



Building Movements, Building Power

The Role of Social Movements in the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation



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Interpretation

Translation to French and Arabic are available.





Presenter

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Technical Note

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The Role of Social Movements in the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation

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Huda Sha'arawi



**“i stand
on the sacrifices
of a million women before me
thinking what can i do
to make this mountain taller
so the women after me
can see farther
- legacy”**

**- Rupi Kaur, “The Sun and
Her Flowers”**



Role of social movements in placing FGM at the top of global agenda?

- In the 1990s, the global feminist movement made significant inroads in addressing FGM including the introduction of normative and policy frameworks, and national resources dedicated to ending the practice.
- Youth movements have been active for decades and are some of the most powerful drivers of social change but are emerging and adding to existing movements, coalitions and spaces that are focused on the elimination of FGM.



Global trends in social movements

1

The recent explosion in
feminist movements

2

Youth activists have been
successful in transnational
digital civic engagement

3

Momentum generated by
ICPD+25 and the Generation
Equality Forum

Key considerations for movement building

Not all contexts are conducive to movement building

Risk assessments, child safeguarding and 'do no harm' must be a top priority

Most bilateral and multilateral funds are not equipped to fund social movements

Challenging prevailing power structures takes time

Highlight the mutual reliance between NGOs and social movements



Continuum approach for movement building in the context of FGM elimination

Empower adolescent girls by increasing their voice and participation to influence social change through collective action

Support women- and youth-led organizations in building coalitions

Work with feminist and youth movements for structural change including policies and legislation, and social/gender norms

Empower adolescent girls to eliminate FGM through collective action



Enhance adolescent girls' agency to participate in social movements



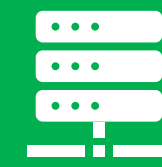
Provide opportunities for civic engagement



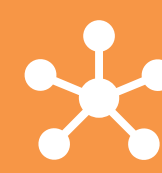
Empower adolescent girls through gender-synchronized approaches



Provide social networking and mentoring opportunities

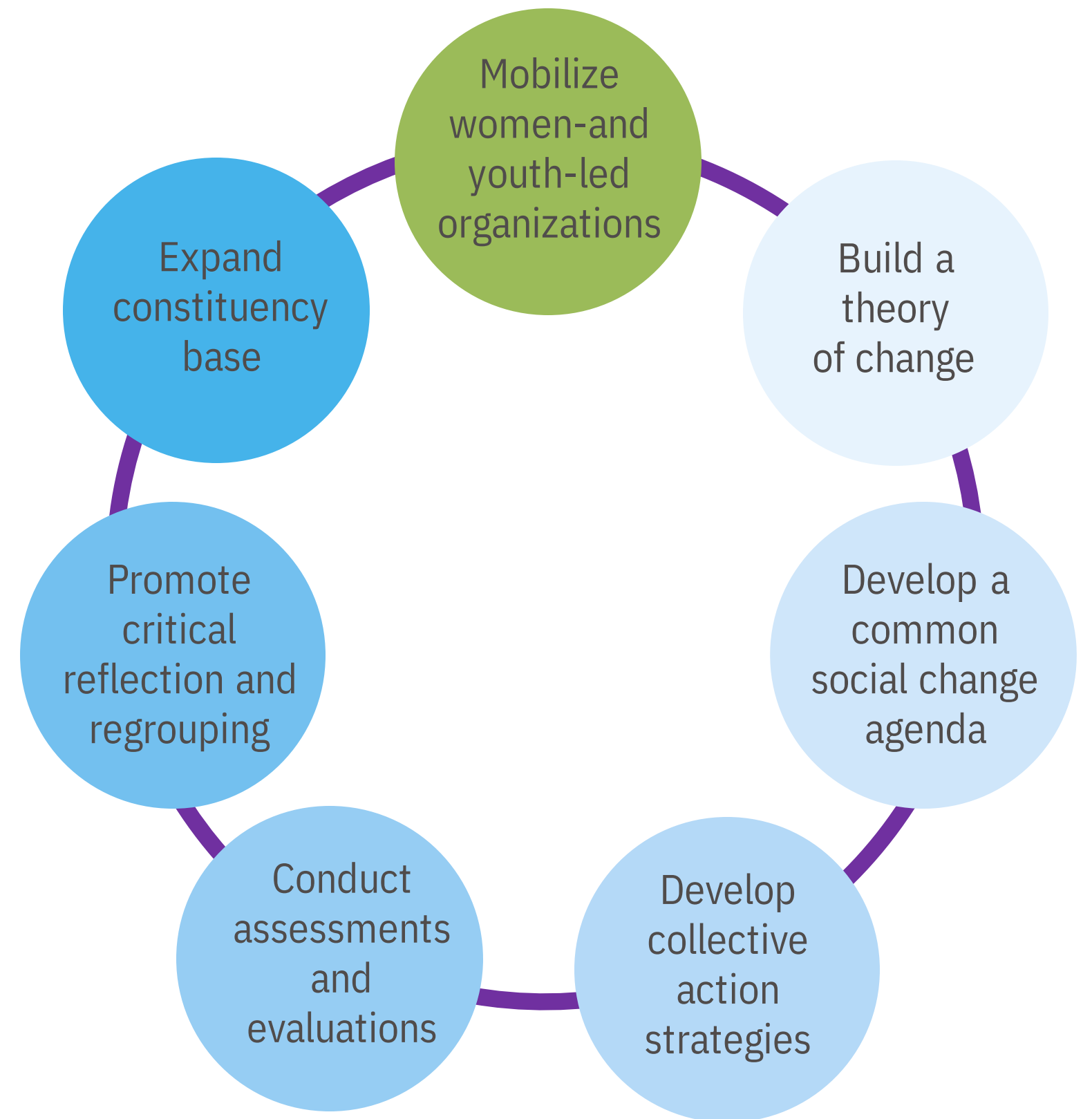


Support adolescent girls' participation in social movements



Create an enabling environment and supportive community for adolescent girls' empowerment

Support women and youth-led organizations in building coalitions



Source: Karim, N. (2022).⁷⁹

Twelve key steps for movement building



Source: Srilatha Batliwala's 2021 publication 'All About Movements'

Monitoring and evaluation for movement building

1. More nuanced monitoring and evaluation tools are needed for measuring social change related to movement building.
2. There are existing tools for understanding the different stages of movement growth and level of maturity (i.e., JASS Cycles of Movement Building: Rising Up, Building Up, Standing Up and Shaking Up)
3. Assessing the level and strength of movement building (i.e., Global Fund for Women Movement Capacity Assessment Tool: Grassroots Base, Leadership, Vision and Narratives, Collaboration and Coordination, and Safety and Security)



Q&A



Panel Session 1

Opportunities and Challenges in Building Movements to End FGM

unicef 
for every child



Moderator

Dr. Stellah Wairimu Bosire
Feminist, Researcher, and
Activist



Panelist

Dr. Ellen Gruenbaum
Professor of Cultural Medical
Anthropology



Panelist

Fabio Verani,
Gender and Masculinities
Consultant

Panel Session 2

UNICEF and UNFPA on Youth Movement Building and Adolescent Girls' Empowerment



Moderator
Harriet Akullu,
Child Protection Specialist,
UNICEF Headquarter



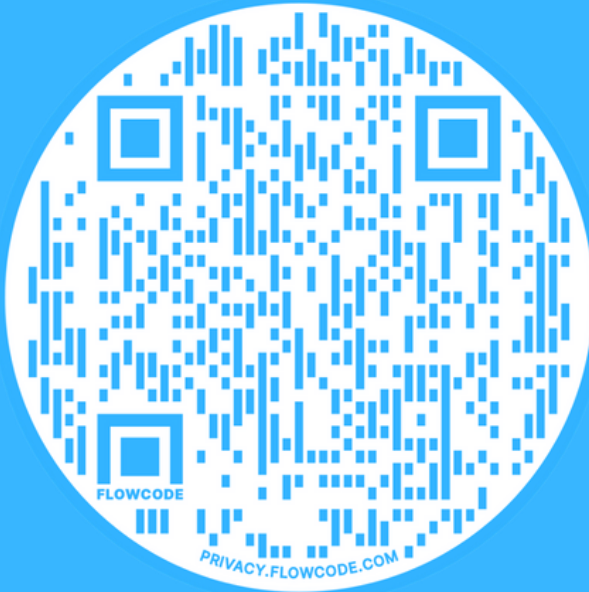
Panelist
Tamador Abdalla,
Child Protection Specialist,
UNICEF Sudan



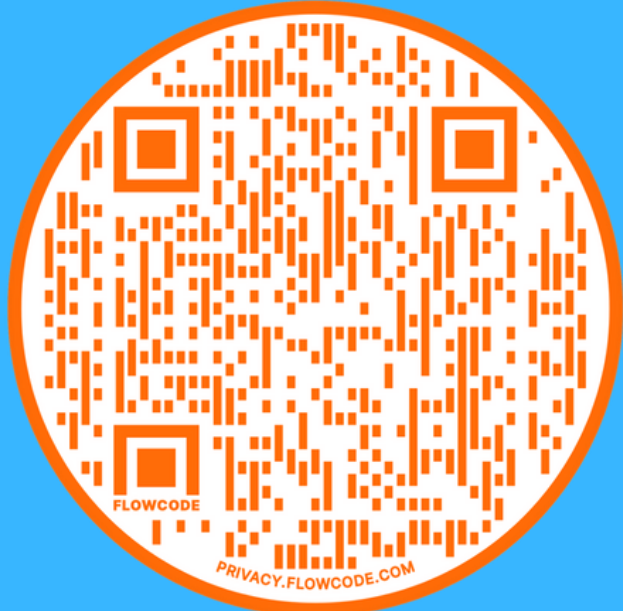
Panelist
Amandine Bollinger,
Child Protection Specialist,
UNICEF Nigeria

THANK YOU!

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