



Buckinghamshire Strategy for Tackling FGM
Appendix C: Different Terms for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Country	Term used for FGM	Language	Meaning
EGYPT	Thara	Arabic	Deriving from the Arabic word 'tahaar' meaning to clean / purify
	Khitan	Arabic	Circumcision – used for both FGM and male circumcision
	Khifad	Arabic	Deriving from the Arabic word 'khafad' meaning to lower (rarely used in everyday language)
ETHIOPIA	Megrez	Amharic	Circumcision / cutting
	Absum	Harrari	Name giving ritual
ERITREA	Mekhnishab	Tigreigna	Circumcision / cutting
KENYA	Kutairi	Swahili	Circumcision – used for both FGM and male circumcision
	Kutairi was ichana	Swahili	Circumcision of girls
NIGERIA	Ibi / Ugwu	Igbo	The act of cutting – used for both FGM and male circumcision
	Sunna	Mandingo	Religious tradition / obligation – for Muslims
SIERRA LEONE	Sunna	Soussou	Religious tradition / obligation – for Muslims
	Bondo	Temenee	Integral part of an initiation rite into adulthood – for non Muslims
	Bondo / Sonde	Mendee	Integral part of an initiation rite into adulthood – for non Muslims
	Bondo	Mandingo	Integral part of an initiation rite into adulthood – for non Muslims
	Bondo	Limba	Integral part of an initiation rite into adulthood – for non Muslims
SOMALIA	Gudiniin	Somali	Circumcision – used for both FGM and male circumcision

	Halalays	Somali	Deriving from the Arabic word 'halal' i.e. 'sanctioned' – implies purity. Used by Northern & Arabic speaking Somalis
	Qodiin	Somali	Stitching / tightening / sewing refers to infibulation
SUDAN	Khifad	Arabic	Deriving from the Arabic word 'khafad' meaning to lower (rarely used in everyday language)
	Tahoor	Arabic	Deriving from the Arabic word 'tahaar' meaning to clean / purify
CHAD – the Ngama	Bagne		Used by the Sara Madjingaye
Sara subgroup	Gadja		Adapted from 'ganza' used in Central African Republic
GUINEA-BISSAU	Fanadu di Mindjer	Kriolu	Circumcision of girls
	Fanadu di Omi	Kriolu	Circumcision of boys
GAMBIA	Niaka	Mandinka	Literally to 'cut / weed clean'
	Kuyango	Mandinka	Meaning 'the affair' but also the name for the shed built for initiates
	Musolula Karoola	Mandinka	Meaning 'the womens side' / 'that which concerns women'