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UNICEF 2023 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE ON

Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation

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PROGRAMME SUMMARY

PROGRAMME/PROJECT NAME	UNICEF PROGRAMME FOR THE ELIMINATION OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)
Grant description	PD FGM: Combating Female Genital Mutilation Programmes 2020
Donor	United States Government
Duration of contribution	01.09.2021 to 30.09.2025
Grand reference number	SC210457
Total contribution	US $5,000,000
Report type	Interim Report
Reporting period	January 2023 – December 2023
Date report prepared	June 2024
Relevant SDG targets	**GOAL 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. **TARGET 5.3:** Eliminate all harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation
UNICEF Strategic Plan Priorities (2022-2025)	**GOAL AREA 3:** Every child, including adolescents, is protected from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect, and harmful practices.
Geographic Focus area	Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, and Yemen
Targeted population & stakeholders	17 countries targeting girls and women at risk of and affected by female genital mutilation
Programme Partners	Government institutions, grassroots women and youth-led organisations, religious and traditional leaders, international non-governmental and national organisations, research institutes, and the private sector.
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Executive Summary

1.1 GLOBAL TRENDS IN FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION PREVALENCE

New global estimates by UNICEF reveal a 15 percent increase in the total number of survivors of FGM – an additional 30 million girls and women – compared to eight years previously. Rapid population growth is largely cited for this 15 percent increase as the pace of the decline is outpaced by the number of girls born. Globally, over 230 million girls and women have endured this practice and live with its lasting repercussions. Africa accounts for 144 million cases, followed by Asia with 80 million, and the Middle East with 6 million. Progress in ending FGM remains far too slow, lagging behind the sheer number of girls entering the world, especially in the places where FGM is most common. The global pace of decline needs to be 27 times faster to end the practice by 2030, with over two million girls being cut before their fifth birthday. Four in ten girls and women who have undergone FGM live in fragile and conflict-affected contexts[1] which are also seeing their populations grow fast. Furthermore, smaller communities practicing FGM – and countries with migration around the world – contribute to this distressing statistic. Nevertheless, the shift in attitudes away from FGM acceptance is a promising sign, an indication that progress is possible, and it is picking up. Half of the progress made in the last 30 years happened in just the past decade. Several countries where FGM has been practiced historically have made notable progress, and a few have met or are on pace to meet the Sustainable Development Goal target of ending FGM by 2030.

1.2 UNICEF AND U.S. GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

UNICEF's Strategic Plan (2022-2025)[2] calls for the realization of societies in which every child is included, without discrimination, and has agency, opportunity, and their rights fulfilled. Developed alongside UNICEF gender policy and Gender Action Plan (2022–2025)[3] The current strategic plan emphasizes structural change and norms to transform the underlying drivers of gender inequality, with a greater focus on tackling gender inequities across the humanitarian-development nexus. Today's rapidly evolving programming context, characterized by poly-crisis and pushback on child

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rights and gender equality, has also necessitated crisis-adaptive programming and services, including anticipatory planning and increased flexibility between development and humanitarian approaches. Coupled with UNICEF's emphasis on a gender transformative approach to programming, UNICEF is well-positioned to advance the Department of State's foreign policy priorities, as well as the first-ever U.S. Government national gender strategy, by accelerating progress on gender equality and the elimination of FGM as a form of gender-based violence (GBV).

1.3 ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report is UNICEF's 2023 annual report to the U.S. Department of State on its efforts to eliminate FGM. It discusses the current programming context, presents results achieved in 2023 and lessons learnt, and recommends a focus for the future based on the work being done to tackle FGM through interventions in 17 countries in Africa and the Middle East. In partnership with governments, frontline actors, girls, women, community leaders, and other key stakeholders, UNICEF harnesses the complementary expertise of all agencies involved and the latest social science research to prevent FGM. In 2023, UNICEF worked with the governments and partners in Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-

Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Somalia, Uganda, and Yemen. UNICEF aims to contribute to ending FGM by 2030 through accelerated collective and multisectoral actions that mobilize a broad spectrum of actors at the community, national, regional, and global levels.

1.4 HIGHLIGHTS OF UNICEF ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023

FGM is a violation of children's rights. In 2023, UNICEF, in concert with the partners, made significant progress in eliminating FGM despite the changing programming context and severe erosion of protective systems by disasters, conflicts, and a global push-back on child rights and gender equality that impeded the achievement of results in some contexts. Along with partners, UNICEF supported initiatives focusing on (i) girls' and young women's agency, (ii) family and community engagement, (iii) movement building (youth movement), (iv) systems transformation, (v) engagement with regional bodies (vi) effective laws and policies, and (vii) generation and utilisation of data and evidence in 17 countries, with a contribution of $5 million from the people and government of the United States. Below is a summary of key achievements in 2023:

Girls and Young Women's Agency

In 2023, UNICEF and partners focused on empowering adolescent girls through life skills and digital literacy training to reduce reporting risks to community surveillance mechanisms. As a result:

- 817,529 girls initiated conversations on FGM elimination and/ or advocated for abandonment of the practice compared to 456,667 girls in 2022, surpassing the target of 588,194 for 2023.
- A total of 1,068,595 girls and young women actively participated in social, and behaviour change programmes such as Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), girls' clubs that integrate FGM in discussions on life skills compared to the target for 2023, which was 403,176.
- This led to 162,044 girls aged 0-14 years being saved in 2023 from FGM through the community-level surveillance system to monitor compliance supported by the Partners compared to 241,871 targets for 2023.

Family and Community Engagement

UNICEF is dedicated to empowering girls and fostering leadership through community engagement and social movements that challenge societal and gender norms. By collaborating with youth, women-led organisations, and feminist movements, UNICEF aims to promote their influence as catalysts for societal change and empower communities to develop equitable solutions. In 2023, UNICEF mobilized 7,931 feminist organisations and youth and women-led grassroots organisations to advocate for the abandonment of FGM and engage communities in reflective dialogues. UNICEF supported countries to increase the adoption of targeted positive behaviours and practices in communities with different vulnerabilities to harmful practices by developing a social and behaviour change toolkit ('co-creation playbook') that guides communities to generate insights on which community-specific social and behavioural factors drive harmful practices and co-create solutions to eliminate FGM. As a result,

- 66,015,838 individuals (boys, girls, women, and men) reached by the Partners through mass media messaging on FGM, women's and girls' rights, and gender equality compared to 2022 achievement of 18,840,027; and 2023 target of 17,103,332; 2023.
- 455,701 boys and men actively participated in activities promoting positive masculinity compared to 2022 achievement and 433,247 and 2023 target of 440,018.
- 3,142,867 women and girls, men and boys mobilized through community platforms in reflective dialogues towards eliminating FGM.
- 455,701 men and boys engaged in the promotion of positive masculinity and equitable gender norms and in advocating for the elimination of FGM compared to 433,247 achieved in 2022 and a 2023 target of 440,018.
- 1,361,220 community members made a public declaration to abandon the FGM practice compared to the 2023 target of 1,516,041.
- 2,315 community-level surveillance systems were established in 2315 communities that made public declarations. This number, however, fell short of the 2022 achievement of 3,663 and the 2023 target of 9,721.

Movement Building (Youth Movement)

UNICEF has been supporting young individuals and youth movements, as they form an important agent of change, thereby strengthening movement building towards the elimination of FGM. As a result, in 2023,

- In 2023, 8,817 grassroots/community-based organisations and action groups were integrated within coalitions and networks of youth, feminists, and women's entrepreneurs working on the elimination of FGM, compared to the target of 6,236 for 2023.
- 7,917 networks and coalitions of grassroots/community-based youth-led organisations and feminist and women's entrepreneurs were mobilized to work on the elimination of FGM.
- 5,625 grassroots/community-based organisations and action groups, including networks of youth, feminist and women's entrepreneurs, and other relevant CSOs, were supported to advocate for the elimination of FGM.
- 111,000 community and frontline workers from 157 implementing partners engaged in the implementation of the Partners' activities.

Systems Transformation

Positive results were recorded in 2023 regarding improving protection, education, health, and social systems' ability to provide quality FGM services that are accessible and centered on women and girls, as well as families and communities. In 2023, the following results were achieved:

- A total of 903,734 girls and women received FGM-related prevention and protection services, exceeding the annual target of 429,349 by more than 50%. This is a remarkable 113% increase to 2022 achievement.

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The practice has no place in Islam, and despite the challenges of deep-rooted traditional practice, we are committed to completely denouncing and challenging the practice. Though the programme supported us to come together and have long discussions and produce Fatwa at the regional level, we feel it is our religious obligation to denounce the practice and will not stop until it's completely eradicated," said SHEIKH MOHAMED ABDULAHI, a religious leader preaching for the elimination of FGM in Qoloji IDP in Ethiopia. In 2023, UNICEF, as a part of the Partners, implemented the Humanitarian-Development Nexus Approach within the context of FGM in Ethiopia.

- Furthermore, 224,333 vulnerable girls aged 5-19 years at risk of FGM received education support in 2023.
- 302,457 girls and women received social services (with an annual target of 285,715).

Mixed results were equally seen on women and girls accessing specifically health and legal and social services related to FGM. For example, while the annual target was 87,188, only 60,656 girls aged 0-19 years and women received health services related to FGM. A similar result was achieved in access to legal services: only 42,296 girls and women received such services in 2023 as compared to the annual target of 111,641.

UNICEF took a significant step toward eliminating FGM by adopting the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus approach. This strategic move led to the strengthening of child protection systems in five countries, involving 107 staff and implementing partners. In addition, FGM was integrated into national humanitarian response plans and child-friendly spaces in four countries, marking a significant step towards the elimination of the practice.

Engagement with Regional Bodies

UNICEF leveraged resources and partnerships with regional bodies to achieve results for children, including under the Spotlight Initiative of the European Union. Within the framework of the UN Partners, UNICEF was a key stakeholder during the Declaration of the 2nd International African Union Conference on Female Genital Mutilation, and the Joint General Comment on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights).

Effective Laws and Policies

1,956 law enforcement staff including police, judges, lawyers, and prosecutors received training on the application of FGM law and provisions. The number of arrests recorded a 154% increase (from 174 in 2022 to 442 in 2023) and 9% increase in cases brought to court (from 368 in 2022 to 402 in 2023).

As a result of the Partners' activities in 2023, four out of 12 countries have budgeted emergency preparedness and response and disaster risk reduction plans that integrate FGM prevention and care.

Data and Evidence

UNICEF and the Partners surpassed its annual programmeme target and enhanced capacities of 2,201 government personnel from different sectors, CSO and grassroots organisations on data collection, analysis, research, and dissemination, including qualitative data on FGM. Investments were also made in generating and utilising evidence including- a total of 17 in-depth analyses, research, studies and/or evaluations were conducted in collaboration with UNICEF's Office of research, Innocenti.

1.5 PRIORITIES IN 2025 FOR UNICEF'S PROGRAMMES FOR ELIMINATING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

Building on evidence and lessons learned from programme experiences in 2023, UNICEF intends to accelerate the elimination of FGM in 2024 by:

1. Countering global push back on child rights and FGM policies and laws as well as ensuring adaptive programming and integration of FGM prevention and

response across the humanitarian-development nexus that prevents future setbacks in progress towards FGM elimination as the global community increasingly faces conflicts, fragility and climate-related emergencies.

2. Addressing the chronic underfunding of FGM programmes that impede progress towards the elimination of FGM by leveraging existing networks and partnerships, convening and coordinating action and advocacy from public and private actors, and securing significant additional resources.

3. Continuing to enhance capacities for programmeme adaptation to cope with the ever-changing programming context.

4. Promoting gender transformative change that empowers girls and women by shifting the discriminatory structures and norms that perpetuate the practice[4]; and

5. Investing in continuous learning and the use of evidence to improve programme and policy effectiveness.

Educating and Empowering Communities in Burkina Faso

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Mouniratou is 10 years old, residing in Kaya, in North Central Burkina Faso, with her parents and siblings as an internally displaced person (IDP). She is a survivor of FGM. Mouniratou's mother Sadia, explained how her daughter was made to undergo FGM in her absence, "when Mouniratou was 11 months old, I got pregnant again. It was difficult for me to take care of my pregnancy and my baby daughter. That's why one of my sisters-in-law offered to take care of her. Mouniratou stayed with her for 3 years. After my daughter came back, I saw that something was wrong while I was washing her." Sadia fell silent and then continued to narrate how her elder daughter also underwent FGM on her vacation with their aunt. In the case of Mouniratou, her condition was serious as she suffered when it was too cold or too hot. Beyond physical, she also gets moments of flashbacks of all the pain and suffering, "I often see images of that moment in my head. When I think about it, it still hurts. I tried to entrust it to my friends. They made fun of me saying I was deformed," explained Mouniratou.

In Burkina Faso, several women and girls are at risk of FGM. The recent global data released by UNICEF indicates that 56% of girls and women aged 15 to 49 have undergone FGM (DHS 2021). UNICEF, as a part of the Partners along with partner agencies, has been undertaking various measures and also started implementing the nexus approach, expanding its partnership with humanitarian NGOs and partners to reach crisis-affected regions, including IDPs.

UNICEF has been working with community workers such as the Association for Community Development and the Promotion of Human Rights of the Child (ADC/PDE), a local partner, to raise awareness in the IDP camps. They cover different areas, including the one where Sadia resides. She came across the campaign of ADC/PDE who often use strong images to show the after-effects of FGM, pushing their target audience who mainly consist of women, to think and awaken. The campaign made Sadia reflect and consequently approach the ADC/PDE facilitator, who explained the options available to her and supported in facilitating a consultation with a doctor and access to psychosocial support services.

With collaborative efforts, Mouniratou and her family were supported, which included providing her with a bicycle to reach school. She is now at the top of her class and wants to become a nurse in the future, fighting against FGM. As for the mother, she has become a strong spokesperson in ger community actively speaking against FGM.

Just like Sadia and Mouniratou, there are families that are being supported with the help of UNICEF and local partners. There are 135 community support technicians and 1048 community leaders who work on a daily basis providing support to FGM survivors in high-risk areas. In 2023 there were 493 villages and 100 IDP reception sites that publicly declared the abandonment of FGM, child marriage, and violence against children.

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Global Context on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation By 2030

2.1 THE EVOLVING NATURE OF THE PROGRAMMING CONTEXT

2.1.1 The Polycrisis

The convergence of multiple crises facing the world today, better known as 'the polycrisis', has also led to a greater focus on crisis-adaptive programming and services, including anticipatory planning, and increased flexibility between development and humanitarian approaches. Humanitarian crises significantly hinder the ability of governments and civil society organisations to effectively prevent and respond to harmful practices like FGM due to:

1. **Limited resources:** Crises divert crucial resources away from prevention and response efforts, challenging the prioritization and allocation of sufficient resources to combat these practices.
2. **Disruption of services:** Essential services, including healthcare, education, and protection, face disruptions or become entirely inaccessible, increasing the risk of girls and women undergoing harmful practices.
3. **Increased vulnerability:** Poverty, displacement, and social upheaval heighten the vulnerability of girls and women to harmful practices.

"We need urgent investments to reach the target set in the Sustainable Development Goals of eliminating female genital mutilation by 2030. And we need to amplify the voices of survivors and support their efforts to reclaim their lives, based on their bodily autonomy..."

ANTONIO GUTERRES, SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE FOR FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION, 2024

4. **Limited access:** Crises complicate the delivery of services to those in need, especially in remote or conflict-affected areas, limiting efforts to reach vulnerable populations.

5. **Lack of coordination:** The breakdown in coordination among actors involved in prevention and response efforts makes it difficult to effectively progress towards the eradication of harmful practices.

In 2023, UNICEF took a significant step towards strengthening the capacity of national partners on programmeme adaptation by advancing assessment and planning tools such as the Gender Accelerator Tool and the Nexus Tool Box through direct training of national partners and UNICEF staff in countries experiencing multiple crises. This has since resulted in the integration of FGM programming into national humanitarian response plans and child-friendly spaces in four countries, marking a significant step towards integrating FGM into humanitarian programming.

2.1.2 Pushback on Child Rights

Despite years of progress, multiple regions are now witnessing attacks on girls' rights and gender equality, including proposed changes to laws and policies against FGM. As conservative sentiments gain traction in different regions, there have been heightened challenges to advancing gender equality and the rights of children, jeopardizing gains in human rights and imperiling hard-won progress. Instances of this backlash are observable in countries like:

1. **The Gambia**, where the law banning FGM, i.e., the Women's (Amendment) Act 2015, is being proposed for repeal after three Gambian women were convicted in August of 2023 for performing FGM and fined around 15,000 Gambian Dalasi (US$ 220) each, the first indictments since the practice was banned in December of 2015. The conviction led to backlash from sections of religious and community leaders

2. **Ethiopia**, where certain religious groups have been advocating FGM as a religious requirement, promoting cutting through medical personnel.

3. **Somalia**, where the Constitution was threatened to be amended to lower the age of children from 18 to 15 and permit certain forms of FGM.

4. **Mali** has been witnessing similar pushback from religious leaders in introducing legislation related to GBV and FGM.

The conflux of religion, cultural and social norms, politics, and the overall polycrisis are some of the additional factors influencing discussions on gender equality, child rights, and FGM in different countries. Understanding the context and identifying global support through broader donor engagement, mobilizing resources, and taking concerted action is essential to strengthen the momentum to end harmful practices and achieve the SDGs by 2030.

UNICEF and the Partners took several actions at different levels.

1. At the global level, this included conveying high-level meetings with relevant ministries and advocacy with influential members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, facilitating the issuance of several human rights special rapporteurs, convening multi-agency coordination meetings, and amplifying the issue globally.[5] The Partners also developed technical notes/guidance on countries' human rights obligations, including promoting gender equality and preventing GBV.

2. At the regional level, the Partners conducted closer surveillance and/or monitoring of the situation and expanded and amplified their collaborations, partnerships, and capacity-building efforts with religious community leadership and members such as Religions for Peace.

3. At the Country level, UNICEF focused on political engagement and advocacy to raise awareness of the reversed trends in gender equality. Importantly, in Somalia, Ethiopia, Gambia, and Kenya, UNICEF, and Partners are working closely with women-led organisations, child rights advocates, feminist and other civil society groups, and local government authorities. They mobilized communities to promote gender equality norms and values that exclude FGM.

2.2 GLOBAL TRENDS IN THE PREVALENCE OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

2.2.1 The New Global Estimates

New global estimates by UNICEF show that levels of the practice vary substantially across countries, with the prevalence exceeding 90 percent in Guinea and Somalia and 1 percent or lower in Cameroon and Uganda. As illustrated in this report, in total, over 230 million girls and women around

the world have been subjected to the practice. The countries home to the largest number of girls and women who have undergone the practice include those with large populations and/or a large percentage who have been cut, for instance, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Sudan.

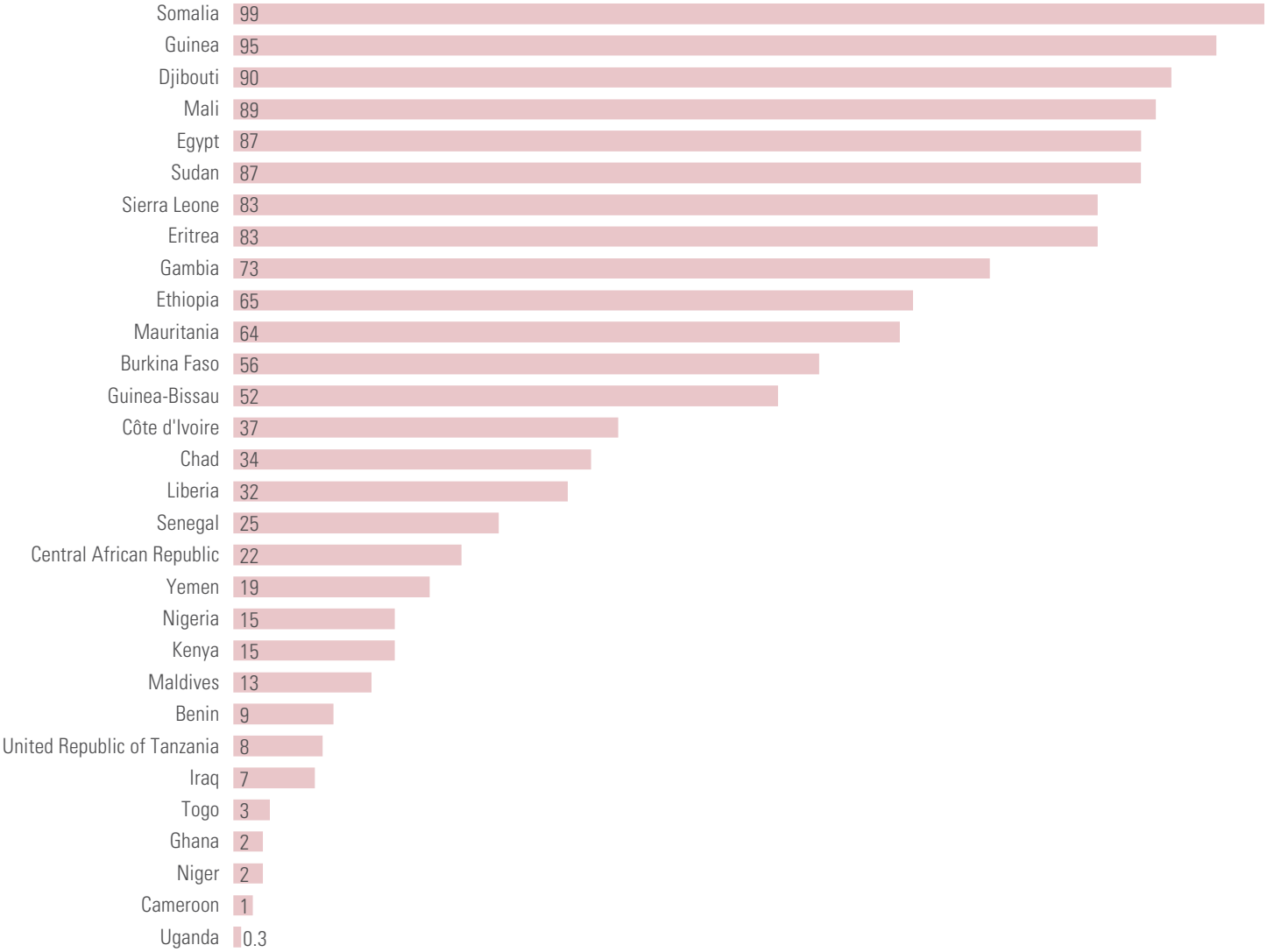
Global efforts have accelerated the progress being made to eliminate FGM. Today, a girl in practicing countries is about one-third less likely to be subjected to it than she was 30 years ago. Still, sustaining these achievements in the face of population growth presents a considerable challenge. By 2030, nearly one in three girls worldwide will be born in the 31 countries where FGM is most prevalent, meaning future prevention efforts will need to address an ever-larger at-risk population. If global efforts are not significantly scaled up, the number of girls and women undergoing FGM will be higher in 2030 than it is today.

Though the pace of FGM abandonment is picking up, the rate of decline would need to be 27 times faster to meet the target of eliminating FGM by 2030.[6]

Based on projected estimates of progress (insert reference), only Uganda is on track to meet the SDG 5, Target 5.3. Out of the 17 target countries, five countries (Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Nigeria) will need to accelerate their efforts by at least 2 to 5 times, and other two (Egypt and Yemen) at least 6 to 10 times to eliminate FGM by

FIGURE 1: The prevalence of FGM varies greatly across countries with data.

Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation



Source: United Nations Children's Fund, *Female Genital Mutilation: A global concern. 2024 Update*, UNICEF, New York, 2024.

2030. It is also estimated that nine target countries (Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Somalia and Sudan) will need to accelerate their efforts by at least 20 times to meet the SDG 5, Target 5.3.

While FGM has become slightly less common over time, the pace of progress has not kept up with population growth. Progress is slow, and a larger number of girls being born each year in the countries where FGM is concentrated means more girls are at risk. It is important to note that the increase in this number does not imply there have been exactly 30 million new cases in the past 8 years. Instead, the rise includes factors such as the inclusion of new countries in the assessment, the identification of new instances of FGM, and the subtraction of cases involving women who have died. In other words, the 15 percent increase is a composite of various factors, not just a simple addition of new cases.

Looking ahead, the number of girls born into affected countries is projected to continue growing at a rapid pace, meaning that future prevention efforts will need to address a larger at-risk population. This trend underscores the urgent need to work towards the elimination of the practice, removing the risk for girls of the future.

2.2.2 Absolute Numbers vs. Prevalence

Egypt, Ethiopia, and Indonesia are home to the largest numbers of affected girls and women. This has much to do with the large size of their national populations, though each of these countries also has a moderate or high prevalence of FGM.

However, FGM is most common in Somalia, Guinea, and Djibouti, where at least 90 percent of girls and women aged 15-49 years have undergone FGM.

2.2.3 Facing the Triple Challenge of Pervasive FGM, Rapid Population Growth, and Fragility or Conflict

The findings from this recent estimate show that 4 in 10 girls and women who have undergone FGM live in fragile and conflict-affected[7] situations.

Places like Somalia and Sudan face the challenge of addressing widespread FGM, among other urgent issues, amid conflict and population growth. Ethiopia has consistently made progress, but climate shocks, disease, and food insecurity make it harder to reliably deliver programmes to support girls.

Does having more survivors mean the practice is becoming more common?

"But if there are more survivors, does that mean the practice is becoming more common?"

When we consider the practice's prevalence, we can use two types of measures: the total number of girls and women affected, and the **percent** of girls and women affected. Typically, we use the **percent** to understand how common the practice is – e.g., FGM is more common in Somalia, where 99% of girls and women have undergone FGM than in Kenya, where 15% of girls and women have undergone FGM. Using this measure, also called the **prevalence**, we see that FGM is not becoming more common. It is becoming somewhat less common, with some countries making progress and others maintaining steady levels. We do not see any instances where the prevalence is increasing. That said, more girls are being born in countries where the practice is prevalent. That means that even in communities that are slowly shifting away from FGM, the **total number** of girls cut can remain the same or even increase if the population is growing quickly. This phenomenon is foremost among the reasons why the total number of girls and women worldwide affected by female genital mutilation has grown and now stands at over 230 million. Looking ahead, the number of girls born into affected countries is projected to continue growing at a rapid pace, meaning that future prevention efforts will need to address a larger at-risk population. This trend underscores the urgent need to work towards the elimination of the practice, removing the risk for girls of the future.

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While we know from anecdotal evidence and small-scale studies that FGM is practiced among refugee populations (and other migrants) around the world, there is no sufficient reliable data collected among refugee populations on this topic to be able to produce a robust estimate of the number of girls and women affected.

There is substantial overlap between the countries where FGM is most common and those classified as conflict-affected or experiencing institutional and social fragility. These settings pose a challenge, as the context makes it more difficult to address the needs of girls who have undergone FGM, and to implement programmes and policies known to help prevent the practice. For example, crises can lead to the diversion of resources away from efforts to prevent harmful practices and disrupt critical services like healthcare, education, and protection, which leaves girl and women more vulnerable to FGM. Even when programmes and services are in place, crises can make it more difficult for actors to coordinate, access, and provide services to populations in need, particularly those in hard-to-reach areas, and vice versa.

2.2.3 Global Decline in Female Genital Mutilation Prevalence

Though five countries have seen no notable gains, which include Somalia, Mali, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, and Senegal, this new estimate notes that progress is possible, and it is picking up. Half of the progress made in the last 30 years happened in just the past decade. Today, a girl is about one-third less likely to be subjected to it than she was 30 years ago. Countries with the strongest progress over that period include Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Iraq, Benin and the Maldives.

Of the 31 countries where the practice has historically been concentrated and where trends are being monitored, three countries have already met the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target on FGM – Cameroon, Ghana, Uganda – and four others are on pace to meet it by 2030 – Benin, Togo, Niger, and Maldives.

Attitudes around FGM are also changing. Around 400 million people in FGM-practicing countries in Africa and the Middle East – two-thirds of the population – are against the practice.

How have crises affected the ability of governments and civil society organisations to prevent and respond to harmful practices?

Humanitarian crises significantly hinder the ability of governments and civil society organisations to effectively prevent and respond to harmful practices like FGM due to:

- **Limited resources:** Crises divert crucial resources away from prevention and response efforts, challenging the prioritization and allocation of sufficient resources to combat these practices.
- **Disruption of services:** Essential services, including healthcare, education, and protection, face disruptions or become entirely inaccessible, increasing the risk of girls and women undergoing harmful practices.
- **Increased vulnerability:** Poverty, displacement, and social upheaval heighten the vulnerability of girls and women to harmful practices.

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- **Limited access:** Crises complicate the delivery of services to those in need, especially in remote or conflict-affected areas, limiting efforts to reach vulnerable populations.
- **Lack of coordination:** The breakdown in coordination among actors involved in prevention and response efforts makes it difficult to effectively progress towards the eradication of harmful practices.

FIGURE 2: In many countries, communities are moving towards abandoning female genital mutilation, although progress takes decades; in other countries, levels have stagnated

Percentage of adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 years who have undergone female genital mutilation

Notes: The chart in the top left includes countries in which prevalence has been halved and/or has dropped by 30 percentage points in the past 30 years. The chart in the top right includes countries with a significant decline in prevalence but that do not meet the criteria for the first category. The chart in the bottom right includes countries without a significant decline in the practice. All three charts exclude countries with a national prevalence below 5 percent.

Source: United Nations Children's Fund, *Female Genital Mutilation: A global concern. 2024 Update*, UNICEF, New York, 2024.

2.2.4. Increasing Opposition to the Continuation of Female Genital Mutilation

Attitudes about FGM vary widely across countries where the practice is prevalent, but opposition is mounting. Attitudes towards the practice of FGM are FGM are evolving. Around 400 million people in FGM-practicing countries in Africa and the Middle East – two-thirds of the population – are against the practice.

Education is a game-changer, as girls and women with primary education are 30 per cent more likely to oppose the practice, which increases to 70 per cent among those with at least a secondary education.

2.2.5. Medicalization of the practice and declining age of cutting

An alarming trend in some countries is the medicalization of FGM, in which the procedure is carried out by a health-care provider. Approximately one in four FGM survivors – some 52 million women and girls worldwide – were subjected to FGM at the hands of health personnel[8].

Medicalization not only violates medical ethics, but it also risks legitimizing the practice and giving the impression it is without consequences. No matter where or by whom it is performed, FGM is never safe. All forms of FGM remove and damage healthy tissue and interfere with the biological functions of girls' bodies.

Another concerning trend we're seeing is that in some countries, FGM is being performed to girls at younger ages, which means that the window of time to intervene from the moment a girl is born to when she's harmed is shrinking. Each year, over 2 million girls undergo the practice before turning five. In some contexts, they may undergo the procedure in the first days or weeks of their lives.

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The Persistence of Female Genital Mutilation[9]

Why does FGM persist in some countries despite decades of policies and programmes and growing opposition to the practice? FGM is a manifestation of gender inequality deeply entrenched in social, political and economic structures. At the root of the practice is a combination of structures and institutions that perpetuate gender inequality, and social norms that sustain the practice.[10] Recent studies show focusing on shifts in social norms related to FGM while overlooking structures and institutions that perpetuate gender inequality may limit efforts to eliminate the practice. "Too strong a focus on the reluctance of individuals and groups to change their attitudes risks overlooking some systemic barriers, such as poverty, lack of services and infrastructure, and shocks and crises, which are all critical factors that contribute to gender inequality."[11] For this reason, transformative change, including social, political, and economic inclusion are critical for any shift in norms, while norm change, in turn, enhances progress in the other areas.[12] Strategies to improve girls' and women's empowerment by increased education levels, access to child protection and health care services, and policies and legislation that protect girls' and women's rights, combined with shifts in the wider norms that support FGM, may be important for achieving significant reductions in the practice.[13]

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UNICEF'S Approach to the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation

Working in 190 countries, UNICEF envisions a world where, in all contexts, including humanitarian crisis and fragile settings, every child, including adolescents: 1) survives and thrives with access to nutritious diets, quality primary health care, nurturing practices and essential supplies; 2) learns and acquires skills for the future; 3) is protected from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices; 4) has access to safe and equitable WASH services and supplies, and lives in a safe and sustainable climate and environment; and 5) has access to inclusive social protection and lives free from poverty.

> Survivor-led movements also create a global network of solidarity, uniting individuals and organisations committed to ending FGM. Working together and focusing our collective efforts on investing in FGM survivor-led movements can go a long way to help eliminate FGM, once and for all."
>
> CATHERINE RUSSELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - UNICEF
> ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE FOR FGM, 2024

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UNICEF is currently implementing programmes contributing to SDG 5, target 5.3, the elimination of FGM by 2030, in the following 17 countries in Africa and the Middle East: Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda and Yemen. Through gender transformative approaches, UNICEF's programmes that address FGM actively examine, question, and change rigid social and gender norms and imbalances of power. Gender transformative approaches have proven to be the most effective in tackling the root causes of gender inequality, in enhancing girls and women's agency and voice, and in redressing the power dynamics and structures that prevent girls and women from realizing their right to live free from violence and all forms of discrimination.

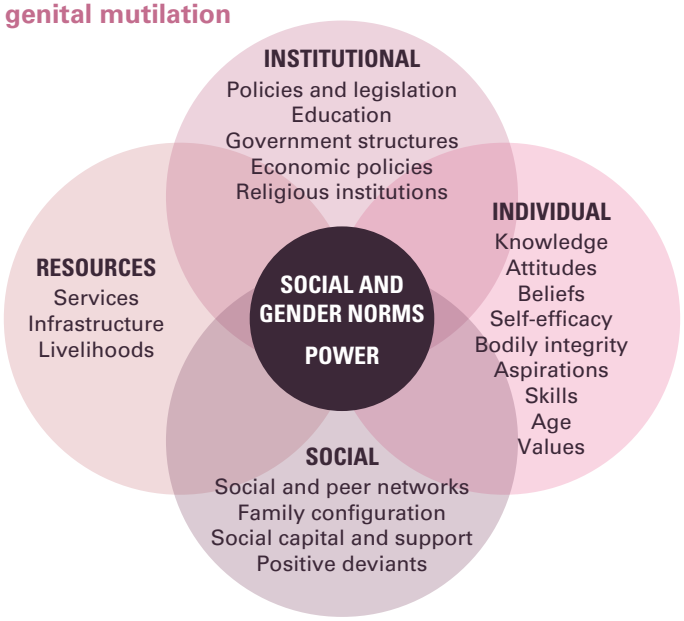
In promoting the elimination of FGM, UNICEF recognizes the central role of power as underlying social and gender norms, socio-ecological domains (i.e., individual, social, resources, and institutional levels), and gender dynamics that sustain FGM as a harmful practice. UNICEF is committed to leaving no one behind and recognizes that when it comes to FGM, gender intersects with multiple risk factors that increase girls' risk of being subjected to the practice (see Figure 1). Girls and women at the intersection of these risk factors face reinforcing and compounding disadvantage and deprivation, making them more likely to be left behind.

The four key outcomes UNICEF seeks to achieve in accelerating the elimination of FGM include the following:

1 COUNTRIES HAVE AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE ELIMINATION OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS

For UNICEF, an enabling environment entails the development and implementation of policies and legislation based on the SDGs as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) that protect girls' and women's human rights including the right to be healthy and live free from discrimination and violence including FGM. Policies and legislation are intended to complement interventions promoting the elimination of FGM including community-based organisations (CBOs) and surveillance committees, health care and social services providers, law enforcement and the justice sector, and civil society organisations promoting a shift in norms that result in supporting girls' agency and empowerment. An enabling environment also includes promoting institutional and structural change that includes ensuring girls' access to education, economic opportunities, and political representation.

FIGURE 3: The intersection of risk factors for female genital mutilation



Source: The Learning Collaborative to Advance Normative Change. 2019. Social Norms and AYSRH: Building a Bridge from Theory to Programme Design. Washington, D.C.: Institute for Reproductive Health, Georgetown University.

2 GIRLS AND WOMEN ARE EMPOWERED TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS THROUGH THE TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL AND GENDER NORMS TO ELIMINATE FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

Girl-intentional programming enhances girls' agency through gender transformative approaches that may include access to education (especially secondary education), opportunities to build leadership skills, provide spaces to challenge harmful social and gender norms, create opportunities for civic engagement, and co-create advocacy and social media campaigns. By targeting community members, including women and youth leaders and associations, men and boys' networks, religious and traditional leaders, and local government and service providers, UNICEF facilitates critical reflection and deliberations on new norms and behavior that protect girls and women's rights and improve their safety and well-being, and promote positive masculinities. It also includes interventions geared towards building the capacities of community members to motivate others to stop FGM and amplify positive norms. Other interventions include community dialogues, child protection committees, and gender-transformative parenting.

3 GIRLS AND WOMEN RECEIVE APPROPRIATE, QUALITY, AND SYSTEMIC SERVICES FOR FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION PREVENTION, PROTECTION AND CARE

UNICEF programmes for the elimination of FGM provide capacity-building to health care and social services providers to ensure access to FGM prevention and response services, and law enforcement and justice institutions to ensure access to justice. It also includes mainstreaming FGM in education curricula, and ensuring access to social protection programmes to prevent FGM where the practice is a precursor to child marriage and families use negative coping strategies to marry off girls in order to alleviate poverty within the household. UNICEF is also increasingly promoting change in social and gender norms among service providers. This is important given that service providers may embrace the harmful social and gender norms that sustain FGM as a practice, especially in addressing the issue of medicalization. UNICEF also prioritizes the integration of FGM and its health consequences in training programmes for service providers.

4 COUNTRIES HAVE BETTER CAPACITY TO GENERATE AND USE EVIDENCE AND DATA FOR POLICYMAKING AND IMPROVE PROGRAMMING

Policymaking and programme design are based on proven approaches which require significant improvements in data collection and dissemination. UNICEF has been increasing investments in this strategy, with a reinvigorated commitment to make better use of evidence to inform policies and programme delivery, and a continued emphasis on evaluation, data collection and analysis – including partnering with government, civil society and private sector partners. UNICEF also developed a research agenda in 2021 to address the significant knowledge gaps that exist in effective approaches to eliminating FGM.

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Overview of UNICEF's Global Programme Results and Country Examples

With the vision to eliminate FGM by 2023, UNICEF and partners achieved significant results, in some cases surpassing set targets, despite the rising challenges and changes in the programme environment demonstrated above—including climate change, the pandemic, conflicts and population growth, among others. Significant effort is still required to reduce gender inequality stalling global progress and even reversing it in some places. In this section, we present the aggregate of results from 17 target countries, organized by seven intervention areas of the programme's Theory of Change. We also showcase the specific role of, and engagement with, young people and women-led organisations in meeting and exceeding annual programme targets.

> "In the face of mounting challenges to the rights of women and girls worldwide, it is incumbent upon governments to prioritize the implementation and enforcement of laws that protect their rights..."
>
> SHEEMA SEN GUPTA, DIRECTOR, CHILD PROTECTION, PROGRAMME GROUP, UNICEF

4.1 GIRLS' AND YOUNG WOMEN'S AGENCY

Number of women and girls who have initiated conversations on FGM elimination and/ or advocated for abandonment of the practice:
- 2022 Achievement..... 456,667
- 2023 Target..... 588,194
- 2023 Achievement..... 817,529

Number of girls and young women actively participating in social and behavior change programmes such as Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), and girls' clubs that integrate FGM in discussions on life skills:
- 2023 Target..... 403,176
- 2023 Achievement..... 1,068,595

The number of girls aged 0-14 years saved in 2023 from FGM through the community-level surveillance system to monitor compliance supported by the Partners.
- 2023 Target..... 241,871
- 2023 Achievement..... 162,044

In 2023, because of UNICEF activities, 817,529 women and girls in all 17 countries have initiated conversations on FGM elimination and advocated for the abandonment of the practice. The Partners exceeded its annual programme target (588,194) and surpassed by 62% its 2022 achievement.[14] This is reported to lead to girls and women increasing their assets, capabilities, and agency in relation to their rights to bodily integrity, gender equitable roles, and relationships, and contributed to increased community surveillance, reporting and prevention, and response to FGM across all 17 countries. UNICEF and partners focused on empowering adolescent girls through life skills and digital literacy training to reduce reporting risks of community surveillance mechanisms. The results of these efforts can be demonstrated by the following country examples:

In **Eritrea**, FGM was prevented in 2,000 girls through school campaigns, and in **Mali**, a total of 1,886 girls and women (1,857 girls and 29 women) were prevented from undergoing FGM because of a functional community protection system set up with UNICEF support in 621 villages across the regions of Koulikoro, Nana, Dioila, and Bamako.

In **Kenya**, 23,189 women and girls received information and services to prevent FGM and child marriages, leading to increased community surveillance and reporting. In **Ethiopia**, UNICEF empowered 55,179 girls to reject FGM and make their own choices. In **Guinea**, 26,883 girls and young women participated in life skills and development programmes through community-level girls' clubs, which also incorporated FGM prevention measures. In **Nigeria**, an extensive outreach effort reached 32,911,619 individuals. Of these, 23,600,101 were engaged through social media platforms via posts, campaigns, and online discussions. Additionally, 9,311,518 people were reached through radio jingles that were broadcast over a period of six months starting from September 2023.

4.2 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

UNICEF is dedicated to empowering girls and fostering leadership through community engagement and social movements that challenge societal and gender norms. By collaborating with youth, women-led organisations, and feminist movements, UNICEF aims to promote their influence as catalysts for societal change and empower

Salimata Camara is using her agency to save others

Salimata Camara, a 24-year-old survivor of FGM, and an advocate for girls rights, is among the 50 young girls and boys trained by **UNICEF Mali** from the southern part of the country in creating advocacy techniques. The training focused on unearthing the root causes of FGM and ECM and provided steps to devise effective advocacy strategies to put an end to these practices. The training has been extremely helpful in equipping young people to target a larger population and implementing steps aimed at eliminating harmful practices. In her own words: "***This training on advocacy techniques is a very good idea. It allows me to improve the way I talk about my commitment against FGM to my community,***" said Salimata. Taking the key learnings from the training forward, Salimata and her group implemented an action plan that carried out awareness-raising activities with the local population and local authorities. **In a subsequent turn of events, on October 11, 2023, the administrative, political, religious, and customary authorities in the area also signed a commitment, showing their support for the young advocates.**

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communities to develop equitable solutions. Within the frame of the UN Partners, UNICEF works to increase collective efficacy and motivation to shift the social norms perpetuating harmful practices and create an enabling environment for change. In 2023, UNICEF and partners surpassed six-fold their annual partners target of 10,687,309 and reached 66,015,838 boys, girls, women and men with mass media messaging on FGM, women's and girls' rights and gender equality.

Number of individuals (boys, girls, women, and men) reached by the Partners through mass media messaging on FGM, women's and girls' rights, and gender equality.

2022 Achievement..... 18,840,027
2023 Target..... 17,103,332
2023 Achievement..... 66,015,838

Number of boys and men actively participated in activities promoting positive masculinity.

2022 Achievement..... 433,247
2023 Target..... 440,018
2023 Achievement..... 455,701

3,142,867 women and girls, men and boys, mobilized through community platforms in reflective dialogues towards eliminating FGM.

Number of men and boys engaged in the promotion of positive masculinity and equitable gender norms and in advocating for the elimination of FGM.

2023 Accomplishment..... 455,701
2023 Target..... 440,018
2022 Accomplishment..... 433,247

Number of people making a public declaration to abandon the FGM practice:

2023 Target..... 1,516,041
2023 Achievement..... 1,361,220

Number of established community-level surveillance systems in communities that 2,315 communities who made public declarations:

2022 Achievement..... 3,663
2023 Target..... 9,721
2023 Achievement..... 2,315

UNICEF **mobilized 7,931 feminist organisations and youth and women-led grassroots organisations** to advocate for the abandonment of FGM and engaged communities in reflective dialogues, resulting in 4.9 million people actively participating in these discussions. In **Eritrea**, for example, the 65,500 members of the FGM-free Communities Movement have protected 22,030 females from FGM and engaged over 380,000 parents, caregivers, and community members. In **Guinea Bissau**, UNICEF, through the UNFPA-UNICEF Partners on the Elimination of FGM, established the Youth Movement to End Gender-Based Violence, collaborating with the country's seven largest youth networks. This initiative launched a national campaign to enhance public awareness via a traveling caravan. Similarly, in **Uganda**, 23 grassroot/community-based organisations and action groups were integrated within 18 coalitions and networks of youth, women groups and grassroot/community-based organisation building a stronger social movement. As result, 10,922 people were engaged through community platforms in reflective dialogue towards eliminating discriminatory social and gender norms and harmful practices that affect girls and women way above the target of 2000 for 2023.

Listening to communities is at the heart of a people centered approach, i.e., engaging community members and empowering them to define their needs and create their own solutions. To this end, UNICEF developed, adapted and deployed the **Co-Creation Playbook**, to implement more meaningful family and community engagement. Through this approach, countries were supported to increase the adoption of targeted positive behaviours and practices in communities with different vulnerabilities to harmful practices by developing a social and behaviour change toolkit - 'co-creation playbook' LINK that guides communities to generate insights on which community-specific social and behavioural factors drive harmful practices and co-create solutions to eliminate FGM.

Piloting of the toolkit has yielded valuable insights into community priorities regarding FGM elimination. For example, in **Nigeria**, the pivotal role of mothers and grandmothers in perpetrating the FGM practice was highlighted, despite opposition from younger women. In response, UNICEF and local communities co-created initiatives to foster inter-generational dialogue between women and their daughters. In **Guinea Bissau**, the playbook's insight-gathering tools uncovered a denial among adults about FGM continuing to be practiced, contrasting with the outspokenness of youth on its existence and the urgency to end it. As a solution, adolescents created a WhatsApp group to inform each other about planned FGM events in their villages, empowering them to challenge the practice collectively and openly. The WhatsApp group has recently been implemented by young people, both adolescent girls and adolescent boys across three villages with the intention of alerting one another if they know of a case of FGM and going together to the household in question to challenge the practice. All young people claim that being part of a larger group empowers them and gives them the strength to speak up against the practice.

In **Yemen**, a participatory theatre initiative was undertaken in five Governorates, engaging over 2,000 community members. These included networks of religious leaders, referred to as Shamkhat, and child honour ambassadors. The programme leveraged theatrical performances to stimulate dialogue and elevate awareness about the detrimental effects of FGM. It emphasized the profound impact of FGM on the physical and mental health of girls and women. In **Ethiopia**, significant shifts in attitudes toward FGM were observed across 398 communities, encompassing 703,480 individuals (comprising 358,775 men and 344,705 women). These communities made a formal commitment to abandon FGM, a decision solidified through the adoption of community by-laws. This pivotal move is anticipated to influence over 2,319,994 people (1,136,797 men and 1,183,197 women), signalling a broader impact and potential for societal transformation in the stance against FGM.

Engagement with boys and men - engagement of communities is incomplete without engaging men and boys - In 2023, UNICEF research highlighted that attitudes around FGM are also changing. The report noted that around 400 million people in FGM-practicing countries in Africa and the Middle East – two-thirds of the population – are against the practice. Moreover, that of the of the 300 million boys and men living in these practicing countries in Africa and the Middle East, 200 million think female genital mutilation should stop. This reflected a significant, yet underutilized, potential for change, as many men who oppose FGM find their influence diminished, especially on becoming fathers. To enhance its strategy for engaging boys and men in comprehensive responses to FGM, UNICEF commissioned a qualitative research study in **Djibouti**, **Egypt**, **Sudan**, and **Yemen**. The study focused on the roles of boys and men

The Playbook Approach

The **Co-Creation Playbook** for Ending Child Marriage and FGM has been designed to engage communities through a bottom-up approach whereby their thoughts, values, fears and aspirations are heard and leveraged to co-create lasting solutions. Offering a step-by-step process, the Co-Creation playbook uses participatory, visual tools to uncover what drives community and individual behavior, including gender inequalities, social norms, cultural values, expectations, and personal attitudes and beliefs. The Playbook adopts a listen-first approach and walks the user through the steps to unpack and synthesize the information and design solutions relevant to both the problem and the communities. The playbook includes prompts on how to think out-of-the-box and develop creative solutions while engaging community members throughout the process, consistently seeking their input and feedback.

Story of Change – Naja of Al-Shamiya

UNICEF has been working closely with government authorities and national stakeholders in spreading awareness about the harms of FGM, including its **medicalization**. The widespread misconceptions about FGM put the lives of girls and women in danger. In one such instance, Naja hailing from the village of Al-Shamiya in Assiut, Egypt, recalls her story of guilt as she fell victim into the hands of a medical personnel for their financial gains. Having trusted a famous doctor in her village, Naja agreed to circumcise her daughter, which nearly led to her daughter's death. After the tragic incident, Naja began her own research, consulting health educators who corrected many of her misconceptions, pointing to the trainings received from UNICEF on FGM's health and religious aspects. To curb these misconceptions, UNICEF has been working in cooperation with the Egyptian government, the National Committee for the Elimination of FGM, and CSOs to undertake and facilitate several initiatives to educate people about the ill effects of FGM. This also includes strengthening national child protection systems such as the 16000 Child Helpline. UNICEF also works closely with religious heads, training imams and priests on delinking FGM and religion. The story of Naja is a reminder to continue efforts to spread awareness in the community and work closely with diverse stakeholders to spread the message against FGM, far and wide.

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in household decision-making about FGM, the interplay between sexuality and FGM, and strategies for more effectively involving men in prevention efforts. Results of this study will be utilised to inform further progamming.

In **Mauritania**, 198 men's group have been established and trained in Kaedi, Foumgueilatta, and Djadjebina to promote the abandonment of FGM. The International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, observed on 6 February 2023, was marked by the theme "Partnering with men and boys to transform social and gender norms to end FGM." With this theme, UNICEF advocated for the inclusion of men and boys in efforts to advance the interests of women and girls, while also promoting the transformation of masculinities and accountability towards females. The hashtag #MenEndFGM gained significant traction following the event, being used 8,886 times, reaching 68.4 million people, and generating more than 250 news articles and web platform pieces.

4.3 MOVEMENT BUILDING (YOUTH MOVEMENT)

UNICEF contributed to accelerating the achievement of gender equality through the elimination of FGM by catalyzing a global movement that will increase visibility and investments to end the practice by 2030. UNICEF supported young individuals and youth movements, as they form an important agent of change, thereby strengthening movement building towards elimination of FGM. As a part of the effort to mobilize young people, UNICEF Djibouti organized a two-day co-creation workshop on 30 and 31 May, 2023. The aim of the workshop was to support young Djiboutians committed to fight against FGM, and to reflect together, the problems as well as solutions related to FGM, and develop innovative ideas to end FGM. Additionally, UNICEF has also been helping young and passionate individuals who aim to bring concrete change in society. One such example is of Fatouma Adakeh, a survivor of FGM, who is today a champion in her community, working on the frontline to end FGM. With a degree law, she is today a FGM facilitator in her neighborhood, an opportunity she received through a partnership between UNICEF and Tadjourah Women's Association (AFT). Fatouma received quality training before her deployment in the field and is today a strong advocate of change, pushing to eliminate FGM in her community.

These efforts alongside those of partners, resulted in a total of 8,817 grassroots/community-based organisations and action groups to be integrated within coalitions and networks of youth, feminist, and women's entrepreneurs working on elimination of FGM.[15] Furthermore, 7,917 networks and coalitions of grassroots/community-based youth-led organisations, feminist organisations, and women's entrepreneurs were mobilized to work on eliminating FGM. Finally, more than 111,000 community and frontline workers from 157 implementing partners were involved in programmatic activities.

4.4 SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

Number of health service delivery points in Partners intervention areas where at least one health care staff member is trained on FGM prevention, protection, and care services and that provide FGM-related services:
- 2022 Achievement..... 2,542
- 2023 Target..... 1,784
- 2023 Achievement..... 2,842

Number of vulnerable girls aged 5-19 years at risk of FGM who have received education support.
- 2022 Achievement..... 35,344
- 2023 Target..... 29,460
- 2023 Achievement..... 224,333

Number of girls and women who receive prevention and protection services on FGM:
- 2022 Achievement..... 422,953
- 2023 Target..... 429,349
- 2023 Achievement..... 903,734

Number of girls aged 0-19 years and women receiving health services related to FGM.
- 2023 Target..... 87,188
- 2023 Achievement..... 60,656

Number of girls aged 0-19 years and women receiving legal services related to FGM.
- 2023 Target..... 111,641
- 2023 Achievement..... 42,296

Number of girls aged 0-19 years and women receiving social services related to FGM.
- 2023 Target..... 285,715
- 2023 Achievement..... 302,457

Number of primary/secondary/non-formal institutions in Partners intervention areas that provided sexuality education and/or life skills training on FGM prevention and protection.
- 2023 Target..... 2,829
- 2023 Achievement..... 1,683

UNICEF adapted its approach for FGM elimination, leading to system strengthening in focus countries and increasing FGM services including in **humanitarian settings**. As a result, health systems provided quality FGM services that were not only accessible but centered on women and girls, as well as families and communities. In 2,842 health service delivery points areas had at least one trained health care staff member, and health facility provided FGM prevention, protection, and care services. This result exceeded both the annual target and 2022 achievement.

A total of 903,734 girls and women received FGM-related prevention and protection services exceeding the annual target of 429,349 by more than 50%. This is a remarkable 113% increase to 2022 achievement. Furthermore, 224,333 vulnerable girls aged 5-19 years at risk of FGM received education support in 2023. This is not only a 100-fold excess in the annual target but also a 535% increase in the achievement as compared to 2022.[16] This result is explained by the increased commitment of the communities already making effective use of their surveillance systems already in place as well as their active participation in sensitizations on prevention and protection actions and services. In addition, there was improved data collection on many indicators of the Phase IV results framework including the indicators on systems transformation with the use of the metadata and improved data collection tools.

Some mixed results were equally attained in 2023 regarding women and girls accessing specifically health, legal, and social services related to FGM. For example, while the annual target was 87,188, only 60,656 girls aged 0-19 years and women received health services related to FGM. A similar result was achieved in access to legal services: only 42,296 girls and women received such services in 2023 as compared to the annual target of 111,641. A promising result was observed in the access to social services related to FGM. In 2023, 302,457 girls and women received social services (with an annual target of 285,715). These results could be explained by delayed actions and interventions to ensure or increase access to FGM services in most countries, differences in systems preparedness to integrate or establish services at the same pace among the 17 counties, and service use uptake increase takes time as it is not only reliant on service availability.

There were mixed results on transformational changes within institutions and systems[17] to increase capacity to mainstream FGM and deliver coordinated and integrated quality services that prevent and respond to FGM. For example, in 2023, 1,683 out of 2,829 planned primary/secondary/non-formal institutions in the Partners intervention areas provided sexuality education and/or life skills training on FGM prevention and protection. These results were explained by the hostile contexts, including political or socio-economic insecurity or conflicts, or unforeseen circumstances, including elections or new government officials with low support for actions to end FGM, which impeded the implementation of the activities under this indicator.

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In 2023, UNICEF took a significant step toward eliminating FGM by adopting the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus approach. This strategic move led to the strengthening of child protection systems in five countries, involving 107 staff and implementing partners. In addition, FGM was integrated into national humanitarian response plans and child-friendly spaces in four countries, marking a significant step towards the elimination of the practice. In **Somalia**, the national humanitarian response plan was budgeted to integrate FGM and child marriage, demonstrating the country's commitment to protecting the rights of girls and women. **Ethiopia** took a proactive approach by integrating FGM into its humanitarian response in regions affected by drought and conflict. Furthermore, **Ethiopia** offered south-to-south learning opportunities to other countries, sharing its experiences and strategies in eliminating FGM. In **Sudan**, the Saleem activities,

which focus on promoting the well-being of children, were integrated into child-friendly spaces in all conflict-affected areas. As a result, 400 child-friendly spaces were established in displaced populations and host communities, and the referral system was strengthened. This integration ensured that even during conflict, the fight against FGM did not lose momentum. **Burkina Faso** made strides by integrating FGM services in settings for internally displaced persons and in the Child Protection Area of Responsibility Work Plan. As a result, educational support to prevent FGM tripled to over 114,000 girls most at-risk of FGM. This ensured that even the most vulnerable populations had access to services aimed at eliminating FGM. In **Mali**, a surveillance mechanism was established within Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps to monitor and address gender-based violence, providing necessary support to report specific instances which would help in tracking and preventing FGM.

UNICEF has been making considerable strides in supporting families and refugees, especially those affected by climate change in the borders of Kenya. In the words of a 37-year-old Markabo Ali, mother to eight children living in Dadaab refugee camp, across the border in Kenya:

> We came from Somalia six months ago because of the drought. I couldn't get to work or find food for my children. I heard there were organisations supporting families in Dadaab. The journey here was tough. We walked for seven days to get here. I came with five daughters and three sons, although my sons have now gone back. Their father stayed behind." MARKABO ALI

UNICEF has been working in close coordination with UNHCR and the World Food Programme to support displaced families in refugee camps. UNICEF is also supporting the organisation Terre Des Hommes, to protect vulnerable children who face child protection issues which include child marriage, FGM, teenage pregnancy, child labour, and various other challenges. UNICEF provided training to caseworkers on cash vouchers, online case management tools, and dignity kits, which help support children in need.

4.5 REGIONAL BODIES ENGAGEMENT

In 2023, UNICEF leveraged resources and partnerships with regional bodies to achieve results for children, including under the Spotlight Initiative of the European Union (SIARP). UNICEF was a key stakeholder during the Declaration of the 2nd International African Union Conference on Female Genital Mutilation, and the Joint General Comment on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights). These contributions involved facilitating collaboration and coordination between relevant stakeholders, providing technical expertise, drafting documents, organizing events, and supporting the implementation of strategies aimed at eliminating FGM. Through both initiatives, the Partners played a crucial role in advocating for policy changes and promoting awareness about the importance of addressing FGM.

UNICEF continued to promote cooperation around accountability to affected girls and women at the inter-agency level. Under SIARP programme, UNICEF seconded staff to the African Union Commission, contributing to the continental campaign against harmful practices and influence of policy and technical guidance. The creation of the inter-agency coordination monthly meetings that included the AUC Senior Staff and with participation of Deputy Regional Directors was ensured greater accountabilities for commitments on FGM elimination at continental level.

UNICEF equally promoted the role of CSOs at a continental level—for instance, the African Union in partnership with UNICEF and World Vision International convened a high-level side event at the United Nations General Assembly showcasing successful case studies, including emerging and promising practices from continental initiatives fostering dialogue between political CSOs, namely religious and traditional leaders. Relatedly, 55 youth advocates and winners of the SIARP youth innovation challenge from various African nations including Burkina Faso, Cameroon, DRC, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, and Nigeria. This event took place from October 24th to 27th 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The training empowered young advocates in youth-led advocacy to reduce and prevent harmful practices; advanced their leadership, advocacy, and communication skills for regional, national, and local actions, and equipped young champions with strategies for advocacy and media campaigns, fostering a collaborative community to combat harmful practices and engage with critical issues across the continent.

4.6 EFFECTIVE LAWS AND POLICIES

In the 17 countries under the UN Partners on the Elimination of FGM, 14 have legislation in place that prohibits FGM. As of 2023, 8 of these countries are implementing multisectoral, evidence-based, gender-transformative policies and National Action Plans. These plans include specific targets, a dedicated budget, and a monitoring and evaluation framework aimed at the elimination of FGM. The following examples serve to demonstrate how countries have taken forward work in this area: In **Guinea**, for instance, advocacy for better implementation of the anti-FGM law led to increased FGM convictions from 21 in 2022 to 87 in 2023. In **Somalia**, in partnership with several women-led organisations and the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development, the Partners supported the development of the first costed national action plan to end FGM/C in Somalia. This action plan is key to improving coordination, collaboration, and action to end FGM in the country, and is considered as a critical step for implementing the regional cross-border action plan on FGM with Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and Tanzania.

Number of follow up mechanisms/processes of accepted recommendations from international and regional human rights mechanisms that are related to practices on FGM.

2022 Achievement..... 5
2023 Target..... 15
2023 Achievemnt..... 15

In addition, 1,956 law enforcement staff[18] received training on the application of FGM law and provisions. The number of arrests recorded a 154% increase (from 174 in 2022 to 442 in 2023) and 9% increase in cases brought to court (from 368 in 2022 to 402 in 2023). These results highlight the ongoing contributions made by UNICEF and partners to law enforcement efforts. Comparability of achievement of cases brought to court by year comes with a caveat that persecution processes vary per case and could roll over from one year to another. In 2023, only 4 out of 12 countries have budgeted emergency preparedness and response and disaster risk reduction plans that integrate FGM prevention and care as a result of the Partners' activities in 2023.

4.7 DATA AND EVIDENCE

In 2023, the Partners surpassed its annual programme target and enhanced capacities of 2,201 government personnel from different sectors, CSO and grassroots organisations on data collection, analysis, research and dissemination, including qualitative data on FGM.

Number of government personnel from different sectors, CSO, and grassroots organisations with enhanced capacities for data collection, analysis, research, and dissemination, including qualitative data on FGM.

2023 Target..... 1,651
2023 Achievement..... 2,201

To further evidence generation and uptake among target countries, UNICEF adopted the **Strategic Technical Assistance for Research (STAR)** initiative, led by the UNICEF Office of Research-Innocenti. In 2023, 17 in-depth analyses, research, studies, and/or evaluations were conducted. In addition to these achievements, UNICEF continued to strengthen the research and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems to promote the effective use of programme data for better programming.

How is UNICEF and the Partners supporting legal efforts to eliminate FGM?

- In **Guinea Bissau**, the Partners facilitated the signing of the Declaration of Engagement by the Government of Guinea-Bissau led by the Ministry of Women, Family, and Social Solidarity, and Organisations for the Defense of the Rights of Girls and Women to End Female Genital Mutilation. The declaration provides guidance to institutions that have committed to making efforts, advocating, and adopting all measures that can contribute to the elimination of FGM.
- In **Ethiopia**, the Partners supported the implementation of the National Costed Roadmap to End Child Marriage and FGM and strengthened the coordination mechanisms and enforcement of the law by enhancing legal literacy among the public.
- In **Kenya**, partners' support to the Anti-FGM Board of Kenya led to the development of a strategic plan for 2023–2028 in line with the Bottom-Up Economic Transformational Agenda on achieving gender equality and empowerment of girls and women. Through the strategic plan, the Government of Kenya has committed to allocate funding for FGM and gender equality programmes.

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Next Steps For UNICEF in 2024

ADDRESSING BACKLASH ON FGM:

In the last quarter of 2023, a concerning shift and pushback in the legal framework on FGM was observed in The Gambia when the first successful prosecution of three women for performing Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) on eight girls under the age of five was made after eight years of outlawing the practice. A rallying call by a religious leader, justified by the freedom of religious practice, was made together with the fine payment. This cascaded into calls for the rights to retain cultural practices, with an independent lawmaker introducing a bill to the National Assembly to repeal the FGM law. A press statement issued by the AU 's human rights and legal organs (African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights [ACHPR] and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child [ACERWC]) went unheeded.

This countermovement is concerning not only for gains established in The Gambia but its ramifications to the region and globally and on other harmful practices such as child marriage and gender inequity in general. There is a need to effectively counter this pushback through evidence-based advocacy that is informed by the rhetoric justifying FGM continuation, mapping influencers, e.g., digital space discourse analysis and building alliances with various stakeholders to create countermovement as well as being vigilant to protect existent gains by having anticipatory mechanisms to identify events, e.g., persecutions, individuals and movements that can have a negative impact. There is also a need to strengthen member states accountability by regional, continental, and global human rights and legal bodies.

PROGRAMME ADAPTATION THROUGH INNOVATIONS

To ensure programme continuity in the face of multiple humanitarian concerns, including climate change, conflict, and pandemic, UNICEF will continue to roll out adaptive tools such as the Nexus Toolbox [19] and the Gender Transformative Accelerator Tool[20], building on some the lessons learnt in 2023.

MOVEMENT BUILDING

A systematic approach to movement building is also important. Those involved in movement building would need toolkits, e.g., a practical guide to systematically build movements, track success, amplify through coalitions, and identify counter movements. Several counter movements have been effectively addressed, such as the one in Kenya (2022), which would need to be shared through cross-learning webinars.

PROMOTING USE OF DATA AND EVIDENCE

Promote the use of data and evidence for FGM policy and programming at national, regional, and global levels. The data culture uptake and use in planning and implementation would need to be strengthened through user-friendly data display e.g. geospatial maps of interventions against results and interactive user-friendly dashboards. Efforts will be made in information system transformations to support governmental and non-governmental generation of FGM-related service data and data centralization.

Finally, there is a need to conduct a close review of target setting at national levels, generate more outcome achievements, continue scaling up ACT indicators through different mechanisms including the generation of more real-time survey data on social norm change and strengthening M&E data management and information management systems in countries.

DIVERSIFYING FUNDING

The programme has continued to face a shortfall in funding compared to the programme vision reflected in Phase IV. Some countries supported by UNICEF have initiatives to mobilize in-country resources to scale up their interventions (Ethiopia, Guinea, Mali, Senegal, and Uganda). With the

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support of UNICEF, the Regional Office in Southeast Asia has also started developing a regional initiative addressing FGM to be funded by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). However, more effort is needed to scale up similar efforts, identify other potential donor agencies and organisations and better engage with the private sector to mobilize the needed financial resources to expand programme coverage and results. It is also important to fully track and advocate for increased government budgetary allocation to initiatives addressing FGM and promote integration of FGM programming into relevant sectoral and thematic programmes on SRH, GBV, child protection and humanitarian response at the national level.

THE FGM DONOR WORKING GROUP

UNICEF will revamp its secretariat role in facilitating the FGM Donor Working Group by dedicating staff time, defining group identity, maintaining an active calendar or work plan for the year for all members, supporting the recruitment of new members, and hold regular information sharing sessions in person and online.

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External Media and Visibility

HIGH-LEVEL SIDE EVENT AT THE SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW67)

The Governments of Burkina Faso, Canada, Egypt, Italy, and Zambia, and the European Union, together with UNICEF and UNFPA, organized a High-Level Panel at the Sixty-Seventh Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) on the theme of 'Catalyzing Innovation to End Female Genital Mutilation and Child Marriage.'

The High-Level Panel provided a platform for key stakeholders engaged in the elimination of harmful practices to share and discuss the potential of innovation and technological change to achieve the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development, target 5.3. The event gathered over 400 attendees in person and online.

THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE FOR FGM, 2023

As a part of the Partners, UNICEF observed the 2023 International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM with the theme of 'partnership with men and boys to transform social and gender norms to end FGM.' The advocacy campaign had a widespread scope, with #MenEndFGM, the official social media hashtag of the campaign, reaching 68.4 million people and #ENDFGM reaching 266 million people worldwide. The campaign was actively engaged by women and girls as their engagement increased by 14.3% compared to 2022. The campaign was also able to engage and collaborate with youth with people in the age of 25 and 34 constituting 55.8% of total users.

As part of the day, a high-level broadcast focusing on partnering with men and boys to transform social norms was organized, receiving over 1,000 viewers across different social media platforms. Additionally, various country offices organized side events and programmes with governments and key stakeholders to observe the day.

Apart from various member states covering the campaign, our advocacy messages were also covered by major media houses, some of which included:

Ferguson, Sarah, UNICEF Is Working To End FGM, Forbes, 2 February 2023

Ochab, U. Ewelina, United Nations: Men And Boys To Play Active Role To End FGM, Forbes, 6 February 2023

Banjo, Fadeke, 8 Huge Milestones to Celebrate in the Fight Against FGM, Global Citizen, 3 February 2023

Fam, Mariam, After their genitals were cut, some women search for healing, AP News, 13 February 2023

Hall, Amy and Chang, Charis, It took years for Mina to comprehend the brutality of this act. Now, surgery has changed her life, SBS News, 6 February 2023

Lissaman, Clare, FGM: 'I'll save another girl by talking about female genital mutilation', BBC, 4 February 2023

Hamza, Assiya, Female genital mutilation: 'Women circumcise little girls for men', France 24, 6 February 2023

Human Interest Stories

1 RESTORING THE PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL INTEGRITY OF AICHATA AND THOUSANDS OF SURVIVORS IN MALI

Aichata, a 20-year-old mother of two, underwent FGM at age of seven in her village in Mali. Married at 14, her first pregnancy at 15 was life-threatening due to FGM-related complications, leading to a prolapsed uterus. Despite the trauma, Aichata seeks to prevent FGM for her daughters. She turned to Association pour la Promotion des Droits et du Bien-être de la Famille (APSEF), an NGO partnered with UNICEF, for medical, psychological, and socio-economic support. To read more about her journey, visit the UNICEF website here.

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2 CUT BUT NOT BROKEN

Toyin's story is one of resilience amidst the pain and loss caused by FGM. After enduring severe childbirth complications due to FGM, Toyin became a determined advocate against the practice. Despite Nigeria's nearly 20 million FGM survivors and fluctuating prevalence rates, she remains hopeful and active in her community, working with traditional and religious leaders to raise awareness and prevent FGM. Her efforts, inspired by her desire to protect future generations, highlight the profound human cost of FGM and the ongoing struggle to eliminate it. To read more about Toyin's journey, visit the UNICEF website here.

3 GIRLS DREAM OF A SUDAN WHERE THEY ARE PROTECTED FROM FGM

In Khartoum, over 200 girls at Al-Fayha Basic School joined UNICEF, partners, parents, and teachers to fight against FGM, which still affects nearly 90% of Sudanese women despite being illegal since 2020. Empowered by the Saleema initiative, girls like 13-year-olds Maryam Abdalrahman and Bara Mohammed advocate passionately against FGM, sharing their stories and working to protect their peers. Their advocacy, supported by initiatives like the 'Saleema Caravan', aims to raise awareness by creating youth dialogues and using theatrical performances to transform social norms and protect future generations from this harmful practice. To read more about the work being done in Sudan, visit the UNICEF website here.

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Annex: Phase IV Results Framework with the Achievements

RESULTS STATEMENT	#	KEY INDICATORS	BASELINE YEAR	BASELINE VALUE	2022 TARGET	2022 ACHIEV.	2023 TARGET	2023 ACHIEV.
IMPACT: The global promise of ending female genital mutilation is delivered by 2030								
SDG TARGET 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation	5301	Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation, by age, by Region	NA	NA	47.5%	47.4%	46.9%	NA
	5302	Proportion of daughters aged 0-14 years who have undergone female genital mutilation	NA	NA	20.0%	18.1%	19.6%	NA
	5303	Rate of reduction of the annual incidents of female genital mutilations among girls aged under 10	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
LONG-TERM OUTCOME 5330: Emergence of new and more equitable social norms transforming all harmful practices that drive FGM and gender inequality	5331	Percentage of girls, boys, women and men aged 15 to 49 years who believe that female genital mutilation should be eliminate	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	5332	Percentage of girls and women with self-efficacy related to decisions about FGM	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

RESULTS STATEMENT	#	KEY INDICATORS	BASELINE YEAR	BASELINE VALUE	2022 TARGET	2022 ACHIEV.	2023 TARGET	2023 ACHIEV.
MEDIUM-TERM OUTCOME 1000: Empowered girls and women know and claim rights to their bodily autonomy and, together with their families and communities, drive changes in social and gender norms	1001	Number of girls aged 0-14 years saved from FGM through the community-level surveillance system to monitor compliance supported by the Partners	2021	216,853	204,903	113,132	241,871	162,044
SHORT-TERM OUTCOME 1100: Girls and women demonstrating increased assets, capabilities, and agency in relation to their rights to bodily integrity, gender equitable roles and relationships	1101	Number of women and girls who have initiated conversations on FGM elimination and/ or advocated for abandonment of the practice (Disaggregated by humanitarian and development settings)	2022	456,667	436,411	456,667	588,194	817,529
	1102	Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who exercise agency in making decisions related to the elimination of female genital mutilation (Index)	2022	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
OUTPUT 1110: GIRLS' AND YOUNG WOMEN'S AGENCY Girls and women in targeted communities use their new or enhanced knowledge, skills and critical awareness to seek and uphold their rights, access to justice and other services, taking action to promote gender equality	1111	Number of girls and young women actively participating in social, and behavior change programmes such as CSE, girls' clubs that integrate FGM in discussions on life skills	2022	658,037	382,395	658,037	403,176	1,068,595

RESULTS STATEMENT	#	KEY INDICATORS	BASELINE YEAR	BASELINE VALUE	2022 TARGET	2022 ACHIEV.	2023 TARGET	2023 ACHIEV.
SHORT-TERM OUTCOME 1200: Men, boys, families and communities, grassroot/community-based organisations, action groups including networks of youth, feminist and other relevant CSOs increasingly supporting the access of women and girls to measures and services that prevent and protect them against FGM, gender inequalities and other harmful practices	1201	Number of communities that made public declaration of abandonment of FGM that have established a community-level surveillance system to monitor compliance	2021	3,813	8,862	3,663	9,721	2,315
	1202	Number of people engaged in public declaration that they will abandon the practice of FGM	2021	3,460,101	1,594,873	1,214,650	1,516,041	1,361,220
	1203	Proportion of young men and boys who express readiness to marry uncut girls	2022	0	NA	NA	NA	NA

RESULTS STATEMENT	#	KEY INDICATORS	BASELINE YEAR	BASELINE VALUE	2022 TARGET	2022 ACHIEV.	2023 TARGET	2023 ACHIEV.
OUTPUT 1210: FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT Gate keepers, parents and families, traditional and religious leaders, and other community influencers (M/F) have increased awareness and in-depth understanding of the harmful effects of FGM and its role in perpetuating gender inequality. Communities demonstrate increased collective efficacy and motivation to shift the social norms perpetuating harmful practices and create an enabling environment for change	1211	Number of religious leaders and community/traditional influencers publicly denounce FGM practices	2021	30,980	36,146	49,681	61,486	50,384
	1212	Number of individuals (boys, girls, women and men) reached by mass media messaging on FGM, women's and girls' rights and gender equality. (Disaggregated by traditional and social media)	2021	32,416,266	17,042,079	18,840,027	17,103,332	66,015,838
	1213	Number of people (women and girls, men and boys) engaged through community platforms in reflective dialogue towards eliminating discriminatory social and gender norms and harmful practices that affect girls and women. (Disaggregated by humanitarian and development settings)	2022	2,197,992	3,160,737	2,197,992	3,889,429	3,142,867
	1214	Number of boys and men actively participating in activities to promote positive masculinity and equitable gender norms and advocate for the elimination of FGM practice in dialogues/sessions with peers and others	2022	433,247	369,737	433,247	440,018	455,701
	1215	Number of community-to-community dialogues on abandonment of FGM within the country and across the borders	2021	10,150	24,221	24,179	31,838	28,412

RESULTS STATEMENT	#	KEY INDICATORS	BASELINE YEAR	BASELINE VALUE	2022 TARGET	2022 ACHIEV.	2023 TARGET	2023 ACHIEV.
OUTPUT 1220: MOVEMENT BUILDING Regional, national and local youth global movement, feminist and women's entrepreneurs, including grass roots and community-based organisations, government and non-governmental bodies and community members, are engaged by a common movement through multi-stakeholder platforms, coalitions, alliances and accountability mechanisms at the global, regional, national and local levels to advocate for and scale up commitments to inclusive FGM elimination, including for those furthest behind.	1221	Number of grassroot/community-based organisations and action groups that are integrated within coalitions and networks of youth, feminist and women's entrepreneurs working on elimination of FGM	2022	2,848	1,684	2,848	6,236	8,817
	1222	Number of networks and coalitions of grassroot/community-based youth led organisations, feminist and women's entrepreneurs mobilized to work on elimination of FGM	2022	9,629	3,552	9,587	6,895	7,917
	1223	Number of supported grassroot/community-based organisations, action groups including networks of youth, feminist and women's entrepreneurs and other relevant CSOs using the appropriate accountability mechanisms for advocacy on elimination of FGM	2022	11,490	988	11,490	2,342	5,625
MEDIUM-TERM OUTCOME 2000: Girls and women can access a comprehensive package of high-quality, gender-responsive, disability-inclusive, culturally, and age-appropriate services from relevant sectoral systems and institutions.	2001	Number of girls and women who receive prevention and protection services on female genital mutilation. (Disaggregated by humanitarian and development settings)	2022	423,729	498,383	422,953	429,349	903,734

RESULTS STATEMENT	#	KEY INDICATORS	BASELINE YEAR	BASELINE VALUE	2022 TARGET	2022 ACHIEV.	2023 TARGET	2023 ACHIEV.
SHORT-TERM OUTCOME 2100: Health, education, social, legal and child protection systems providing integrated quality FGM services that are accessible and centered on women and girls, as well as families and communities.	2101	Number of medical and paramedical schools (public and non-public) supported by the Partners that have mainstream FGM into their curricula and/or continuous professional development programme	2022	18	83	18	151	219
	2102	Number of girls (0-19 years) and women who have received health services related to FGM	2021	422,700	103,671	112,673	87,188	60,656
	2103	Number of girls and women who have received social services related to FGM. (Disaggregated by humanitarian and development settings)	2021	76,882	156,656	132,620	285,715	302,457
	2104	Number of girls and women who have received legal services related to FGM. (Disaggregated by humanitarian and development settings)	2021	16,106	36,162	36,302	111,641	42,296
	2105	Number of vulnerable girls aged 5-19 years at risk of FGM who have received education support. (Disaggregated by humanitarian and development settings)	2022	35,344	24,449	35,344	29,460	224,333

RESULTS STATEMENT	#	KEY INDICATORS	BASELINE YEAR	BASELINE VALUE	2022 TARGET	2022 ACHIEV.	2023 TARGET	2023 ACHIEV.
OUTPUT 2110: SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION Education, health and sexual and reproductive health and rights, social and child protection systems and institutions have increased capacity to mainstream FGM and deliver coordinated and integrated quality services that prevent and respond to FGM during development, humanitarian and peace building	**2111**	Number of primary/secondary/non-formal in Partners intervention areas providing sexuality education and/or life skills training on FGM prevention and protection. (Disaggregated by humanitarian and development settings)	2022	2,241	2,698	2,241	2,829	1,683
	2112	Number of trained law enforcement staff (police, judges, lawyers, prosecutors) demonstrating improved knowledge on the application of FGM law and provisions	2021	988	1,981	1,995	3,155	1,956
	2113	Number of health service delivery points in Partners intervention areas where at least one health care staff member is trained on FGM prevention, protection, and care services and that provide FGM related services. (Disaggregated by humanitarian and development settings)	2021	1,639	1,259	2,542	1,784	2,842
MEDIUM-TERM OUTCOME 3000: Governments and other duty-bearers demonstrate increased accountability for resourcing and implementing multi-sectoral policies, laws and frameworks to provide prevention and response for women and girls at risk of, and affected by, FGM - even in hard-to-reach locations	**3001**	National budget allocated to the prevention and elimination of female genital mutilation. (Amount)	2022	0	NA	NA	NA	NA

RESULTS STATEMENT	#	KEY INDICATORS	BASELINE YEAR	BASELINE VALUE	2022 TARGET	2022 ACHIEV.	2023 TARGET	2023 ACHIEV.
SHORT-TERM OUTCOME 3100: A broad range of actors at the global, regional, national and local levels, amplifying their collective efforts to advocate, develop, implement, monitor and evaluate gender transformative multisectoral evidence based FGM elimination policy and legal frameworks with adequate resourcing	3101	Number of countries with a multi-sectoral evidence-based, gender transformative FGM elimination policy or strategy that includes a plan of actions with targets, a budget, and an M&E framework, in line with human rights and the leaving no one behind principles	2021	13	13	16	14	16
	3102	Proportion of FGM recommendations implemented from peer review processes of relevant African Union, League of Arab States, Human-Rights Institutions, ministerial-level specialized technical committees and regional economic communities' technical specialized committees that incorporate an FGM elimination progress component	2022	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
OUTPUT 3110: REGIONAL BODIES ENGAGEMENT Regional accountability mechanisms for ensuring increased regional and national commitment to end FGM are strengthened.	3111	Number of outcome documents of global and regional intergovernmental (African Union, League of Arab States and regional economic communities, etc.) processes that integrate commitments related to the elimination of FGM	2022	2	5	2	6	6
	3112	Number of peer review processes of relevant African Union, League of Arab States, Human Right Institutions, ministerial-level specialized technical committees and regional economic communities' technical specialized committees that incorporate an FGM elimination progress component	2022	0	3	0	11	NA

RESULTS STATEMENT	#	KEY INDICATORS	BASELINE YEAR	BASELINE VALUE	2022 TARGET	2022 ACHIEV.	2023 TARGET	2023 ACHIEV.
OUTPUT 3120: EFFECTIVE LAWS AND POLICIES Enhanced capacity of governments and local authorities to coordinate the enactment, implementation, enforcement and resourcing of legal frameworks to prevent FGM and provide protection to women and girls at risk, and to those who have survived FGM.	3121	Number of arrests enforcing the FGM legislation	2021	206	415	174	482	442
	3122	Number of cases brought to court	2021	215	417	368	505	402
	3123	Number of convictions and sanctions	2021	135	165	306	214	170
	3124	Number of follow up mechanisms/ processes (plan of action, review, public inquiry) of accepted recommendations from international and regional human rights mechanisms that are related to practices on FGM	2022	5	7	5	15	15
	3125	Number of countries with a budgeted emergency preparedness and response and disaster risk reduction plans which integrate FGM prevention and care	2022	5	6	5	12	4
OUTPUT 3130: DATA AND EVIDENCE Generation, documentation and uptake of evidence by governments, academia and civil society groups, including grassroots organisations, have the capacity to inform human-rights-based policies, laws and programmes that address gender inequalities and harmful practices	3131	Number of government personnel from different sectors, CSO and Grassroot Organisations with enhanced capacities on data collection, analysis, research and dissemination, including qualitative data on FGM	2022	34,127	1,399	34,127	1,651	2,201
	3132	Number of in-depth analyses, research, studies and evaluations conducted during the year to fill the evidence and knowledge gaps related to elimination of FGM	2021	17	18	20	23	17

ENDNOTES

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14 In 2022, the Partners reached 456,667 women and girls. Please see the 2022 Annual Report.

15 This positive result has been driven by Nigeria (57%) and Ethiopia (20%).

16 In 2022, as a result of the Partners activities, 423,729 vulnerable girls aged 5-19 years at risk of FGM received education support. Please see the 2022 Annual Report.

17 Including education, health and sexual and reproductive health and rights, social and child protection systems and institutions.

18 Including police, judges, lawyers and prosecutors.

19 Female Genital Mutilation and the Humanitarian Development Nexus (UNICEF, 2022), https://www.unicef.org/media/127151/file/FGM-Nexus-Toolbox.pdf

20 Gender-Transformative Accelerator Tool (UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage, 2022), https://www.unicef.org/documents/gender-transformative-accelerator-tool

Published by UNICEF
3 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
Email: childprotection@unicef.org
Website: www.unicef.org
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June 2024