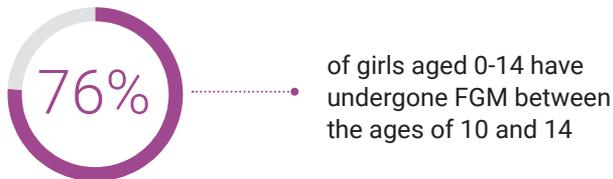
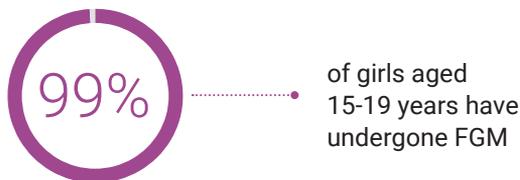


Somalia

CONTEXT

FGM in Somalia is deeply rooted in cultural norms and practices. There has been a gradual shift from the pharaonic to the *sunna* type of FGM, although misconceptions on what constitutes the latter are high. Mothers often perceive *sunna* as a less grievous form of FGM and agree to subject their daughters to it as a way of promoting social acceptance.



Enabling environment for the elimination of FGM

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

* The Puntland State of Somalia approved an FGM Zero Tolerance Bill that includes stiff penalties for those performing FGM, such as hospitals, midwives and traditional circumcisers

Since 2018, law enforcement has resulted in:

- 0 arrests
- 0 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 and care

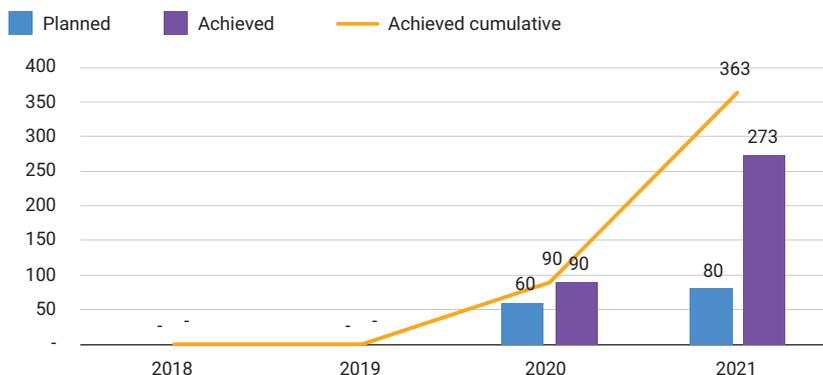
Sources: Somalia DHS 2020, Data-for-All, UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating Change.

Somalia

Fostering an enabling environment for FGM elimination

The Joint Programme supported the development of the first costed national action plan to end FGM in Somalia, led by the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development. The action plan is key to improving coordination, collaboration and action to end FGM in Somalia. It is also critical for implementing the regional cross-border action plan on FGM with Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and the United Republic of Tanzania. The action plan is still undergoing review and will be finalized and disseminated in 2022.

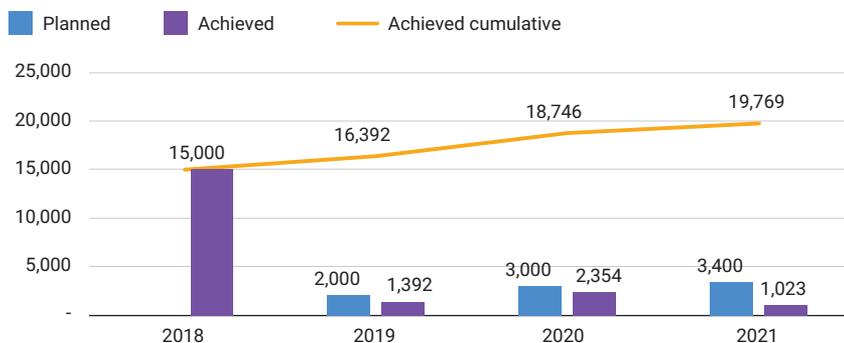
Number of girls graduated from a capacity development package in Somalia



Widened community outreach and mobilization

In 2021, the Joint Programme widened its community outreach and mobilization by including remote areas. In addition, it continued to work closely with FGM survivors, nurses, midwives, community and religious leaders, and youth organizations to disseminate messages about FGM abandonment. As a result of these efforts, 17,699 people received information and knowledge on the negative impacts of FGM and understood the urgency to end it. In Phase III, more than 360 girls graduated from capacity development packages, 2,540 girls were saved from FGM and 33,745 girls received health and social services related to FGM.

Number of girls and women who have received health and social services related to FGM in Somalia



MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE

“During the discussions, I learned about non-discrimination, sexual violence, making action plans, early marriage and rights. As a traditional birth attendant, I have been performing circumcision for boys and girls for over 30 years. After the central Government collapsed, it was my only source of income. Some women brought their daughters to me, and I did what they asked me to do, then they paid me. After attending the awareness sessions, I do not do circumcision for girls anymore. I feel guilty for the ones I have traumatized with that procedure. I have taken it upon myself to talk to my fellow women who have not had the chance to attend the group sessions. I urge them to stop this harmful act and become champions of change to end FGM.”

“I targeted women, men and especially traditional birth attendants, and I think the messages we shared as a group were successful in creating awareness in the community. This is because the community is

responding differently to the issue of sexual violence; more girls are attending schools, and people are more open to talking about sexual violence. Previously it was taboo to talk about it in public. The challenge we faced was a lack of transportation to conduct awareness to many people. Some of the women were older and could not walk for long distances. Most of the target groups, especially the youth, were more receptive to new ideas. This is because they are more energetic and eager to create awareness using different platforms such as social media. Even after the programme ended, some groups continued with the sessions to reach more people.

“This intervention positively impacted my life because I have become more confident. I grew up being told that women cannot speak for themselves, and I carried this notion with me, being afraid to share my thoughts. I am happy to have participated in this programme because that has changed.”



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