Somalia

Decades of conflict, recurrent climatic shocks, disease outbreaks, large-scale evictions, desert locusts and increasing poverty are devastating the people of Somalia. The overall number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has increased from 5.2 million people in 2020 to 7.7 million in 2022. Somalia remains on the front lines of climate change and is the most severely drought-affected country in the Horn of Africa. The drought emergency has affected at least 3.2 million people in 90 per cent of the country’s districts and displaced some 169,000 people. Climate change disrupts rural livelihoods, resulting in rapid urbanization, which in turn contributes to high rates of forced evictions. In 2022, the conflict in Ethiopia further threatened prospects for peace and stability in Somalia. In total, 2.9 million people are estimated to be internally displaced throughout Somalia, one of the highest numbers in the world.

FGM PROFILE

FGM is nearly universal among girls and women, with 99 per cent having undergone the practice. The vast majority of girls experience FGM between the ages of 5 and 9.

19% of women and girls believe that FGM should be stopped. There has been no change in the FGM prevalence rate over time.

Seventy-two per cent of women believe that FGM is a religious requirement.

Educated women in urban settings are more likely not to perform FGM on their daughters compared to uneducated women in rural areas.

There is no legislation criminalizing FGM in Somalia: Government and political actors have demonstrated a commitment to promote FGM bills and policy at the federal and Somaliland government levels.

JOINT PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTIONS TO FGM ELIMINATION

Adolescent girls lead sensitization and intergenerational dialogues: 1,207 girls were trained on how to conduct peer education sessions and intergenerational dialogues on FGM with their families and communities, using theater performances, door-to-door campaigns and community dialogue sessions.

Maternal kits promoting FGM prevention: The Joint Programme produced maternal kits for ending FGM as gifts for new mothers. The kits are distributed at maternity wards and contain essential baby items. Approximately 500 mothers who received the kits committed to not subjecting their daughters to FGM. Nurses and midwives in select health facilities were trained and supported to conduct follow-up visits with new mothers to encourage their families not to perform FGM.

Advocacy for legislation: The Joint Programme has continued to support the Ministry of Justice and Religion and Ministry of Women and Development in Puntland to mobilize for the presentation of the draft FGM bill to Parliament. Elections in 2021 and 2022 delayed this effort, however. The Joint Programme established a working group to coordinate efforts related to the enactment of the sex offenses and FGM bills. It also supported the Office of the Deputy Speaker to recruit a dedicated consultant to provide technical guidance on the enactment of gender-sensitive legislation, including laws that support zero tolerance for FGM. With the elections over and new ministers appointed, the Joint Programme is poised to sustain support for the enactment and implementation of policies and laws criminalizing FGM.
KEY PROGRAMME RESULTS

Strengthen the capacity of grass-roots organizations to network, build partnerships and advocate for ending FGM

- **Annual target for 2022:** 570 ORGANIZATIONS
- **Annual result in 2022:** 942 ORGANIZATIONS

Health service delivery points where at least one health-care provider is trained on FGM prevention and response services

- **Annual target for 2022:** 1,210 DELIVERY POINTS
- **Annual result in 2022:** 1,521 DELIVERY POINTS

Prevent girls from undergoing FGM through community-led surveillance

- **Annual target for 2022:** 1,000 GIRLS
- **Annual result in 2022:** 1,707 WOMEN PLEDGED not to have their daughters undergo FGM

BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLE

**Social mobilization:** As part of catalysing community-led actions to reduce GBV, including FGM, the Joint Programme trained 426 (216 women and 208 men) community dialogue leaders on community engagement techniques. They formed action teams to build positive norms by facilitating dialogues among key groups in their communities. Dialogues stimulated reflection on human rights principles and ideals and on shared community values and beliefs, debates about beliefs and norms that are harmful to girls and women, and deliberation on alternatives. The Joint Programme also built capacity within communities to provide care and support to girls and women at risk of and affected by FGM and their families. In 2022, 1,948 community members (969 men, 947 women, 16 girls and 16 boys) participated in community dialogues that fostered a collective commitment and community action plans for social change, including to end FGM. Sessions reached 84,280 people in 13 communities.


139 DFC 2020.

140 Ibid.

141 Ibid.

142 Ibid.