



Co-funded by
the European Union

Y-ACT

project

Youth in ACTION for Change



ASSOCIAZIONE
LE RESEAU



OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS

31

young people aged 18-30 with migrant backgrounds trained and empowered as agents of change.

54

adults and community representatives engaged in communities of practice and intergenerational dialogues.

300

youth-led awareness actions planned in 2024.

4

cities involved.

YCONNECT

A dedicated space to showcase the youth-led efforts driving the Y-ACT Project.

Co-financed by the European Union (CERV-DAPHNE), led by Amref Italy, and partnered with Le Réseau Association, National Coordination of New Italian Generations (CoNNGI), and University of Milan Bicocca, the Y-ACT Project aims to prevent and combat Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Italy.

FGM is recognized as a violation of human rights and a form of gender-based violence that deeply affects girls and women at individual, social, sexual, and health levels.

The Y-ACT Project involves direct engagement with youth from migrant backgrounds and members of target communities to create community-centered interventions.

Activities include training and empowering young leaders, fostering intergenerational dialogue, and raising awareness within communities.

The 2020-2025 Gender Strategy highlights the need to address gender stereotypes by focusing on youth engagement. The Y-ACT Project identifies young people as powerful entry points to drive awareness and behavioral change within communities, ensuring sustainable transformation from within.



HEALTHY. UNAWARENESS. TABOO. TRADITION. TRAUMA.

Every unspoken word about FGM perpetuates its existence. Through the voices of the Y-ACT Project participants, we aim to give silence a voice and take a step forward in the fight against FGM.

[Watch the video](#) 

VIDEOS FROM THE CAMPAIGN

"GIVING SILENCE A VOICE #thevalueofthegirl"

Through the stories of Marwa, Iqro, Esraa, Gracefield, and Grace Atilola, Y-ACT ambassadors, we've given words to often-unspoken realities.

This vocabulary of silence invites reflection and dialogue to foster change in communities where FGM persists.



HEALTHY

In her home country, they say, “Born healthy, let her grow healthy.” Marwa, a mother from Sudan hoping for peace to return to her homeland, shares her story and her commitment to breaking the silence around FGM.

[Watch the video](#) 

UNAWAWARENESS

Iqro, a Somali-born student, discusses how silence around FGM conceals deep physical and emotional wounds.

[Watch the video](#) 



TRADITION

Traditions define us, but some, like FGM, must be challenged. Gracefield, originally from Nigeria and now studying in Rome, emphasizes the need to break the silence around harmful cultural practices.

[Watch the video](#) 



TABOO

FGM and women's sexual health remain taboo topics.

Esraa, an engineering student in Milan, explains how, with her family's support and increasing religious condemnation, she avoided FGM. However, many women still suffer in silence.

[Watch the video](#) 





TRAUMA

'Trauma' encapsulates what many girls endure due to FGM.

Grace Atilola, a Nigerian living in Veneto with her two children, joined Y-ACT to help girls grow up free from fear and pain.

[Watch the video](#) 

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The Y-ACT Project spans Rome, Milan, Turin, and Padua, with the following key activities:

- **Youth Empowerment, Engagement & Activation:** Youth Leaders from each region participate in tailored empowerment and activation programs.
- **Community Engagement & Activation:** Members of target communities form 4 Communities of Practice (CoPs) to address community health concerns.
- **Intergenerational Dialogue and Behavioral Change:** Communities are activated through collective action to challenge the social acceptance of FGM.
- **Advocating for Girls' Rights:** Promoting health, security, physical integrity, and self-determination for girls through exchanges, events, campaigns, and social media activities.
- **Final Event:** A closing event in Brussels will present the project's outcomes to stakeholders, institutions, and activists, fostering the exchange of best practices.

THE VODCAST

"Whole. A Revolution Without Scars"

Listen on Spotify 

Watch the video 



REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Stories and visuals from youth-led awareness activities and events across Rome, Milan, Turin, and Padua.

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DEEP DIVES

[Discover More](#)

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MORE**

