Obligation to protect (O2P)
Agents of change unite against FGM/C
The programme aims to reach a total of:

- 170,000 girls
- 160,000 boys
- 150,000 parents
- 1600 teachers
- 1200 religious/traditional leaders
- About 500 CSO and CBO’s
- 4 National Parliaments and several State/County Parliaments
The overall objective of this programme is to promote the abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) within one generation in selected communities in Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan.

FGM/C is a violation of human rights, an extreme form of violence against women (VaW), and reflects a deep-rooted gender inequality. FGM/C violates a series of well-established human rights principles, including the Child Rights Convention (CRC) and the Convention to Eliminate all Form of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). FGM/C has been recognized by the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT) as falling under the definition of torture.

The programme, funded by Government of the Netherlands, will be implemented jointly by Plan Netherlands and AWEPA, with Plan NL taking the lead. Plan NL will collaborate with Plan country offices in Egypt, Sudan, Kenya and Ethiopia to implement this programme.

• This programme combats FGM/C and VaW and advocates for equal rights for women.
• Girls, boys, parents and traditional/religious leaders are sensitised about the importance to stop FGM/C.
• The programme supports parliamentarians and state duty bearers to ensure development, implementation and enforcement of legislation.
• Further, it promotes regional exchange of expertise and best practices. Interventions with (new) media will encourage change in the deeply rooted social norm that FGM/C is an acceptable practice.
Plan International

Plan is an international development organisation operating in 50 countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas to promote and protect the rights of children. Plan is one of the world’s largest child-centred community development organisations, working in 58,000 communities with 600,000 volunteers to improve the quality of life for more than 56 million children. Plan has 20 national organisations responsible for raising funds and awareness in their respective countries. The organisation emphasizes community engagement and ownership as the means to address the needs of children around the world. Plan places special focus on girls in developing countries, as they are still the most likely to suffer violence and marginalization, while evidence shows that investment in girls can help break the poverty cycle. Plan has been working on the issue of FGM/C on community level in Kenya, Sudan, Egypt and Ethiopia, while on the international level Plan advocates against the practice in various fora.

Plan Nederland implements this programme in collaboration with the Plan offices in Egypt, Sudan, Kenya and Ethiopia.

The Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA)

Celebrating its 30 year anniversary in 2014, AWEPA, a non-partisan international parliamentary organization, is committed to contributing to peace, stability and human development in Africa by working to strengthen the legislative process in general and parliaments in particular. AWEPA believes that strong parliaments lie at the heart of Africa’s long-term development; as watchdogs over national budgets and policies, they serve as the arbiters of peace, stability and prosperity. AWEPA’s mission is to work in partnership with African parliaments to strengthen parliamentary democracy in Africa, keep Africa high on the political agenda in Europe, and facilitate African-European parliamentary dialogue.

The partnership with AWEPA provides a dimension of support to parliaments in the target countries, while playing on the comparative advantage of AWEPA: an extended parliamentary network in both Africa and Europe. AWEPA has experience and expertise in capacity development of parliamentarians in Africa, incidentally one of the key groups that can affect a change in the habits and practices regarding FGM/C.