

REPORT OF THE TRAINING OF TRAINERS (ToT) ON THE TSON 2 PROJECT AT MONABLISS HOTELS ABAKALIKI EBONYI STATE, THURSDAY 22ND FEBRUARY, 2019 WRITTEN BY EKENEDIRICHUKWU BLASINGAME AHANEKU, COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION OFFICER, IMO STATE.

INTRODUCTION

Guest and participants from Imo state arrived at the hotel on 21st February with comfortable accommodation provided for them. Others that reside within Ebonyi state arrived by 9 am after which the meeting commenced. Official introduction session was moderated by Mr. Raymond Ukwa with every participant pitching what they do to the hearing of others while including vital person details as well.

Afterwards, Raymond Ukwa introduced Youth Network for Community and Sustainable Development, what the organisation is focused on as well as the



crescent change of name. He also introduced the TSON 2 PROJECT. The expectations from the project and how the project is hoped to impact on the EndFGM campaign globally.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the meeting is to train the trainers who will be running a step down training for volunteers in Imo and Ebonyi states. It was targeted on the following;

- ★ Why we should end FGM
- ★ Social changes cum community readiness
- ★ Understanding social change communication and understanding gendered analysis of FGM.

ATTENDEE SURVEY

The meeting saw about 10 persons with the 2 facilitators YNCSD inclusive. This comprises of individuals from the ministry of health, ministry of women affairs, not for profit organizations and partner organizations.

Through one on one interactive session with the facilitators, a vast majority of them got conformed to the idea of gendered approach towards eradication of Female Genital Mutilation and other social norms militating the both states in attendance.

PROGRAMME AND SPEAKERS



The meeting started with a quick review on FGM as a social norm and outline of few other social norms by Raymond Ukwa. In this session he explained what Social norms is in our contemporary society and FGM as a social norm it's impact on the society, the myths around the practice and possibly ways of ending the

practice. This facilitator engaged the participants with questions making it an interactive session, others gave insights on the views of the people in the communities where they work as well as myths that uphold regarding the practice of FGM in their various locations. Mrs Otozi; Gender desk Officer Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development Ebonyi state said that in Ohaukwu where she comes from girls are mutilated as a right of passage into woman hood just before they get married. Mrs Ukaegbu who works with the primary health care department of the ministry of health, Imo state shared the reason why most mutilations that happen in Imo state are carried (for beautification purposes) and how the people of Ngor Okpala LGA in Imo state made a public declaration to abandon FGM.

Nnamdi Esemé succinctly delivered the lecture for the second session. This session focused expositoryly on FGM as a social norm and the role of Gender in the practice of FGM. He explained why gendered approach is the best alternative to solve the problem of FGM in vast majorities of communities that still upholds this social norm.

This session was so engaging that participants saw FGM in another light underlined by Gender.

Where FGM is done for the benefit of the male gender not minding the effects on the female gender. The participants asked questions like " Are women not the perpetrators of FGM? This question was answered by the facilitator explaining that women undergo this practice for the men, men are the custodians of tradition as well as leaders, they enforce these laws in the communities.



insights more to the gender roles in the practice of FGM. And why it is patriarchy for men to pilot the affairs of women especially when it has to do with social norm as FGM without their consent and just for the gratification of masculinity.

Further more, the session continued on the role of the communities in Ending the practice of FGM as well as how gender relations in development should be in partnership with the communities. The participants gave their contributions on how they think their communities can work with full understanding of Gender roles to EndFGM. In line with the suggestion of using clergies to foster a world without harmful social norms, I explained how members of the congregations always respect their religious leaders and how smaller gatherings, which forms a subset of these churches can better help in the fight against FGM through public declarations by these clergies and supporting such course through their ministries. In all it was really an interesting meeting with every participant contributing positively.

The vote of thanks was made by Mrs. Onyi Mbam Ikokwu, the community mobilization officer YNCSD Ebonyi state, who encouraged all the participants to continue with their good works and appreciated them for making out time to be part of the training/ meeting. the participants were allowed to make appreciation speeches by expressing their gratitude for the opportunity and pledged to do more towards the eradication of FGM. The meeting ended at 4pm with the national prayer led by Raymond Ukwa.