

Child Protection: Abandoning Traditional Practices

Karin Landgren
Banff, 26 October 2005

For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY



The Right to Protection

An estimated 300 million children worldwide are current victims of violence, exploitation and abuse.

The main forms this takes: trafficking, sexual exploitation, forced or harmful labour [180 million];

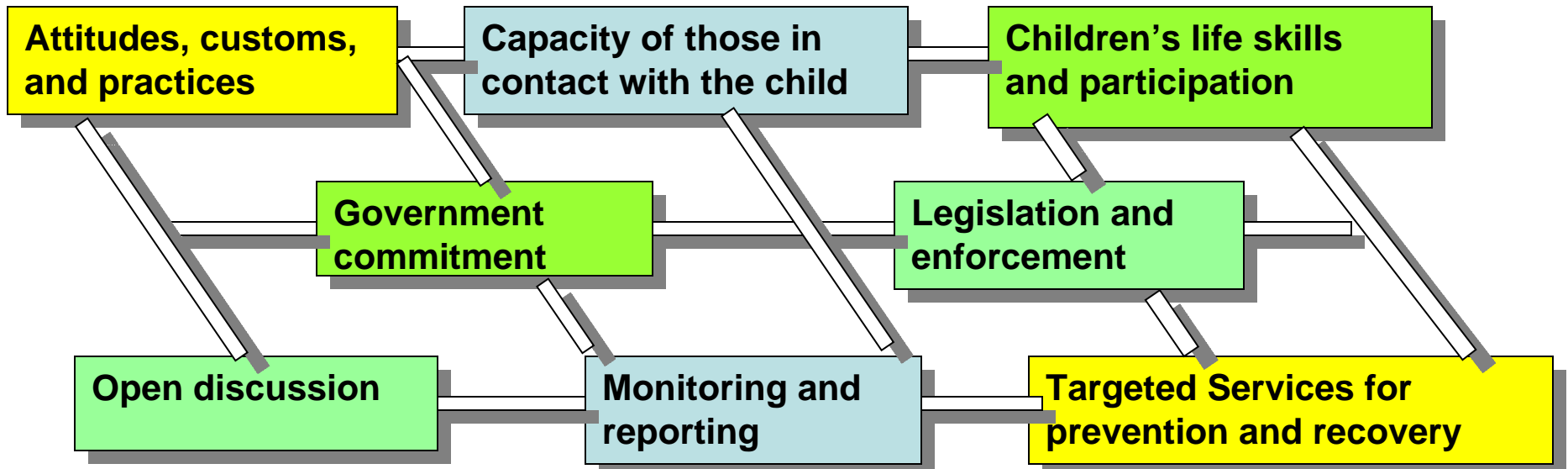
Affected by violence outside armed conflict [40 million];

Subject to FGM/C [130 million women and children] or child marriage

Affected by armed conflict

Hundreds of millions more are unprotected against violence, exploitation and abuse, notably among orphans, children in institutions [1.5 million in E Europe alone], children in conflict with the law [over 1 million detained], and children in countries where traditions permit some forms of violence or abuse, or stigmatise victims.

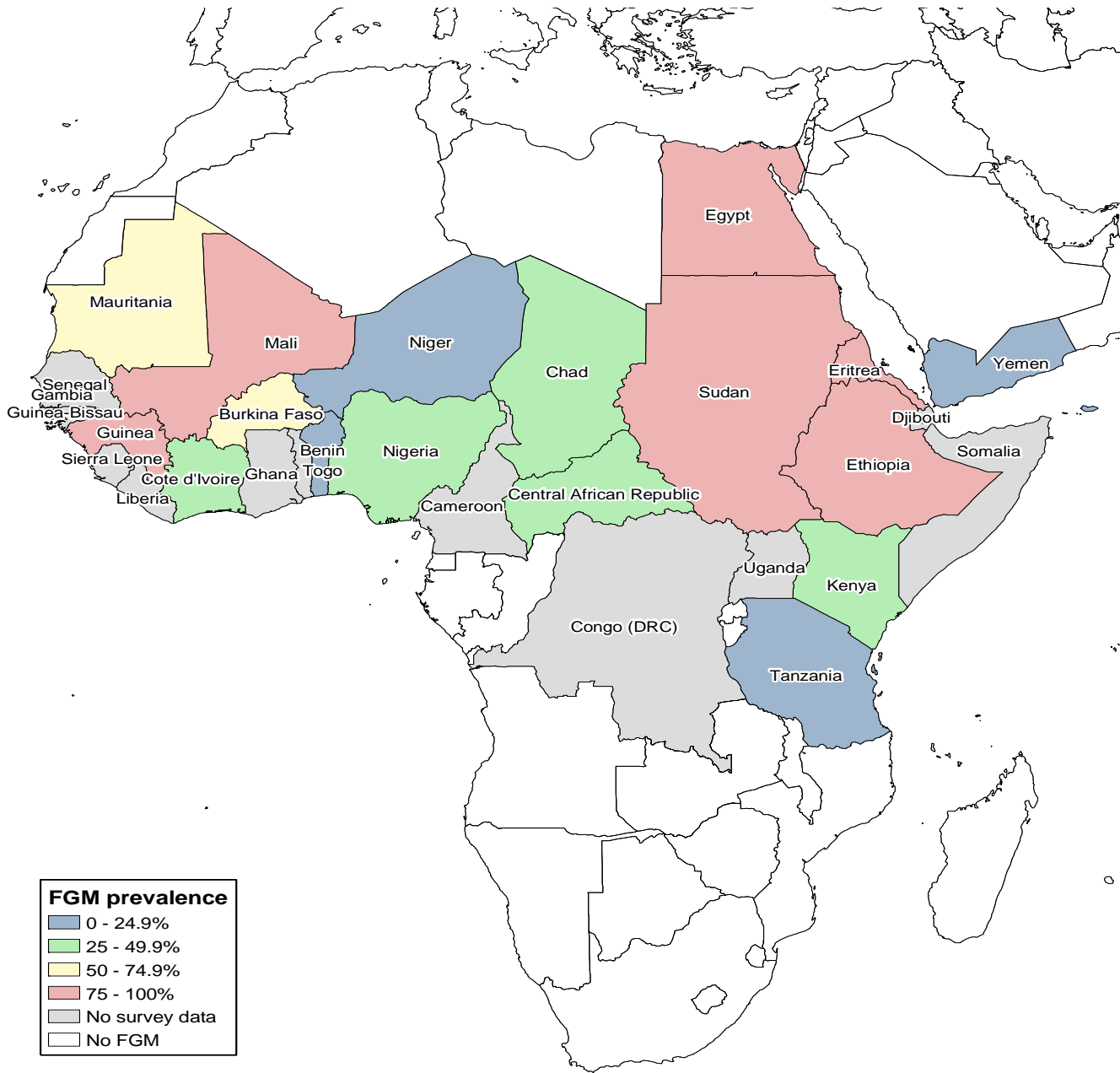
A Protected Child



Protection failures



UNICEF



Prevalence of female genital cutting in DHS surveys: National level data

Country	Year of survey	Overall prevalence	Sample size
Guinea	1999	99%	6,753
Egypt*	1995	97%	14,779
Egypt*	2000	97%	15,573
Mali	1996	94%	9,704
Eritrea	1995	95%	5,054
Eritrea	2002	89%	8,754
Northern Sudan*	1990	89%	5,860
Ethiopia	2000	80%	15,367
Burkina Faso	1999	72%	6,445
Mauritania	2001	71%	7,728
Côte d'Ivoire	1999	45%	3,040
Côte d'Ivoire	1994	43%	8,099
Central African Rep.	1994	43%	5,884
Kenya	1998	38%	7,881
Nigeria	1999	25%	8,206
Yemen*	1997	23%	10,413
Tanzania	1996	18%	8,120
Benin	2001	17%	6,219
Niger	1998	5%	7,577

Percentage who said FGC should continue compared to FGC prevalence at national levels

Country	FGC prevalence	Should continue	Should stop	DK	It depends
Egypt 2000	97.3	75.3	14.9	9.7	0.02
Egypt 1995	97.0	81.6	12.7	5.6	NA
Eritrea 1995	94.5	56.8	38.4	4.8	NA
Eritrea 2002	88.7	55.4	41.1	0.9	1.8
Sudan 1990	89.2	78.5	21.4	NA	N
Ethiopia 2000	79.9	65.0	29.1	3.7	2.2
Guinea 1999	98.6	68.3	22.1	2.1	6.4
Mali 1996	93.7	75.3	12.7	11.9	NA
Mali 2001	91.6	80.3	12.6	3.1	4.0
Burkina Faso 1999	71.6	21.0	65.5	13.5	NA
Mauritania 2001	71.3	64.0	22.5	6.3	7.3
CAR 1994	43.4	30.2	55.8	14.0	NA
Côte d'Ivoire 1994	42.7	NA	NA	NA	NA
Côte d'Ivoire 1999	44.5	30.0	63.3	6.7	NA
Nigeria 1999	25.1	13.0	40.2	20.1	NA
Benin 2001	16.8	3.4	59.2	3.7	4.2
Niger 1998	4.5	9.0	13.8	5.1	NA
Kenya 1998	37.0	19.8	73.3	6.9	NA
Tanzania 1996	17.9	NA	NA	NA	NA
Yemen 1997	22.6	20.9	60.4	18.6	NA

Convention Shift

Changing the convention of driving on a particular side of the street

Example: Sweden



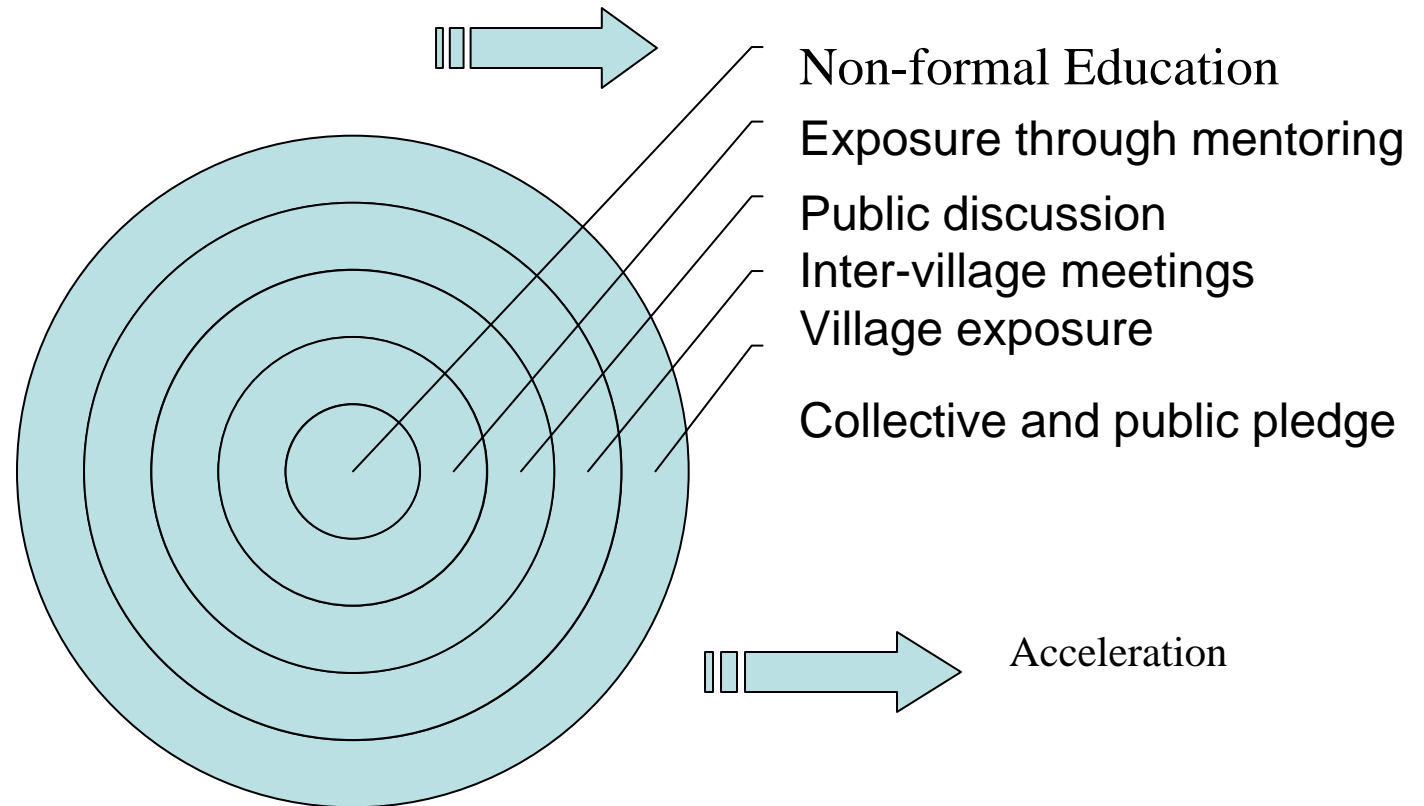
SENEGAL

Villagers discovered convention shift by declaration of the members of intra-marrying groups who coordinate on abandonment (Demba Diawara, a Tostan participant)

First public declaration of 13 villages of intra-marrying families held in Diabougou on February 14, 1998

Over 1500 villages have since abandoned FGM/C through 18 public declarations after participating in the Tostan education program

Accelerating abandonment of FGMC



Diffusion Model of Social Changes: from inside-out

Public Declaration: A collective pledge to promote human rights and the health of girls and women.



TOSTAN EXPERIENCE SUPPORTED BY OBSERVERS AND EVALUATIONS

UNICEF evaluations (1992 - 2004)

Government of Senegal evaluations

Population Council Evaluation of 2001-2003 (Senegal
and Burkina Faso)

Chosen by WHO as a best practice for ending
excision



A rapid and universal end to FGM/C is possible with the appropriate strategy and effort through:

- human rights education and
- convention shift by public declaration

Potential for application to:

- child marriage, gavage, honour killing, dowry...