop promoted collaboration between the Gambia Police Force and organizations like GAMCOTRAP in addressing the issue of FGM. Through the evaluation analysis, it was discovered that participants recognized the need for joint efforts to raise awareness, protect the vulnerable group, provide support to survivors, and ensure effective enforcement of the laws. The workshop empowered the police officers with knowledge and resources to tackle FGM cases confidently.

**Sensitization and Awareness:** The workshop emphasized the importance of sensitizing GPA about these sensitive issues. Participants learned about the myths, religious misconceptions, and deep-rooted beliefs associated with FGM in the Gambian context. These misconceptions about FGM and Religion as well as culture was addressed. The questions participants asked were centered on FGM, religion and culture and all were adequately addressed using the right framework of analysis. This awareness would help them approach FGM cases with sensitivity and cultural competence.



**Commitment to Ending FGM:** The workshop fostered a commitment among the participants to work towards ending FGM. Police officers expressed their determination to play an active role in combating FGM, raising awareness and recommend it to be incorporated in the police curriculum. The workshop served as a catalyst for change and instilled a sense of responsibility within the police force to protect women and girls from the harmful effects of FGM.

Overall, the one-day workshop on the effects of FGM on the SRHR of women and girls, along with existing anti-FGM laws, provided a platform for learning, collaboration, and empowerment. It equipped the Gambia Police Force with knowledge, tools, and a renewed commitment to actively contribute to the fight against FGM and protect the rights and well-being of women and girls.

### **Outcomes and Recommendations:**

Throughout the workshop, participants actively engaged in discussions, shared their experiences, and raised pertinent questions related to FGM, religion, culture, SRHR, and law enforcement. They also raised issues of aspects that touched on Trafficking in persons and other forms of violence against women and children. The participants also, raised the challenges they face in executing their work which was a concerned among them. The interactive nature of the workshop facilitated a deeper understanding of the complexities associated with addressing FGM effectively. However, Key recommendations that emerged from the workshop were

- ❖ The magistrate court to be given the same right for declaration.
- ❖ To remove the ambiguities in certain parts of the law
- ❖ To review the sexual offenses, act 2013:4) that provides escape route for pedophiles
- ❖ Tourism Offenses Act: NAMs are expected to scrutinize the bill, drafters maybe limited in their analysis.
- ❖ Beaches, night clubs, sidewalks are areas where sex traffickers are always targeting.
- ❖ To include the criminal code that protects the child's right example harassment, inducement threats. The tourism offenses act to protect the girl-child.
- ❖ Sex Tourism: young underage girls are set out to hawk and be protected from abuse. Such cases can be brought under the women act or sexual offenses act.
- ❖ Strengthening intersectoral collaboration: Participants highlighted the need for enhanced collaboration between the police force, health authorities, the judiciary and CSOs to effectively combat FGM and other forms of violence. Regular information sharing, joint trainings, and coordination mechanisms were deemed crucial for a holistic approach.
- ❖ Capacity building and sensitization: they also emphasized the importance of continuous capacity building initiatives for police officers to ensure a comprehensive response to FGM cases. This includes training on being gender sensitive, identifying cases, investigating, and prosecuting FGM offenses.

## Conclusion:

The one-day workshop on the effects of FGM on the SRHR of women and girls, existing anti-FGM laws and international conventions was a significant step towards strengthening the capacity of the Gambia Police Force to combat this harmful practice and a promising collaborative engagement. The workshop provided valuable insights from both health and legal perspectives, fostering an interdisciplinary and holistic approach to address the issue. There was call for community-based training and sensitization among the police force and community-based facilitators to foster effective community engagement. Moving forward, it is essential to build on the knowledge gained during the workshop and translate it into concrete actions through collaborative efforts among all stakeholders involved.

## Annex

### AGENDA

#### FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION TRAINING FOR POLICE OFFICERS

TIME	ACTIVITIES	RESOURCE
08:00 – 09:00 AM	Registration of Participants	GIZ
09:00 - 09:05 AM	Opening Prayers	Moderator
09:05 - 09:20 AM	Opening Remarks	GIZ/ GAMCOTRAP
09:20 - 09:55 AM	Breakfast	GIZ
09:55 – 10:55 AM	Introduction of Participants	GAMCOTRAP
10:55 – 11:40 AM	Effects of FGM on SRHR of Women and Girls	Dr Aboubacarr Jah, Proprietor SHARAB Hospital
<b>COMMENTS, QUESTION AND ANSWER</b>		
11:40 – 12:25 PM	Public Declarations “Dropping of the Knife Initiatives” (DOK)	Dr Isatou Touray, Executive Director GAMCOTRAP
<b>COMMENTS, QUESTION AND ANSWER</b>		
12:25 - 01:10 PM	Existing Laws promote and protect Women and Girls from HTPs:	Lawyer Lamin Mboge- MARIBANTANG CHAMBERS
<b>COMMENTS, QUESTION AND ANSWER</b>		
01:10 – 02:00 PM	Lunch	GIZ
02:00 – 03:00 PM	Group work: Effective Implementation of the law against FGM	Team
<b>PLENARY PRESENTATION</b>		
03:00 – 03:30 PM	Video Presentation	GAMCOTRAP
<b>COMMENTS, QUESTION AND ANSWER</b>		
03:30 - 03:50 PM	Training Evaluation	GIZ
03:50 – 04:00 PM	Interview with Media	Tijan
<b>END OF PROGRAMME</b>		

## Pictorials on the police training program

