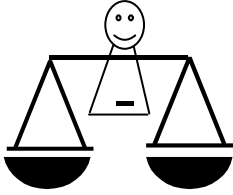
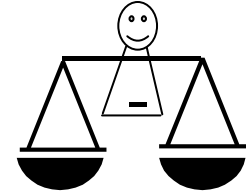


# CAMEROON YOUNG JURISTS LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER



## CYJULERC



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**Motto:** “Securing livelihood for women and children within a legal framework”

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### LE PREMIER RAPORT DES ACTIVITES



Les membres du projet de CYJULERC avec ses intervieweurs à Kolofata,  
L'Département de Mayo Sava la Région de l'Extrême Nord

**Une recherche sur la prédominance de l'Excision et le pleduayé au près des  
Ministres et les Parlementaires de adopte une loi qui criminalise l'excision au  
Cameroun.**

Appuyé par : **La Haute Commission de la Grande Bretagne au Cameroun**

# INTRODUCTION

C'est un reportage de la première phase du projet « **Une recherche sur la prédominance de l'excision et pousser les ministres et les parlementaires de trouver une loi qui criminalise l'excision au Cameroun.**

Cette recherche est étude explicative qui visé à explorer certaines pratiques culturelles ; et aussi analyser et examiner le niveau culturel de l'excision au Mayo Sava et Logone et les divisions de Chari à l'Extrême Nord du Cameroun.

La recherché composait:

- **Les réunions et les discussions**
- **L'entretien et le rassemblement des données.**

**La Première phase** du projet portait sur le Département de Mayo Sava à la Région de l'Extrême Nord du Cameroun.

Le Département de Mayo Sava est composée de trios Arrondissement. Elle sont : les Arrondissement de Mora, Tokombere et Kolofata, parmi les quelles excision ce pratique dans les deux régions, Kolofata et Mora. La raison majeur pourquoi l'excision est toujours pratiquée dans ces deux Arrondissement est par ce que l'excision est pratiquée par les Arabes Choa et ils sont les habitants de ces deux Arrondissement compte tenu du fait que notre projet vise à rechercher sur la dominance de l'excision, nous avons décidé de baser nos activités que sur les Arrondissement de Mora et Kolofata.

## **La Planning / Contact**

Le projet a débuté avec un voyage à la Arrondissement de Mayo Sava à l'Extrême Nord du Cameroun. Après une réunion générale annonçant la décision de la Haute Commission de la Grande Bretagne de financer ce projet, et la réunion sur sa mise en marche/oeuvre, la Coordinatrice Nationale, Mme. Ayuk Esther et la Secrétaire Générale, Mme Nembouwo Elizabeth Ayuketang qui faisait partie de l'équipe pour la mise en oeuvre, étaient chargées à voyager à Mayo Sava contacter les Délégués Départementale, les Délégués des Arrondissement au près de Ministère de la Promotion de la Femme et la Famille.

Le Coordinateur National et Secrétaire Général ont fait un voyage à Mora. Ils ont rencontré le Délégué de l'Arrondissement de Mora, Mahamat Sale et le président de réseau des femmes de Mora, Boubakari Aissatou et ils ont tenu une réunion avec eux au sein de la Délégation du Ministère de la Promotion de la Femme et la Famille.

Le Délégué de Mora, Mohamat Sale et Mme Boubakari étaient retenu comme les collaborateur à la l'exécution du projet pour le Département de Mayo Sava.



La reunion de membres de CYJULERC et Mohamat Sale et Boubakari Aissatou

La prochaine réunion a eu lieu au centre médical de Dr. Mossa à Mora. L'équipe CYJULERC accompagnée par Mme Boubakari, ont visité un certain DR. Mossa Djidda, Chirurgien, autonome a Mora. Cet un ressuscitant d'Arabe Choa, et un activiste de l'excision, une des personnes dont le Premier Ministre, le Ministre de la Justice et Garde des Sceaux nous a dit de nous rencontrer. L'équipe lui a rencontré dans son centre médical privé et ils ont eu une longue entretien avec lui.



Dr Moussa Djidda, un supporteur de l'excision

Il a insisté sur l'importance de l'excision à une femme. Il a dit que c'est une tradition que le tribu Arabe Choa a héritée de leurs ancêtres et il a recommandée que l'équipe de

CYJULERC exige la formation des pratiquants de l'excision à fin qu'ils puissent éviter les complications sanitaires comme l'hémorragie et l'infection. Il a également dit que nous faisons une sensibilisation auprès des les femmes de venir à son hôpital à fin d'éviter ces complications.



L'équipe de CYJULERC et Mme Boubakari en réunion avec Dr. Moussa Djidda

## **LA MISE EN OEUVRE DU PROJET**

Trois activités majeures ont été exécuté sur le terrain, il compris un Séminaire de un jour de formation pour les intervieweurs, le débat avec les responsable des communautés et le rassemblement des données ménagères sur le têt de pratique de l'excision.

### **LES REUNIONS ET LES DEBATS**

#### **La Formation des Intervieweurs :**

Une formation d'un jour a eu lieu au centre de Promotion de la Femme et la Famille à Mora, le Chef lieu de Mayo Sava le 26 Novembre 2008. Il y eu deux sessions différentes, une le martin et l'autre dans l'après-midi.

La première session était une réunion avec les présidentes des réseaux des femmes dans les trois Arrondissement de Mayo Sava, les Délégués des Arrondissement de Promotion de la Femme et la Famille, toutes les responsables des Centres des Femme dans le Département des Mayo Sava et les intervieweurs de Mora et Limani.

There were 26 participants from the three (3) Sub-Divisions, to wit: Mora, Tokombere and Kolofata. The representatives of women's network were old, indigenous and influential women in their communities. The Sub-Divisional Delegate for Women's Empowerment and the Family for Mora, introduced CYJULERC and the project team and thereafter the National Coordinator of CYJULERC took over the meeting. She informed the participants they were in Mayo Sava Division to conduct a research on the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). She said they were however going to use

this opportunity to find out the situation of early marriage and the prevalence of fistula in the Division. She said the aim of this meeting was to discuss these three issues which cause serious problems to the health of women.



Training Seminar at Women's Empowerment Center, Mora- Mayo Sava Division

The Mayor of Mora's wife, Dadja Fatime an old retired social worker who was one of the representatives of Mora women acted as an interpreter through out the session. Being of Arabe Choa origin and well known by the old women, she got them to tell the honest and true situation of the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in their various communities and why they were still practicing it. Participants opened up and the representatives of Kolofa and Limani said, FGM was still being practiced in their communities. They said they inherited the practice from their ancestors and since then they have upheld it. They did not know there were any health hazards that affect the girls or women as a result of the practice.



CYJULERC's National Coordinator (left) with heads of Limani and Kolofata women's group.

The president of the network of Kolofata women Haouwa said if an Arabe girl is not mutilated or circumcised, she cannot get married to an Arabe man so the girls are obliged to be mutilated since they want to marry Arabe men. She said that is why she has mutilated her grand-daughter Ouha Hadidja whom she brought along to the workshop recently at the age of six (6). Ouha Hadidja has never been to school and will never go to school.



Mme Haouwa, president of Kolofata women's group with her mutilated grand-daughter Ouha Hadidja whom she circumcised, at the Mora workshop.



Six (6) years old Ouha Hadidja, victim of FGM, mutilated by her grand-mother in preparation for marriage, will never go to school.

Fanne Gona, the president of Limani women's group said, FGM was still being practiced in their community because they need to uphold their culture and they need to prepare the girls for marriage. She went further to say, the Arabe men do marry non-Arabe girls who are not circumcised and but not uncircumcised Arabe girls. She said another reason is to reduce the girl's sexual drive, for the men have multiple wives.

The CYJULERC National Coordinator presented a brief paper on the effects of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) on the girl-child and women. The two coordinators of the

project in Mayo Sava, Mr Marvizia Ezekiel and Mahamat Sale also gave brief presentations on FGM and religion; and culture. There was a frank long discussion that followed the presentations. Most of the literate Arabe and non-Arabe women present at the workshop reiterate the fact that Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) was not healthy for the woman and it is an age old tradition which has many disadvantages and no advantage. In conclusion the women agreed they did not know the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) had such disadvantages for nobody has been to their communities to educate them, but now that they aware, they will try to stop it progressively. They said they whole community needs to be educated and emphasis need to be laid on the education of men if we want FGM to be eradicated. They said some women earn some financial benefits from the practice CYJULERC should consider an alternative income for them. The morning session ended with group photographs and launch.



Participants at Mora workshop.

The afternoon session was to discuss the data collection form and to train the interviewers the methods they had to use during the interviews. The research methodology that was used in this project was not a standard methodology, considering that FGM is a culturally sensitive issue, any standard research methodology could not give the required results. The fact that the target communities are indigenous and illiterate also made it difficult to use the conventional method.

Interviewers were selected from all the two main Sub-Divisions of Mayo Sava where FGM is still practiced. Among those selected were, teachers, social workers, field extension workers, nurses and some influential literate women. These groups were targeted because all of them speak the local dialect and they were also well-known in the various communities. More interviewers were selected than planned in the project for we realized there was a need to cover more communities. There were 11 interviewers for the Mora and Limani communities of the Mora Sub-Division; and 12 for the Kolofata Sub-Division. For effective work, these groups were separated into two and those of Mora and Limani were trained in Mora, while the others were trained in Kolofata after the women's meeting.

CYJULER's National Coordinator thanked the interviewers for accepting to collect data from the community on FGM. Monica Akocha, a member of CYJULERC implementation team, distributed copies of the data form to all the interviewers and the other participants present. Mrs Nembouwo Elizabeth Ayuketang, CYJULERC's

Secretary General who was also a member of the implementation team took the interviewers through the data form. She gave a detailed explanation of the entire questions on the form and what was required of the interviewers. All the issues raised were discussed and 200 forms were distributed to the interviewers. Mrs Ayuk Esther, said the form also contained questions on Fistula, early marriages and education. She said CYJULERC wants to take advantage of this household data collection and get some information on such related issues. It was also aimed at diluting the focus on FGM so that the population can open and give the true information about their families. The different villages and communities were of Mora and Limani to be covered were identified and distributed to the interviewers. Eight (8) village communities were covered in Mora to wit: Bounderi, Touchki 1,2,3; Tagawa 1,2; Kangarwa, Klosale, Ganai 1,2,3; Ninguitiwa and Doulo. Ten (10) in Limani, to wit: Wambaché éli Gadou, Boudoua Ramat, Bla Djarma, Wali yassi djere, Wali yassi eli gadou, Kinzandi bla djarma, Limani, Goumbouldi, Igawa, Pivou.



Training workshop of interviewers

CYJULERC team moved to Kolofata the next day, November 27, 2008 and held a meeting with the women and the interviewers at the hall of the Women's Empowerment Center in Kolofata. The hall was full with about a hundred women. The Sub-Divisional Delegate for Women's Empowerment and the Family introduced the project team and all those he invited to the meeting. CYJULERC's National Coordinator took over after the introduction and she told the women the reason the meeting. Mme Gadji neé Mazakre, in charge of the Women's Empowerment Center, acted as the interpreter during the workshop. She was also one of the interviewers.





The same issues to wit: FGM, Fistula and Early marriage were discussed. Among the stake holders invited was the surgeon of the Kolofata District Hospital Dr. Kuzu Daniel. He gave a brief talk to the women on all the three issues raised but laid emphasis on FGM. He said almost all the women whom he has consulted have been mutilated so there is a very high prevalence in the Kolofata Sub-Division.



Project team at Kolofata training workshop.



Dr. Kuzu talking to the women during meeting.

Kolofata Sub-Division is made up predominantly of the Arabe Choa tribe. The women had an honest reaction to the issues raised. They said FGM is a cultural practice which they do to young girls in preparation for marriage and if they do not the girls no Arabe man will marry them. They also said they do not send their girls to school because schools are far and they are scared that they can be raped so only very few young girls go to school. They said they had a few cases of fistula and two names of women with fistula were given to the team.



Mme Gadji neé Mazakre, in charge of the Women's Empowerment Center, talking to the women in Kolofata



The women said they have never had any problem with FGM and any uncircumcised in the Arabe tribe is regarded as an outcast so it will be difficult for them to stop FGM.

They however said, they will try to send girl-children to school but they need more schools so that the girls do not need to go far from the house. The session ended with a family photograph.



Kolofata meeting family photographs, the crowd was too large for a single photograph

After the women's meeting, 11 interviewers selected for the Kolofata Sub-Division were trained on the methods of collecting information, and how to fill the data collection form. Eleven (11) communities were identified and distributed to the interviewers and two hundred (200) forms were distributed to them.



Project team with Kolofata interviewers

The next step of the project team was at Limani to meet the women and the traditional ruler and notables. The response to the call was very positive for the chief's (Blama) palace was filled with women and notables before the arrival of the project team. As usual the Sub-Divisional Delegate for Women's Empowerment and the Family introduced our mission to the Blama, notables and the women. The Blama and notables retired after a brief discussion with them to enable the women air out their views freely. Unlike Kolofata Sub-Division, Limani is made up of two main tribes, the Mandare and Arabe Choa. The Mandare tribe does not have the culture of mutilating girls and women

while the Arabe Choa does. The CYJULERC National Coordinator gave a brief presentation on the three issues as mentioned above and the women reacted by giving the true situation in Limani.

The young Arabe girls and women were very happy to hear the team came to do research on FGM and to educate the population to stop the practice. They told the project team that they did not like the practice and wanted it to be stopped. One of the young women who were against FGM was a daughter to one of the FGM practitioners in Limani. She said FGM is a bad practice that should be banned, but she could not explain further because her mother circumcises young girls and women. Contrary to the young women, the old women supported the practice and intimated it must continue, for it is their tradition. The young Arabe girls said, they do not see any reason for the Arabe men imposing that they should be circumcised when they marry uncircumcised girls from the Madare tribe. They urged the CYJULERC team to find ways of banning FGM.



Women's meeting at the Limani chief's palace



Women's meeting at the Chief's Palace in Limani

### Discussions with Stake Holders

#### Limani:

There was a brief discussion with the men on the three issues raised; FGM, Fistula and Early marriage. The men said the women are those directly concerned with the issues, but they however agreed that the men have a role to play in FGM and early marriages but they will try to see what they can do discourage those practice. The chief (Blama) enjoined the CYJULERC team to lay emphasis on early marriages for they were a serious problem in the Limani communities. He said the men were going to retire to give room for the women to discuss freely without any fears given the fact that the society is a very chauvinistic one.



Project team discuss with Limani community head and notables



Limani community head and CYJULERC project team in the palace guest room



Limani community head and notables sit in front Limani Palace during the women's meeting

## Mora

The project team visited the Mayor of Mora Abba Boukar and his Counselors to discuss their mission in Mora and the Mayo Sava Division in general. The mayor and the counselors admitted that the Arabe Choa tribe which makes up part of the population of Mayo Sava Division stills practices Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). They also raised the issue of early marriages which they decry. The mayor said one of the worst problems which they face in the Mayo Sava Division is illiteracy and a very high rate in girls. They were very impressed to have a team which is willing to educate the population on the effects of FGM and early marriages. They recommended that emphasis have to be laid on girl-child education if the CYJULERC team wants to succeed in the eradication of FGM in Mayo Sava.



CYJULERC team meets Mayor of Mora and Counselors at mayor's residence in Mora

## LES ENTRETIENS ET LE RASSEMBLEMENT DES DONNEES

Les recherches les plus grandes sont les mêmes que pour le Mora et les Arrondissement de Kolofata. Douze intervieweurs ont mené les entretiens à domicile dans huit (8) communautés villageoises à Mora à savoir Bounderi, Touchki 1,2,3; Tagawa 1,2; Kangarwa, Klosale, Ganai 1,2,3; Ninguitiwa et Doulo et dix (10) communautés villageoises à Limani, to wit: Wambaché éli Gadou, Boudoua Ramat, Bla Djarma, Wali yassi djere, Wali yassi eli gadou, Kinzandi bla djarma, Limani, Goumbouldi, Igawa, Pivou.

Douze intervieweurs ont mène des entretiens dans onze communautés villageoises de l'Arrondissement de Kolofata à savoir : Zize, Dalasi, Djamena, Blabline, Alger, Bia arabe-soa, Brouvare, Grea, Wawili, Makakaya Patou, Bornori and Alagarno.

### Les Découvertes

1. D'après les discussions et des réunions, l'excision est une coutume commune pratiquée parmi les tribus Arabe de la Département de Mayo Sava.
2. L'excision est prise comme une identité de tribu d'Arabe.
3. L'excision a une origine coloniale qui a apparut pendant la période des conquêtes au 18<sup>ème</sup> siècle pour empêcher les activités sexuelles ou réduire la libido de leurs femmes (épouses) tandis que leurs époux étaient en guerre pendant longtemps.
4. Les filles excisées sont parmi lesquelles âgées de 6 à 8 ans.
5. Aucun homme d'origine Arabe ne peut épouser une fille d'origine Arabe non excisée.
6. Les filles non excisées sont considérées des étrangeure.
7. Il y a des exciseuse qui jouent le rôle des accouches traditionnelle dans leurs communautés.
8. Les exciseuse en tire des bénéfices financiers.
9. La population est ignorante des effets négatifs de l'excision sur les femmes.
10. L'alphabétisation est très haut, avec un têt de fréquentation scolaire d'environ 12.9%.
11. Seules les jeunes filles fréquentent et elles sont retire de l'école à l'âge de 10 ans et envoyée en mariage à l'âge de 12 ans.
12. Les filles les plus grand sont retirés de l'école pour la peur d'être violée et la grossesse indésirable, car les écoles sont loin de leurs maisons et c'est une sacrilège d'être grosse.
13. Une fille Musulman ou Arabe est née pour donnée en mariage et l'éducation n'est pas essentielle ou nécessaire pour elle.
14. Les mariages précoce sont très répandue et pratique commune parmi les Musulmans même la class les plus literez.
15. Il y a très peu d'information à propos de fistule et les cas sont très rares.
16. Le mariage précoce de garçon existe aussi a parti de l'âge de 14 ans.

### Les Données

### **Mora et Limani**

- **202 familles** ont été entretenues dans 18 communautés villageoises de Mora et Limani
- Le nombre total des enfants - **1011**
- **Le nombre des garçons qui fréquentent - 529**
- Le nombre des garçons qui fréquentent **79** : **01** avant l'âge de 5ans ; **53** entre 6 à 12 ans ; **19** entre 13 à 20 ans.
- **Le nombre total des filles - 475**
- Le nombre de mariage précoce - **79**
- Le nombre des filles qui fréquentent **78** : **00** avant 5 ans ; **66** entre 6 à 12ans ; **12** entre de 13 – 20ans.
- **Le nombre des filles excisées – 100** : **1** avant 3ans ; **5** entre 3 – 5ans ; **94** entre 6 – 10ans.
- Fistule – 0

### **Kolofata**

- **197 familles** ont été entretenues dans 12 communautés villageoises de Kolofata.
- Le nombre total des enfants – **1.140**
- **Le nombre des garçons qui fréquentent - 573**
- Le nombre des garçons qui fréquentent **83** : **01** avant l'âge de 5ans ; **55** entre 6 à 12 ans ; **28** entre 13 à 20 ans.
- **Le nombre total des filles - 567**
- Le nombre de mariage précoce - **220**
- Le nombre des filles qui fréquentent **37** : **01** avant 5 ans ; **33** entre 6 à 12ans ; **03** entre de 13 – 20ans.
- **Le nombre des filles excisées – 247** : **01** avant 3 ans ; **32** entre 3 – 5 ans ; **191** entre 6 – 10ans ; **23** entre 11 – 20 ans.
- Fistule – 5

### **Les Découvertes Majeures :**

**L'Excision** : L'Arrondissement de Kolofata de **43.5%**

L'Arrondissement de Mora **21.0%**

La plupart de filles excisées sont de 6 – 10ans

### **L'Education :**

**L'Arrondissement de Mora** : Tôt de fréquentation scolaire = **15.6%**

**Les Filles** : -L'éducation maternelle - **0%**

-La fréquentation des filles entre 6 – 12ans =**13.8%**

-La fréquentation après 12ans = **2.5%**

**Les garçons :** Tôt de total de fréquentation scolaire = **14.7%**  
- L'éducation maternelle = **1.2%**  
- La fréquentation de 6 – 12ans = **67.0%**  
- La fréquentation après 12 ans = **24.0%**

**L'Arrondissement de Kolofata :** Tôt de fréquentation scolaire = **10.5 %**

**Les Filles :** -L'éducation maternelle – **2.7 %**  
-La fréquentation des filles entre 6 – 12ans =**89.1%**  
-La fréquentation après 12ans = **8.1%**

**Les garçons :** L'éducation maternelle = **1.2%**  
- Tôt de fréquentation de 6 – 12ans = **66.2%**  
- Tôt de fréquentation après 12 ans = **33.7%**

## **CONCLUSION**

L'excision ce pratique toujours dans le Département de Mayo Sava dans la Région de l'Extrême Nord au Cameroun, avec une très haut tôt de prtique de **43.5%** dans l'Arrondissement de Kolofata et **21.0%** dans l'Arrondissement de Mora.

L'éducation et l'alnaphabétion jour un rôle majeur dans la pratique de l'excision parce que l'Arrondissement de Kolofata a en tôt de pratique élevé de **43.5%** et un tôt scolaire bas à **10.5%** tandis que dans l'Arrondissement de Mora, ou il y a un fréquemment scolaire plus élevé à **15.6%** et une baisse de l'excision à **21.0526%**.





Membre de l'équipe de CYJULERC dans le train pour Ngaoundéré.



Une maison typique d'Arabe Choa à Kolofata.