

Table of contents

Abbreviations.....15

Project partners.....17

Frequently used terms.....19

1 Introduction.....21

Part one: Theoretical background.....33

2 Female genital mutilation (FGM).....35

2.1 Note on terminology 36

2.2 Types of FGM 39

2.3 Complications due to FGM 41

2.4 FGM from a human rights perspective 43

2.4.1 Human rights and women’s rights perspective 44

2.4.2 Children’s rights perspective..... 48

2.4.3 The right to health..... 50

2.5 Universal rights of physical integrity versus cultural
relativism..... 51

3 FGM in Burkina Faso.....59

3.1 Socio-economic conditions 59

3.2 Types and appearances of FGM in Burkina Faso..... 61

3.3 Statistics on FGM in Burkina Faso..... 62

3.4 Reasons for the continuation of FGM in Burkina Faso, with
examples from other African countries 64

3.5 Attempts to abandon FGM in Burkina Faso 72

3.5.1 Strategies and challenges of tightening the law..... 72

3.5.2 National and international engagements against FGM
in Burkina Faso 77

4 Film as a tool for Human Rights Education (HRE)?.....83

4.1 A short introduction on HRE 83

4.2 Films and human rights 86

5	Ciné débat.....	89
5.1	Ciné débat as an innovative tool for awareness-raising	90
5.2	Experiences with ciné débats	92
5.3	Traditional communication in Burkina Faso, a basis for social change	95
5.3.1	Joking relationships	97
5.3.2	Palaver.....	99
5.4	Applying a film to the target viewers	101

Part two: Methodology.....105

6	Research design: Participatory Action Research (PAR).....	107
6.1	Why use the PAR approach?	109
6.2	Research Structure	113
6.2.1	Qualitative Research	113
6.2.2	Triangulation.....	114
7	Film production.....	117
7.1	Access to the field - Preconditions for the production of the film.....	117
7.2	Sampling – interviews with the protagonists of the film.....	118
7.3	Editing the film L’excision, un thème pour tout le monde.....	121
7.4	Screening of the documentary with its protagonists	126
7.5	Evaluation of the documentary during a workshop	127
7.5.1	Execution of the workshop with local experts.....	127
7.5.2	Adjusting the strategy – Outcomes of the workshop	130
8	Film presentation.....	135
8.1	Access to the field - Implementing ciné débats in five villages .	135
8.2	Operational structure of ciné débats.....	136
8.3	Sampling – Project partners for the execution of the ciné débats.....	139
8.3.1	Members of the Association Féminine Song-Manegré pour le Développement (AFD).....	139
8.3.2	Clubs d’écoutes.....	142
8.4	Research techniques	145
8.4.1	Research techniques during the implementation of the ciné débats	145
8.4.2	Follow-up: two years after the ciné débats.....	148

9	Reflections on the research process and challenges encountered.....	151
9.1	Critical reflections on being a ‘white female researcher’	151
9.1.1	During the film production.....	151
9.1.2	During the ciné débats.....	152
9.2	Difficulties encountered.....	153
9.2.1	Use of the camera for the production of the documentary ..	153
9.2.2	Particularities during the conduction of interviews with the protagonists of the documentary	155
9.2.3	Challenges during film editing	157
9.2.4	Challenges during the ciné débats.....	158
10	Expert interviews for the in-depth analysis of the social context.....	161
11	Methods used for the evaluation of the interviews.....	163
11.1	Documentary method	163
11.2	Interpretation of the text	165
11.2.1	Formulating interpretation	165
11.2.2	Reflecting interpretation	167
Part three: Results from the in-depth analysis of the social context (expert interviews).....		169
12	The traditional anchoring of FGM in Burkina Faso: the decisive role of community.....	171
12.1	FGM as a requirement of the social system	171
12.2	Collective welfare earns greater acceptance than individual..... well-being.....	174
12.3	Recapitulation of central aspects	176
13	The social role of women in sustaining the family.....	177
13.1	FGM as sign that women meet social requirements.....	177
13.2	Protecting women as a guarantee for the development of the community – Arguments against FGM	179
13.3	Recapitulation of central aspects	188
14	Achieving the end of FGM in Burkina Faso through the awareness of human rights.....	189

14.1	Traditional perception and meaning of human rights in Burkina Faso	189
14.2	Women's rights and the well-being of the community	194
14.3	How should human rights regarding FGM be communicated?	197
14.4	The right to health in abandoning FGM in Burkina Faso	198
14.5	The recognition of human rights acts	200
14.6	Recapitulation of central aspects	203
15	Cinematic and cultural preconditions for ciné débat in Burkina Faso.....	205
15.1	Oral traditions and established habits of debate as major components of the culture of Burkina Faso	205
15.2	'Film: A major cultural and political marker of Burkina Faso ...	208
15.3	Ciné débats: the origin of cinema in Burkina Faso	211
15.4	Recapitulation of central aspects	215
16	Ciné débat as an integrated tool for combining traditional debating habits with awareness-raising activities.....	217
16.1	Ciné débat as an adapted method for opening up informal discussions	217
16.2	Advice for the implementation of ciné débat	222
16.2.1	Discussion – the basis for change	222
16.2.2	What needs to be considered when making a film for presentation in ciné débat	226
16.2.3	How to apply ciné débat	228
16.2.4	Knowing the needs of the target group – How to approach the locals	231
16.2.5	Approaching local authorities as a prerequisite for easier access to the villages	236
16.2.6	Organisation of screenings	240
16.2.7	Repeated discussions in the villages	244
16.2.8	Challenges during interactions in the field	245
16.3	Possibilities and essential characteristics of the film L'excision, un thème pour tout le monde	252
16.4	Recapitulation of central aspects	256

Part four: Results from the execution of the ciné débats.....	259
17 Implementation of the ciné débats.....	261
17.1 Outcomes of the questionnaire	261
17.2 Participant observation and findings from the SWOT.....	265
17.3 Outcomes of discussions with members of the clubs d'écoutes.....	273
17.4 Recapitulation of central aspects	277
18 Main subjects during the ciné débats.....	279
18.1 FGM and its consequences	279
18.2 The role of women in society	286
18.2.1 Lack of desire for sexual intercourse leads to marital friction.....	286
18.2.2 FGM keeps women from having illegitimate sexual intercourse.....	291
18.2.3 Having children as an indicator for the acceptance of women in the community	295
18.2.4 Unhealthy women are excluded from the community	300
18.2.5 Women's fears of not complying with traditional gender roles.....	301
18.3 How can FGM be counteracted?	309
18.3.1 Education.....	309
18.3.2 Involving elders and heads of families.....	314
18.4 References by the AFD team and the audiences	317
18.5 Recapitulation of central findings	325
19 Follow-up evaluation two years later.....	329
19.1 Questionnaire for the clubs d'écoutes.....	329
19.2 Final interview with AFD representatives	333
19.3 Recapitulation of central aspects	342
Part five: Summary and conclusions.....	345
20 Outcomes.....	347
20.1 The inclusion of the community as an inevitable factor for engaging against FGM in Burkina Faso	347
20.2 The eradication of FGM as a first step in changing the perception of the woman's role in society.....	351

20.3	Ciné débats as food for thought and reflection	356
20.3.1	The applicability and potential of the documentary L'excision, un thème pour tout le monde	356
20.3.2	Follow-up two years after the project implementation	360
21	Long-term Perspectives.....	365
22	Bibliography.....	371
23	Tables.....	383