

Ethiopia

In 2022, humanitarian needs grew due to conflict in northern Ethiopia.³⁷ In eastern and southern Ethiopia, communities continued to suffer from the impacts of climate-related shocks, particularly a severe drought affecting the livelihoods of nearly 17 million pastoralists.³⁸ Reduced availability of food, water and pastures triggered internal displacement and deepened food insecurity, exacerbating protection risks. The drought has also caused a health crisis with increased malnutrition rates and disease outbreaks even as access to health services has declined.³⁹ Floods in the Gambella and Afar regions displaced populations, increasing girls' risk of FGM as formal and informal protection mechanisms, such as community surveillance systems, were weakened. Almost 42 per cent of people in Ethiopia face severe multidimensional poverty, and 31 per cent live on less than \$1.90 a day.⁴⁰

FGM PROFILE

Twenty-five million girls and women have undergone FGM, the largest absolute number in Eastern and Southern Africa.⁴¹



Seventy-nine per cent of girls and women and 87 per cent of boys and men (aged 15 to 49) think the practice should **stop**.⁴²

Around 87.3 per cent of FGM is performed by traditional practitioners.⁴³

More than half of girls undergo FGM before age 5.⁴⁵

FGM is less common today than in previous generations, now affecting 5 in 10 adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 compared to nearly 9 in 10 around 1970.⁴⁴



JOINT PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTIONS TO FGM ELIMINATION

Knowledge and attitudes related to FGM: A baseline study was completed in 2022, capturing data on knowledge and attitudes towards gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), including FGM, in social and behaviour FGM prevention programmes for young adolescents aged 10 to 14. Adolescents generally support gender equality and oppose intimate partner violence. Knowledge about the consequences of FGM was poor, with a score of 3.5 out of 6. Adolescents' SRHR confidence ranged from limited confidence to confidence in expressing opposition to FGM. Adolescents living in districts where programmes for FGM prevention and elimination are offered reported higher confidence in opposing FGM, understanding puberty and being able to make decisions about marriage than those living in control districts without such programmes.

Girls' power: In partnership with the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs and CARE, the Joint Programme developed a gender-transformative life skills manual, *Girls' Power*. It supports adolescent girls aged 10 to 14 and 15 to 19 by sharing information and facilitating critical reflections on a range of topics related to health and gender equality, including FGM and child marriage. In 2022, 207,678 adolescent girls participated in comprehensive sexuality education and life skills programmes in Ethiopia.

Integrating FGM prevention in social protection: Over 1 million elderly women benefit from the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) for poor and chronically food insecure households. The Joint Programme supports reflective dialogues for FGM elimination through this scheme and provides information about anti-FGM legislation. The *Training Guide on Social Development, Gender and Nutrition Mainstreaming in PSNP*, developed in 2022, supports FGM prevention, including through facilitating reflective dialogues, creating awareness and sharing information about policies and legislation on FGM.

Joint Programme updated roadmap: The Ethiopian Government made a high-level commitment to end FGM by 2025 by launching the [National Costed Roadmap to End Child Marriage and FGM/C 2020-2024](#). In 2022, the Joint Programme supported a [review](#) of the roadmap, based on its first year of implementation, and found that humanitarian crises have constrained momentum towards FGM elimination.

KEY PROGRAMME RESULTS

Enhance girls' knowledge, skills and leadership through comprehensive sexuality education and life skills programmes that integrate FGM



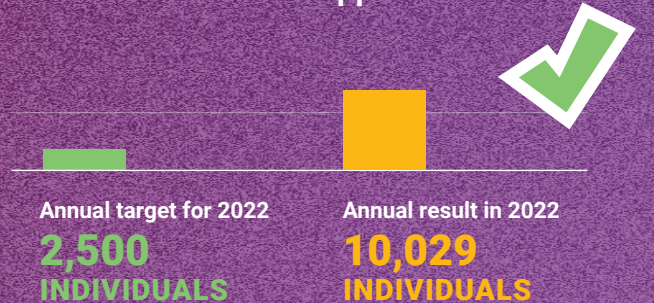
Media campaigns promote gender equality, girls' and women's rights, and the elimination of FGM



Girls and women initiate dialogues on FGM elimination



Girls aged 5 to 19 years at risk of FGM receive education support



BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLE

Ending FGM through edutainment: In partnership with the Girl Effect, an adolescent girls' empowerment organization, the Joint Programme supported the production of an edutainment television series titled *Yegna*. Now in its fifth season, it addresses FGM and other adolescent-related issues. A cast of five girls and two boys plays characters that reflect the lives of millions of Ethiopian teens. They form meaningful friendships and help each other to find their voices and navigate the complexities of growing up. The adolescent-friendly content was co-created with girls. It shares messages about real-life challenges that they face related to relationships, menstruation, puberty, education and harmful practices, including FGM and child marriage. By reflecting the realities of everyday life and providing positive role models and relatable storylines, *Yegna* shows that alternative choices exist and that it is possible to challenge the status quo related to FGM. As Ethiopia's first TV drama for adolescents, it attracts around 10 million viewers annually.

37 OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), 2022. Ethiopia: Humanitarian Response Plan Mid Year Review. Website: https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-humanitarian-response-plan-mid-year-review-november-2022?_gl=1*31b10j*_ga*MTE3NzAyNjcwOC4xNjgwODgyNjk3*_ga_E60ZNX2F68*MTY4MDg4MjY5Ny4xLjAuMTY4MDg4MjY5Ny42MC4wLjA.

38 UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), 2023. "UNFPA Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Situation Report – December 2022." Website: <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/unfpa-ethiopia-humanitarian-response-situation-report-december-2022>.

39 Ibid.

40 UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), n.d. "Multidimensional Poverty Index: Developing Countries." Website: https://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/publications/additional-files/2022-10/2022_mpi_statistical_data_table_1_and_2_en.pdf.

41 UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), 2020. "A Profile of Female Genital Mutilation in Ethiopia." Website: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/a-profile-of-female-genital-mutilation-in-ethiopia/>.

42 Ibid.

43 Ibid.

44 Ibid.

45 Ibid.