

Gambia: Circumcisers Conclude Training On FGM

Lamin Sm Jawo, *The Daily Observer*, 07.08.2012

Janjangbureh — The Gambia Committee on Traditional Harmful Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Girls (Gamcotrap) on Sunday, August 5th, 2012 concluded a three-day capacity building of the 2nd batch of circumcisers in CRR north. The training was centered on the alternative livelihood initiative for sustainable abandonment of female genital mutilation (FGM).

Addressing the participants, the executive director of Gamcotrap, Dr. Isatou Touray, spoke at length on the dangers and health hazards of FGM. She pointed out that FGM is a deep-rooted traditional practice but that due to its health complications during childbirth, it should be eradicated.

She highlighted some remarkable achievements registered for the past years, as some circumcisers have dropped the knife in URR, CRR south and LRR. Dr. Touray said that changing the perception of some protagonists was when they were exposed to the effects of FGM during the capacity building of the first batch and witnessed the serious effects of FGM on women and girls. She further urged the participants to sensitise parents and caregivers in their areas on the dangers and health hazard of the FGM practice.

Highlighting the Islamic perspective with focus on FGM, the Gamcotrap youth coordinator, Omar Dibba, said no one should breach the connection between religion and female genital mutilation. He said it is acknowledged as a longstanding traditional practice and called on the circumcisers to eradicate it due to its health implications.

For her part, the senior programme coordinator of Gamcotrap, Marry Small, raised eyebrows on the practice, while making presentation on the dangers of female genital mutilation and pains that are involved in the process.