DEVELOPMENT GATEWAY

Female Genital Mutilation

A Special Collection from dgCommunities

Between 100 and 140 million girls and women have undergone Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C). While there are many reasons that explain why this practice continues ubiquitously throughout Africa, the Middle East, and elsewhere—whether as a passage to womanhood or as something to be endured in order to please a future husband-- more and more voices are speaking up against FGM/C as a serious development, health, and human rights issue.

As FGM/C continues to affect an estimated three million girls and women every year in the African continent alone, local and international development organizations are working together with the practicing communities to find alternatives to bring about an end to this practice.

The Development Gateway Foundation is preparing a special collection on FGM/C to provide a package of useful resources to help disseminate information and create greater awareness about this phenomenon.

The special feature includes:

• An exclusive interview with Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

• dgCommunities' coverage from the Gender, Youth, HIV/AIDS, Population and Reproductive Health, Culture, and Civil Society perspectives

• Collection of links to prominent publications and organizations addressing the topic