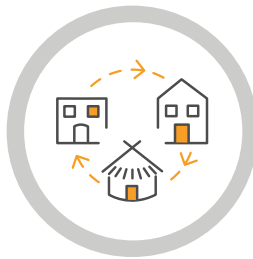


Orchid Project works in partnership with community-based/grassroots organisations to end female genital cutting (FGC). We carry out Knowledge Sharing Workshops based on **'UNICEF's Six Elements of Abandonment'** - a best practice model for effective programming to end FGC. Each of these six elements were present in the most effective programmes assessed by UNICEF, which aimed to shift the social norm of FGC*. The Six Elements model is flexible and can be applied to different contexts. Each of the six elements are equally valuable. They relate to one another and overlap in many ways.



**COLLECTIVE
CHOICE**



**COMMUNITY
EXCHANGE**



**ENABLING
ENVIRONMENT**



**ENOUGH PEOPLE
SEE CHANGE**



**NON-JUDGEMENTAL
OPEN DIALOGUE**



**POWER THROUGH
HUMAN RIGHTS**

*See UNICEF's 'Coordinated Strategy to abandon FGM/C in one generation' (2007). They also draw on lessons learned by Tostan in Senegal and Deir el Barsha in Egypt.



COLLECTIVE CHOICE:

Encourage people to make group decisions to abandon FGC, recognising the power of people supporting each other and taking steps towards sustainable change. Many people need to feel supported and part of a movement for change before they feel able to change themselves.



COMMUNITY EXCHANGE:

Communities that are on their journey to abandoning FGC actively engage with nearby communities to encourage them to join the movement for change. When people know that neighbouring communities are changing their attitudes towards FGC, they can be more open to change.



ENABLING ENVIRONMENT:

Nationally, governments actively oppose all types of cutting and all ministries play their role. Locally, women, men, youth groups, health workers, teachers, law enforcers and others create an environment where FGC is discussed, support is available and change is encouraged and celebrated. Change is more likely to happen when all key stakeholders are actively working towards it.



ENOUGH PEOPLE SEE CHANGE:

Communities catalyse and spread the positive message that change is happening in relation to FGC. Many people need the support of knowing that attitudes and actions around FGC are changing in their community before they feel able to join the movement.



NON-JUDGEMENTAL, OPEN DIALOGUE:

Create spaces for community members to share their opinions, beliefs, hopes and fears about FGC, without being judged. Many people are more likely to change their actions in relation to FGC if they can discuss the practice openly and are involved in decisions to bring about change in their community.



POWER THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS:

Share human rights information and encourage communities to envision their future and plan for the positive changes they want to happen. A human rights approach encourages people to see FGC as a barrier to accessing their rights, consider the rights of everyone in their community and think about the ways power can be used to realise these rights.