

Guinea-Bissau

CONTEXT

In Guinea-Bissau, FGM rates have almost stagnated in the last 10 years, with recent MICS data (2018-2019) showing an increase in the practice from 45 per cent to 52 per cent of girls and women aged 15-49. Yet only 13 per cent of women aged 15-49 support the practice (2018-2019) against 34 per cent in 2010. FGM is performed across all regions, with Gabú and Bafatá (in the east of the country) having the highest regional rates at 96 and 87 per cent, respectively. Biombo and Cacheu have the lowest rates at 5 and 16 per cent, respectively (MICS 2018-2019).

FGM is generally performed at an early age, although young girls aged 10-14 remain the main group affected by the practice (43 per cent). This shows FGM is still associated with the transitional period of puberty, meaning that the cultural ceremony to enter womanhood is still relevant for communities performing FGM.



52% of girls and women aged 15-49 years have undergone FGM



78% of girls and women think FGM should stop



3 out of 4 girls experience FGM before age 5

Enabling environment for the elimination of FGM

- Legislation criminalizing FGM
- Costed national action plan
- National budget line for FGM
- National coordination mechanism

Rates have almost stagnated in the last 10 years.

Since 2018, law enforcement has resulted in:



9 arrests



3 cases brought to court



6 convictions and sanctions

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Overall performance on outcome indicators in Phase III

Below 70% 70%–100% Above 100%

OUTCOME 1

Have an enabling environment for the elimination of FGM practices at all levels and in line with human rights standards

OUTCOME 2

Girls and women are empowered to exercise and express their rights by transforming social and gender norms in communities to eliminate FGM

OUTCOME 3

Girls and women receive appropriate, quality and systemic services for FGM prevention, protection and care

OUTCOME 4

Have better capacity to generate and use evidence and data for policymaking and improving programming

Sources: Guinea-Bissau MICS 2018-2019, UNFPA estimates for 2018 based on the Guinea-Bissau MICS 2014, Data-for-All, UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating Change.

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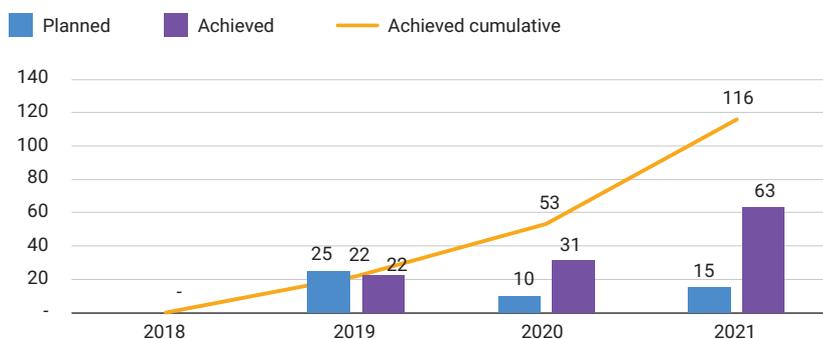
Continuous community engagement

The Joint Programme worked closely with regional governments to organize 1,695 community dialogues and reached 199,879 people in communities in the targeted regions. The programme supported 63 FGM abandonment public statement sessions in 2021, where 138 adolescent girls benefited from school kits. With the Joint Programme's support, 199,879 people participated in reflective dialogues on eliminating harmful practices such as FGM in 195 communities across the country. The Joint Programme successfully engaged with 1,873 religious and traditional leaders and young people.

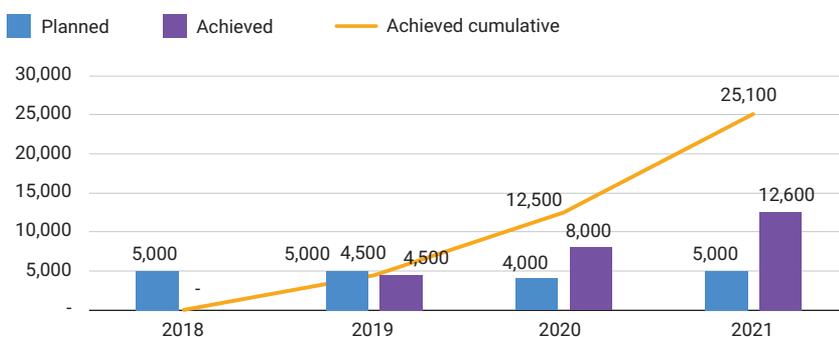
A strengthened country coordination mechanism for health, social and legal services

In 2021, the Joint Programme continued to improve the functionality of protection services through capacity-building and strengthened coordination, monitoring and case management, especially at the subnational level, where State services are scarce. The social service workforce and frontline workers (125), teachers (880), shelters (12), civil society and children's organizations improved knowledge and skills to prevent and manage violence against children and GBV cases, including FGM. Shelter capacities to assist child victims of violence were enhanced in the Bissau and Gabu regions, where reported cases of violence are higher. During 2021, a few cases related to FGM were reported and managed. The main cases reported to and assisted by protection services involve child marriage and sexual abuse.

Number of communities that have made public declaration of abandonment of FGM in Guinea-Bissau



Number of people engaged in public declaration that they will abandon the practice of FGM



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