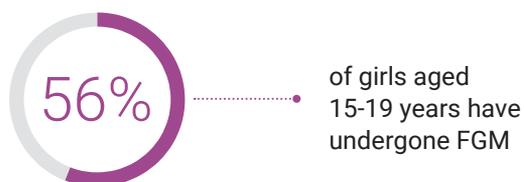


Mauritania

CONTEXT

In Mauritania, given the increased vulnerability of women and girls during the pandemic and the need to maintain and strengthen prevention and assistance services for survivors of GBV and FGM, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and the Family, with the technical and financial support of its partners, commissioned a study to assess and analyse COVID-19 fallout on gender relations and GBV. The Council of Ministers in 2020 adopted a national strategy to combat violence against women and girls and a bill against violence against women and girls.

DHS data show the highest FGM prevalence rates are in Hodh El Gharbi (93.7 per cent), Tagant (88.2 per cent) and Guidimagha (84.6 per cent). More than a third of women aged 15-49 (38.4 per cent) believe the practice should continue; 35 per cent think FGM is a religious requirement.



3 out of 4 girls experience FGM before age 1

Enabling environment for the elimination of FGM

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

Since 2018, law enforcement has resulted in:



3 arrests



1 case brought to court



1 conviction and sanctions

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Overall performance on outcome indicators in Phase III



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 and care

Sources: Mauritania DHS 2019-2021, UNFPA estimates for 2018 based on the Mauritania MICS 2015, Data-for-All, UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating Change.

Mauritania

Continuous community engagement

The Government took concrete actions to promote the rights of women and girls and strengthen community engagement in transforming harmful cultural and social beliefs and practices. In Phase III, 510,857 people engaged in public declarations of

FGM abandonment in 521 communities. Additionally, 79,679 people actively participated in education, sensitization and social mobilization sessions promoting FGM elimination.

Girls' and women's empowerment

Training sessions educated 340 women and girls on their human and legal rights, the health consequences of FGM, legal, social and health service provisions on FGM, and interpersonal communication methods. The programme established 1,388 "safe spaces" and provided capacity development packages to empower out-of-school and uneducated adolescent girls and young women.

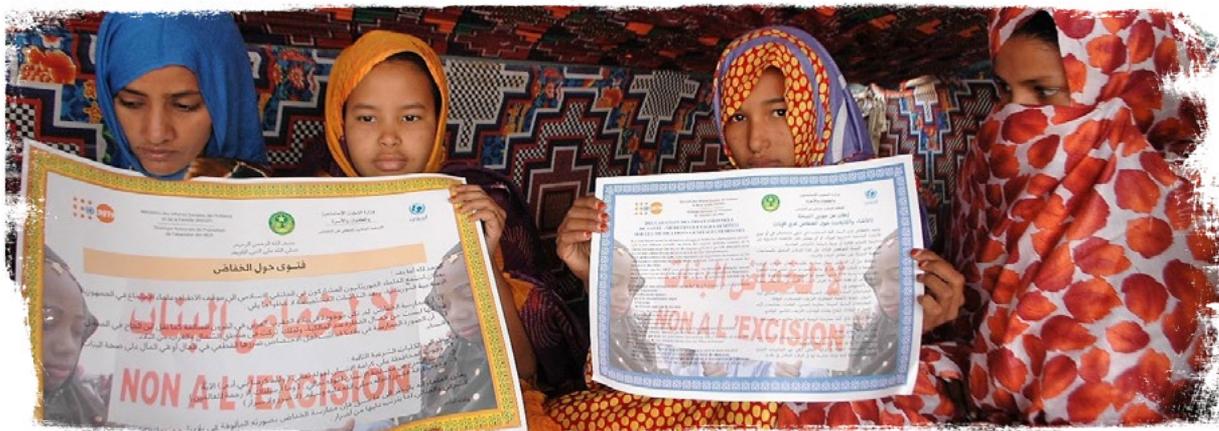
Number of communities in Mauritania where enablers of social norm change are in place: Girls become change agents after completing a capacity development package



Improved quality of services

In 2020 and 2021, 359 health-care service providers built skills on topics related to GBV, FGM, the FGM Care Protocol, the Minimum Emergency System, the clinical management of rape and the medical care protocol for rape victims. As a result, 1,787 girls and women

gained health benefits. FGM sensitization and awareness sessions strengthened legal access for survivors through work with law enforcement personnel. In Phase III, 33,910 girls received health, social and legal services, and 55,453 girls were saved from FGM across the country.



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