

Göttingen Woman Gets Involved: Changing a Bloody Tradition Hand in Hand

Professor saves 4,000 Kenyan girls from genital mutilation

For years Muthgard Hinkelmann-Toewe from Göttingen, a professor at the University of Applied Sciences, Fulda, has been committed to the interests and needs of Kenyan women. She has established various projects in the depths of the rural area that are implemented hand in hand with the local population. One of these projects, in Mosocho Division, Kenya, is called "Female Genital Mutilation Can Be Overcome." Last December this project was able to celebrate for the second time the successes resulting from this cooperative effort. As in the previous year, a total of

over 4,000 uncircumcised girls and the decision of their families to not have them (cut) circumcised was the cause for public celebration. Prior to the project's start, the locals from the Kisii ethnies had been particularly persistent in their adherence to the tradition of mutilating the genitals of young girls; the circumcision rate was 97 percent.

The work is done in cooperation with the association VividCom (LebKom e.V.) The project is provided with start-up financing from the EU and the Kinder-nothilfe association.

It's principal component is the further education of 210 teachers following the "Value-Centered Approach" developed by Professor Hinkelmann-Toewe. This Approach communicates a different attitude toward the value of women and their bodies. The Sparkasse Göttingen will support this work until February with a poster campaign in the bank's branches; those interested can obtain transfer slips for donations to the project. Each donation contributes to protecting additional girls from the cruel practice of female genital mutilation.



Overcoming female genital mutilation: Professor Muthgard Hinkelmann-Toewe with Kisii girls.