Guinea-Bissau

Guinea-Bissau experienced recurrent political instability in 2022 following relative stability in 2021. Basic social services and the justice sector were unreliable for several months. Compounding this challenging situation were persistent strikes in key sectors such as education and health. Globally, Guinea-Bissau is the fourth most vulnerable country to climate change. Floods are a recurring natural hazard, especially along its coast. Droughts have struck in the recent past, and heavy rainfall events occur often and cause flooding with severe impacts on infrastructure, agriculture and public health. Guinea-Bissau is also highly vulnerable to economic shocks. While it has the greatest natural wealth per capita in West Africa, approximately 36 per cent of the population experiences severe multidimensional poverty, and 25 per cent lives on less than $1.90 a day.

**FGM PROFILE**

FGM prevalence rates have mostly stagnated in the last 10 years, with an increase among girls and women aged 15 to 49 from 50 per cent in 2010 to 52 per cent in 2018-2019. Despite the increase, a shift in attitudes is evident, with only 13 per cent of girls and women aged 15 to 49 in favour of continuing the practice in 2018-2019, compared to 34 per cent in 2010.

Most FGM is performed by traditional practitioners on girls under age 5.

Girls and women from rural areas, with less education or who identify as Muslim are at greater risk of FGM. The practice is highly concentrated in the Gabu and Bafatá regions and among certain ethnic groups.

Three quarters of girls and women in Guinea-Bissau think FGM should stop.

Over 400,000 girls and women have undergone FGM.

52% of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years have been subjected to the practice.

If current trends continue, half of girls will still experience FGM in 2030. The prevalence of FGM has remained unchanged for at least the last four decades.

**JOINT PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTIONS TO FGM ELIMINATION**

**Girls’ and women’s leadership:** At the community level, 19,519 girls and women in high prevalence regions (Gabu, Bafata, Oio and Quinara) raised awareness about FGM and facilitated reflective dialogues, including intergenerational dialogues on the benefits of ending the practice.

**Improving FGM case management:** The Joint Programme strengthened the capacity of stakeholders to improve FGM case management protocols and coordination among different actors (police, courts, hospitals, shelters, and the social workforce from the justice, health and protection services), and the capacity of women, girls and families to report cases and access services.
KEY PROGRAMME RESULTS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Annual target for 2022</th>
<th>Annual result in 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>26,453 GIRLS</td>
<td>31,872 GIRLS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prevent girls from undergoing FGM through community-led surveillance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Annual target for 2022</th>
<th>Annual result in 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>10,500 GIRLS</td>
<td>7,066 GIRLS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Engage men and boys in gender equality, positive masculinities and the elimination of FGM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Annual target for 2022</th>
<th>Annual result in 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men and Boys</td>
<td>30,000 MEN AND BOYS</td>
<td>31,966 MEN AND BOYS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLE

Integrating FGM in formal education: The Ana Pereira Foundation, a local non-governmental organization, implemented the “Bioksand Goes to School” project in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Bioksand is a fictional character, an 18-year-old girl who is an aspiring sociologist. She wants to contribute to ending violence and discrimination against girls and women. The project reached 23,591 students in 18 schools through education sessions promoting human rights and the elimination of GBV, including FGM. The Ana Pereira Foundation also organized the Vox Juvenil (Youth Voices) contest. It selected 1,395 youth to participate in events in Bafatá, Gabú and Bissau. Judges then selected 60 finalists to join a roundtable in the capital, Bissau, where youth reflected on and developed an action plan for ending GBV, harmful practices and teen pregnancy, and challenging gender stereotypes that stigmatize menstruation. Participants committed to continuing to advocate for FGM elimination in their communities.

67 Ibid.
70 Ibid.
72 Ibid.
73 Ibid.
74 Ibid.
75 Ibid.
76 Ibid.
77 Ibid.
78 Ibid.