
INVOLVING MEN TO ABANDON FEMALE GENITAL CUTTING:

A community-based education program in Burkina Faso

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MWANGAZA ACTION
Ressources pour les Communautés

Partners

- **FRONTIERS / Population Council**
- **TOSTAN**
- **GTZ**
- **USAID**
- **National Committee for the Fight against FGC**
- **UERD / University of Ouagadougou**



Mwangaza Action

- **Founded in 1996**
- **Co-founder of Pan-African Organization for Sustainable Development (POSDEV), a regional network of NGOs**
- **Expertise in social mobilization and community participation**
- **Interventions to promote health and education**
- **Benin, Guinea-Conakry, Mali and Togo**



Project objectives

- **Strengthen men's and women's understanding of human rights, problem solving, hygiene, and women's health**



Project objectives

- **Increase the community's capacity to organize public meetings and discussions on women's health and the dangers of FGC**
- **Promote advocacy for the abandonment of FGC among decision makers, donors and NGOs in Burkina Faso**



Burkina Faso

- **Population: 10,312,609 people***
- **Percent female: 51.80%***
- **Prevalence of excision 15-49 years old: 72%**
- **FGC outlawed in 1996**
- **Maternal mortality: 484 per 100,000 live births****
- **Contraceptive prevalence: 4.8%****
- **Prevalence of HIV/AIDS 15-49 years old: 6.7% *****

*Source : *INSD/RGPH96, ** DHS 98/99, *** SP/CNLS 2002*



Project strategies

Intervention

- **Social mobilization**
- **Approach centered on education on human rights and reproductive health**
- **Single-sex classes and a system of mentorship**

Data Collection Methods

- **Baseline, post intervention and endline surveys between intervention and control areas**
- **Focus group discussions**

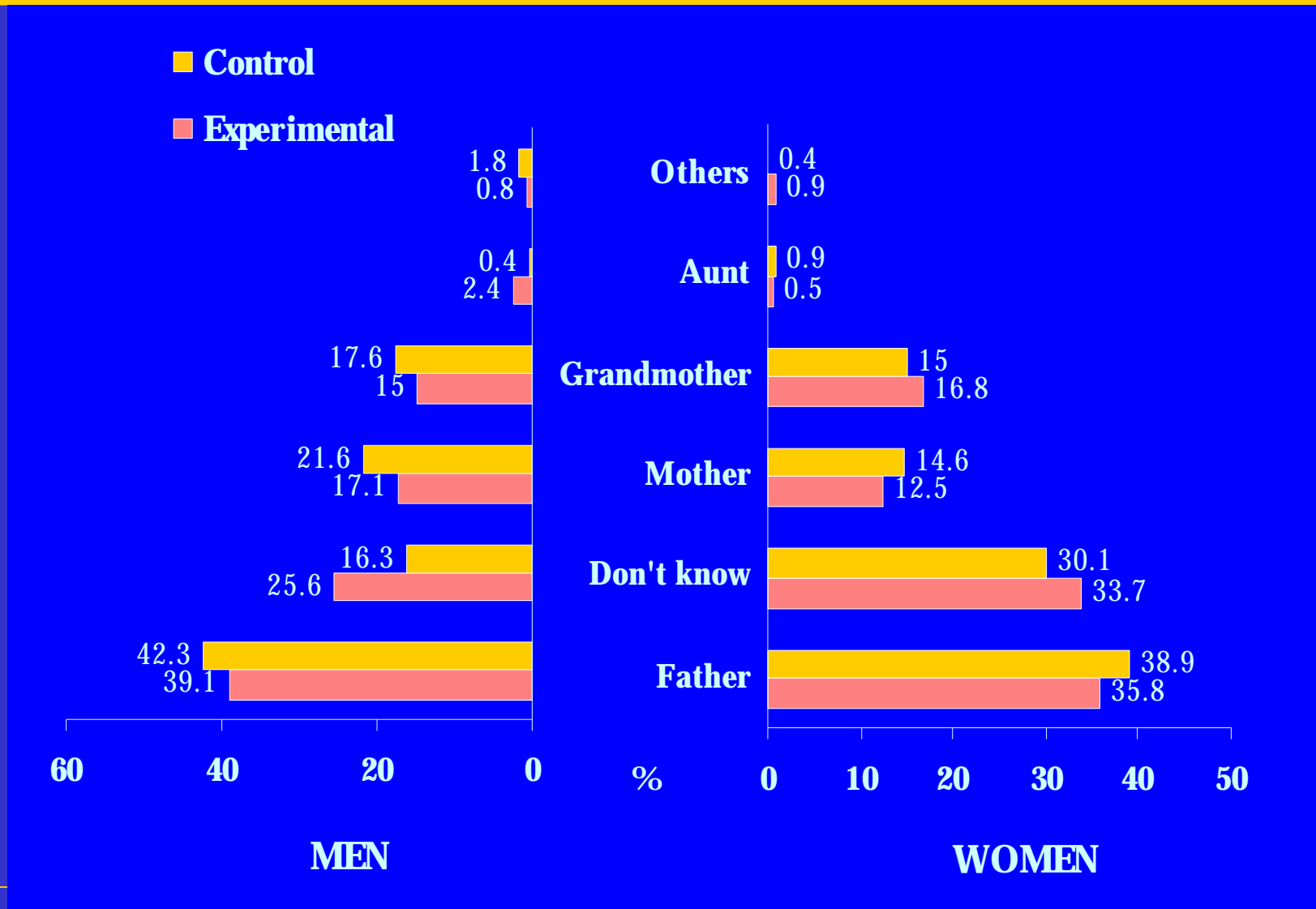


Reasons for male involvement

- **In Burkina, families are mainly patriarchal**
- **Inferior status of women / little decision making power on issues related to the family**
- **Disparities within society can lead to violation of women's rights**
- **Men influence the decision to cut girls**



Centers of decision making regarding FGC



Men were involved in

- **Decision making during project implementation**
- **Organization of meetings about the project**
- **Identification of criteria for, and the selection of participants in the educational program**
- **Selection of educational session leaders**
- **Identification and implementation of strategies to resolve reproductive health problems**



Intervention

- **US\$ 171,610 – Total cost**
- **34 months – Total time**
- **46 classes held of which 23 were exclusively for men, over 8 months**
- **4 modules: human rights, women's health, hygiene and disease prevention, and problem solving**
- **1674 participants total, including 767 men**
- **46 village meetings held totaling about 13,000 participants**
- **7 inter-villages meetings totaling about 9,000 participants**
- **1 public ceremony of abandonment of FGC with about 5,000 participants**



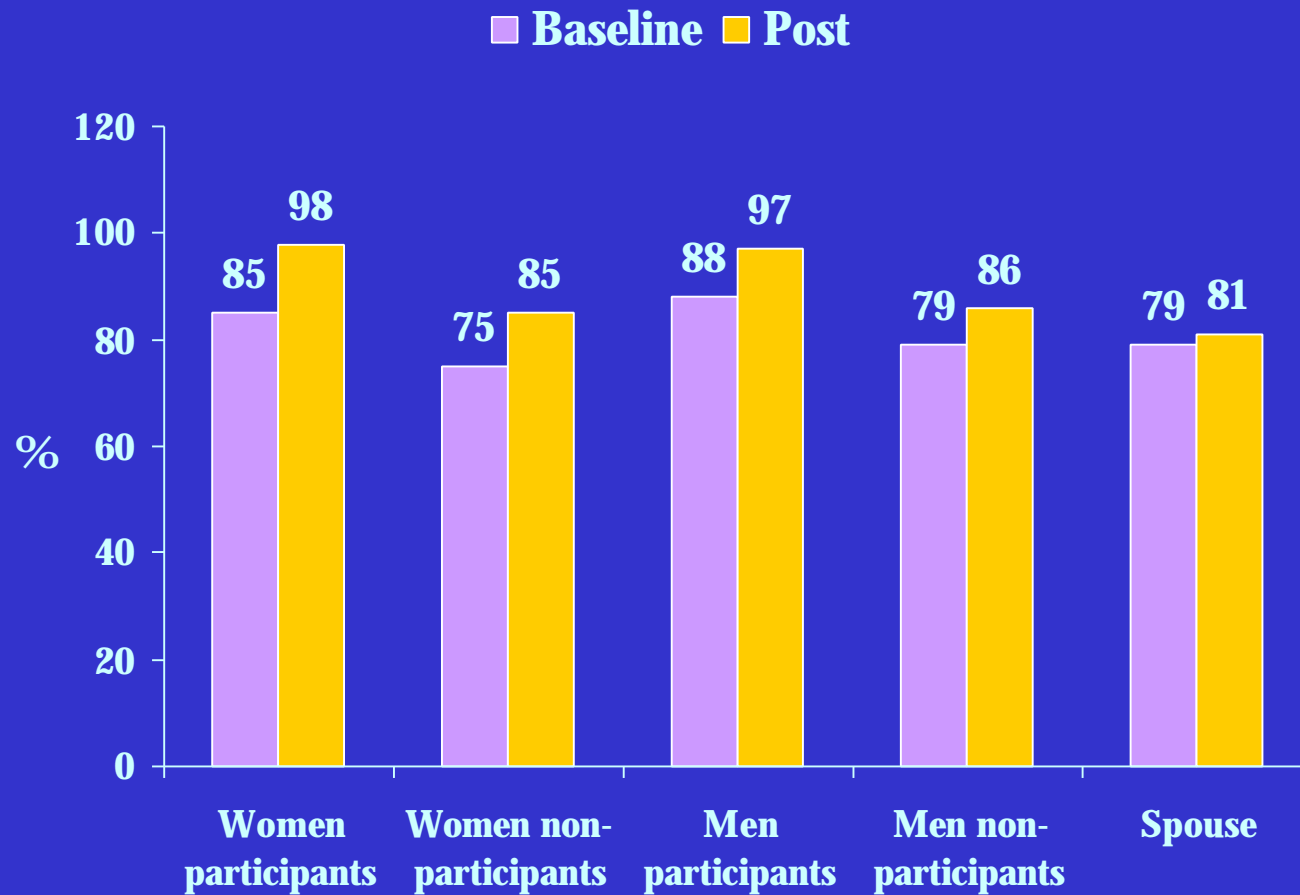
Selected results

- **Increased knowledge of the problems associated with FGC in all the villages**
- **A greater increase amongst program participants versus non-participants**
- **Greater confidence to talk about FGC**
- **Increased ability for all to support the abandonment of FGC**



Attitudes towards FGC

FGC has harmful effects



Major result

**23 villages (approx.
25,000 people) commit
to promoting women's
rights and abandoning
FGC**



Lessons learned



- **Support of community leaders and decision makers**
- **Male involvement**
- **Spirit of collaboration and trust developed between program partners**



Questions for further analysis

- **Link between general information and public discussion?**
- **Motivation to publicly denounce the practice of FGC?**
- **How can the change in attitude of a minority become the majority attitude in the village?**



Conclusion

- **The community-based education program was a factor of peaceful change**
- **Social change has begun in all 23 villages. These communities need support to achieve the final goal of complete abandonment of FGC**
- **Need to further expand coverage**

