

ACCAF

SUSTAIN WOMEN HEALTH  
AND DIGNITY

## Establishment of the Africa Coordinating Centre for Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation (ACCAF)

The Africa Coordinating Centre for Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation (ACCAF) was formally established in 2012 as a transdisciplinary centre, both in approach and personnel, to champion current efforts and address the gaps in abandonment of FGM in the Africa Region within one generation. Hosted in the College of Health Sciences and with support from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Nairobi, the overall aim of the Centre is to strengthen capacity in the region for research, implement interventions and monitor progress in accelerating efforts towards abandonment of FGM and improved care for women and children suffering negative consequences from the practice. Based on demonstrated capacity for effective partnership and collaboration the University of Nairobi was identified as the most appropriate institution to host the Centre during an international meeting in Nairobi in 2011



*Devolution and Planning Cabinet Secretary Anne Waiguru during the launch of African Coordinating Center for Abandonment of FGM (ACCAF) at the University of Nairobi*

## ACCAF Centre Launched

The Africa Coordinating Centre for Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation (ACCAF) was launched on 10th December 2013 at the Principal's Court, College of Health Sciences, University of Nairobi. The colourful event was graced by the Cabinet Secretary for Devolution and Planning Hon. Anne Waiguru, who was also the Chief Guest, USAID and UNFPA representatives, Officials from the University of Nairobi and the College of Health Sciences including students, staff members and other guests.

The event commenced by flagging off of a walk consisting of approximately 60 participants branded with t-shirts and caps to commemorate the event. The walk begun at the Principal's Court, College of Health Sciences

making its way towards the Kenyatta National Hospital bus stop along Ngong road before branching off towards Mbagathi way. Participants then walked back to the College just after the fly over along Mbagathi Way. During the launch the Chief Guest saluted and commended the University of Nairobi for addressing the need for creation of a center to improve state of health in the country. Hon. Anne Waiguru said that female genital mutilation (FGM) was a serious violation of an individual's human rights and wellbeing which is still being practised and the creation of the Centre was timely in curbing the outdated practice. She noted that the center would play a vital role in improve the health of women and girls affected by FGM,

The mandate of the Centre includes research, training and capacity building, and the creation of an African network for research. Thus, in this endeavour, there will be creation of a critical mass of champions, the implementation of different approaches to FGM abandonment, and the dissemination of knowledge to influence policy and behaviour change.

### **Funding and Partners**

The Centre is planned as a partnership between the University of Nairobi, University of Sydney, University of Ghent, University of Washington and international organizations such as USAID, WHO, UNFPA, The Population Council. WHO has had long standing relationship with the University of Nairobi, and the Country and played a key role at the Centre's initial conceptualization and planning and was instrumental to mobilization of the international core partners.

### **Key Strategic Issues for ACCAF**

Key potential strategic issues identified through consultation and review include:

- The inclusion of Arabic and Francophone speaking nations and communities.
- Engagement at the community level.
- Clarification of roles and responsibilities of the collaborators and partners.
- Working internationally as well as regionally
- Basis of the Centre in Nairobi, when Kenya has a low prevalence of FGM/C
- Maintaining the interest of stakeholders
- Recruitment of staff for the Centre

### **DR. GUYO APPOINTED NEW ACCAF COORDINATOR**

*Dr. Jaldesa Guyo has been appointed Coordinator of the African Coordinating Centre for the Abandonment of FGM/C. Dr. Guyo has a wealth of experience in reproductive health especially focusing on female genital mutilation. The ACCAF family would like to wish him all the best as he takes the driver's seat.*

## **ACCAF**

### **Vision**

A Centre of excellence championing multidisciplinary collaborative efforts with the goal of accelerating the abandonment of FGM in Africa and beyond.

### **Mission**

To contribute to the abandonment of FGM within Africa and beyond through innovative research, leadership training, health care guidance, advocacy for cultural change, and networking and capacity strengthening.

### **Core Values**

- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Innovativeness & Creativity
- Social Responsibility

advocate, educate and create support mechanisms for survivors.

The Cabinet Secretary noted with appreciation that the centre will address the health aspects of FGM, in terms of undertaking training on the management of complications associated with the procedure that range from severe pain to child birth complications, psychological trauma, reduced sexual drive and sensitivity among other complications.

She later thanked USAID, UNFPA, all partners and all actors for continued support of the cause and heeded financial support from the government before officially launching the event.

In his speech the Principal, College of Health Sciences Prof Isaac O. Kibwage, who also represented the Vice Chancellor, Prof George Magoha, welcomed all guests and praised the College for hosting the center basing it on the university's capacity in performing effective partnerships and collaborations. He also pointed out key objectives and goals of the center before thanking the the University of Nairobi Senate for approving establishment of the Center.