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Female Genital Mutilation

FACT or **MYTH?**



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FACT or MYTH?

FACT

1. Female genital mutilation is the deliberate cutting of a girl's external genitals (private parts).



FACT or MYTH?

FACT

2. In many countries it is carried out by women who have no medical training, using unsterilized knives, blades or sharpened stones, without anaesthetic (pain relief).



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FACT or MYTH?

FACT

3. Female genital mutilation is nearly always carried out on children, commonly between four and twelve years of age.



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FACT or **MYTH?**

MYTH

4. There are lots of health benefits to having female genital mutilation

Girls are in danger of dying from blood loss or infection during and after the procedure



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FACT or **MYTH?**

MYTH

5. Girls need to have female genital mutilation to have babies

Women who have undergone female genital mutilation are likely to experience difficulty in childbirth



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FACT or **MYTH?**

MYTH

6. Female genital mutilation is supported
by religion

**Female genital mutilation is a 'traditional'
practice and is linked to custom rather than
religion**



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FACT or MYTH?

MYTH

7. Female genital mutilation is not a crime
in the UK

**There is a maximum penalty of 14 years in
prison for anyone found guilty of the
offence. It is also illegal to take someone
out of the UK for them to be cut.**



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FACT or **MYTH?**

FACT

8. Female genital mutilation is a form of child abuse



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FACT or **MYTH?**

FACT

9. Female genital mutilation is a violation
of human rights



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FACT or **MYTH?**

MYTH

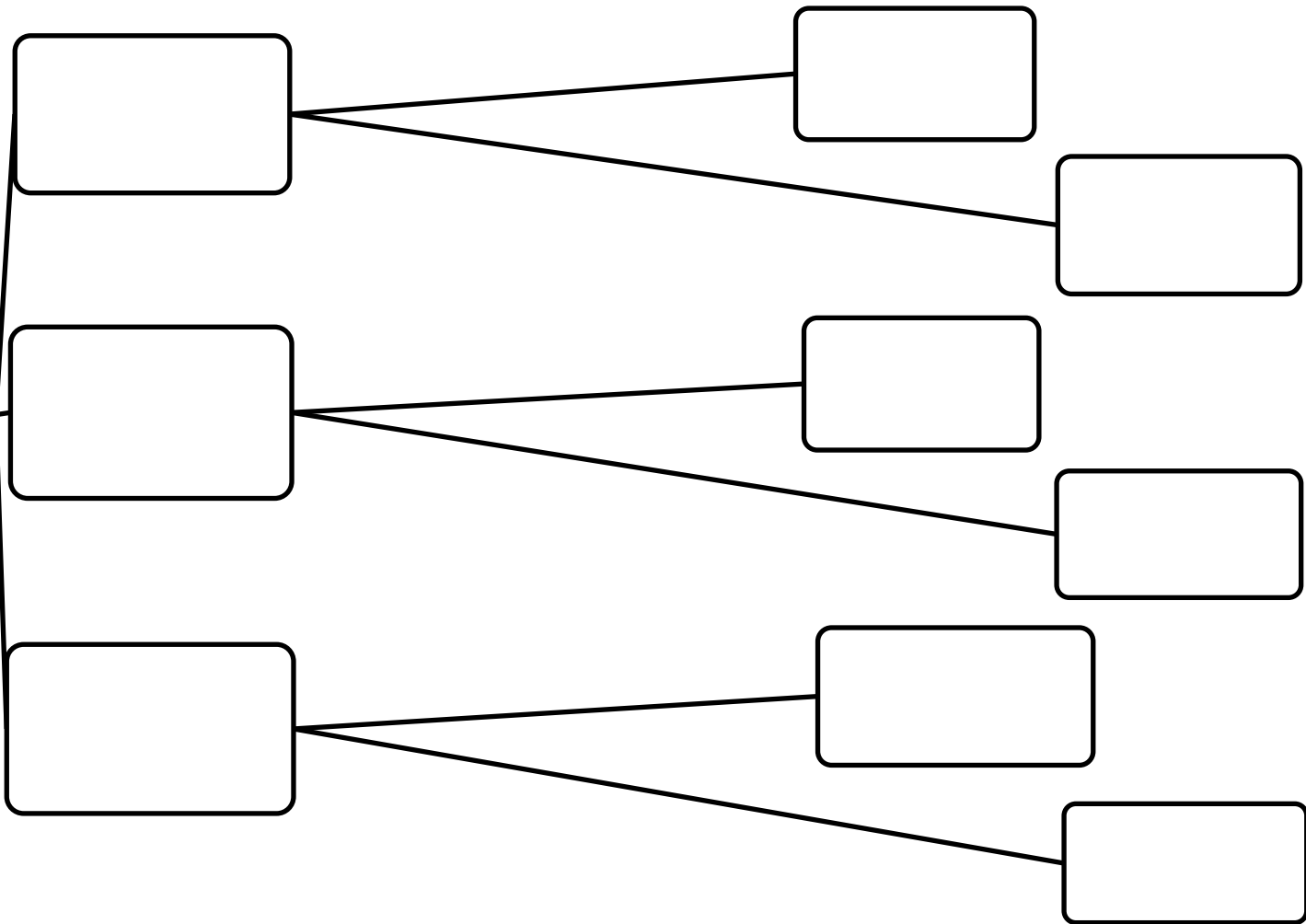
10. I can't do anything to stop FGM

By speaking out and saying female genital mutilation is unacceptable, you add your voice to international pressure for the practice to end



Consequences chart

Example;
Christine was
made to have
female genital
mutilation
when she was
15-years-old





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What would you do?

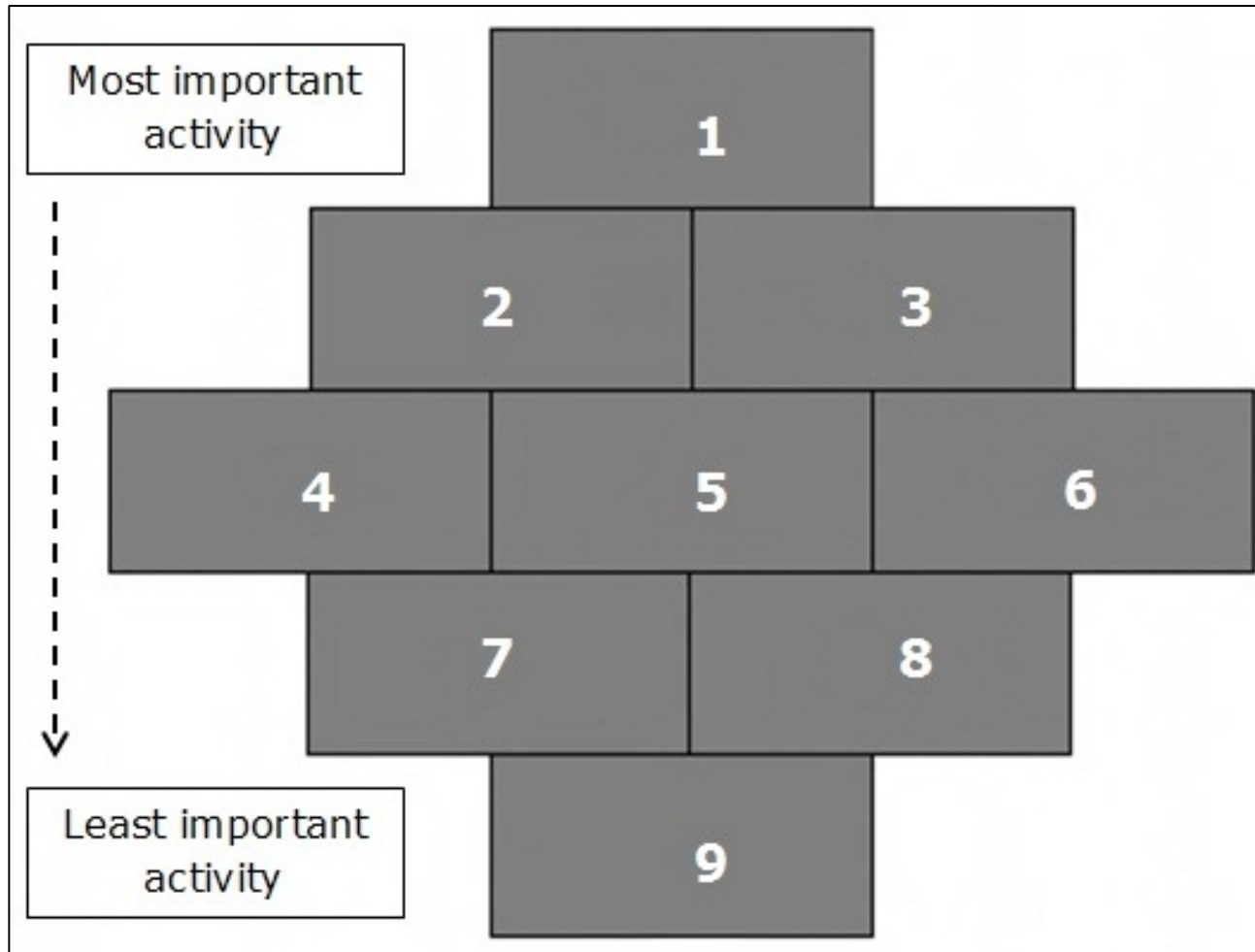
As an ActionAid Kenya staff member, you feel passionately about female genital mutilation coming to an end. You decide to do one of the following to work towards eradicating it:

- Prepare a Q&A for a community meeting with parents whose daughters are at risk of female genital mutilation
- Write to a local government official to ask for more resources to reach remote communities who are still practicing female genital mutilation
- Write a newspaper article or blog post for anyone from the local community to read

In each case you must explain what female genital mutilation is and why you think it needs to stop being practiced.



Diamond 9





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Diamond 9

Radio programme to raise awareness - £200

Impact of female genital mutilation discussed by FGM survivors, healthcare professionals and religious leader

School fees, uniform and basic items for a year- £120

For a girl who has run away from home to escape female genital mutilation

Three school visits from members of a local Women's Network - £64

Children and teachers learn about girls' rights, dangers of female genital mutilation and why abandoning the practise is positive for girls, families and communities

Run a girls' club for a month - £25

Girls learn about the dangers of female genital mutilation, their right to refuse and where to go for help

Run a men's forum for six months - £53

Men and boys learn about the dangers of female genital mutilation and how to support each other to help end the practise in their community

Teacher training - £170

For a school teacher to be made fully aware of the dangers of female genital mutilation and how to help reduce the practise within their whole community

Village leader meeting - £283

To discuss their challenges and progress made with ending female genital mutilation



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Word search

The dangers of female genital mutilation are

- Pain
- Bleeding
- Infection
- Infertility
- Death

Female genital mutilation is

- Damaging
- Dangerous
- Preventable

Z E T D L M C U C D B T E Q C
D A N G E R O U S A R M L H Y
U K N I A P S E N M W D B W G
P M P S I A B O O A E G A Z Y
Y T L Y W K I X V G P Y T G Y
W L C Q T T O H B I J P N S K
E B F G C I Y X A N X W E S A
W J L E Q H L Y O G T D V D I
Z C F E N E X I K R E T E F P
B N W I E X J K T A O Y R C A
I R F A J D K U T R E L P T H
A Z D D S O I H X X E V J A Z
I V H T N W K N Q O D F Q K E
Q K G H M N K N G C H N N E H
C A H I C X F D I Q X W Z I H



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Further information

ActionAid works with communities across Africa to end female genital mutilation. You can get more information, support and advice about female genital mutilation in the UK from:

[Childline](#)

[Daughters of Eve](#)

[Healthy Schools London](#)

[Foreign and Commonwealth Office](#)

[NHS](#)

[NSPCC](#)

The Metropolitan Police Service has a dedicated service for girls at risk of female genital mutilation. Call their Child Abuse Investigation Command/Project Azure on 020 7161 2888.