

Female Genital Cutting

Findings from the Demographic
and Health Surveys Program

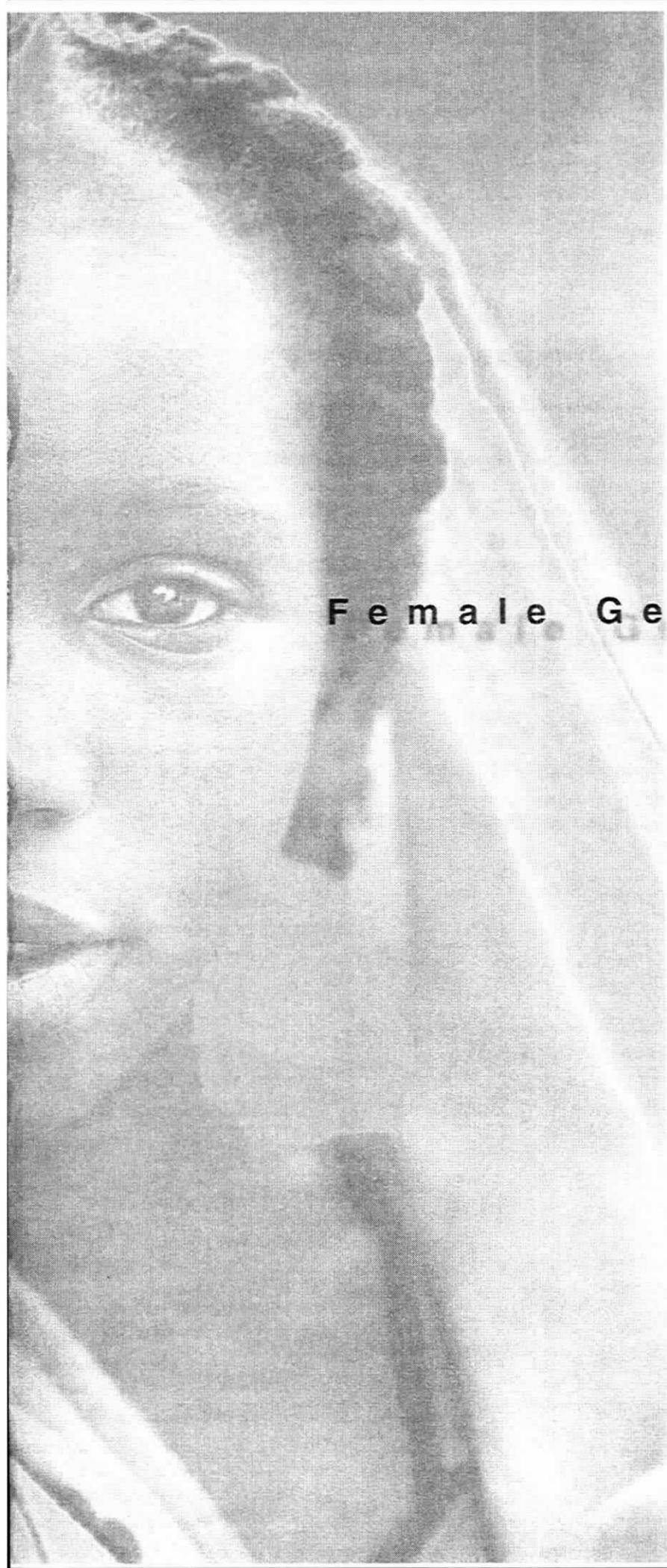
The Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) Program

Since 1984, the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) Program has assisted host country organizations in conducting nationwide surveys on subjects including fertility, mortality, family planning, maternal and child health, women's status, and AIDS knowledge and behavior. One of the primary objectives of the DHS is to provide decision-makers with information necessary to improve the health and well-being of families in Africa, the Near East, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. To date, DHS has assisted in the implementation of more than 80 surveys, involving interviews with more than 640,000 women and 60,000 men.

Macro International Inc. provides technical and administrative oversight for the DHS Program, which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



**Demographic and Health Surveys
Macro International Inc.**



F e m a l e G e n i t a l C u t t i n g

Dara Carr

Findings from the Demographic
and Health Surveys Program

Macro International Inc.
Calverton, Maryland, USA
September 1997

A c k n o w l e d g m e n t s

This report has benefited from the contributions of a number of people. First I would like to gratefully acknowledge Dr. Ann Blanc and Dr. Ann Way. Their assistance in developing and reviewing this report was invaluable. I am also indebted to a number of other colleagues whose comments, insights, and review helped shaped this report: Nicholas Hill, Dr. Sunita Kishor, Dr. Sidney Moore, Katherine Neitzel, and Dr. M. Kathryn Stewart. Special thanks are due to Bernard Barrère and Anne Cross for sharing their knowledge.

I want to express my appreciation to Dr. Nahid Toubia and Susan Izett of the Research, Action, and Information Network for Bodily Integrity of Women (RAINB^W) for their valuable advice and review of the report. Special recognition is also due to Lauren Goodsmith of The Johns Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs and Judith Hinds of Population Action International for their assistance.

Noureddine Abderrahim provided data processing assistance and ran special tabulations for the report. Additional data processing support was provided by Albert Themme and Jeanne Cushing.

Editor: Sidney Moore

Production: Catherine Sansone

Design: Chadick & Kimball

Photo credits: cover, UNICEF/4405DZ/90/Maggie Murray-Lee; introduction, UNICEF/4950Z/91/Giacomo Pirozzi; page 10, UNICEF/3381/90/Sean Sprague; page 30, Population Action International/Renée Rogers; page 36, courtesy of *Tropical Doctor*; pages 44, UNICEF/4628Z/91/Roger Lemoyne; page 58, UNICEF/3465/Peru; page 68, UNICEF/4615Z/91/Roger Lemoyne; page 92, UNICEF/HQ96-0284/Nicole Toutounji

C o n t e n t s

Introduction	1
Summary of Findings	5
Prevalence.....	11
Attitudes.....	19
Types	31
Conditions and Health Effects	37
Generational Differences	45
Program Issues	59
References	65
Appendix A: Tables.....	69
Appendix B: Summary of Information Collected.....	93