Proposed Agenda

1. Introductions

The chair welcomed all the participants to the meeting sitting that the last task force meeting was last year in October 2014 and the minutes and action points had been overtaken by events. The chair invited all the participants to a round table of introductions.

2. Review of the draft FGM Taskforce plan and next steps on implementation

The FGM Taskforce Plan is being developed at Zonal level before it is consolidated and will be finalized thereafter. The idea is to have an inclusive work plan that would include:

- Capacity Building for the Implementing Partners especially in reporting and Communication for Development (C4D)
- Monitoring of Public Declarations
- Harmonization of communication messages and capacity building for partners to disseminate the messages
- Coordination: Especially at Zonal level
- Pushing FGM/C Policy forward and legislation toward Total Abandonment – maximizing on the momentum and opportunities

The Ministry of Health should be involved in the fight against FGM/C. There is a mission to Somaliland to roll out GBV messages. The harmonized FGM messages have now been finalized and will also be rolled out in Somaliland. A guide on using the harmonized messages is also being developed. The Chair expressed appreciation for the support from DfID. There is a new Minister for Women in the Somalia Federal Government and there is a need to do some lobbying through her. There is a need to be strategic on passing the bill before the next election or change of government. During Community Dialogues it appears that there is a very high threshold from all stakeholders that comes out acknowledging that FGM is harmful. There is a need to enhance the role of the Government workers in relation to the constitution. There is need to have a systematic approach in using the constitution in the fight against FGM/C.
Action

✓ The consolidated work plan will be shared with partners during the next FGM TF meeting.


Karen from DfID made a presentation on the Situation Analysis of FGM/C Stakeholder and interventions in Somalia. DfID contracted a team of consultants to do the situation analysis. The team had met with stakeholders in Nairobi and at zonal level. The data had been collected from all 3 zones and was done in collaboration with institution, building their capacity in research. In South Central Zone, they worked in collaboration with Benadir University.

4. Second Phase Baseline - UNFPA

Halima, the co-chair of the GBV Working Group made a presentation on the Second Phase Baseline of the Joint UNICEF/UNFPA Programme.

DISCUSSIONS

Clarification on the Joint UNICEF/UNFPA Programme: Evaluation of the UNICEF/UNFPA FGM Programme is being implemented in 15 countries since 2008 but Somalia started in 2009 and was not included in the 4-year (2008-2011) evaluation conducted in 2012. The evaluation assessed the relevance, efficiency, sustainability and the effectiveness of the holistic approach adopted by UNFPA and UNICEF in their programme for the acceleration of the abandonment of FGM/C. The evaluation will also assess the quality of the coordination mechanisms that have been established at the global level and within countries to maximize the effectiveness of United Nations interventions.

GBV Survey: There is a GBV survey going on and the preliminary findings indicated massive reductions but the facts still not clear.

Evaluation: It is noted that evaluation is part of research and is usually conducted to know the impact of a program and identify lessons learned.

Integration: There is a need to look at possibility of conducting a study on Religious Leaders and see if they can be used as Champions.

Social Norm: Anti FGM messages need to be a social norm. There needs to be continuous social mobilization, creating awareness and dissemination of anti-FGM messages.

It is agreed that the Second Phase baseline will be considered an assessment and that the methodology and final report will be shared with the FGM Task force.

Population Council appreciated both presentation and identified some of the areas that could be considered in their research programme as Prevalence of reduced Type I-II-II; Psychosocial impact on FGM etc.

Action Point:

✓ Betty will circulate both presentations FGM Analysis and Second Phase Baseline to FGM Task Force
5. Presentation by Population Council on the FGM Research Program

Dr. Caroline Njue from Population Council once again thanked the chair and the members for the opportunity to attend the meeting and engage with Somalia FGM Stake holders. Population Council is a member of a 6 Organization Consortium on FGM and their areas in the 5 year program is Research. Population Council is trying to be innovative and representative in research in helping to measure what progress has been made with a perspective of working to ensure that future studies are better for publications – more evidence-based and factual. There will be an in-depth look at protocols and research design.

Population Council is overseeing 2 partners in Somalia i.e. African Coordination for the Abandonment of FGM (ACAF) and Mannion Daniels. There are stakeholder engagements planned for April and May. Population Council would like to partner with Universities. Somalia is one of the six countries selected for the research program. Betty will share the presentation with the members of the FGM Taskforce.

Action Point

Betty will share the presentation from Population Council on FGM Research.

6. Harmonization of FGM Messages – Next Steps

The Harmonization of the FGM/C messages has been finalized. Rolling out of messages in the field has commenced and Guidelines on how to disseminate the messages are being developed. Consultation of harmonization of messages was done both at zonal and Nairobi level. The messages have been presented to the Authorities and are audience specific.

7. AOB

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 2:30 p.m. The next FGM Taskforce meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th April 2015.

Action Points and way forward from this meeting

1. The consolidated work plan will be shared with partners during the next FGM TF meeting
2. Betty will circulate both presentations FGM Analysis and Second Phase Baseline to FGM Task Force
3. The methodology and final report of the Second Phase Baseline will be shared with the FGM Taskforce.
4. Betty will share the presentation from Population Council on FGM Research.