Senegal shares a border with five countries, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Mauritania, where FGM is practised. Although Senegal’s economic growth has been more than 6 per cent since 2014, poverty and unemployment rates remain high. The pandemic significantly affected the country’s economy, restricting health and social services. Although Senegal has made significant progress in child survival and development, persistent gender inequalities and harmful sociocultural practices remain. Among girls aged 15-17, 2.9 per cent have confronted sexual violence and 20 per cent physical violence (DHS, 2019).

25% of girls and women aged 15-49 years have undergone FGM

22% of girls aged 15-19 years have undergone FGM

80% of girls and women think FGM should stop

3 out of 4 girls experience FGM before age 4

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:

- 7 arrests
- 7 cases brought to court
- 0 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

Scaled-up community engagement

Through strategic interventions such as education sessions, social mobilization and FGM sensitization, in Phase III, 12,770 people engaged in community and/or interpersonal dialogues in 1,136 communities; 809 villages committed to abandoning FGM. The Joint Programme supported human rights training workshops for 456 religious and 107 community leaders to strengthen their capacity and knowledge of human rights.

In Phase III, 6,007 girls and boys became change agents after completing capacity development packages; 368 girls’ clubs with 11,040 members aged 12-22 bolstered capacities on human rights and FGM; 144 alert and watch brigades were set up during the pandemic; 30,000 girls completed capacity-building on FGM; 1,387 communities began implementing capacity-building on FGM.

Since 2020, a digital campaign on FGM has been used as an alternative to continuing counselling and education services. In 2021, 3,180,373 interactions on social media activities related to FGM were initiated with Joint Programme support.

Standard operating procedures were developed in 2013 following WHO guidelines, improving multisectoral coordination and responses to survivors of all types of violence. In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, training sessions for health professionals and community health workers built skills on clinical management and psychological support for FGM survivors. In Phase III, 70,283 girls and women received health services related to FGM; 94,010 girls gained social and legal services related to FGM.