

Yemen

CONTEXT

Six years of conflict have resulted in severe economic collapse and undercut public institutions and services in Yemen. Women and girls have experienced different vulnerabilities arising from cultural, social, economic and political factors. These have increased the risk of GBV.

Based on the latest DHS in 2013, 19 per cent of all women aged 15-49 have experienced some form of FGM. Available data suggest that FGM occurs at an early age; both traditional and formally educated practitioners perform it; 96 per cent of cases occur before age 5. Almost 9 in 10 of these girls experience FGM within their first week of life. For girls and women aged 15-49, the practice is performed 85 per cent of the time by traditional practitioners and 13 per cent by medical practitioners.

Analysis of attitude and opinions in the 2013 DHS shows that 75 per cent of women and girls aged 15-49 think FGM should be stopped. Almost one quarter of women say they favour stopping FGM due to its medical complications, while 15 per cent want to stop the practice because it is against women's dignity.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Two nationwide consultative meetings in Aden and Mukalla took place in coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. They aimed to increase the engagement of relevant government bodies in advocacy to criminalize FGM. The meetings resulted in the establishment of focal points in the relevant ministry offices and the publication of Aden's declaration on banning FGM.

In 2021, the Joint Programme continued to improve its work with imams, faith-based organizations and community-based networks along with the Ministry of Endowment. Shamekhat, a regional network of faith-based organizations that opposes harmful traditional practices including FGM, developed an annual action plan for FGM advocacy activities in coordination with the Ministry of Endowment. In 2021, two workshops gathered 61 participants from the Ministry of Endowment, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and the Shamekhat network. This resulted in signing two joint statements on banning FGM. Four press conferences organized before launching door-to-door awareness campaigns drew about 114 participants from relevant government offices, civil society and local media operators.

The Child Honor Ambassadors network was established, involving 45 trained individuals who volunteered to carry out home visits in six different areas. By the end of 2021, they had conducted 1,367 home visits with 838 families. Five social media pages distributed articles on "no more cutting" and key COVID-19 awareness messages.

The availability and quality of services related to FGM has improved since the anti-FGM service was integrated into existing programmes. Four training sessions and orientations for 58 health workers in four targeted areas increased awareness of the negative health consequences of FGM.